



FAMILY ADORATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of Adoration?

Adoration is simply to show our love for Jesus, to Adore Him in the Eucharist – and allow Him to love us. This video is a great video, with a kid's perspective, on the importance of Adoration:

https://youtu.be/-OH_0W2cnfU

How is Family Adoration different?

The purpose of a Family Adoration Hour is to welcome whole families and to help children learn to adore Christ present in the Eucharist.

Do I have to stay the entire time?

No. You are welcome to come and go at Adoration at any time. You are always welcome to stop by Church to say a prayer before Jesus with your children, even if it is not during an Adoration time.

What specific things should children know?

They should know that Jesus is present in the monstrance and that they can love Him by spending time with Him.

How do I prepare my child for adoration?

Explain what is going to happen: that is, explain that we are going to spend time with Jesus to show our love. Practice quiet and stillness at home in prayer times. Talk about REVERENCE and practice showing reverence – in handling objects, movements, postures and stillness. Learn and practice “mindfulness” in your own adult prayer and let that guide your prayer with your children; it will “rub off” on them.

Is there an age limit? Do my children have to have received first communion? No. Jesus would enjoy if even the smallest infant were to come to Adoration.

How will I keep my child quiet?

Hold them. Practice at home. Your children may not be quiet; they may not sit still – this is okay. Adjust your expectations and be patient. Bringing toys defeats the purpose of Adoration, but a rosary might help busy hands.

What if my child can't be quieted?

If they are truly disruptive, take your children outside for a minute and regroup. Whisper to them— don't ignore because behavior may escalate to get your attention.

How can I help my children learn to be still? What can we do at home to practice?

Use sand timers or egg timers to give short amounts of time to practice silence, stillness. Start with short amounts of time and gradually build up stamina for more. Use a candle and watch it flicker. Use a bell and listen to it resonate. Practice praying with this stillness – help create a sense of awe/mystery. Use quiet voices.

What is the correct posture?

Genuflection is appropriate when entering and leaving Adoration – or a deep bow for those who cannot genuflect. If you're not sure how to genuflect, watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORp6d7YOoas> . A double genuflection is acceptable as well.

During Adoration many postures are appropriate – kneeling, prostration, sitting.

How are we supposed to feel? What if we don't feel God's presence?

You won't always feel something special. That is okay. St. John Vianney said that he wanted to spend time in adoration like a dog at the feet of its master. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, while her sister Martha worried about the serving: Jesus said that the "better part" was sitting at his feet. The feelings that come to you are most likely what God wants you to feel – you don't have to exert yourself to feel a certain way – just be as present to God as you can, loving God.

When we feel a special response from God in our hearts during adoration, it is wonderful blessing. We should thank God for the amazing gift. When we do not receive anything special during Adoration, that is okay too. We should always treat our time with Jesus as our gift to Him, without expecting something in return.

What should I do if we don't like the silence?

Practice! Silence, stillness and mindfulness, is a crucial habit for the spiritual life. Practice at home, in your car, etc. Use a simple word like: "Jesus" or "Mary", or "Jesus, I love you" to recollect your thoughts. Then, rest in silence.

How do I take care of my child and still get my own quiet time?

You may have to change your expectations. You will have many opportunities to Adore, if some of the Adoration times do not go the way you feel they should, accept this and know you will have many more chances – and that Jesus was glad you came. Think about “listening to God together” – knowing that your togetherness in love for God may be as important as your own quiet time – and keep working to find your own time adoring God, trusting that God will help you find this time.

What if my children enjoy it, but I don't enjoy it or understand it?

This is a good question for you to answer for yourself!

What can I bring? Snacks for kids? Electronic devices?

No snacks except for nursing babies who may need milk. Electronic devices may be acceptable sometimes for rosary, reading scripture, etc., but the best use of this time is simply to spend the time loving God.