



Our Lady of Sorrows Mission

Mass Location:

Vintage Villas Hotel & Events - Travis Room
4209 Eck Lane Austin Texas 78734 Austin, TX

Mass Schedule:

Sunday, March 7th, 2021 Mass – 6:00pm, Confessions – 5:30pm

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Note From Father

Dear Faithful,

Lent has begun, today. It is Ash Wednesday and I realized that I had forgotten to send the bulletin out this weekend. I apologize, but wanted to make sure I got this out at the start of Lent.

I had quite a nice trip down through Texas last week. It allowed me to escape the cold which had descended upon most of the northern half of the United States, including here in Ohio, and be able to shed a couple top layers in the mild winter Texas temperatures. Alas, it seems that this mildness didn't last, as I saw in the news a couple of days later that there was a massive 100+ vehicle crash with several dead and many injured, which took place in Fort Worth, due to black ice, the other day. It was so sad and the footage they had was truly frightening.

In addition to this, the whole state of Texas has become plagued with a cold with which they are truly unprepared. They have had snow, ice, and sub-zero temperatures. This has led to rolling power outages, empty grocery stores, and largely shut down cities. We are all praying for the people of Texas.

I am sending this from a place which is completely used to cold weather...Grand Forks, ND. It was -11 with -25 wind chills last night. This was described as a "heat wave" by one of the parishioners this morning (tongue in cheek, of course) because it had been much colder the past week and a half. However, they are completely used to that type of weather...Texas isn't. So we all are praying for you poor southerners.

While I was in Dallas last week, I had a most interesting encounter. I went to eat lunch Saturday afternoon at a local Vietnamese Pho restaurant, which is one of my favorite spots (if you have never had Pho, it's a Vietnamese soup...delicious). I walked in the door and sat at the first table within. A woman at an adjacent table began to clap and happily praised me for being another person who wasn't wearing a mask. She began talking with me and it was only later that I found out that she was one of the more prominent members of the "Texit" movement (a conservative group which is fighting the socialistic overhaul of our society and, if necessary, supports Texas' right to secede from the Union). She also happened to be a stewardess for American Airlines. We talked about masks, the vaccine, how we handle church, the election, etc. In the end, she asked if I had ever written a paper or done any podcasts....A strange question but I gave her both my paper and a link to my podcast on the Coronavirus vaccine and told her to feel free to share them. Providence arranges strange meetings, but gloriously, it is another means of getting information out to more people.

Of course, there is the other type of interaction which takes place during these times. The type one prefers not to have. I was accosted by a woman with two masks and a shield because I dared to take a sip of my water. She claimed to be a hospital worker...she also said "I hope you aren't in my ICU." The only part of the interaction that I truly agreed with...I hope not to be in any ICU...but especially not that crazy lady's ICU.

In Christ, Fr. McKenna

Rules of Fast and Abstinence

Rules of Abstinence

1. Everyone over seven years of age is bound to observe the law of abstinence.
2. Complete abstinence is to be observed on Fridays, Ash Wednesday, Holy Saturday, and the Vigils of the Immaculate Conception and Christmas. On days of complete abstinence, meat and soup or gravy made from meat may not be used at all.
3. Partial abstinence is to be observed on Ember Wednesdays and Saturdays and on the Vigil of Pentecost. On days of partial abstinence, meat and soup or gravy made from meat may be taken only once a day at the principal meal.

Rules of Fast

1. Everyone over 21 and under 59 years of age is also bound to observe the law of fast.
2. The days of fast are the weekdays of Lent, including Holy Saturday, the Ember Days and Vigils of Pentecost, the Immaculate Conception and Christmas.
3. On days of fast, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs; but together they should not equal another full meal.
4. Meat may be taken at the principal meal on a day of fast except on Fridays, Ash Wednesday, Holy Saturday, and the Vigils of the Immaculate Conception and Christmas.
5. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed.
6. Where health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. In doubt concerning fast or abstinence, a parish priest or confessor should be consulted.

* There is no obligation for fast or abstinence on a holy day of obligation, even if it falls on a Friday.

Tuesday, the Feast of The Holy Face

For so many, Shrove Tuesday is a date on the calendar that gets overshadowed by Ash Wednesday, that memorable day we wear the outward sign of repentance and recall our mortality. How much more meaningful will our Ash Wednesday be, if we first mark Shrove Tuesday as a Feast of the Holy Face, and begin Lent more in love with the countenance of Christ and, through Him made more beautiful in our own soul.

“All those who, attracted by My Love and venerating My Countenance, shall receive, by virtue of My Humanity, a brilliant and vivid impression of My Divinity. This splendor shall enlighten the depths of their souls, so that in eternal glory, the celestial court shall marvel at the marked likeness of their features, with My Divine Countenance...”

-Our Lord, Jesus Christ to St. Gertrude

Act of Reparation to the Holy Face

I adore and praise Thee, O my divine Jesus, Son of the living God, and I desire to make satisfaction for all the outrages which I, the most miserable of Thy creatures, have offered Thee in all the members of Thy Blessed Body, and particularly in Thy adorable Face.

Hail, worshipful Face, disfigured by spittle and hardly to be recognized through the cruel treatment which Thou didst receive from the impious Jews.

I salute Thee, O Blessed Eyes, all bathed in tears, which Thou didst shed for our salvation.

I salute Thee, O Blessed Ears, assailed by blasphemies, insults, and cruel mockeries.

I salute Thee, O Blessed Mouth, filled with graces and tenderness for poor sinners, but embittered with vinegar and gall by the monstrous ingratitude of that people whom Thou didst choose from among all nations.

In reparation for all these ignominies, I offer Thee all the homage which is given Thee in that holy place where Thou art pleased to be honored with a special worship, uniting myself therewith.

At the sight of Thy Most Holy Face dear Jesus, so disfigured by bruises, I cry out with St. Augustine: "Lord Jesus impress upon my heart Thy sacred wounds, that I may read therein at once Thy sorrow and Thy love; Thy sorrow, in order to suffer every affliction for Thee".

O sorrowful Jesus, when casting ourselves before Thy Adorable Face to ask Thee for the graces of which we have need, we ask Thee above all to order the interior features of our souls that we may never refuse Thee aught that Thou Thyself desirest of us through Thy holy commandments.

Praise be to Thee, O Jesus Christ, for the most Sacred Grief of Thy Adorable Face. By this Sacred Grief and by Thy most Sacred Passion pardon all the sins I have committed against Thee, in thought, word, and deed, and all negligence in Thy service, and all sensuality for which I have been to blame whether asleep or awake.

Grant that I may be able to recall with devotion Thy most pitiful pains suffered in Thy Sacred Face. Grant me the grace to mortify my body, and so to offer a pledge of my gratitude to Thee, Who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.



Thoughts of St. Bernadette on Humility and Suffering

O Jesus, I would rather die a thousand deaths than be unfaithful to you! I must die to myself continually and accept trials without complaining. I work, I suffer and I love with no other witness than his heart. Anyone who is not prepared to suffer all for the Beloved and to do his will in all things is not worthy of the sweet name of Friend, for here below, Love without suffering does not exist. I shall spend every moment loving. One who loves does not notice her trials; or perhaps more accurately, she is able to love them. I shall do everything for Heaven, my true home. There I shall find my Mother in all the splendor of her glory. I shall delight with her in the joy of Jesus himself in perfect safety. Oh my Mother, to you I sacrifice all other attachments so that my heart may belong entirely to you and to my Jesus. The Blessed Virgin used me like a broom. What do you do with a broom when you have finished sweeping? You put it back in its place, behind the door!

Prayer for Married People

My Saviour Jesus, Who hast united us in so indissoluble a tie by means of a great sacrament, maintain us in a spirit of union and concord, loving one another as Thou dost love the Church; give us the spirit of patience and gentleness, peacefully to bear with each other's faults; arm us with the spirit of prudence and holiness, so that we may always remain within the limits of our duties, and in no way offend Thee by any act opposed to the profound respect due to Thy sacrament. Send us a spirit of prudent concern and forethought, that we may with justice and charity provide for the needs of our family. Preserve us from the spirit of the world and the love of its vanities, so that we may only seek to please Thee, our God, our Love, the true bond of our hearts. Inspire us with a true spirit of faith, so that our home may be a school of piety, and a sanctuary where all virtue may be found. Far from us, O God! far from us the misfortune of being the cause of our children's ruin through our over-indulgence or our disedifying life. Far be from our home whatever could be a scandal or an occasion of sin. O Mary! to thy maternal heart we recommend our children: be to them a Mother, and form their hearts to virtue. Tender Mother, may they be pious, charitable, and always Christian; may their lives, filled with good works, be crowned by a holy death. O Mary, may we all be reunited in heaven, there to contemplate thy glory, to celebrate thy goodness to us, and thy love, and to bless thee eternally with thy dear Son Jesus Christ. Amen.