

HISTORY OF PERPETUAL ADORATION AT HOLY TRINITY PARISH



Monthly adoration began on August 5, 1995, with 24-hour adoration on the first Fridays and Saturdays, which was expanded to every Friday in August 1996.

Late in 1996, with the bishop's encouragement and our pastor's full support, preparation began to expand to perpetual adoration—the first Perpetual Adoration Chapel in the Diocese of Fall River. A side chapel of the main church was modified to become the Adoration Chapel. On January 19, 1997, Fr. James McCurry, OFM CONV., from the

Alliance of the Two Hearts, was invited to speak about the Eucharist at all the Masses. Father McCurry and our parish priests, Fr. Gerald Shovelton and Fr. Paul Lamb, exposed the Blessed Sacrament in the special Chapel after Noon Mass, and adoration has continued ever since that date.

A letter was sent to our parish family encouraging all to participate. A letter was also sent to surrounding parishes. Each registered parishioner was personally called and invited to participate by signing up for one hour a week. At that time, there were approximately 260 adorers who committed themselves and signed up to be in the Chapel one hour every week at a specific time. There are also many people who drop in for a visit all day long or spend their Morning Prayer time before Mass in the Chapel or stay after daily or Sunday Mass for thanksgiving and reflection.

It is a silent chapel for the most part, but some days the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy is said at 3PM.

The fruits: Increased attendance at daily Mass and Communion, as well as an increased reverence while in church; increased participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as well as many converts and non-practicing Catholics who have returned to the Church.



In the year 2000 there was a large private donation for the express purpose of building a new Adoration Chapel on property adjacent to the church. Ground was broken in June 2000 by Bishop (now Cardinal) Sean O'Malley, OFM CAP, then Bishop of Fall River, Fr. Gerald Shovelton, retiring pastor of Holy Trinity, and Fr. Thomas Rita, incoming pastor.

Our Lady of Life Adoration Chapel took more than two years to complete. Then-Bishop Sean O'Malley dedicated and opened the new Chapel on October 13, 2002, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, and the Blessed Sacrament was transferred from the old Chapel to the new.

The Chapel is built of stone and has many fine art pieces, including beautiful stained glass windows which are over 100 years old. Our Marian Grotto was refurbished at the same time.