



Our Lady of Sorrows

Traditional Catholic Mission Central Texas

Upcoming Mass Details:

Date/Time: To Be Announced for August 2022

Location: The Austin Venue - 18619 Hamilton Pool Rd, Austin, TX 78738

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,

We close out June and we enter July, the heart of the summer. Along with our arrival into July, we arrive at the month with so many of its days at St. Gertrude's dedicated to "extracurricular activities".

It starts next weekend with annual Young Adults Get Together (YAG). Young adults from around the country and sometimes even beyond, descend upon St. Gertrude's to spend several days meeting and participating in fun activities with other like-minded Catholics. The purpose is twofold; primarily for the sake of building Catholic networking and friendships and secondarily for the sake of facilitating good Catholic courtship and future marriages which hold the Faith as its core foundation.

Only two days after the YAG, girls camp begins, with all its screeching glory...The girls all have a blast, but my ears are thankful that they (and me, as I am attached to the ears) find ourselves in the land of the northern missions during the Girls' camp. I wonder if North Dakota is far enough away to escape the gleeful screeching. (Just kidding!)

At the end of the month of July, from the 26th-28th, I run our annual boys' camp. There is a lot less screeching, though far more sweat and smelly socks. Our camps are always a good time, where the kids have a lot of fun playing with their friends and making new friends.

This week has me traveling down to Texas again. It isn't as hot this time, with temperatures remaining just slightly under the three-digit mark, while I am down there. Hopefully, the skies remain clear for all my flights. Summer thunderstorm systems can really wreak havoc with flight schedules. All it takes is a relatively short period of time of flight stoppages to really mess with the flight schedules at a major airport.

Speaking of flight problems, I had a bit of a peculiar one last weekend when I flew to Boston. I had a direct flight there from Cincinnati. However, upon landing I learned that my bags did not end up on my plane. What's more, one bag traveled to Charlotte and the other headed off to Chicago...eventually, they all made their way back to me, but we definitely have to chalk that up to mysteries of modern air travel.

In Christ,

Fr. McKenna



For Patience

“See how the farmer looks forward to the coveted returns of his land...you too must wait patiently, and take courage.” (James 5. 7-8)

The patient man has a great and wholesome purgatory; who, suffering wrongs, is more sorrowful for another’s malice than for the injury to himself; who prays gladly for his adversaries, forgiving their offenses from his heart; who delays not to ask pardon of others; who is sooner moved to pity than to anger; who does frequent violence to himself, and strives to bring his flesh wholly into subjection to the spirit. (Imitation of Christ 1. 24.)

Let our trust in Thee, O Lord, give us calmness of heart, and the holy virtue of patience give us courage that no sudden emotion make us fail in understanding, nor failure to trust Thee weaken our confidence. (Spanish Collect, 7th century)

Prayer to the Precious Blood

Almighty, and everlasting God, who hast appointed thine only- begotten Son to be the Redeemer of the world, and hast been pleased to be reconciled unto us by His Blood, grant us, we beseech Thee, so to venerate with solemn worship the price of our salvation, that the power thereof may here on earth keep us from all things hurtful, and the fruit of the same may gladden us forever hereafter in heaven Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen

(An Indulgence of 5 Years --Roman Missal)

Eternal father I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in atonement for my sins, and in supplication for the holy souls in purgatory and for the needs of holy Church.

(An indulgence of 500 days. An Indulgence of 3 years if recited during the month of July)

Meditation on the Sacred Heart

Can you picture finally getting to heaven, and the first person you meet is the one you liked least on earth? Imagine that! God loved that person and was calling him to perfection too.

What God wants for you is what He also wants for your aggravating neighbor, as well as history’s worst tyrants—that they be “perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

Here’s another surprise: Your enemy can help you move toward that impossible-sounding goal of perfection. Here’s how. Our Lord’s command to be perfect appears right after His explanation of how to treat those who hate us: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5: 44-45). In other words, if you want to be perfect, begin by loving your enemies.

Are you thinking, “This is too much”? Of course it is! Even when the call to perfection is reduced to this starting point, it is beyond human powers—or it would be, if Our Lord hadn’t suffered and died for us. But with the grace He secured through His death and resurrection, we can follow His example of perfect love and forgiveness and start doing what he commands.

Try to cooperate with that grace today. Instead of harboring spiteful thoughts, say a short prayer for someone who provokes you. Think about whether there are other people you should be loving more than you do—not “enemies” exactly, but people you tend to take for granted, look down on, or dismiss as undeserving. Start with those you live and work with. Pay attention to the thoughts that cross your mind as you read the newspaper or see a certain person. Ask God’s forgiveness when you discover your failures. Open your heart to receive the grace for a more generous attitude. Take advantage of every big and small invitation to love, and the perfection of the Father and the Son will begin to shine out of you.

“Thank You, Father, for creating me for Thy love. I want to accept Thy transforming grace and take another step toward the perfection to which Thou art calling me.” “Sacred Heart of Jesus, make our hearts like unto Thine.”

Why the Death of the Son is Wonderful in Our Eyes

The Catholic Church glories in every action of Christ, but her glory of glories is the cross. Knowing this, Paul says: *But God forbid that I should glory, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.* It was a wonderful thing for the man blind from birth to receive his sight, but what is that compared to the blind of all the world? It was a marvel beyond nature for Lazarus to rise again after four days; there, with Lazarus, the grace stopped; what was it compared to the raising of all men from the tomb of sin? It was wonderful that five loaves should supply food for five thousand, but what was that compared to the feeding of those famishing in ignorance throughout the world? The release of the woman bound by Satan for eighteen years was a portent, but more wonderful was the release of all of us held fast in the meshes of our sins. The glory of the cross has at one and the same time led into the light those blind through ignorance, has delivered all bound in sin, and redeemed all mankind.

Do not wonder that the whole world was redeemed, for it was no mere man, but the only begotten Son of God Who died for it. The sin of one man, Adam, availed to bring death to the world; if by one man’s offense death reigned for the world, why should not life reign all the more *from the justice of the one* (Rom 5:18)? If Adam and Eve were cast out of paradise because of the tree from which they ate, should not believers more easily enter into paradise because of the Tree of Jesus? If the first man, fashioned out of the earth, brought universal death, shall not He Who fashioned him, being the Life, bring everlasting life?

Therefore let us not be ashamed of the cross of our Savior, but rather glory in it: *for the doctrine of the cross is to the Jews a stumbling-block and to the Gentiles foolishness but to us salvation; foolishness to those who perish but to those who are saved, that is, to us, it is the power of God (1 Cor 1:23, 18). For as I said before, it was not a mere man who died for us, but the Son of God, God made man. If under Moses the lamb kept the destroyer away, did not the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world (Jn 1:29), all the more deliver us from our sins? The blood of a brute sheep accorded salvation; shall not the blood of the only begotten much more save us?*

— St. Cyril of Jerusalem