

## “YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST”—ADORATION OF JESUS—FR. STEVE LAPE

People “adore” in many ways each day. Some may say: “I adore ice cream” (or chocolate, coffee, some other food or drink), indicating that they like it a lot. Others may say: “I adore my wife/husband/parent/child” (or some other special person in our lives), showing a deep love and respect for that individual. Yet, when “adore” is used in the Church, it usually goes to an even higher level of love, in the sense of showing greatest love through worship and praise for God, or even more specifically, Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

If we looked in the Gospels, we could find a number of places in which people “adored” Christ. For example, in Matthew 2, the magi “prostrated themselves and did (the newborn Jesus) homage.” Then, they proceeded to offer Him gold, frankincense and myrrh. In John 12:3, Mary (the sister of Lazarus and Martha) poured expensive perfume upon Jesus’ feet, drying them with her hair. When the Risen Jesus appeared before the 11 remaining apostles in Matthew 28:9, it says that “they approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.” These and other instances in the Bible show totally humble love toward the Lord and Savior of the World, whom they acknowledge in ways reserved for only the greatest among them.

During each Mass, we show such adoration through our acts of worship and praise, especially through times when we kneel, genuflect, or bow before His Holy Presence in the Eucharist. One supreme moment in the Mass is when we kneel before the Lord during the Eucharistic Prayer, as the priest

elevates what has transformed from bread and wine into the Body & Blood of Jesus Christ, and repeats Jesus’ words to his apostles from the Last Supper: “This IS my body.....This is the chalice of my blood...” We also offer one of these 3 gestures to acknowledge Christ’s Presence at the moment we’re about to receive His Body & Blood at Communion.



On the first Friday of each month at St. Mary’s of the Lake, we offer adoration of Jesus in “the Blessed Sacrament” (His real Presence in the Consecrated Host), which flows from the Mass celebration. The Host is displayed in an decorative “monstrance.” We have adoration from 8:30a to 8p on 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays. It’s a time for personal prayer, praise and worship of the Lord who has given us new life, unconditional love and merciful forgiveness. It began gaining popularity in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Many spend quality prayer time before the actual Presence of Jesus in the Eucharistic Sacrament in a variety of ways: reading Bible passages, praying the rosary, offering up personal needs

and concerns in prayer, or just “being still” while gazing on the Lord in the Sacrament, just to name a few ways. If you have yet to experience this beautiful act of faith, please give it a try by stopping by on the first Friday (8:30a--8p). It’s a chance to commune with Jesus, whom we should adore above everyone & everything else, showing our thanks & love, ask for help, and express our love for Jesus and longing for Heaven!