

# The Significance of Eucharistic Processions

*In light of the upcoming Eucharistic Procession from Cornell to our parish, here is a reprint from the Knights of Columbus ([kofc.org/eucharist](http://kofc.org/eucharist)) on Eucharistic Processions as an act of faith and evangelization.*

*Are you unable to join us for the full Procession? Please consider joining us as we pass through Ithaca Commons at around 1:30 PM, and signing up for a Holy Hour in the 24-hour Adoration Vigil that will follow.*

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A Eucharistic Procession [...] is an extension of the worship of Jesus Christ, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. The supreme act of adoration and the source and summit of the Christian life is the celebration of the Mass, and that celebration is prolonged and intensified through Eucharistic worship outside of the Mass. In Eucharistic Processions, the missionary aspect of the Eucharist is emphasized as we go forth into the world. Not only gazing upon our Eucharistic Lord, but walking with him, we experience what the disciples did 2000 years ago as they walked with Jesus, proclaiming the Good News to the world. A parish community that undertakes a Eucharistic Procession has made the decision to publicly proclaim its belief in Jesus' True Presence in the Eucharist. By this public witness of faith, the parish invites people in the community to encounter the Risen Lord present in the Eucharistic Host. For those who participate in the procession, it is an opportunity not only to proclaim their faith but also to grow in their faith. The procession is, finally, an invitation to Jesus himself to be a part of our daily lives, to be immersed in the world in which we live.

Eucharistic Processions became more prominent as the worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass grew in popular devotions and as the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist became more of a central focus of theological study. [...] Over the following centuries, Eucharistic Processions spread more and more throughout the Church. The Church has consistently encouraged the development and growth of Eucharistic Processions. In many parts of the world today, Eucharistic Processions are a very important form of Eucharistic piety. [...] Reintroducing Eucharistic Processions where they have faded in popularity can be a powerful way to renew and rediscover both belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist as well as the missionary call that every Catholic shares: to bring Jesus to the world.

During Eucharistic Processions, "the Christian people give public witness of faith and to their devotion toward this sacrament" (*Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass*, 101). By publicly proclaiming belief in Jesus' True Presence in the Eucharist, the parish has an opportunity to invite the broader community to ask questions about the Eucharist and encounter Christ as the Blessed Sacrament is brought to them directly on the streets. In today's culture, where so many are indifferent or even hostile to religion in general and Christianity in particular, it is the witness of your faith that can build trust and rouse curiosity among members of your community who on their own might not approach the Church.

"No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples." (*St. John Paul II*)

"We entrust these streets, these homes, our daily life, to his goodness. May our streets be streets of Jesus! May our houses be homes for him and with him! May our life of every day be penetrated by his presence." (*Pope Benedict XVI*)

"The procession with the Blessed Sacrament [...] reminds us that we are called to go out and bring Jesus to others. To go out with enthusiasm, bringing Christ to those we meet in our daily lives." (*Pope Francis*)

## Parish Eucharistic Adoration Times

Every Monday: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm  
Every Saturday: 2 pm to 3:30 pm  
Friday, March 7th: 24 hours (2 pm onwards)

*If you would like to contribute a Eucharistic reflection, testimony, book review, etc. to our Eucharistic Revival announcements, please contact us at [ImmaculateConceptionERC@gmail.com](mailto:ImmaculateConceptionERC@gmail.com).*



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