Canticle of Mary, is first and foremost praise and thanks-giving. When Mary exclaims: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour”, she already bears Jesus in her womb. She praises God “through” Jesus, but she also praises him “in” Jesus and “with” Jesus. This is itself the true “Eucharistic attitude”.

The Magnificat expresses Mary’s spirituality, and there is nothing greater than this spirituality for helping us to experience the mystery of the Eucharist. The Eucharist has been given to us so that our life, like that of Mary, may become completely a Magnificat!

Excerpted from St. Pope John Paul II’s Encyclical Letter Ecclesia De Eucharistia given in Rome, at Saint Peter’s, on 17 April, Holy Thursday, in the year 2003, the Twenty-fifth of his Pontificate, the Year of the Rosary.

Mysterium fidei! If the Eucharist is a mystery of faith which so greatly transcends our understanding as to call for sheer abandonment to the word of God, then there can be no one like Mary to act as our support and guide in acquiring this disposition. In repeating what Christ did at the Last Supper in obedience to his command: “Do this in memory of me!”, we also accept Mary’s invitation to obey him without hesitation: “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5). With the same maternal concern which she showed at the wedding feast of Cana, Mary seems to say to us: “Do not waver; trust in the words of my Son. If he was able to change water into wine, he can also turn bread and wine into his body and blood, and through this mystery bestow on believers the living memorial of his passover, thus becoming the ‘bread of life’”.

In the Eucharist the Church is completely united to Christ and his sacrifice, and makes her own the spirit of Mary. This truth can be understood more deeply by re-reading the Magnificat in a Eucharistic key. The Eucharist, like the Canticle of Mary, is first and foremost praise and thanksgiving. When Mary exclaims: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour”, she already bears Jesus in her womb. She praises God “through” Jesus, but she also praises him “in” Jesus and “with” Jesus. This is itself the true “Eucharistic attitude”.

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Ways to Honor Our Blessed Mother

In addition to the Hail Mary, Memorare, Hail Holy Queen and Angelus prayers, the following practices which are recommended by the Magisterium are offered as suggestions for honoring Our Lady during her month.

The Regina Coeli
The ecclesial community addresses this antiphon to Mary for the Resurrection of her Son. It adverts to, and depends on, the invitation to joy addressed by Gabriel to the Lord’s humble servant who was called to become the Mother of the saving Messiah.

The Rosary
Also called the Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Rosary is one of the most excellent prayers to the Mother of God. Thus, “the Roman Pontiffs have repeatedly exhorted the faithful to the frequent recitation of this biblically inspired prayer which is centered on contemplation of the salvific events of Christ’s life, and their close association with the Virgin Mother.”

Litanies of the Blessed Virgin Mary
These consist of a long series of invocations to Our Lady, which follow in a uniform rhythm, thereby creating a stream of prayer characterized by insistent praise and supplication.

Consecration and Entrustment to Mary
The Roman Pontiffs have frequently expressed appreciation for the pious practice of “consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary” and the formulas publicly used by them are well known. Louis Grignon de Montfort is one of the great masters of the spirituality underlying the act of “consecration to Mary”. He “proposed to the faithful consecration to Jesus through Mary, as an effective way of living out their baptismal commitment.”

The Brown Scapular
The scapular is an external sign of the filial relationship established between the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, and the faithful who entrust themselves totally to her protection, who have recourse to her maternal intercession, who are mindful of the primacy of the spiritual life and the need for prayer.

Medals
These are witnesses of faith and a sign of veneration of the Holy Mother of God, as well as of trust in her maternal protection. The Church blesses such objects of Marian devotion in the belief that “they help to remind the faithful of the love of God, and to increase trust in the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

The "Akathistos" Hymn
In the Byzantine tradition, one of the oldest and most revered expressions of Marian devotion is the hymn of the "Akathistos" - meaning the hymn sung while standing. It is a literary and theological masterpiece, encapsulating in the form of a prayer, the universally held Marian belief of the primitive Church.

Excerpted from the Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy

Prayer While Visiting the Blessed Sacrament

O my Lord Jesus Christ, who for the love You bear mankind, remain night and day in this Sacrament, all full of tenderness and love, expecting and receiving all those who come to visit You: I believe that You are present in the Sacrament of the altar; I adore You from the depths of my own nothingness and thank You for all the favors You have bestowed upon me; and especially for having given me Yourself in this Sacrament, and Your holy Mother Mary as my Advocate; and for having called me to visit You in this church. I pay homage this day to Your most loving Heart and this I intend to do for three intentions: first, in thanksgiving for this great gift; secondly, in reparation for all the insults You have received from Your enemies in this Sacrament; thirdly, by this visit I intend to adore You in all places upon the earth, where You are least adored and most neglected in Your Sacrament. My Jesus, I love You with my whole heart. I repent of having in the past so many times displeased Your infinite goodness. I intend, with the help of Your grace never more to offend You in the future; and at the present, wretched as I am, I consecrate myself wholly to You. I give You, and utterly renounce, my entire will, all my affections, all my desires, and all that I possess. From this day forth, do with me and with all that is mine whatever is pleasing in Your sight. I ask and desire only Your holy love, final perseverance and the perfect fulfillment of Your will. I commend to You the souls in purgatory, especially those who were most devoted to this Blessed Sacrament and to the Blessed Virgin Mary. I commend to You in like manner all poor sinners. Finally, my dear Savior, I unite all my affections with those of Your most loving Heart, and thus united I offer them to Your eternal Father, and I pray to Him in Your name graciously to accept and answer them for love of You. Amen.

Padre Pio recited this prayer daily. It was written by St. Alphonsus Liguori.
Adoration Testimonial - Roxanne Arismendez

I first started going to Adoration a few years ago with my sister and my mom to their 2 a.m. hour back when we had perpetual Adoration. I loved it. It was such a peaceful time, just being in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. There was one night I vividly remember my mom’s car filling up with the scent of roses! I knew Blessed Mother was with us too.

I’ve been so thankful to have Adoration back at our parish. I can go there to clear my mind, to lift others up in prayer, and lay all my worries at the feet of Jesus. It’s such a beautiful and special time. Adoration has been such a blessing to me and to so many in our parish. With the busyness of life the Adoration chapel is the perfect place to find PEACE and refuge in the arms of Jesus. In the quiet of the Adoration chapel you can also hear the Lord speaking to you in the quiet of your heart. He can also answer prayers there sometimes. One day as I knelt in prayer I was asking God, “What are you calling me to do?” When I left, Fr. Victor was walking the parking lot praying the rosary and came up to me and asked if I ever thought of working with the high school youth.

God answered my prayer quickly! Needless to say, I am working with the high school youth on Wednesdays.

I absolutely love Adoration, and I invite anyone who has never experienced it to just choose an hour or drop in any time during the week. Jesus is always waiting for YOU with arms wide open. Go to Him. Give Him thanks and praise for all He’s doing in your life and in our parish. Even if you have no words to say just sit quietly in His presence and listen to Him speak to you.

Jesus, we trust in You.

Important Adoration Prayers to Know - Benediction

Adorers kneel during the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and recite, usually in song, the Tantum Ergo prayer in Latin before the priest blesses the congregation with the monstrance. Presented here are the Latin prayer and English translation.

After this the priest says: You have given them bread from heaven, and we respond: Having all sweetness within it. Then we pray and recite the Divine Praises before the Reposi-
tion of the Blessed Sacrament.

Eucharistic Miracles

On April 28, 2001 during Eucharistic Adoration at St. Mary’s parish in Chirattakonam, India, there appeared in the Host the likeness of a man similar to that of Christ crowned with thorns. His Beatitude Cyril Mar Baselice, Archbishop of the diocese of Trivandrum, wrote regarding this prodigy: “[…] For us believers what we have seen is something that we have always believed […] If our Lord is speaking to us by giving us this sign, it certainly needs a response from us.” The monstrance containing the miraculous Host is to this day kept in the church. This Eucharistic miracle was verified on May 5, 2001 in Trivandrum, India.
Taste and see how sweet is the Lord, and you will learn from your own experience how many graces this will bring you. True, Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, for He has made the promise, "Ask, and you shall receive", but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament will obtain a more abundant measure of grace.

Certainly amongst all devotions, after that of receiving the sacraments, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament holds the first place, is the most pleasing to God, and the most useful to ourselves. The sovereigns of the earth do not always grant audience readily; on the contrary, the King of Heaven, hidden under the Eucharistic veils, is ready to receive anyone…

Nothing in the world can set hearts ablaze with love for God like the Blessed Sacrament. That is why this divine bread has been pictured as a furnace of love. Saint Catherine of Siena saw far-reaching flames coming from this furnace of love and spreading throughout the world. Good friends find pleasure in one another’s company. Let us know pleasure in the company of our best Friend, a Friend who can do everything for us, a Friend who loves us beyond measure. Here in the Blessed Sacrament we can talk to Him straight from the heart. We can open our souls to Him, tell Him what we need, beg Him for powerful graces. We are perfectly free to approach the King of the universe with full confidence and without fear. Jesus tells us that where a person esteems his treasure to be, there also does he keep his affections. Therefore the saints, who neither esteem nor love any other treasure than Jesus Christ, center their hearts and all their love in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Adoration Etiquette

Please never leave Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament alone!

Please maintain reverent, prayerful silence. Phones should be turned off or placed on vibrate.

If you are scheduled for a Holy Hour, please arrive on time.

If you are unable to attend your scheduled Holy Hour, please contact a substitute adorer or the Sub Coordinator for your weekday as soon as you know you will not make your commitment.

If your Holy Hour has ended and the next scheduled adorer has not arrived, please do not leave Jesus alone! Consider staying until someone shows up - maybe our Lord is sending you a message! If you need to leave right away, contact the Head Coordinator or Sub Coordinator for your weekday.

Please do not chew gum or bring food or drinks to Eucharistic Adoration!

Please DO take time to be with the Lord! He is really present there with you in the Blessed Sacrament!

Adoration Reflection

Eucharistic Adoration consoles a soul far beyond what the world can offer. Frequent visits to Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar are a great help to the souls that love Him. Oh, how sweet a joy it is to remain with faith and tender devotion before the Eucharist, and converse familiarly with Jesus Christ, who is there for the express purpose of listening to and graciously hearing those who pray to Him. In a quarter of an hour’s prayer spent in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, you will perhaps gain more than in all the other spiritual exercises of the day. A Holy Hour will give you more strength during life and more consolation at the hour of your death and eternity. Withdraw yourself from people and the world, spend at least a quarter of an hour, or a half-hour, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

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