



Join us this Lent

Forty Hours Devotion | March 19 – 21, 2026

Thursday, March 19

Adoration begins | Noon

Solemn Vespers & Reflection | 7 pm

Presenter: Rev. John Kist, Celebrant & Homilist

Friday, March 20

Adoration continues

Saturday, March 21

Benediction, 8:50 am | Mass 9 am

What is this devotion?

The Forty Hours Devotion is a period of continuous public prayer in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament. This devotion is a special time of grace for a parish. The church remains open for approximately forty straight hours. Parishioners sign up to take a time slot and keep Jesus company in the Eucharist. People can also drop into the church for a visit at any time of the day. Often special prayers and reflections are given during this period.

A bit of History

The devotion of Forty Hours originated six centuries ago in Milan. The practice spread quickly in the West through figures such as St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Philip Neri, St. Charles Borromeo, Pope Clement VIII, and Pope Clement XII. It was fervently promoted in the United States by St. John Neumann, the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, and in 1866, the devotion was approved for use throughout the United States. A relic of St. John Neumann rests in the St. Ambrose Church altar.

FORTY HOURS DEVOTION 2026

SOLEMN VESPERS



Thursday
March 19 | 7 pm
St. Ambrose Church

Father John Kist
Celebrant & Homilist

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH | ANNANDALE, VA