



Our Lady of Sorrows

Traditional Catholic Mission Central Texas

Upcoming Mass Details:

Date/Time/Location:

Sunday, December 4, 2022 – Confession 5:30pm, Mass 6:00pm
The Austin Venue - 18619 Hamilton Pool Rd, Austin, TX 78738

Contact information:

Fr. Stephen McKenna: email: frmckenna@sgg.org mobile: 978-764-6599

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Note From Father:

Dear Faithful,

We had a wonderful little celebration here for the feast of St. Gertrude. Bp. McGuire celebrated the High Mass for his seventeenth anniversary as a priest. Immediately following the Mass, he conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on one of the school children, who had missed being confirmed with the rest of the class because he had been sick.


Since we had the happy occasion of a confirmation, on our titular feast, and the anniversary of Bp. McGuire and Fr. Lehtoranta, it was only fitting that the ceremonies should be followed up with cake! Actually, all in attendance were invited back to Helfta Hall for a whole lunch. It was a great time.

We finally ended the celebration with Solemn Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament...and for the school children, an early release from school. What a beautiful day!

Last week, I managed to dodge snow everywhere I went. I left Grand Forks, and they received six inches the next day. The rain falling in Park Falls, while I was there, turned to snow and blanketed the ground after I was gone. While I was in Milwaukee, people in Cincinnati were posting pictures of snowmen being made. And finally, I finally returned to SGG, Milwaukee awoke to a cover of clean white. While I find the snow beautiful and wouldn't have minded being present for one of these first snows, travel is much easier when the roads are clear...and for this I am grateful.

Next Thursday is, of course, the Thanksgiving holiday. Yes, it is a secular holiday...however, being thankful and expressing this gratitude is not merely proper and right for temporal reasons, but even more so for the gifts which come from above. In fact, thanksgiving is one of the three purposes of prayer (the other two being adoration & petition). Each day, we should take time to express our gratitude for the graces and blessings from Our Lord. When you are able to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion, be sure not to rush off after the end of Mass, but rather spend a few minutes offering prayers of thanksgiving for such an extraordinary privilege.

On the Friday after Thanksgiving, as many of you know, the Church has traditionally always dispensed the faithful in the USA from the Friday abstinence. You all may take advantage of this longstanding custom and consider yourselves, likewise, dispensed from the Friday abstinence on this day...Enjoy!



This weekend finds us scattered to the four winds again. Fr. Simpson is up in Milwaukee this weekend, before heading to the south Chicago mission. I make a Saturday & Sunday trip to Dallas, while Fr. Brueggemann was asked to make a last-minute trip to say mass at Sacred Heart in Lawrence, MA. But we all will return in time to be here for Thanksgiving!

In Christ,

Fr. McKenna

In Thanksgiving

For all those things which Thou hast given to us, O Christ, Thou requirest nothing for us but that we be saved. And giving us this very thing, Thou thankest the receivers. – St. John Chrysostom

My God, I give Thee thanks for what Thou givest, and for what Thou takest away. Thy will be done. – The Raccolta

Enable me, O my God, to return Thee thanks as I ought for all Thine inestimable blessings and favors. Thou hast thought of me and loved me from all eternity; Thou hast formed me out of nothing; Thou hast delivered up Thy beloved Son to the ignominious death of the Cross for my redemption; Thou hast made me a member of Thy holy Church; Thou hast preserved me from falling into the abyss of eternal misery when my sins had provoked Thee to punish me; and Thou hast graciously continued to spare me even though I have not ceased to offend Thee. What return can I make for Thine innumerable blessings, O my God, and particularly for the favors of this day? O all ye saints and angels, unite with me in praising the God of mercies Who is so bountiful to so unworthy a creature.

– The Holy Trinity Book of Prayers

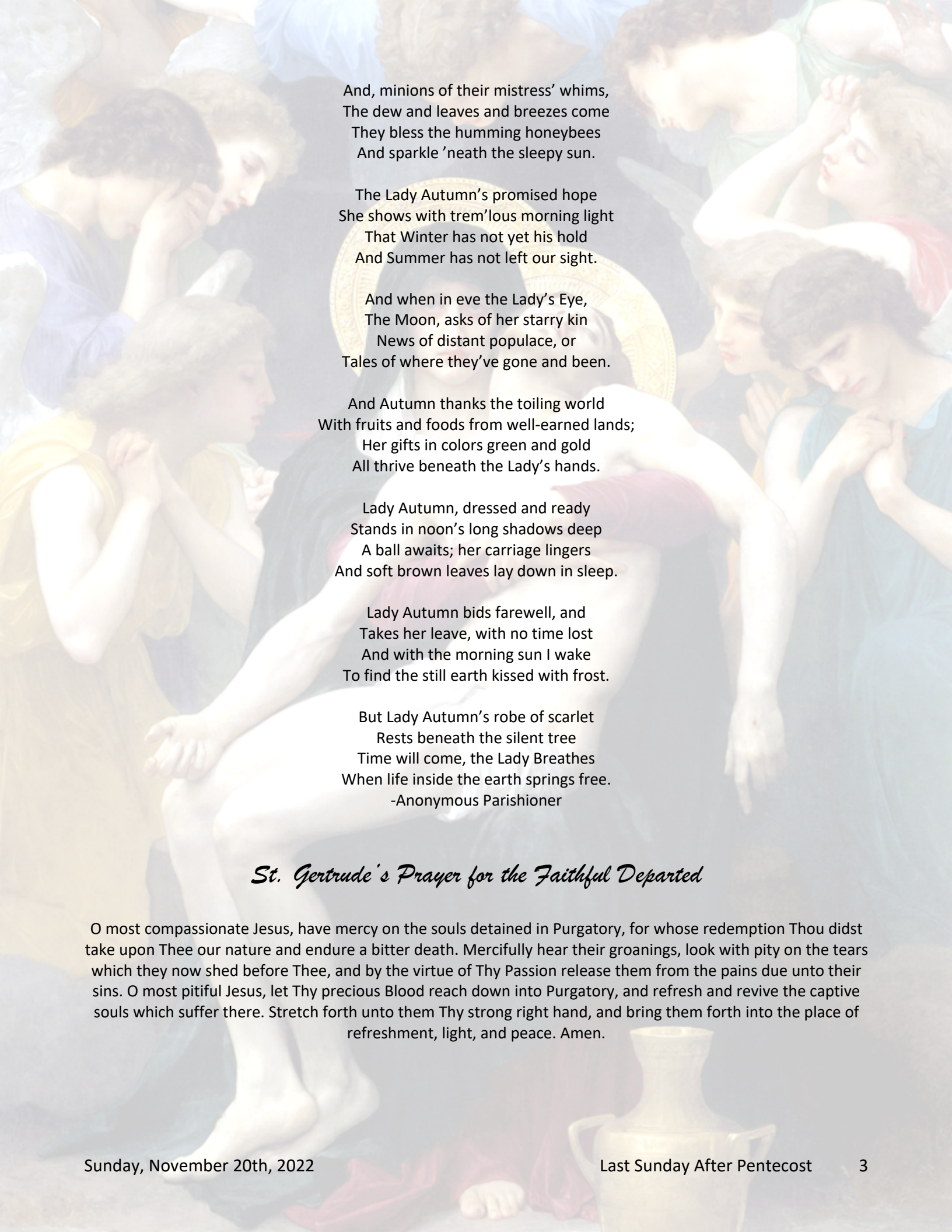
Whatever prayers I use that have been devised by men, I still cannot thank You with the gratitude that is due. I draw therefore from the infinite merits of the Mass and offer You thanks in Your own words and from Your all-adequate Sacrifice.

The Lady Autumn

The Lady Autumn dons her dress
Unfurling silks hued red and gold
The other seasons linger near
To glimpse this lady's colors bold.

Whilst swathed in fragrant smoky scent
The perfume of her burning boughs
Gives the air rem'niscent thoughts
And peaceful calm to every brow.

There in her orchards proof is found
That other colors too, wears she
When wandering between the trees
Found russet, beige, and burgundy.



And, minions of their mistress' whims,
The dew and leaves and breezes come
They bless the humming honeybees
And sparkle 'neath the sleepy sun.

The Lady Autumn's promised hope
She shows with trem'lous morning light
That Winter has not yet his hold
And Summer has not left our sight.

And when in eve the Lady's Eye,
The Moon, asks of her starry kin
News of distant populace, or
Tales of where they've gone and been.

And Autumn thanks the toiling world
With fruits and foods from well-earned lands;
Her gifts in colors green and gold
All thrive beneath the Lady's hands.

Lady Autumn, dressed and ready
Stands in noon's long shadows deep
A ball awaits; her carriage lingers
And soft brown leaves lay down in sleep.

Lady Autumn bids farewell, and
Takes her leave, with no time lost
And with the morning sun I wake
To find the still earth kissed with frost.

But Lady Autumn's robe of scarlet
Rests beneath the silent tree
Time will come, the Lady Breathes
When life inside the earth springs free.
-Anonymous Parishioner

St. Gertrude's Prayer for the Faithful Departed

O most compassionate Jesus, have mercy on the souls detained in Purgatory, for whose redemption Thou didst take upon Thee our nature and endure a bitter death. Mercifully hear their groanings, look with pity on the tears which they now shed before Thee, and by the virtue of Thy Passion release them from the pains due unto their sins. O most pitiful Jesus, let Thy precious Blood reach down into Purgatory, and refresh and revive the captive souls which suffer there. Stretch forth unto them Thy strong right hand, and bring them forth into the place of refreshment, light, and peace. Amen.



Saved By Sweetness

For one soul saved by scolding and fault-finding, ten are saved by sweetness. For one soul saved by fear of hell, ten are saved by the thought of the love of God. A gentle voice and a pleasant face make religion beautiful to the miserable and the sinful, whereas gloomy looks and a harsh or condescending manner make religion seem a thing to be avoided. Do you wish to draw souls to God? Then let your souls reflect His love. Be gentle, be sweet, be patient. Practical people may sometimes condemn you, but only thus can you imitate our Blessed Lord.

Seven Reasons Why Our Gratitude to God Should Always Increase

- i. Because He is always mindful of us.
- ii. Because the gifts of nature He has given us are limitless.
- iii. Because the supernatural gifts He has given us are so many.
- iv. Because He continues to bestow His graces.
- v. Because of the perils from which He has saved us.
- vi. Because of the promises of heavenly gifts in the future.
- vii. Especially because He has given us the gift of Himself.

Set Your Missal

Last Sunday after Pentecost, second Collect of St. Felix, third of St. Gertrude. Trinity Preface