



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

Fr. Thomas Simpson: email: frsimpson@sgg.org mobile: 513-378-2870

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

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

Note From Father:

Dear Faithful,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. The two younger priests, Frs. Simpson and Brueggemann are originally from the area, so they were able to go home and enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with their families. Bp. McGuire, Fr. Lehtoranta, and I all went out to a restaurant for our Thanksgiving dinner. This is an enjoyable tradition, which Bp. Dolan and Fr. Cekada had begun long before we came. It ensures no work to prepare the meal and no clean up afterwards.... unfortunately, it comes with the subsequent downside of not providing left overs for a turkey sandwich the next day, but hey, no plan is perfect. Besides, maybe, with a little luck, one of the youngsters comes back with leftovers sufficient for us to pilfer.

I head up to Milwaukee on Saturday to offer evening Mass, as well as Sunday Mass, before heading out on the long mission run up to North Dakota and back again. Hopefully, by then, my back will be feeling a bit better. It seems I have pinched or aggravated my sciatica nerve. No fun. But I try to offer it up for the Holy Souls... It is November, after all. Don't let the sudden arrival of Christmas lights deceive you into forgetting about the Holy Souls. Nor let it cause you to forget about Advent, which begins today! What a wonderful and all too often forgotten liturgical season, filled with many graces, should we use it as the season of spiritual preparation it is meant to be!!

In Christ,

Fr. McKenna



Advent Novena Prayer

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.)

Emblems of the Blessed Virgin

The dove in sacred art represents the Holy Spirit, and is generally seen flying toward Our Lady, or emerging from a cloud, in pictures of the Annunciation. Seven doves hover around her head in pictures which represent her as Mater Sapientiae—the Mother of Wisdom—and they represent the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In their ancient significance, birds were emblems of the soul. They are frequently represented in the Catacombs. In one very early fresco, our Blessed Mother is shown as a veiled figure feeding the birds at her feed, while Our Lord as the Good Shepherd feeds the sheep of His flock. One of the many titles of Our Lady is Mother of the Good Shepherd, and she is often represented with one or more lambs looking up at her.

Man, destined to die, takes pains that he may not die; and yet man, destined to live forever, takes no pains that he may not sin! And when he takes pains that he may not die, he takes them to no purpose; for his aim is that death may be a long time deferred, not that it may be escaped from; whereas, if he refuse to sin, he will have no pains, and will live forever. Oh, that we could rouse men to be such lovers of the life that abideth as men are of the life that fleeth!

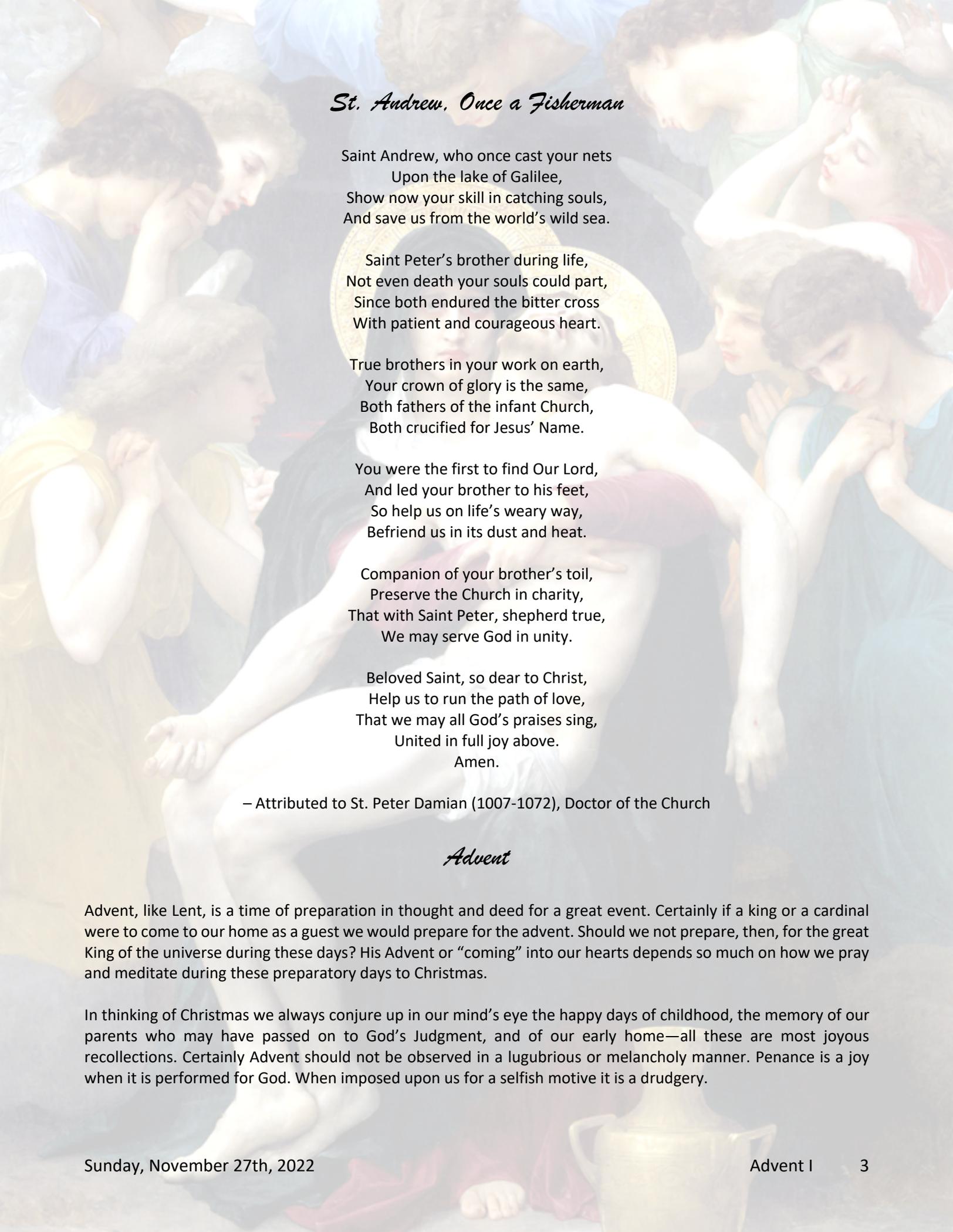
– St. Augustine

Prayer in Our Own Words

There are wrong notions about prayer which keep us from being as much at home in it as we ought to be. Some people seem to think that prayer is a sort of “second course,” a mere dessert; whereas it is breakfast, lunch, dinner, and supper. Nay, more: it is not only the food we eat, but the very breath we draw. Therefore prayer does not suppose moments of inspiration, or anything approaching ecstasy, or even sensible devotion; though a little of this is desirable now and then. Our want of the feeling of fervor is often our own fault. But we are advised to call in the time of temptation on the Name of Jesus, even if we have not a particle of fervor.

Then, it would be very well, in our prayers and meditations, to express our feelings in our own words and sentiments. While we must do this carefully and reverently, we must also do it with simplicity. Sermocinatio ejus cum simplicibus. (Prov., iii, 32.) That “proverb” is translated in the Douay Bible: “His communication is with the simple.” But the word sermocinatio, which occurs nowhere else in the Sacred Scriptures, may be supposed to contrast very strongly with the more common word, sermo.

We may be too prone to imagine prayer to be more a sermo than a sermocinatio—formal discourse, serious conversation, instead of familiar talk—nay, affectionate prattle. God expects us to be simple and to converse freely with Him as His children. A false idea of the dignity of prayer has often made us shrink from putting our thoughts and feelings into words of our own. We have either left them vaguely felt and unexpressed, or we have sought forms for their expression in printed pages. We have thought that our words ought to fall into some such sonorous order as the prayers in our prayer-books. But no; even as a matter of mere style, simpler and more conversational forms would be better.



St. Andrew, Once a Fisherman

Saint Andrew, who once cast your nets
Upon the lake of Galilee,
Show now your skill in catching souls,
And save us from the world's wild sea.

Saint Peter's brother during life,
Not even death your souls could part,
Since both endured the bitter cross
With patient and courageous heart.

True brothers in your work on earth,
Your crown of glory is the same,
Both fathers of the infant Church,
Both crucified for Jesus' Name.

You were the first to find Our Lord,
And led your brother to his feet,
So help us on life's weary way,
Befriend us in its dust and heat.

Companion of your brother's toil,
Preserve the Church in charity,
That with Saint Peter, shepherd true,
We may serve God in unity.

Beloved Saint, so dear to Christ,
Help us to run the path of love,
That we may all God's praises sing,
United in full joy above.

Amen.

– Attributed to St. Peter Damian (1007-1072), Doctor of the Church

Advent

Advent, like Lent, is a time of preparation in thought and deed for a great event. Certainly if a king or a cardinal were to come to our home as a guest we would prepare for the advent. Should we not prepare, then, for the great King of the universe during these days? His Advent or "coming" into our hearts depends so much on how we pray and meditate during these preparatory days to Christmas.

In thinking of Christmas we always conjure up in our mind's eye the happy days of childhood, the memory of our parents who may have passed on to God's Judgment, and of our early home—all these are most joyous recollections. Certainly Advent should not be observed in a lugubrious or melancholy manner. Penance is a joy when it is performed for God. When imposed upon us for a selfish motive it is a drudgery.



These Advent days, then, can be most joyful, our recollection of former years can be most happy if we dedicate them to God. In simple terms, we can be happiest when all things are in harmony and in their proper place. This is the definition of health. This is the understanding of peace—the “tranquility of order.” It is our aim here to put Christ back into Christmas—to enjoy the Godliness of having Christ’s Mass at Christmas.

Merry Christmas to you! May Christ and His Mother bless you by their presence because of your goodness in giving to them your will and understanding during these Advent days.

Seven Ways to Prepare Your Heart for His Coming

1. Silence it.
(Quit complaining, no one listens anyway.)
2. Mortify it.
(Give up some pleasure you can’t live without.)
3. Enlarge it.
(Look around and notice someone else’s needs.)
4. Purify it.
(What’s your favorite sin? Give it up for Advent.)
5. Offer it
(to Jesus through Mary at Holy Mass).
6. Weigh it
(every day in the balance of God’s benefits).
7. Sanctify it.
(What, me, a saint? Yes, you. Why do you think He’s coming such a long way if not to seek you out for Heaven?)

Set Your Missal

First Sunday of Advent. Second Collect of Our Lady in Advent, third for the Church. Trinity Preface.