



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

February 1st, 2026

*In Thee, O Lord, have I put my  
hope. Let me never be confounded.*

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

~

### SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

St. Paul tells us that this world is a race, wherein all must run; but that they alone win the prize, who run well. Let us, therefore, rid ourselves of everything that could impede us, and make us lose our crown. Let us not deceive ourselves: we are never sure, until we reach the goal. Is our conversion more solid than was St. Paul's? Are our good works better done, or more meritorious, than were his? Yet he assures us that he was not without the fear that he might perhaps be lost; for which cause he chastised his body, and kept it in subjection to the spirit.

Man, in his present state, has not the same will for all that is right and just, which Adam had before he sinned, and which, notwithstanding, Adam abused to his own ruin. We have a bias which inclines us to evil; so that our only means of keeping our ground is to sacrifice the flesh to the spirit.

To many this is very harsh doctrine; hence, they are sure to fail; they never can win the prize. Like the Israelites spoken of by our apostle, they will be left behind to die in the desert, and so lose the promised land. Yet they saw the same miracles that Josue and Caleb saw!

So true is it that nothing can make a salutary impression on a heart which is obstinately bent on fixing all its happiness in the things of this present life; and though it is forced, each day, to own that they are vain, yet each day it returns to them, vainly but determinedly loving them.



## “The Blessed Path” : Reflection on The Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

In the readings since Christmas, Jesus has been revealed as the new royal son of David and Son of God.

He is sent to lead a new exodus that brings Israel out of captivity to the nations and brings all the nations to God.

As Moses led Israel from Egypt through the sea to give them God’s law on Mount Sinai, Jesus too has passed through the waters in baptism. Now, in today’s Gospel, He goes to the mountain to proclaim a new law—the law of His Kingdom.

The Beatitudes mark the fulfillment of God’s covenant promise to Abraham—that through his descendants all the nations of the world would receive God’s blessings (see Genesis 12:3; 22:18).

Jesus is the son of Abraham (see Matthew 1:1). And through the wisdom He speaks today, He bestows the Father’s blessings upon “the poor in spirit.”

God has chosen to bless the weak and lowly, those foolish and despised in the eyes of the world, Paul says in today’s Epistle. The poor in spirit are those who know that nothing they do can merit God’s mercy and grace. These are the humble remnant in today’s First Reading, taught to seek refuge in the name of the Lord.

The Beatitudes reveal the divine path and purpose for our lives. All our striving should be for these virtues—to be poor in spirit; meek and clean of heart; merciful and makers of peace; seekers of the righteousness that comes from living by the law of Kingdom.

The path the Lord sets before us today is one of trials and persecution. But He promises comfort in our mourning and a great reward.

The Kingdom we have inherited is no earthly territory but the promised land of heaven. It is Zion where the Lord reigns forever. And, as we sing in today’s Psalm, its blessings are for those whose hope is in the Lord.

*Scott Hahn*



The parish staff knows of the following who are ill, in retired living accommodations, etc. **If you are aware of others, please let Father or the parish office know:** Bella Mally, Jim Moore, Jane Soars, Susan Fisher, Gerri Allen, Kathy McCarthy, Ken Keyes,, Mildred Crawford, and the residents of Franklin Hills Care Center and Cherrywood Place.

Prayers for the infirm and homebound are a work of mercy.

## WEEKEND SCHEDULE

### Saturday

3pm – Confessions (**St. Francis Xavier**)

4pm – Vigil Mass (**St. Francis Xavier**)

### Sunday

7:30am – Holy Mass,  
(**St. Francis Xavier**)

9:00am – Holy Mass (**St. Patrick**)

11:00am – Holy Mass,  
(**St. Francis Xavier**)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact the parish office by email to  
arrange a baptism, marriage, or funeral,  
or to request a certificate.

To request the offering of the Holy Mass for  
your intention, please email the office or leave  
your intention in the Sunday collection basket.

St. Francis Xavier can be found online at  
**sfxspokane.org** or at  
**facebook.com/sfxspokane**

Our Mailing Address is:  
P.O. Box 7179, Spokane, WA, 99207

## SFX DIRECTORY

**Office Telephone:** (509) 487-6363

**Sacramental Emergencies:** (509) 866-6098

**Father Semple:** [pastor@sfxspokane.org](mailto:pastor@sfxspokane.org)

**Office Email:** [office@sfxspokane.org](mailto:office@sfxspokane.org)

**Office Hours.**

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

## THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

5:30pm Mass *Elizabeth Prekker*

**Blessing of Candles**

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

8:00am Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass *For the Intentions of Greg & Peggy Demers*

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

8:00am Mass *For the Intentions of Greg & Peggy Demers*

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH

5:30pm First Friday Devotion

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass *Pro Populo*

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*





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## Seven Sisters Apostolate

The parish is looking for volunteers who would be interested in participating in the “Seven Sisters Apostolate.” This Apostolate seeks to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed every day for the intention of the parish priest.

The Apostolate is for women, and involves a commitment of praying in the church one day a week. If you are interested, please contact Patty Parra at (509) 362-8646

## St. Joseph of Leonessa, Priest February 4th

Eufranio Desideri was born in 1556 at Leonessa, in Umbria, Italy, and pursued higher studies at Viterbo. At eighteen he rejected an offer of a noble and lucrative marriage.

Instead, Eufranio joined the Capuchin Franciscans at Viterbo. Taking the name of Joseph, he became a humble, and obedient religious, mortified to a heroic degree. He believed deeply and preached constantly that every Christian must be a living book in which others can read the teaching of the Gospel.

In 1587, Joseph was sent to Turkey as a missionary among the Christians at Pera, a suburb of Constantinople. He served the Christian galley slaves of the Turks and preached the Faith to the Moslems, making himself liable for imprisonment under Turkish law.

Joseph was imprisoned twice and ultimately sentenced to a cruel death. His right hand and foot were pierced with hooks and hung over a weak fire for three days. On the fourth day, he was miraculously released and his sentence commuted to banishment.

The Saint returned to Leonessa and continued to labor with great success in apostolic endeavors, being favored with God’s gifts. Worn out by his labors, Joseph died at Amatrice, Italy, on February 4, 1612, and was canonized in 1745 by Pope Benedict XIV.

**PRAYER:** O God, You made St. Joseph an illustrious preacher of the Gospel. Through his intercession, enkindle us with love and with his zeal for souls that we may serve You alone. **Amen.**





2ND ANNUAL TRI-PARISH

# Soup & Stations of the Cross

SIGN UP FOR YOUR PARISH'S WEEK IN VESTIBULE OR EMAIL  
WOMEN.OF.ST.X@GMAIL.COM

**Parish Soup Volunteer Schedule:**

- St X: 2/20
- St. Pats: 2/27
- Mary Queen: 3/6
- St. X: 3/13
- St. Pats: 3/20
- Mary Queen: 3/27

**Stations: 5:30**  
**Supper: 6:00**

Mary Queen Parish

CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF NOTRE DAME

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR 2026 FLEUR-DE-LIS GALA



# The Beloved Hearts Ball

Saturday February 14, 2026  
Davenport Grand Ballroom

COCKTAILS AT 5PM  
DINNER & LIVE AUCTION AT 6PM  
MUSIC & DANCING AT 8PM



## Calling All Families!

St. Francis Xavier's Catechism and Sacramental Preparation classes are beginning THIS MONTH!

**Class Dates & Time: 2/21, 3/28, 4/18 at 9:00am-11:30am**

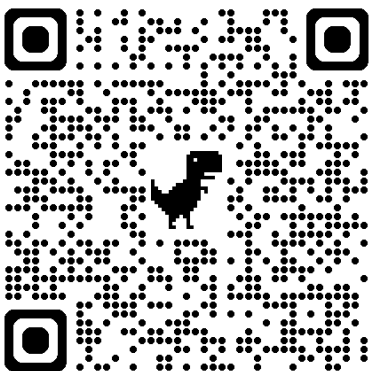
Classes will take place at St. Thomas More: 505 W St. Thomas More Way Spokane, WA 99208

Classes are divided by "Pre", "Post", and "Prep" for sacraments. Ages are flexible depending on the needs of the student.

Sacrament Date: Confirmation and First Communion- **Monday April 13 at 5:30pm at St. X**

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**Wednesday, February 18 • 9 am - 3 pm**



**Ash Wednesday Silent Day of Prayer:**  
**Spending a Grace-Filled Lent**  
**Engaging Redemptive Suffering**  
Sr. Mary Eucharista, SMMC  
\$47 per person, \$57 with use of room for the day

[ihrc.net/events](http://ihrc.net/events) or (509) 448-1224



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*Jeffrey Byrd*

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