



Our Lady of Sorrows

Traditional Catholic Mission Central Texas

Upcoming Mass Details: December 5, 2021

Mass – 6:00pm, Confession – 5:30pm
Hyatt Place Austin/Cedar Park

Contact information:

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Note From Father

Dear Faithful,

My time at home draws itself to an end and I write this as I prepared to leave tomorrow morning to head back out onto the mission roads. However, how fitting a day it is to look towards this upcoming trip, when I write this on the feast of St. Francis Xavier, patron of Catholic Missions. That labor for souls is the work of the Catholic priest and it brings true joy to the soul to do so. Although, flying on a plane is a lot easier, even with the stupid masks, than the months at a time St. Francis had to spend aboard a ship and while some people can be a little rough around the edges, I have yet to face down any cannibals in my travels...softer work for softer people, I suppose.

But it's always important to not be too soft in life. Our Lord points this out to us in the Gospel for the Second Sunday in Advent. When speaking to the followers of John the Baptist, he says "But what went you out to see? A man clothed in soft garments?" No, the John whom they found was more than a prophet but the one sent to prepare the way for Our Lord. And he was a strong and hard man. Because to travel the way to Our Lord, it is not the easy path, but rather the way prepared by penance, sacrifice, and amendment of life. This is the Advent spirit. We prepare ourselves for Our Lord's coming.

Wednesday this week is the feast of the Immaculate Conception and is a Holy Day of Obligation. While you may not have the ability to get to Mass on these Holy Days in the missions, we must remember the importance of keeping the days sanctified. Treat them as you do a Sunday. Say your Mass prayers, your Rosary, perhaps tune in to the St. Gertrude live stream to pray along with Mass and get a sermon and remember that we must avoid all unnecessary servile work. While I understand that some in today's secularized society must still work, sadly some who could take these days off from their occupation without much trouble, don't. And even if you do have to work, don't allow the day to go by without doing something to set it apart from just another day.

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.

Advent Prayer

Thou art to come, then, O Jesus, in all the terror of the Last Judgment, and when men least expect Thee! In a few days, Thou art coming to us to clothe our misery with the garment of Thy mercy; a garment of glory and immortality to us; but thou art to come again on a future day, and in such dread majesty, that men will wither away with fear. O my Saviour! condemn me not on that day of the world's destruction. Visit me now in Thy love and mercy; I am resolved to prepare my soul. I desire that thou shouldst come and be born within me, so that when the convulsions of nature warn me of Thy coming to judge me, I may lift up my head, as thou biddest thy faithful disciples do, who, when the rest of men shall tremble at the thunder of thy Judgment, will have confidence in Thee, because they have Thee in their hearts.

Amen.

Bl. Edmund Campion

Jesuit Martyr (1540-1581)

From the time he arrived at Oxford at the age of fifteen, Edmund Campion showed signs of extraordinary promise. But his ambition faced an obstacle. He was convinced he should become a Catholic—a move, in Elizabethan England, that meant professional ruin if not death. In 1571, doubts resolved, he crossed the Channel and entered the English College at Douai. Two years later he moved to Rome and entered the Society of Jesus. In 1580, following his ordination, he was assigned to the perilous mission in England. Anticipating arrest, he composed a public letter, proclaiming, “[W]e have made a league—all the Jesuits in the world...—cheerfully to carry the cross you shall lay upon us... The expense is reckoned, the enterprise is begun; it is of God.... So the faith was planted: so it must be restored.”

Eventually he was captured and confined to the Tower of London. After four days of confinement in a tiny cell permitting room neither to stand nor lie down, he was brought before Queen Elizabeth, whom he had once met in Oxford under happier circumstances. While he acknowledged her temporal authority, he refused to recognize her authority in matters of religion. After the semblance of a trial, he was charged with sedition, put to the rack, and sentenced to death. On December 1, 1581, he was drawn and quartered at the gallows at Tyburn.

“God lives. Posterity will live. Their judgment is not so liable to corruption as that of those who now sentence us to death.”

—Bl. Edmund Campion

Last Word on Confidence

I see this year's Advent with an intensity and presentiment like never before. When I pace back and forth in my cell, three steps forward and three steps back, hands in irons, ahead of me an unknown destiny, I understand very differently than before those ancient promises of the coming Lord Who will redeem us and set us free. And along with these thoughts come the memory of the angel that a good person gave me for Advent two years ago. It held a banner: "Rejoice, for the Lord is near."

The terror of this time would not be bearable—any more than the terror brought on by our world situation, if we comprehend it—except for this other knowledge that continually encourages us and sets us straight. It is the knowledge of the promises that are being spoken right in the middle of the terror and that are valid.

And it is also knowledge of the quiet angels of annunciation, who speak their message of blessing into the distress and scatter their seeds of the blessing that will begin to grow in the middle of the night. These are not yet the loud angels of public jubilation and fulfillment, these angels of Advent. Silently and unnoticed, they come into private rooms and appear before our hearts as they did long ago. Silently they bring the questions of God and proclaim to us the miracles of God, with whom nothing is impossible.

– Fr. Alfred Delp, S.J.

Fr. Delp (+1945) was a German Jesuit Priest condemned to death by the Nazis

Prayer of Praise to Mary Immaculate

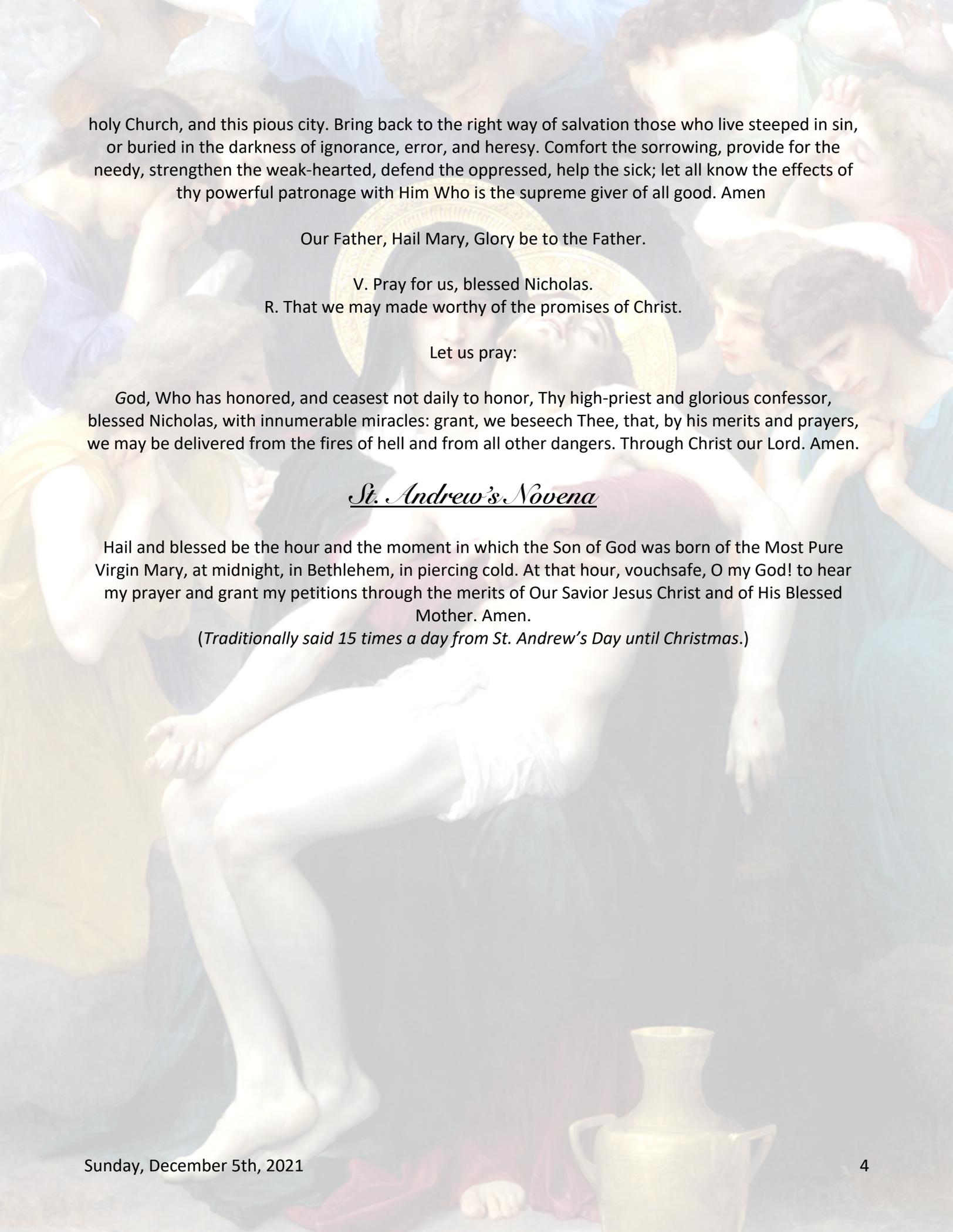
O pure and immaculate and likewise blessed Virgin, who art the sinless Mother of thy Son, the mighty Lord of the universe, thou who art inviolate and altogether holy, the hope of the hopeless and sinful, we sing thy praises. We bless thee, as full of every grace, thou who didst bear the God-Man: we all bow low before thee; we invoke thee and implore thine aid. Rescue us, O holy and inviolate Virgin, from every necessity that presses upon us and from all the temptations of the devil. Be our intercessor and advocate at the hour of death and judgment; deliver us from the fire that is not extinguished and from the outer darkness; make us worthy of the glory of thy Son, O dearest and most clement Virgin Mother. Thou indeed art our only hope, most sure and sacred in God's sight, to whom be honor and glory, majesty and dominion for ever and ever world without end. Amen.

-Saint Ephrem the Syrian

Novena Prayer to St. Nicholas

(Can be said separate from a novena)

Glorious Nicholas, my own protector! from that bright throne where thou dost enjoy the vision of thy God, in pity turn thine eyes upon me; ask for me from God those graces and helps most seasonable in my present necessities, whether spiritual or temporal, and especially the grace of if such be expedient for my eternal welfare. Forget not, glorious and holy bishop, our true Sovereign Pontiff, the



holy Church, and this pious city. Bring back to the right way of salvation those who live steeped in sin, or buried in the darkness of ignorance, error, and heresy. Comfort the sorrowing, provide for the needy, strengthen the weak-hearted, defend the oppressed, help the sick; let all know the effects of thy powerful patronage with Him Who is the supreme giver of all good. Amen

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

V. Pray for us, blessed Nicholas.

R. That we may made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

God, Who has honored, and ceasest not daily to honor, Thy high-priest and glorious confessor, blessed Nicholas, with innumerable miracles: grant, we beseech Thee, that, by his merits and prayers, we may be delivered from the fires of hell and from all other dangers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.)