

PRAYERS DURING EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION

What is permitted during adoration of the exposed Blessed Sacrament?

The Church encourages many forms of prayer during Eucharistic Adoration:

“During the exposition prayers, songs, and readings should be arranged so as to direct the attention of the faithful to the worship of Christ the Lord. To encourage a prayerful spirit, there should be readings from the Scriptures with a homily or brief exhortations to develop a better understanding of the Eucharistic mystery. It is also desirable for the people to respond to the word of God by singing and to spend some periods of time in religious silence. Part of the liturgy of the hours, especially the principal hours, may be celebrated before the blessed sacrament when there is a lengthy period of exposition.”

(Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass*, par. 95-96, <http://www.fargodiocese.org/educationformation/evangelization/Eucharist/HolyCommunionAndEucharisticWorshipOutsideOfMass.pdf>)

What about praying the Rosary?

- The Rosary is a Christ-centered prayer focused on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus:

“Once the pre-eminent value of liturgical rites has been reaffirmed it will not be difficult to appreciate the fact that the Rosary is a practice of piety which easily harmonizes with the liturgy. In fact, like the liturgy, it is of a community nature, draws its inspiration from Sacred Scripture and is oriented towards the mystery of Christ.” (Pope Paul VI, *Marialis Cultus*, 1974, par. 48)

- Therefore the Rosary may be prayed during Adoration, with the following notes:

“One should not expose the Eucharist only to recite the Rosary. However, among the prayers that are used during adoration, the recitation of the Rosary may certainly be included, emphasizing the Christological aspects with biblical readings relating to the mysteries, and providing time for silent adoration and meditation on them.”

(*Notes on the Recitation of the Rosary During Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*, Notitiae, 1998)

What about the Divine Praises?

“The Divine Praises, or the prayers of reparation for profanity and blasphemy, are a sequence of acclamations, chiefly composed by Jesuit Luigi Felici in 1797, blessing God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, and all the angels and saints.... the original Latin text of the rite [of Exposition] does not include the Divine Praises at all. In fact the Holy See gave wide leeway to the bishops’ conferences to adapt the rites to particular circumstances and add recommended hymns and prayers according to local custom... Since the Holy See deliberately opted for allowing wide scope for freedom of choice, it is fairly clear that including a prayer such as the Divine Praises in one or other part of the ritual is a case of recommending a custom without creating an obligation. ... the Divine Praises may be recited after Benediction whenever customary. Or the reposition may be done in silence or accompanied by an appropriate hymn or other acclamations.”

(Fr. Edward McNamara, professor of liturgy at the Regina Apostolorum university, *Divine Praises at Adoration*, <http://www.ewtn.com/library/Liturgy/zlitur147.HTM>)

- Because the Divine Praises is a devotion used according to local custom (not required by the liturgical rite), it may be led by the presiding priest, by a cantor, or by the choir. It may also be sung by all in unison.

What can we do before the Blessed Sacrament?

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| - Prayers | - Homily | - The Rosary |
| - Songs | - Exhortations | - The Divine Praises |
| - Readings from Scripture | - Times of Silence | - Other Christ-centered devotions |
| | - Liturgy of the Hours | |