

Dear Parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish,

In order to assist the lay faithful, especially those who are living the consecrated life, and to provide an opportunity for the clergy of the parish to pray with the parishioners, I am instituting the Celebration of Morning and Evening Prayer on weekdays. The mystery of Christ, his Incarnation and Passover, which we celebrate in the Eucharist especially at the Sunday assembly, permeates and transfigures the time of each day, through the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, “the divine office.” This celebration, faithful to the apostolic exhortations to “pray constantly,” is “so devised that the whole course of the day and night is made holy by the praise of God.” In this “public prayer of the Church,” the faithful (clergy, religious, and lay people) exercise the royal priesthood of the baptized. Celebrated in “the form approved” by the Church, the Liturgy of the Hours “is truly the voice of the Bride herself addressed to her Bridegroom. It is the very prayer which Christ himself together with his Body addresses to the Father.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1174)

Some details:

-Location will be in the chapel.

-Morning Prayer (Lauds) at 7:30am M-F

-Evening Prayer (Vespers) at 4:45pm M-F

-Book and Texts will be *Christian Prayer*, ten copies will be available or get a free app online: iBreviary for smart phones and for Droids go to your favorite app store.

-Celebrants in the morning will be the presider for 8:00am service (Confessions may be heard after Morning or Evening Prayer as requested) and Evening Prayer will be a deacon, or priest if present. A designated lay person may preside in times of need.

As for Adoration on Thursday afternoons, the liturgical outline for Benediction with the Divine Office as found in the book *Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist* will be used for Thursday Vespers.

The Liturgy of the Hours, which is like an extension of the Eucharistic celebration, does not exclude but rather in a complementary way calls forth the various devotions of the People of God, especially adoration and worship of the Blessed Sacrament. (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1178)

In Christ, Fr. Don Malin