



*Join us this Lent*

## **Forty Hours Devotion | March 13 – 15, 2024**

### **Wednesday, March 13**

Adoration begins | Noon

Confessions | 6:30 pm – 8 pm

Reflection | 6:30 – 7 pm

### **Thursday, March 14**

Solemn Vespers & Reflection | 7 pm

Presenter: Rev. John Trigilio, EWTN Host and author of *Catholicism for Dummies*

### **Friday, March 15**

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. A 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.

### *In the Arlington Diocese*

Forty Hours was widely celebrated following the establishment of our diocese in 1974. It has remained an important devotion in many parishes. We are in the third year of preparation for the fiftieth anniversary of the diocese's founding. Each parish will celebrate the Forty Hours Devotion at some point this year as part of the preparation.