

Come as you are! Many ways to pray.

TOGETHER: When possible, attend Eucharistic adoration with your spouse.

"TAG TEAM": If you have young children in the home, attending adoration with your spouse may be difficult or even impossible. Try sharing a regular adoration hour, rotating attendance between you and your spouse every other week.

ON YOUR OWN: If sharing an hour of Eucharistic adoration with your spouse is not possible, know that your prayers for your marriage are deeply valuable. Jesus longs to draw near to you through your vocation, even during times when your marriage feels difficult or heavy.

Holy Hour

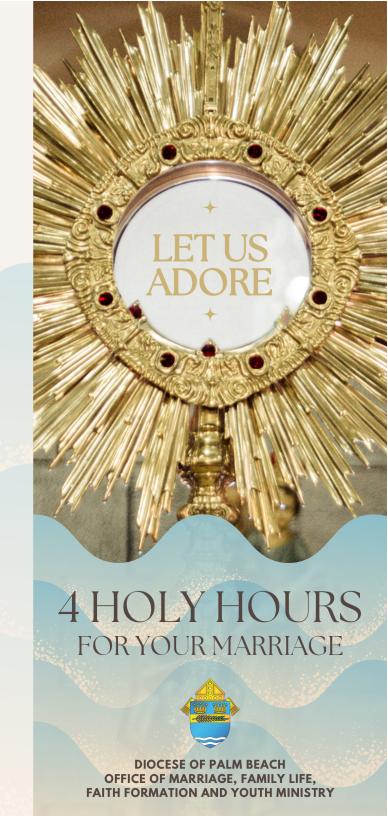
20 MINUTES: Read through the vows you made on your wedding day:
I (name) take you (name) for my lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part.

What does each phrase mean to you?
How have you been doing in each area?
30 MINUTES: Slowly read John 2:2-12.
Are there areas of your marriage that are "out of wine?" Ask Mary to intercede for miracles, then listen to her instructions: "Do whatever He tells you." What ordinary things is Jesus asking you to do to "fill the water jars" and to prepare to receive more joy?

10 MINUTES: Find 10 specific things to thank God for in your spouse, and ask Him to help your spouse with 10 specific situations s/he may encounter this week.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that, "Adoration is the first attitude of man acknowledging that he is a creature before his Creator. It exalts the greatness of the Lord who made us and the almighty power of the Savior who sets us free from evil. Adoration is homage of the spirit to the 'King of Glory,' respectful silence in the presence of the 'ever greater' God. Adoration of the thrice-holy and sovereign God of love blends with humility and gives assurance to our supplications." (CCC 2628)

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What is Adoration?

Eucharistic adoration is a time spent with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, while a Holy Hour is a one-hour period of prayer during adoration. You can participate in Eucharistic adoration at any time, or sign up for a specific hour at your local parish.

Holy Hour

15 MINUTES: Examine your conscience using 1 Cor 13:4-7. Put your name in place of the word "love." Thank God for your successes this week, and ask for forgiveness where you failed.

15 MINUTES: Use your rosary beads to thank God for specific character traits of your spouse or blessings within your marriage. Push yourself to find something (however small) for each bead!

15 MINUTES: Write a few of the things from your gratitude prayer on small notes to leave for your spouse this week.

15 MINUTES: Pray a Divine Mercy Chaplet for your spouse, asking God to flood your marriage with his mercy!

Holy Hour #2

5 MINUTES: Examine your conscience. How well have you loved your spouse this week? Where can you improve?
20 MINUTES: Pray a Rosary for your spouse. You can offer each decade for a different intention such as: 1. His/her daily work, 2. His/her growth in virtue, 3. Gratitude for his/her love, 4. Healing for any hurts, 5. That s/he would be convinced of your love.

20 MINUTES: Slowly read a passage from one of the Gospels, paying attention to any word or phrase that stands out. Reread and ponder the passage in light of the prayer, "God, show me how to love my spouse better!"

10 MINUTES: Pray for all the specific situations your spouse will encounter

5 MINUTES: What is one thing you can do this week to convince your spouse of your love? Resolve to do it.

Holy Hour #3

10 MINUTES: Write a list of qualities you are grateful for in your spouse.

10 MINUTES: What are your spouse's joys in life right now? Thank God for those.

10 MINUTES: What are your spouse's struggles and difficulties? Ask God to help.

10 MINUTES: Ask God, "How might I be an encouragement to my spouse in his/her difficulties?" Listen for an answer.

10 MINUTES: Where are some areas your spouse may need healing? Think of hurts that your spouse has endured from you, family of origin, friends, co-workers, etc. Ask God to help your spouse (and you!) forgive and be healed.

10 MINUTES: Take some time to intercede for whatever situations are close to your spouse's heart.



this week.

"The mutual consent that husband and wife exchange in Christ, which establishes them as a community of life and love, also has a Eucharistic dimension. Conjugal love is a sacramental sign of Christ's love for his Church, a love culminating in the Cross, the expression of his 'marriage' with humanity and at the same time the origin and heart of the Eucharist. For this reason the Church manifests her particular spiritual closeness to all those who have built their family on the sacrament of Matrimony."

— Pope Benedict XVI, Sacramentum Caritatis