



Our Lady of Sorrows

Traditional Catholic Mission Central Texas

Upcoming Mass Details:
To Be Announced for January 2022

Contact information:

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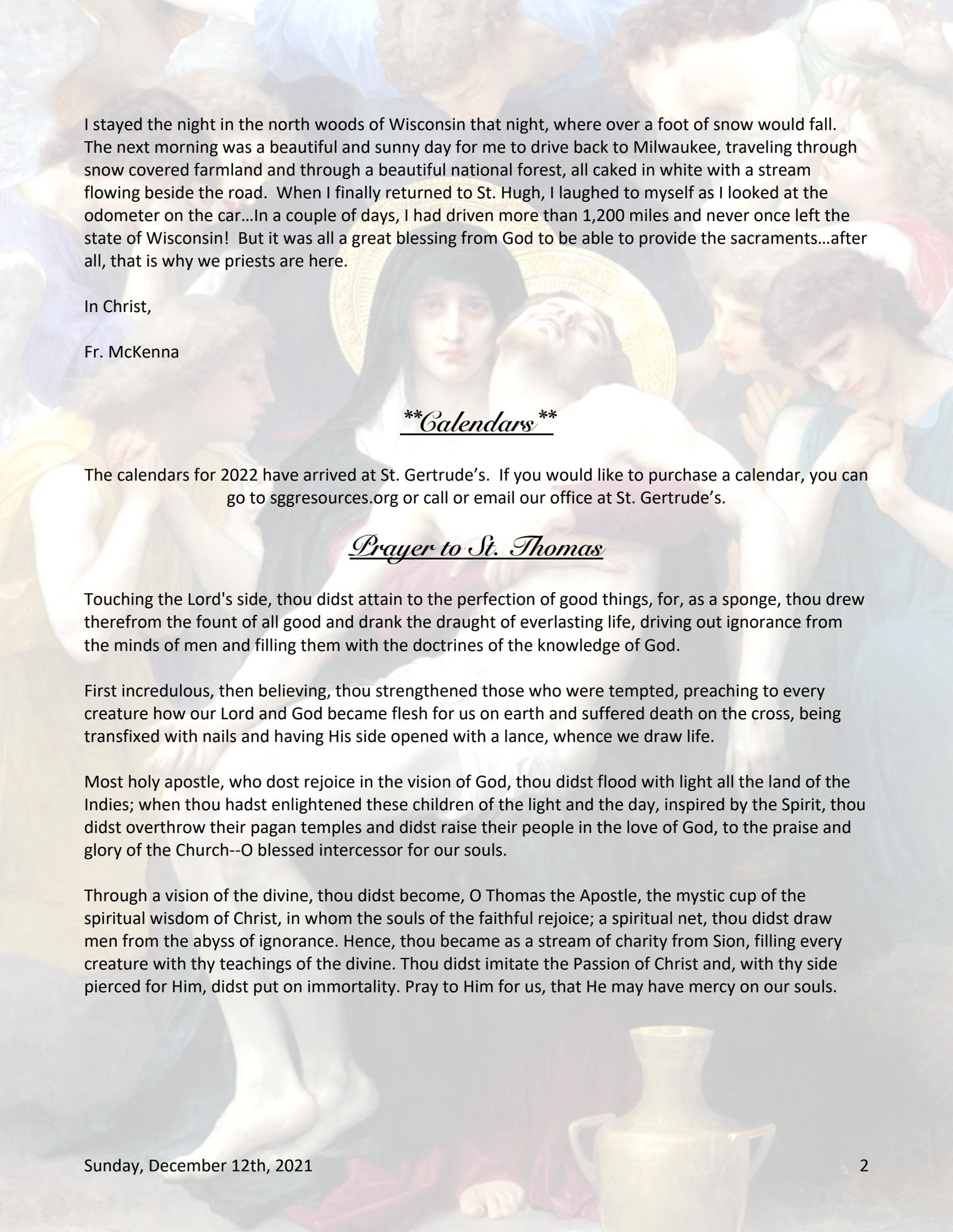
Note From Father

Dear Faithful,

Sadly, I write this after having learned that Kyle McGuire, the father of Fr. McGuire, had passed away during the day today. He was a truly lovely man, with a great sense of humor, who regularly kept us priests entertained with stories and laughing with his funny comments.

Despite having a priest for a son, a vocal supporter of our work, a host to a mission mass for years, and a regular at parish picnics and events, Kyle only became a Catholic a couple of years ago...despite the repeated efforts of many priests throughout the years. However, once he was converted, he never looked back again. Interestingly, it was a sickness and the fear of potentially dying that led to him being baptized. In his last illness, he told Fr. McGuire that he did not fear dying. Such beautiful confidence and strength given by Our Holy Faith. Please do keep Kyle, Fr. McGuire, and the whole McGuire family in your prayers.

Last weekend, I had another person who needed to be anointed, all the way up in northern Wisconsin. I was in Wisconsin and had even been in the north part of the state just a few hours prior. However, when I received the call from the family, I had literally just pulled into the church here in Milwaukee, almost three hundred miles south of where they live...and a blizzard was between me and them now. However, I assured the family that I would head right up and that, if I could make it there, I would be there that night to anoint her. I never even got out of the car in Milwaukee but turned it around to return to where I had left earlier that morning...And it was a true blizzard, with high winds and driving snow. I could only drive about 40 mph, and sometimes slower, the whole way. But it wasn't my first rodeo driving in the snow and I carefully plodded along until I finally arrived up there and was able to give Extreme Unction to my parishioner and say some prayers along with her. It reminded me so often of what Fr. Vaillancourt used to say to me when I was a seminarian, "As a priest, you can make all the plans you want for the day, but then one phone call comes and changes everything." So many times, this has proved to be true.



I stayed the night in the north woods of Wisconsin that night, where over a foot of snow would fall. The next morning was a beautiful and sunny day for me to drive back to Milwaukee, traveling through snow covered farmland and through a beautiful national forest, all caked in white with a stream flowing beside the road. When I finally returned to St. Hugh, I laughed to myself as I looked at the odometer on the car...In a couple of days, I had driven more than 1,200 miles and never once left the state of Wisconsin! But it was all a great blessing from God to be able to provide the sacraments...after all, that is why we priests are here.

In Christ,

Fr. McKenna

Calendars

The calendars for 2022 have arrived at St. Gertrude's. If you would like to purchase a calendar, you can go to sggresources.org or call or email our office at St. Gertrude's.

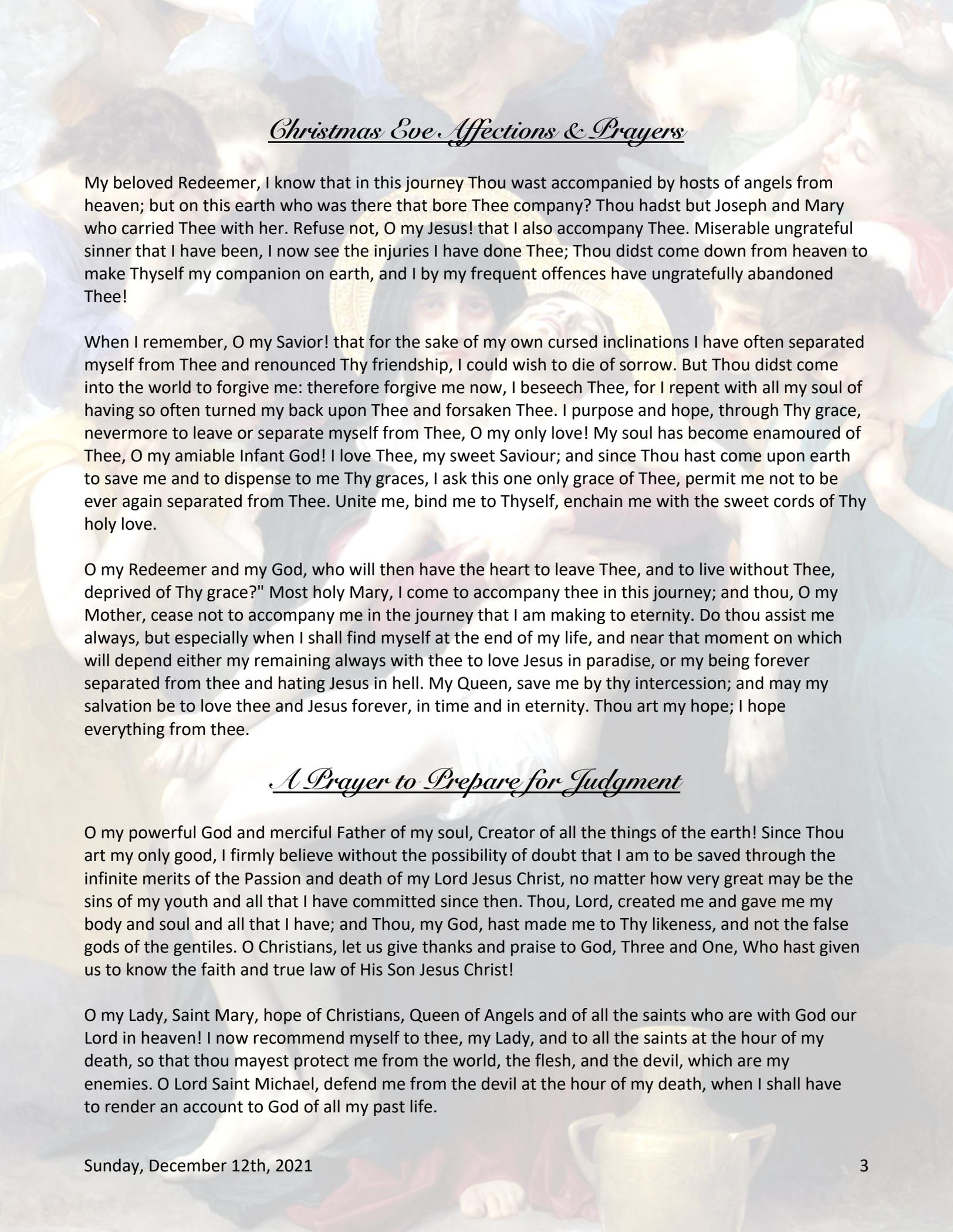
Prayer to St. Thomas

Touching the Lord's side, thou didst attain to the perfection of good things, for, as a sponge, thou drew therefrom the fount of all good and drank the draught of everlasting life, driving out ignorance from the minds of men and filling them with the doctrines of the knowledge of God.

First incredulous, then believing, thou strengthened those who were tempted, preaching to every creature how our Lord and God became flesh for us on earth and suffered death on the cross, being transfixed with nails and having His side opened with a lance, whence we draw life.

Most holy apostle, who dost rejoice in the vision of God, thou didst flood with light all the land of the Indies; when thou hadst enlightened these children of the light and the day, inspired by the Spirit, thou didst overthrow their pagan temples and didst raise their people in the love of God, to the praise and glory of the Church--O blessed intercessor for our souls.

Through a vision of the divine, thou didst become, O Thomas the Apostle, the mystic cup of the spiritual wisdom of Christ, in whom the souls of the faithful rejoice; a spiritual net, thou didst draw men from the abyss of ignorance. Hence, thou became as a stream of charity from Sion, filling every creature with thy teachings of the divine. Thou didst imitate the Passion of Christ and, with thy side pierced for Him, didst put on immortality. Pray to Him for us, that He may have mercy on our souls.



Christmas Eve Affections & Prayers

My beloved Redeemer, I know that in this journey Thou wast accompanied by hosts of angels from heaven; but on this earth who was there that bore Thee company? Thou hadst but Joseph and Mary who carried Thee with her. Refuse not, O my Jesus! that I also accompany Thee. Miserable ungrateful sinner that I have been, I now see the injuries I have done Thee; Thou didst come down from heaven to make Thyself my companion on earth, and I by my frequent offences have ungratefully abandoned Thee!

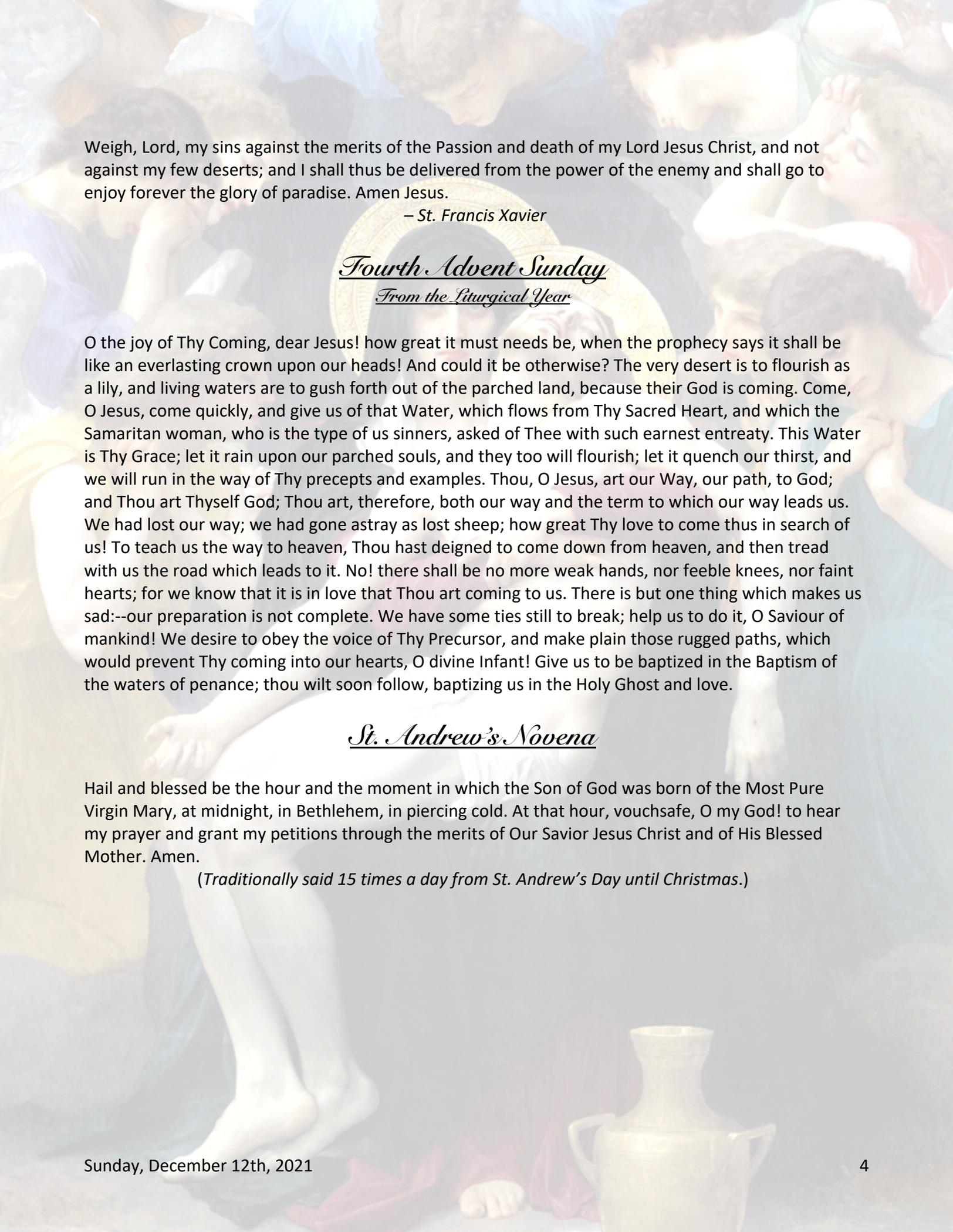
When I remember, O my Savior! that for the sake of my own cursed inclinations I have often separated myself from Thee and renounced Thy friendship, I could wish to die of sorrow. But Thou didst come into the world to forgive me: therefore forgive me now, I beseech Thee, for I repent with all my soul of having so often turned my back upon Thee and forsaken Thee. I purpose and hope, through Thy grace, nevermore to leave or separate myself from Thee, O my only love! My soul has become enamoured of Thee, O my amiable Infant God! I love Thee, my sweet Saviour; and since Thou hast come upon earth to save me and to dispense to me Thy graces, I ask this one only grace of Thee, permit me not to be ever again separated from Thee. Unite me, bind me to Thyself, enchain me with the sweet cords of Thy holy love.

O my Redeemer and my God, who will then have the heart to leave Thee, and to live without Thee, deprived of Thy grace?" Most holy Mary, I come to accompany thee in this journey; and thou, O my Mother, cease not to accompany me in the journey that I am making to eternity. Do thou assist me always, but especially when I shall find myself at the end of my life, and near that moment on which will depend either my remaining always with thee to love Jesus in paradise, or my being forever separated from thee and hating Jesus in hell. My Queen, save me by thy intercession; and may my salvation be to love thee and Jesus forever, in time and in eternity. Thou art my hope; I hope everything from thee.

A Prayer to Prepare for Judgment

O my powerful God and merciful Father of my soul, Creator of all the things of the earth! Since Thou art my only good, I firmly believe without the possibility of doubt that I am to be saved through the infinite merits of the Passion and death of my Lord Jesus Christ, no matter how very great may be the sins of my youth and all that I have committed since then. Thou, Lord, created me and gave me my body and soul and all that I have; and Thou, my God, hast made me to Thy likeness, and not the false gods of the gentiles. O Christians, let us give thanks and praise to God, Three and One, Who hast given us to know the faith and true law of His Son Jesus Christ!

O my Lady, Saint Mary, hope of Christians, Queen of Angels and of all the saints who are with God our Lord in heaven! I now recommend myself to thee, my Lady, and to all the saints at the hour of my death, so that thou mayest protect me from the world, the flesh, and the devil, which are my enemies. O Lord Saint Michael, defend me from the devil at the hour of my death, when I shall have to render an account to God of all my past life.



Weigh, Lord, my sins against the merits of the Passion and death of my Lord Jesus Christ, and not against my few deserts; and I shall thus be delivered from the power of the enemy and shall go to enjoy forever the glory of paradise. Amen Jesus.

– St. Francis Xavier

Fourth Advent Sunday
From the Liturgical Year

O the joy of Thy Coming, dear Jesus! how great it must needs be, when the prophecy says it shall be like an everlasting crown upon our heads! And could it be otherwise? The very desert is to flourish as a lily, and living waters are to gush forth out of the parched land, because their God is coming. Come, O Jesus, come quickly, and give us of that Water, which flows from Thy Sacred Heart, and which the Samaritan woman, who is the type of us sinners, asked of Thee with such earnest entreaty. This Water is Thy Grace; let it rain upon our parched souls, and they too will flourish; let it quench our thirst, and we will run in the way of Thy precepts and examples. Thou, O Jesus, art our Way, our path, to God; and Thou art Thyself God; Thou art, therefore, both our way and the term to which our way leads us. We had lost our way; we had gone astray as lost sheep; how great Thy love to come thus in search of us! To teach us the way to heaven, Thou hast deigned to come down from heaven, and then tread with us the road which leads to it. No! there shall be no more weak hands, nor feeble knees, nor faint hearts; for we know that it is in love that Thou art coming to us. There is but one thing which makes us sad:--our preparation is not complete. We have some ties still to break; help us to do it, O Saviour of mankind! We desire to obey the voice of Thy Precursor, and make plain those rugged paths, which would prevent Thy coming into our hearts, O divine Infant! Give us to be baptized in the Baptism of the waters of penance; thou wilt soon follow, baptizing us in the Holy Ghost and love.

St. Andrew's Novena

Hail and blessed be the hour and the moment in which the Son of God was born of the Most Pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. At that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my petitions through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

(Traditionally said 15 times a day from St. Andrew's Day until Christmas.)