

SOME RELEVANT NORMS FOR EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The Congregation for Divine Worship has outlined the following norms to guide us during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (see “Eucharistic Worship Outside Mass” in The Rites of the Catholic Church Volume 1):

- During exposition “care must be taken that everything clearly brings out the meaning of Eucharistic worship in its correlation with the Mass. There must be nothing about the appointments used for exposition that could in any way obscure Christ's intention of instituting the Eucharist above all to be near us to feed, to heal, and to comfort us.”
- If exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is extended for an entire day or over several days, it is to be interrupted during the celebration of Mass. Mass may be celebrated in a chapel distinct from the area of exposition if at least some members of the faithful remain in adoration.
- When using a monstrance for exposition “four to six candles are lighted, as at Mass, and incense is used.” Thus a thurible is required.
- As the Eucharist is so closely associated with his office, it is essential to consult the Parish Priest or Chaplain before exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Eucharistic adoration.
- When a priest or deacon is not available, an acolyte, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or another person appointed by the local Ordinary may publicly expose the Eucharist for the adoration of the faithful and later repose it, but may not give a blessing with the Eucharist.
- The minister, if he is a priest or deacon, should vest in an alb or a surplice over a cassock, and a stole. Other ministers should wear either the liturgical vestments which are usual in the region or the vesture which is suitable for this ministry and which has been approved by the Ordinary. The priest or deacon should wear a white cope and humeral veil to give the blessing at the end of adoration, when the exposition takes place with the monstrance; in the case of exposition in the ciborium, the humeral veil should be worn.

OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES:

- All begin by kneeling as the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, and then may sit. A “Please kneel” PowerPoint cue slide is provided in CD 3 if required.
- All are asked to kneel during the Divine Praises and when the Blessed Sacrament is reposed (placed back in the tabernacle) at the end of the time of exposition. A power point cue slide is provided in CD 3 if required.
- It has become the practice to pray or sing the Divine Praises publicly after Benediction as a final act of worship before the Blessed Sacrament is reposed (put away). The Divine Praises are believed to have been chiefly written by the Jesuit Luigi Felici in 1797 as a prayer of reparation for profanity and blasphemy. The Divine Praises are available to be printed on the prayer sheet supplied on the Resource CD.