PASTORAL GUIDANCE FOR LENT FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF THE 24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORHSHIP

In his Apostolic Letter, *Misericordia et misera*, at the conclusion of the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis requests that the Universal Church continue to observe the 24 *Hours for the Lord* on the Friday and Saturday before the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The chief elements of the 24 *Hours for the Lord* are prayer before the Most Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for Confession.

All parishes and institutions in the Archdiocese, with consideration for particular circumstances and schedules, are to open their churches and chapels for a period of 24 hours from Friday evening, March 24, through to Saturday evening, March 25, 2017, typically concluding with the Anticipated Mass. The clergy and faithful are encouraged to encounter the mercy of the Lord in adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, reserved or exposed, and with additional opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation during these 24 hours. An interactive map will be available for the faithful to consult to find a 24 *Hours for the Lord* location near them. To submit your parish information for this map, visit archphila.org/24hours.

- In some instances it will be a hardship to open churches and chapels for the
 whole 24 hour period. Pastors and chaplains, in keeping with the spirit of
 the observance, are to provide at least for greater availability for prayer
 before the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Penance and
 Reconciliation.
- Additionally, parishes and institutions are encouraged, if this is helpful to the observance, to cluster together and have a single area site for greater availability for prayer before the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.
- The observance of the 24 Hours for the Lord in churches and chapels, on the one hand, may take place with exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament throughout the whole period and several times for Confessions. On the other hand, it may take place with exposition and confessions only at certain periods.

• The observance is to be determined by each location with opportunities for greater availability for prayer and Confessions.

A typical schedule of the observance of the 24 Hours for the Lord might look like this in your parish or chapel:

Friday, March 24

5:30pm Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

7:00-9:00pm Confessions available

10:00pm Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues before the tabernacle throughout the night until the Anticipated Mass for Sunday, if this is possible.

Saturday, March 25

9:00am Daily Mass

1:00pm Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

3:00-5:15pm Confessions available

5:30pm Reposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament followed

by the Anticipated Mass for Sunday;

Closing of 24 Hours for the Lord

The Lenten season provides an excellent occasion to catechize about the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, to follow more faithfully the form for the *Rite of Reconciliation of Individual Penitents (Chapter I)* and the *Rite for Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution (Chapter II)* in the *Rite of Penance*.

For additional resources see the website for the Office for Divine Worship, http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/archdiocesan-guidelines/.