



Our Lady of Sorrows

Traditional Catholic Mission Central Texas

Upcoming Mass Details:

Date/Time/Location:

Wednesday, December 25th, 2024 (Christmas Day)

Confession 4:30pm – Mass 5:00pm

** Location Pending Confirmation **

Courtyard by Marriott Austin Dripping Springs – Meeting Room #2

1002 Rob Shelton Blvd, Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Contact information:

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Announcements

- Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday this week are the Advent Ember Days. Wednesday and Saturday are days of partial abstinence, while Friday is full abstinence. All 21-59 years of age are bound to the laws of Fasting, while all seven and older are bound to the Church's law of abstinence.
- The Christmas Novena of the O Antiphons begins on December 17th

Note From Father

Dear Faithful,

We had the solemn occasion of burying one of our own on Thursday, with the funeral for Fr. James Thielen. Bp. McGuire celebrated a Pontifical Requiem with me as Assistant Priest, Fr. Simpson as Deacon, and Fr. Brueggemann as Sub-Deacon. Simultaneously, Fr. Lehtoranta and Fr. Ahern offered lateral Requiem Masses on the side altars. It was a beautiful sight to see. Our choir sang beautifully, including singing the Introit from Mozart's Requiem and the De Profundis by Salieri.

It was a cold day at the cemetery, yet many bundled up and came to lay Fr. Thielen to rest. It was cold in Cincinnati, but when I arrived in Milwaukee it was quite cold...two degrees, to exact with wind chill about 15 below zero. The first true foray into the start of winter.

I know that this note is short, but with all that has taken place this week and now this weekend, I hope you understand. But please know you are all in my prayers and please keep all priests, but living and deceased in yours, as well.

In Christ, *Fr. Stephen McKenna*

Set Your Missal

Advent III, commemoration of the Immaculate Conception. Trinity Preface.

Novena Prayer for Advent

(Traditionally said 15 times a day from St. Andrew's Day, Nov. 30th, through Christmas Day)

Hail and blessed be the hour and 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 desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother. Amen

The Great Antiphons

The public prayers of the Church consist not only of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass but also of the Divine Office, the prayers of the priests' Breviary. The Office was at one time chanted by some religious Orders. Certain parishes are reviving the custom of having Solemn Vespers on the eve or afternoon of major feasts. The Magnificat or Canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary is chanted near the end of Vespers. Starting on December 17 a series of Antiphons are added to Vespers before and after the Magnificat. Just to read those "O Antiphons" each day would be a wonderful part of any Catholic's preparation for Christmas!

"The following Antiphons are said entire before and after the Magnificat, from the 17th to the 23rd of December, inclusive. If the Vespers are of a first or second class double, the great Antiphon is said after the prayer of the feast, for the commemoration of Advent.

Antiphon for the 17th of December (O Sapientia): O Wisdom that comest out of the mouth of the Most High, that reachest from one end to another, and dost mightily and sweetly order all things: come to teach us the way of prudence!

Antiphon for the 18th of December (O Adonai): O Adonai, and Ruler of the house of Israel, who didst appear unto Moses in the burning bush, and gavest him the law in Sinai: come to redeem us with an outstretched arm!

Antiphon for the 19th of December (O Radix): O root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom the kings shall shut their mouths, whom the Gentiles shall seek: come to deliver us, make no tarrying.

Antiphon for the 20th of December (O Clavis): O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; that openest and no man shutteth; and shuttest and no man openeth: come to bring out the prisoner from the prison, and them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death.

Antiphon for the 21st of December (O Oriens): O Dayspring, Brightness of the everlasting light, Sun of Justice, come to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death!


Antiphon for the 22nd of December (O Rex): O King of the Gentiles, yea, and desire thereof; O Corner-stone, that makest of two one: come to save man, whom Thou hast made of the dust of the earth!

Antiphon for the 23rd of December (O Emmanuel): O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, Longing of the Gentiles; yea, and salvation thereof: come and save us, O Lord our God!

Gaudete Sunday

We want to meditate, to reflect, to immerse ourselves in the mystery of joy. All through the centuries, the philosophers have wrestled with this. If there is a good God, why is there all this pain, why is there this sorrow? But the joy is always in Domino. We don't know, but He knows. What we do learn is that He is drawing us all, He is calling us to know that there is really nothing stable outside Himself, and that in Him and in Him alone is the explanation of all things. Already as we ponder things in this way we begin to experience a serenity coming into our very pain, whatever it may be, that this is an all-loving God Who is reminding us where we are all going. We are all moving steadily step by step each day, moving with each tick of the clock towards this terminus. This is what He wishes to say to us: in Him alone all find their home. Something begins to come into our stricken hearts, that we are all going home. The more we are in Domino on this earth, the more we are already at home.

The Church does not say, "No Gaudete Sunday this year," but she says, "Rejoice in the Lord." The world is in travail and in turmoil, but God says, "Rejoice in Me, rejoice." There is pain and suffering and there is the temptation to anxiety and there are the disappointments, but there is God saying, "In Domino is all joy." Let us sing then with all our hearts, not just on Gaudete Sunday, but always; and let us dance under the wreath of eternity,



that all joy is in God, and that when He disappoints us in the evanescence of ephemeral things, when He allows us to be disappointed in persons, when He allows us to experience such disappointment in ourselves, He is only saying what He told Paul to say to us: Gaudete in Domino. – Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C

Great Christmas Gifts

St. Teresa was accustomed to redouble her charity towards those who offended her. St. Francis Borgia used to call those who brought upon him any mortification or trial his assistants and friends.

“Let us endeavor to show ourselves full of compassion towards the faulty and the sinful. If we do not show compassion and charity to these, we do not deserve to have God show it towards us.” – St. Vincent de Paul

This Saint was never astonished at any fault that he saw committed; for he said that to commit faults was the characteristic of man, as he was conceived and born in sin. This acquaintance that he had with the common miseries of man was what made him behave with so much sweetness and compassion to all sinners. He avoided harshness and used only mild and compassionate words and ways, even with the most guilty, endeavoring to conceal and make little account of their faults with a marvelous prudence and charity, and desiring to have his missionaries follow the same course.

St. Francis once said to the Blessed Cataneus, his General: “By this I shall know whether you love God and me, His and your servant; that is, by your showing mercy to delinquents. When you find one, do not let him go without his feeling the effect of your kindness; and if you see him fall a thousand times, love him always more than myself, that you may attract him to good, and never fail to be merciful to all such.”

“Among those who are included under the title of neighbor, there are none who deserve it more, in one sense, than those of our own household. They are nearest of all to us, living under the same roof and eating the same bread. Therefore they ought to be one of the principal objects of our love, and we should practice in regard to them all the acts of a true charity, which ought to be founded not upon flesh and blood, or upon their good qualities, but altogether upon God.”

– *St. Francis de Sales*