

Worship of the Holy Eucharist Outside of Mass

<p style="text-align: center;">ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PERPETUAL EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No rite or ritual involved; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A liturgical act; a Rite of the Roman Catholic Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have the official permission of the local Ordinary (Bishop);
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prayer before the Blessed Sacrament housed within the tabernacle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a monstrance or ciborium (uncovered) for public veneration by the faithful; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A liturgical act; a Rite of the Roman Catholic Church;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one or more people at their own discretion; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a public celebration that enables the faithful to perceive more clearly the relationship between the reserved Sacrament and the Mass; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a monstrance or ciborium (uncovered) for public veneration by the faithful (at least two at all times) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • available anytime the church or chapel where the tabernacle is located is open or accessible; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after the Blessed Sacrament has been exposed, a period of adoration containing readings of the Word of God, songs, prayers and sufficient time for silent prayer follows; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a public celebration that enables the faithful to perceive more clearly the relationship between the reserved Sacrament and the Mass;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 2 people must be present at all times when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after the Blessed Sacrament has been exposed, a period of adoration containing readings of the Word of God, songs, prayers and sufficient time for silent prayer follows;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • during lengthy periods of exposition the Blessed Sacrament must be reposed in the tabernacle when Mass is celebrated in the body of the church or chapel where exposition occurs; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 2 people must be present at all times when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if interrupted because of too few worshipers, the Blessed Sacrament is to be reposed in the tabernacle at times announced beforehand, however this reposition may not take place more often than twice during the day and at predetermined times; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Blessed Sacrament must be reposed in the tabernacle when Mass is celebrated in the body of the church or chapel where exposition occurs;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rite ends at a specific set time with Benediction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if interrupted because of too few worshipers, the Blessed Sacrament is to be reposed in the tabernacle at times announced beforehand, however this reposition may not take place more often than twice during the day and at predetermined times; Perpetual exposition is not allowed when such reposition takes place more than twice a day;

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Common Questions:

- **When and where should perpetual exposition of the Blessed Sacrament take place?**

Pope Saint John Paul II in June of 1993 expressed his hope that “in all parishes and Christian communities, there would be established some form of ongoing adoration of the most Blessed Sacrament.” Whether this adoration takes the form of perpetual exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is at the discretion of the diocesan bishop.

- **Is the Holy Eucharist exposed for the purpose of private devotion?**

No. The liturgical rites for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament are found in the ritual book *“Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass”* and presume the presence of a number of people during the period of adoration. (see Canon 942) The rites require that during the period of exposition “there should be prayers, songs, and readings to direct the attention of the faithful to the worship of Christ the Lord.” The Liturgy of the Hours may also be celebrated during the period of exposition, or the Rosary may be prayed.

- **Can the Eucharist be exposed permanently by building tabernacles of glass or tabernacles with small windows to see inside?**

No. *“Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass”* states “The holy Eucharist is to be reserved in a solid tabernacle. It must be opaque and unbreakable.”

- **Can a door or a drape be erected so that the exposed Sacrament can be temporarily closed off from public view?**

No. The use of drapes or doors to shield the monstrance, even for a short period of time, is not the required reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament may never be left exposed unless at least two people are present for prayer and adoration. As mentioned before, if a period of uninterrupted exposition is not possible, because of too few worshipers, the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle during periods which have been scheduled and announced beforehand. This reposition may not take place more often than twice during the day, for example, about noon and at night.

- **In order to enhance security, may the Blessed Sacrament be exposed behind a glass window?**

No. The Blessed Sacrament may be exposed in either a monstrance or ciborium and is usually placed on the altar for adoration.

The information given above is referenced in the USCCB resource “Thirty-One Questions on Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament” and may be obtained through their website. <http://store.usccb.org/thirty-one-questions-on-adoration-p/5-595.htm>