



Our Lady of Sorrows

Traditional Catholic Mission Central Texas

Upcoming Mass Details:

Thursday, April 21, 2022

Mass – 6:00pm, Confession – 5:30pm

Vintage Villas Hotel & Events

4209 Eck Lane Austin Texas 78734

Contact information:

Fr. Stephen McKenna: email: fr.stephenmckenna@protonmail.com cell: 978-764-6599

Coordinator: email: coordinator@olosorrows.org cell: 512-827-8776

website: www.olosorrows.org twitter: [@OLOSTexas](https://twitter.com/OLOSTexas)

Dear Faithful,

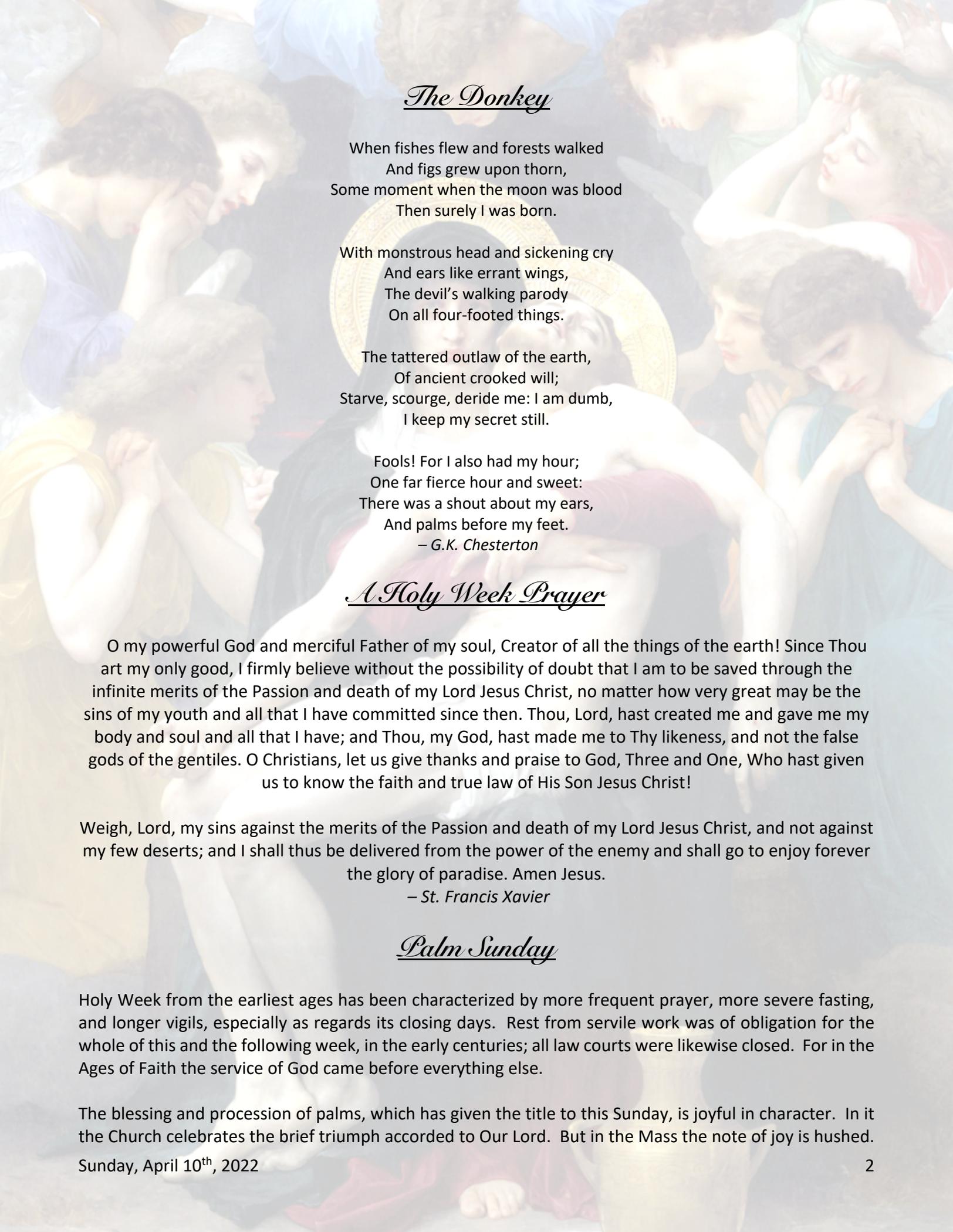
I have bounced back from my bout with a nasty stomach bug, which knocked me out of commission for a few days last week. It came on so suddenly that I ended up stuck at a hotel for a couple of days. But thankfully, I rebounded back pretty quickly and now the stomach bug is out of the way for Holy Week, thankfully.

For the first time in nine years, I am not actually helping with Holy Week at St. Gertrude's. Since we have four deacons currently at the church along with Fr. McGuire and Fr. Lehtoranta, there is no shortage of sacred ministers for the pontifical ceremonies. Instead, this year I have come to our church, St. Hugh of Lincoln, in Milwaukee, where I will lead all the ceremonies for Holy Week. While St. Hugh doesn't have the solemn pontifical ceremonies, which St. Gertrude's is one of the few places on earth to be able to perform, St. Hugh is still able to have full sung ceremonies for the entire Sacred Triduum. It is no small feat that our small church can pull them off every year... and to do so incredibly well.

It all begins tomorrow with the Palm Sunday ceremonies, where the palms are blessed, distributed, and processed with through the neighborhood... all before the High Mass begins and Passion is sung. The only thing missing will be the donkey! (St. Gertrude's has an actual donkey lead the procession of palms outside every year!). Following all the Palm Sunday ceremonies here in Milwaukee, I will take to the road and head to the St. Joseph of Arimathea mission, in Park Falls, WI, for an evening Mass. It will be the first of the missions I will visit during this trip...it won't be the last. After Easter Sunday, I will embark on the rest of the mud run to North Dakota and all the missions in Texas before returning home Low Sunday evening.

However, before I look to heading to each mission, one after the other, I must look throughout Holy Week to one ceremony at a time for the Sacred Triduum. If you have never witnessed these beautiful ceremonies in person, they truly must be taken one at a time. The ceremonies are long, the rubrics are very intricate, there is a lot of chant to be practiced, and each ceremony is vastly different than the one before it. However, if you are ever able to be at a church for the full Holy Week, you will find that nothing could be richer to experience. As always, you can watch all the Holy Week ceremonies streamed live at sgg.org. I am including the schedule of the ceremonies for the Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday at the end of this bulletin. All times listed are Eastern Savings time, so be careful if you don't live in the Eastern time zone. Following the Church's liturgy is the greatest way we can sanctify these special days.

In Christ, Fr. McKenna



The Donkey

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

– G.K. Chesterton

A Holy Week Prayer

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, hast 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!

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

Palm Sunday

Holy Week from the earliest ages has been characterized by more frequent prayer, more severe fasting, and longer vigils, especially as regards its closing days. Rest from servile work was of obligation for the whole of this and the following week, in the early centuries; all law courts were likewise closed. For in the Ages of Faith the service of God came before everything else.

The blessing and procession of palms, which has given the title to this Sunday, is joyful in character. In it the Church celebrates the brief triumph accorded to Our Lord. But in the Mass the note of joy is hushed.

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The whole liturgy is occupied with the coming sufferings and humiliations of the Passion. Nevertheless, there are accents of consolation mingling with the tones of sadness; for after suffering will come victory for the Redeemer, and with it innumerable blessings to mankind.

The Collect expresses this very beautifully: "O Almighty and eternal God, who wouldst have our Savior become man, and suffer on a cross to give mankind an example of humility; mercifully grant that we may improve by the example of His patience and partake of His resurrection."

The patience of Jesus under unspeakable torments, and His boundless humility throughout His bitter Passion, are here held up for our imitation; for, as the Church reminds us, He suffered not only to redeem us but to teach us by example how to endure afflictions. "Christ also suffered for us," says St. Peter, "leaving you an example that you should follow His steps... Who, when He was reviled, did not revile; when He suffered, He threatened not; but delivered Himself to him that judged Him unjustly."

This, then, is the great lesson taught us today: Our Lord bore torments for us and humbled Himself to the very depths; it is for us to work out our salvation by following his example. Though sinless, He took our sins upon Him. We sinners ought humbly to bear whatever the justice of God may impose in punishment for our manifold transgressions.

Devotion to Our Lord on the Cross

My Crucified Jesus, mercifully accept the prayer which I now make to Thee for help in the moment of my death when at its approach all my senses shall fail me.

When therefore O sweetest Jesus my weary and downcast eyes can no longer look up to Thee, be mindful of the loving gaze which I now turn on Thee and have mercy on me.

When my parched lips can no longer kiss Thy most sacred wounds, remember then those kisses which now I imprint on Thee and have mercy on me.

When my cold hands can no longer embrace Thy Cross, forget not the affection with which I embrace it now and have mercy on me.

And when at length my swollen and lifeless tongue can no longer speak remember that I called upon Thee now.

Jesus Mary Joseph, to you I commend my soul. Amen.

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ to heal the wounds of our souls.

Prayer in Memory of the Passion and Death

O Jesus, Who by reason of Thy burning love for us hast willed to be crucified and to shed Thy most Precious Blood for the redemption and salvation of our souls, look down upon us here gathered together in remembrance of Thy most sorrowful Passion and Death, fully trusting in Thy mercy; cleanse us from sin by Thy grace, sanctify our toil, give unto us and unto all those who are dear to us our daily
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bread, sweeten our sufferings, bless our families, and to the nations so sorely afflicted, grant Thy peace, which is the only true peace, so that by obeying Thy commandments, we may come at last to the glory of heaven. Amen

The faithful, who recite this prayer with devotion on Good Friday at three o'clock, the hour when our Lord Jesus Christ expired on the Cross, are granted: an indulgence of 500 days.

Schedule of Sacred Triduum Ceremonies at St. Gertrude's

****All times are Eastern Savings Time. Adjust Accordingly for viewing at your home****

WED 4/13/22 SPY WEDNESDAY

6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae

THU 4/14/22 MAUNDY THURSDAY

9:00 AM Pontifical High Mass

Blessing of the Holy Oils, Procession to the Altar of Repose, Vespers, Stripping of the Altar

Adoration continues at the Sepulchre until 12:00 PM on Good Friday

1:00 PM The Maundy (Washing of the Feet)

6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae

FRI 4/15/22 GOOD FRIDAY

11:25 AM Stations of the Cross

12:00 PM Tre Ore

It is a fine tradition to keep silent from Noon to 3:00 PM today

12:15 PM Mass of the Presanctified, Reading of the Passion, Adoration of the Cross

2:15 PM Tre Ore Devotions and Sermon

3:00 PM Blessing with the Relic of the True Cross

3:15 PM Vespers

6:25 PM Sacred Heart Novena

6:35 PM The Office of Tenebrae

SAT 4/16/22 HOLY SATURDAY

8:00 AM Easter Vigil: Blessing of the Fire, Prophecies, Blessing of the Font, First Mass of Easter, Vespers, Blessing of Easter Food

SUN 4/17/22 EASTER SUNDAY

5:45 AM Easter Matins & Lauds

7:30 AM Easter Sunrise Low Mass

9:00 AM Pontifical High

11:30 AM Low Mass --- Benediction

6:00 PM Vespers

