

“I Gaze on You in the Sanctuary to See Your Strength and Your Glory”

Psalm 63:2

Twelve Reasons to Commit to a Weekly Holy Hour of Adoration at the Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene

1. We are dying to receive rest from the exhaustion of being consumed by all other things: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I shall give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).
2. Our eyes beholding the beauty of the Lord receive needed healing from our soul-murdering addiction to gadgets: “Their makers will come to be like them, and so will all who trust in them” (Psalm 115:8).
3. We need constant radical renunciation of the idolatry of politics and its endless churning of contention and coercion: “Render to God what is God’s” (Mark 12:17).
4. We need a place to meditate on the “big picture” meaning of our lives in view of our mortality, probing how our life is a blessing from and for those whose lives on earth have reached their end: “What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul? What can one give for his soul?” (Mark 8:36).
5. In a world in which everything is so exposed all the time for everyone to see, we need a place of hiddenness totally set aside for the cultivation of our interior life, a consecrated space for the Lord alone to work at the very heart of our solitude: “Your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3).
6. We must learn to understand and flourish in silence, which is the first language of God (St. John of the Cross): “And all the assembly kept silence” (Acts 15:12).
7. We must relentlessly fast from consuming and excreting bad news, constantly feasting on and sharing the Good News that is the Gospel. The Oratory’s *Bible of the Poor* panels are a great table of God’s Word: “The Word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12).
8. We must make reparation for sin by allowing Christ to repair in us the damage of the Evil One, through the renewal of our unique mission: “I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).
9. As members of Christ’s Body, we belong to each other and support each other in prayer. The Oratory is literally our Parish living in the offering of Christ’s continuous exchange of intercessory love given and received. “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).
10. We are each and all together---person by person, hour by hour---sentinels of deepest vigilance for the coming of the Lord, both at the end of time and in the spontaneous visit of the next person who comes to pray. Our commitment to a designated hour keeps the Oratory open for others to visit at any time: “When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith upon the earth?” (Luke 18:8).
11. St. Mary Magdalene and her Oratory will teach us that the greatest goal of our life is to attend to Jesus in every circumstance of our life and to be so filled with this love stronger than death that we cannot restrain ourselves from inviting others to share His joy: “I have seen the Lord!” (John 20:18).
12. Love begets love: “God is love, and all who abide in love abide in God and God in them” (1 John 4:16). Those who are in Love know the only answer to Christ’s question in Gethsemane: “Could you not keep watch with Me for just one hour?” (Matthew 26:40).