

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

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

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](http://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.

