



Moving the Tabernacle

Dear Members of St. James Parish,

Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent you will notice that the tabernacle has been moved to the sanctuary in church. This move has been discussed and approved by the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Prayer and Worship Commission.

Moving the tabernacle from a side chapel or less prominent location to the center of the sanctuary emphasizes the central role of the Eucharist and promotes Eucharistic adoration, making the presence of Christ more visible and accessible to the faithful.

Here is a more detailed explanation:

- **Emphasis on the Eucharist:**

The tabernacle, which holds the consecrated Eucharist, is a symbol of Christ's presence. Moving it to the center of the sanctuary, a place of prominence, reinforces the belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

- **Promoting Prayer before the Eucharist:**

When the tabernacle is in a prominent location, it encourages and allows people to spend time in prayer and contemplation before the Blessed Sacrament.

- **Visible Presence:**

By placing the tabernacle in the center of the sanctuary, it becomes more visible to the entire congregation, reminding them of the presence of Christ and encouraging reverence.

- **Architectural and Liturgical Considerations:**

The move also addresses architectural and liturgical considerations, ensuring that the sanctuary is used for its intended purpose, which is to be a space for worship and the celebration of the Eucharist.

- **Historical Context:**

Historically, the tabernacle was often placed on the main altar, emphasizing its importance as the central focus of the church. However, some churches have moved the tabernacle to side chapels, and the move back to the sanctuary reflects a renewed emphasis on the Eucharist.

- **Impact on Parish Life:**

Parishes that have moved their tabernacles to the sanctuary have reported increased Eucharistic adoration, a greater sense of reverence, and a more vibrant faith life.

May the true presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar truly be the center of our parish life and spirituality.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. John Hemsing, Pastor