



Our Lady of Sorrows Mission

Mass Location:

Vintage Villas Hotel & Events - Travis Room
4209 Eck Lane Austin Texas 78734 Austin, TX

Mass Schedule:

Sunday, February 7th, 2021 Mass – 6:00pm, Confessions – 5:30pm

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Note From Father

Dear Faithful,

We have finished our annual priest retreat just yesterday. For the first time, Bp. Dolan gave the retreat here at St. Gertrude's, rather than down at the seminary in Florida, as their clergy gave a retreat for the seminarians, themselves. It actually was a great opportunity, and not just because it spared us the travel and the question of lodging. Having the retreat here at St. Gertrude's actually allowed us to have it be purely a retreat for priests (the dynamic necessarily changes when mixed with seminarians) and it also made it possible for other priests from around the country who don't often get the opportunity of a retreat to be able to come and attend. The whole week was a great time of charging the spiritual batteries.

The downside to a retreat is always that it ends at some point and then we are hit abruptly with all that we have left behind for the week. It is why this bulletin comes to you a bit late and it is also why it may take a little while to catch up, if you have tried to contact me via email or message. The world, too, had been largely and blissfully ignored by us...unfortunately it is still as crazy as it was when I entered the retreat. But this proves a very nice point that we can all put in practice, at least to some degree in our daily lives: It does us no good to be constantly consuming news, politics, Covid propaganda, and just generally seeing so much wickedness so regularly. It largely only has the negative effect of disturbing our peace of mind and soul. However, we can choose to turn these things off and cast them away from us. Don't worry, in our tech-burdened world, you will hear if anything major happens. But by making a conscious effort, you can minimize some of this noise and find some peace. It will help your overall mood, refocus you on the more important things in your life, like your spiritual life and family, and ultimately help you do the one thing that is actually efficacious in helping our situation...placing our cares and worries in the hands of the Good God by our prayers.



And speaking of doing good by our prayers and sacrifices, this Sunday begins our entrance in the penitential season, as it is Septuagesima. Prepare well for the upcoming Lent and think of just what you might offer up...We certainly have ample intentions for these Lenten offerings and just imagine the good we can if so many of us are united in this generous sacrificial spirit.

In Christ,

Fr. McKenna

Article on the New Coronavirus Vaccine

I have written an article on the subject of the new coronavirus vaccine. I wrote this with research assistance by a parishioner who has a doctorate in molecular biology and biochemistry. Please read and share. You can access the article by clicking the link below.

<http://bit.ly/2Xo5Yiq>

A Prayer for Septuagesima Sunday

O most benign God, Who, out of pure grace, without any merit of ours, hast called us, Thy unworthy servants, to the true faith, into the vineyard of the holy Catholic Church, and dost require us to work in it for the sanctification of our souls, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may never be idle but be found always faithful workmen, and that which in past years we have failed to do, we may make up for in future by greater zeal and persevering industry, and, the work being done, may receive the promised reward in heaven, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to St. John Bosco

O glorious Saint John Bosco, who, in order to lead young people to the feet of the divine Master and to form them in the light of faith and Christian morality, didst heroically sacrifice thyself to the very end of thy life and didst found a fitting religious Institute destined to endure and to bring to the farthest boundaries of the earth thy glorious work, obtain also for us from our Lord a holy love for young people, who are exposed to so many seductions, in order that we may generously spend ourselves in supporting them against the snares of the devil, in keeping them safe from the dangers of the world, and in guiding them, pure and holy, in the path that leads to God. Amen

(Indulgence of 300 days)

*St. John Bosco's Novena to Our Lady Help of Christians
Against the Enemies of God*

To obtain a favor, St. Don Bosco generally advised a Novena to Our Lady Help of Christians. He had a singular devotion to the Hail Holy Queen and advised some work of charity as thanksgiving for graces obtained.

O Mary, powerful Virgin, thou art the mighty and glorious protector of holy Church; thou art the marvelous help of Christians; thou art terrible as an army in battle array; thou alone hast destroyed every heresy in the whole world. In the midst of our anguish, our struggles and our distress defend us from the power of the enemy and at the hour of our death receive our souls in paradise. Amen.

Here mention your Petitions

Say Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father, three times

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our Life, our Sweetness, and our Hope. To Thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To Thee do we send up our sighs mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, Thine Eyes of Mercy toward us, and after this our exile show unto us the Blessed Fruit of thy Womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us O Holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Prayer to St. Blaise

O Glorious St. Blaise, who with a short prayer didst restore to perfect safety a child at the point of death from a fish-bone fixed in its throat, grant that we may all feel the power of thy patronage in every malady of the throat, and may have the special grace to mortify the dangerous sense of taste by observing faithfully the precepts of the Church. Thou also, who in thy martyrdom hast left to the Church the testimony of a glorious faith, grant that we may keep this divine gift intact, and that in these times we may be enabled, by word and deed, without fear of man, to defend the truths of faith, so grievously obscured and attacked. Amen

(Indulgence 300 days)



Fr. Damien de Veuster

A sturdy Belgian farm boy, Damien made his vows in the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary at the age of twenty. Three years later, he went on mission to Hawaii, where he was a pastor to the natives, among whom the scourge of leprosy was spreading. When a call was made for a priest to live among the lepers quarantined on the island of Molokai, Damien volunteered on the spot.

He met a human wasteland. The lepers' grave physical suffering was compounded by the anguish of being wrenched from their families and brought to a forgotten place. Many lived in squalor and had turned to drunkenness and prostitution. Damien sought to better their lives in every way: he prayed over them, anointed them, taught them, and sang with them. He used his strength to plow gardens and build houses. But one of his earliest building tasks was an extension on a chapel: for the Eucharist, perpetually exposed, was the source of Damien's strength.

Damien set aside many hygienic restrictions. He ate with the lepers, dipping his fingers in the common food bowl to show them that he was one with them. When he contracted the disease, he knew he was at last united with his beloved people. "The joy and contentment of heart that the Sacred Hearts are lavishing upon me make me think myself the happiest missionary in the world," he confessed toward the end.

Hey, it's a cold, a flu...not leprosy! Don't go overboard on the "hygiene" stuff. Love and be loved.