

# Bread of Life

*I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Matt 28:20*

The St. Gregory Barbarigo Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Ministry

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Issue #1 - Advent / Christmas 2011

In writing to you about our Perpetual Adoration Chapel I want to share with you some of the numbers that have made this ministry successful. Our chapel is one of a handful that offers perpetual adoration in the Archdiocese. Our doors have been opened for seven years now and over this past year we have estimated that 15,000 plus adorers and visitors have come in to sit and rest with our Lord and Savior Jesus. There are a total of 388 active guardians but we could always stand to have more. We have only signed up a very small number of guardians from St. Greg's over the past two years, but many have signed up from the other parishes around the county. There is a buzz about the chapel around the county and when they come and see they are hooked. We thank all of our brothers and sisters from the neighboring parishes who have signed on as guardians so we could continue to keep this ministry going strong. We would love to see more of our parishioners say yes to an hour with Jesus and be able to receive the love and mercy he is just waiting to pour out on those who come and spend time with him. Possibly considering signing up as a substitute might work for some as well? We always have our ears open and welcome any suggestions. If you are interested in signing up, there are always sign-up sheets in the narthex or you can send us an email at: [stgregspea@hotmail.com](mailto:stgregspea@hotmail.com). This newsletter is something we are hoping to produce four times a year and we will continue to post the hours that are in need of guardians or partners.

The chapel could not stand the test of time if it wasn't for all of the permanent guardians who continue to come week after week and spend that time with Jesus and by doing so, they keep the doors open around the clock so that others who need to come and spend time with him will be able to do so. I give thanks and pray for continued blessings on all of our guardians and visitors. I also give thanks and pray for the twenty four hourly captains and the four section leaders who remain so diligent and without them we could not keep this ministry running. I also want to thank all of those behind the scenes who keep the chapel clean and take care of all the little things that need to be done. Thanks to Brian Fagan who makes all of the necessary repairs to the lighting and whatever else needs to be fixed. It wouldn't be fair for me not to mention Roy and Betty Petersen who were open and receptive to God's grace which enabled them to have this vision of an adoration chapel at St. Greg's. Thank you, Roy and Betty for giving us this beautiful gift. Last but not least I want to thank my beautiful and patient wife and children who continue to support me and this ministry that the Lord has called me to.

In Roy and Betty's words, "May the United Hearts of Jesus and Mary be with you."

May the peace of our Lord be with you and your families during this Advent and Christmas season!

Bob Zottoli  
PEA Coordinator

As of 12/4/11 - 16 hours are in need of partners or guardians:  
1am Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Saturday  
2am Sunday/Monday/Tuesday  
3am Wednesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday  
4am Thursday/Saturday  
3pm Thursday/Saturday

Join us in welcoming our new guardians: Raneë Bullock 11pm Friday and Katie Gamboli 3am Sunday.

## The Church's True Treasure

"The Church's true treasure is the permanent presence of the Lord in His Sacrament. In one of His parables (Mt:44-46), the Lord speaks of a treasure hidden in the field; whoever finds it sells all he has in order to buy that field, because the hidden treasure is more valuable than anything else.

The hidden treasure, the good greater than any other, is the Kingdom of God, it is Jesus Himself, the Kingdom person. In the sacred Host, He is present, the true treasure, always waiting for us. Only by adoring this presence do we learn how to receive Him properly. We learn the reality of communion, we learn the Eucharistic celebration from the inside.

Let us love being with the Lord! There we can speak with Him about everything. We can offer Him our petitions, our concerns, our troubles, our joys, our gratitude, and our disappointments, our needs and our aspirations. There we can also constantly ask Him: "Lord, send laborers into your harvest! Help me to be a good worker in your vineyard!"

*Pope Benedict XVI from Vespers at Basilica of Saint Anne, Alotting, Bavaria September 11, 2006*

## Recommended Reading For Eucharistic Adoration

*The Better Part: A Christ-Centered Resource for Personal Prayer:* by Fr. John Bartunek, L.C. This book should be declared a national treasure! We lead tremendously busy lives, with 1,001 things to do. Even so, every saint and renowned spiritual director through the ages has said the same thing: If we desire to become saints, we must spend time daily in meditation. With this book (which sold out of its first printing), Fr. Bartunek has created an extensive, Christ-centered resource to serve as a daily meditation companion. It is a Bible study on the four Gospels, a survey of saints' writings, a guide to prayer, and a fresh introduction to Jesus rolled into one. The Better Part enables us to read, meditate, absorb and apply the Gospels to our lives, and it serves as a catalyst to personalize times of prayer, enabling us to follow the Holy Spirit's lead into holiness.

**To Know You is to Want to Know You More - By Tom DiGiovanni, St. Gregory Barbarigo Parishioner**

When the Lord wants to speak to me it usually comes when I'm reading scripture. The verse he uses to get my attention will really stand out, it will appear to jump right off of the page. More recently the Lord has been speaking to me very clearly through contemporary Christian music lyrics. A few weeks ago I heard a song titled, "To Know You", by the group Casting Crowns, and it felt like the Lord hit me over the head with a baseball bat trying to get my attention. These lyrics explain perfectly what I have come to experience by spending an hour every week with Jesus as a guardian in the perpetual adoration chapel the past four years. I googled the lyrics, printed them off and I have been spending a lot of time praying with them. I know the Lord is asking me to share these lyrics with all of you so you can do the same:

*"To know you, is to never worry about my life. To know you, is to never give in or compromise. To know you, is to want to tell the world about you, because I can't live without you. To know you, is to hear your voice when you are calling. To know you, is to catch my brother when he's falling. To know you, is to feel the pain of the broken hearted, because they can't live without you.*

**Chorus:** *More than my next breath, more than life or death, all I'm reaching for, I live my life to know you more. I'll leave it all behind. You are all that satisfies. To know you is to want to know you more. To know you is to want to know you more.*

*To know you, is to ache for more than ordinary. To know you, is to look beyond the temporary. To know you, is believing that you will be enough, because there is no life without you. Repeat Chorus*

*All this life can offer me could not compare to you. And I count it all as lost compared to knowing you." Repeat Chorus*

**Embracing the Heart of Advent**

How blessed, how fortunate, are those servants whom the Lord will find watchful when he comes. Blessed is the time of waiting when we stay awake for the Lord, the Creator of the universe, who fills all things and transcends all things. How I would wish he would awaken me, his humble servant, from the sleep of slothfulness, even though I am of little worth. How I wish he would enkindle me with that fire of divine love. The flames of his love burn beyond the stars; the longing for his overwhelming delights and the divine fire ever burn within me! How I wish I might deserve to have my lantern always burning at night in the temple of my Lord, to give light to all who enter the house of my God. Give me, I pray you, Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ your Son and my God, that love that does not fail so that my lantern, burning within me and giving light to others, may be always lighted and never extinguished. Jesus, our most loving Savior, be pleased to light our lanterns, so that they may burn forever in your temple, receiving eternal light from you, the eternal light, to lighten our darkness and to ward off from us the darkness of the world. Give your light to my lantern, I beg you, my Jesus, so that by its light I may see that the holy of holies which receives you as the eternal priest, entering among the columns of your great temple. May I ever see you only, look on you, long for you; may I gaze with love on you alone, and have my lantern shining and burning always in your presence. Loving Savior, be pleased to show yourself to us who knock, so that in knowing you we may love only

When I first started praying with these lyrics the story of Martha and Mary (Luke Chapter 10) immediately came to mind. I could just see Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus and telling him these same words because by spending time with Jesus, she was able to experience the intimate knowledge that he calls all of us to have with him. At that moment she wasn't worrying about her life, she would never give in or compromise (no matter how much Martha complained), and after Jesus left she probably went out and told the whole village about him and how nothing could compare to knowing him. While Martha was worrying and rushing around like a crazy person, Mary just sat and listened to Jesus and according to Jesus she's the one who chose the better part.

All of us at St Gregory's have the opportunity to choose the better part. We can imitate Mary and sit at the feet of Jesus anytime twenty four hours a day, seven days a week and get to know him more. Unfortunately too many parishioners do not take advantage of this amazing grace (Only about 20% of parishioners are signed up as weekly guardians), and the way our culture has changed this grace filled season into one mad dash after another, we too easily lose sight of what this season is truly about, hence we become Martha. It's time to slow down! It's time to stop running, stop worrying, turn off all of the noise and come to be filled to overflowing with the peace that Mary experienced, the peace that surpasses all understanding (Phil 4:7). St. Augustine has taught us that our hearts are restless and they will always remain restless until they rest in the Lord. I invite all of you to come and rest in Jesus by spending some time with him in the perpetual adoration chapel and I invite you to keep coming back until you can make these lyrics your prayer and you can honestly say to him, "to know you Lord is to want to know you more."

*A thousand years of human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Saint Padre Pio*

you, love you alone, desire you alone, contemplate only you day and night, and always think of you. Inspire in us the depth of love that is fitting for you to receive as God. So may your love pervade our whole being, possess us completely, and fill all our senses, that we may know no other love but love for you who are everlasting. May our love be so great that the waters of sky, land and sea cannot extinguish it in us: *many waters could not extinguish love.* May this saying be fulfilled in us also, at least in part by your gift, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (*Instruction* by Saint Columban, Abbot, as recorded in **Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. IV**, Catholic Book Publishing Company, 1975, pp. 382-383)

**If you have a short story about Eucharistic adoration that you would like to share with others, send it to: [Stgregspea@hotmail.com](mailto:Stgregspea@hotmail.com) Not all stories will be used.**

"Neither theological knowledge nor social action alone is enough to keep us in love with Christ unless both are preceded by a personal encounter with Him. Theological insights are gained not only from between two covers of a book, but from two bent knees before an altar. The Holy Hour becomes like an oxygen tank to revive the breath of the Holy Spirit in the midst of the foul and fetid atmosphere of the world," *Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*