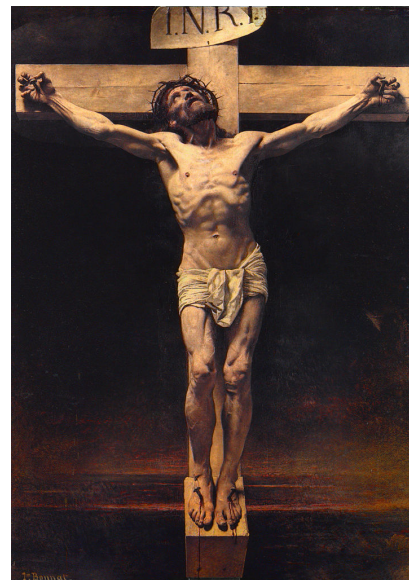


Praying with Jesus during 40 Hours of Devotion

On the Darkest Day in human history...

...a day we call "**Good Friday**," we murdered Jesus Christ the Son of God and laid His Body in a tomb. For approximately 40 hours -- from late afternoon that same day until just before dawn on Resurrection Sunday -- His crucified body was wrapped in a shroud and His human soul "*roamed free among the dead.*" Those who loved Our Lord "watched and prayed," and waited to see what might be...



2,000 years in the wake of that first "watch" we are invited each year to withdraw, to retreat, to spend time with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Parishioners commit as individuals or as families to read and think and pray for an hour at the feet of our Eucharistic Lord during St. Veronica's observance of "**40 Hours.**"



This is not merely a "marathon," a sort of spiritual "full-court press" to make sure someone is praying in a continuous "relay of devotion" before the Blessed Sacrament. **40 Hours Devotion** provides an opportunity each year to rest and just "**be**" with Jesus; to "ask, seek, and knock" in prayer, to listen in quiet contemplation--considering ways in which we might seek and discern -- to embrace and to *be embraced* more powerfully and intimately by Jesus in Holy Communion.

To assist you in this endeavor I will be offering spiritual conferences Monday & Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the church. Monday evening we will consider the **Mystery of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament**. Tuesday we will ponder ways of **Listening to the Voice of Our Lord in Deeper Prayer**.

Wednesday evening at 7:30 to we will initiate our **40 Hours of Devotion** with **Mass** and our final conference on **Recognizing and Exercising Your Royal Priesthood**. *CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE...*



As I travel about the Arlington Diocese serving parishes with conferences, missions and retreats, I have found that people respond enthusiastically to extra Confession hours. This week, in addition to Fr. Kleinmann's very generous Confession Schedule, I will also be hearing Confessions:

Mon: 6 am, 3 pm, & following evening conference [until the line gives out]
Tues: 7 am, 3 pm, & following evening conference [until the line gives out]
Wed: 10 am and 3 pm [until the line gives out].

"Until the Line gives out," means I will only be in the confessional as long as there is a line. If "*the line gives out*," I will be off and about our Father's Business. Hope to see you [or at least hear you] there!

If you are not yet on our "dropbox-website," for more information, images, or articles, go to FindingJesusinthe4Gospels.org. Scroll down and touch the Sacred Heart of Christ, or click on "**Spiritual Reading**" or **Scan the QR code** ----->



I most highly recommend that you print these pages out and read them while you visit with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament (rather than using phones or screens).

Also a final word. Ordinarily we seek friendship with Christ in our family life and in our parishes... but occasionally, learning from the example of Jesus and His Apostles, we need to **RETREAT!** At the **Arlington Diocese's San Damiano Retreat Center** we offer you the opportunity to leave the Noise, Crowds, Hurry & Anxiety of your daily routines behind and rest with Jesus Christ in Silence and Solitude. For information on our Spirituality Center & to find out about upcoming Retreats in the months ahead, check out our diocesan website www.arlingtondiocese.org/retreat <-----**or scan our QR Code**



Sincerely in Jesus Christ,

Fr. John Riley
Spiritual Director
the Arlington Diocese's
San Damiano Retreat Center