



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

February 4th , 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

The Season of Septuagesima comprises the three weeks immediately preceding Lent. It forms one of the principal divisions of the liturgical year, and is itself divided into three parts, each part corresponding to a week: the first is called Septuagesima; the second, Sexagesima; the third, Quinquagesima.

All three are named from their numerical reference to Lent, which, in the language of the Church, is called Quadragesima, that is, Forty, because the great feast of Easter is prepared for by the holy exercises of forty days. The words Quinquagesima, Sexagesima, and Septuagesima, tell us of the same great solemnity as looming in the distance, and as being the great object towards which the Church would have us now begin to turn all our thoughts, and desires, and devotion.

Now, the feast of Easter must be prepared for by forty days of recollectedness and penance. Those forty days are one of the principal seasons of the liturgical year, and one of the most powerful means employed by the Church for exciting in the hearts of her children the spirit of their Christian vocation. It is of the utmost importance that such a season of grace should produce its work in our souls—the renovation of the whole spiritual life. The Church, therefore, has instituted a preparation for the holy time of Lent. She gives us the three weeks of Septuagesima, during which she withdraws us, as much as may be, from the noisy distraction of the world, in order that our hearts may be more readily impressed by the solemn warning she is to give us at the commencement of Lent by marking our foreheads with ashes.

This prelude to the holy season of Lent was not known in the early ages of Christianity: its institution would seem to have originated in the Greek Church. Besides the six Sundays of Lent, on which by universal custom the faithful never fasted, the practice of this Church prohibited fasting on the Saturdays likewise; consequently their Lent was short by twelve days of the forty spent by our Savior doing penance in the desert. To make up for the deficiency, they were obliged to begin their Lent so many days earlier.

Continued on the insert...



Raised to Serve : Reflection on the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's First Reading, Job describes the futility of life before Christ.

His lament reminds us of the curse of toil and death placed upon Adam following his original sin (see Genesis 3:17–19). Men and women are like slaves seeking shade, unable to find rest. Their lives are like the wind that comes and goes.

But, as we sing in today's Psalm, He who created the stars promised to heal the broken-hearted and gather those lost in exile from Him (see Isaiah 11:12; 61:1). We see this promise fulfilled in today's Gospel.

Simon's mother-in-law is like Job's toiling, hopeless humanity. She is laid low by affliction but too weak to save herself.

But as God promised to take His chosen people by the hand (see Isaiah 42:6), Jesus grasps her by the hand and helps her up. The word translated "help" is actually Greek for "raising up." The same verb is used when Jesus commands a dead girl to arise (see Mark 5:41–42). It's used again to describe His own resurrection (see Mark 14:28; 16:7).

What Jesus has done for Simon's mother-in-law, He has done for all humanity—raised all of us who lay dead through our sins (see Ephesians 2:5).

Notice all the words of totality and completeness in the Gospel. The whole town gathers; all the sick are brought to Him. He drives out demons in the whole of Galilee. Everyone is looking for Christ.

We too have found Him. By our baptism, He healed and raised us to live in His presence (see Hosea 6:1–2).

Like Simon's mother-in-law, there is only one way we can thank Him for the new life He has given us. We must rise to serve Him and His gospel.

Our lives must be our thanksgiving, as Paul describes in today's Epistle. We must tell everyone the good news, the purpose for which Jesus has come—that others, too, may have a share in this salvation.

Dr. 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:** Carl Burrell, Bella Mally, Jane Soars, Eleanor Finley, 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

Daily Mass is celebrated in the Convent at St. Patrick's, Monday through Friday at 7:00 a.m.

School Mass at St. Patrick's is celebrated at noon Monday through Friday.

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](https://www.facebook.com/sfxspokane)

Our Mailing Address is:

P.O. Box 7179, Spokane, WA, 99207

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Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

Office Email: office@sfxspokane.org

Office Hours. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9am-12pm.

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

5:30pm Mass *Forgotten Souls in Purgatory*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH

8:00am , Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Religious*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH

8:00am , Mass *Mildred Crawford*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



Organ Project Fundraising

The church website now has a page for the organ project and pictures of work to this point. Please check back regularly for updates and next weeks launch of the fundraiser.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of giving.



Continued from Cover...

The Church of Rome had no such motive for anticipating the season of those privations which belong to Lent; for, from the earliest antiquity, she kept the Saturdays in Lent (and as often during the rest of the year as circumstances might require) as fasting days. At the close of the sixth century, St.

Gregory the Great alludes, in one of his homilies, to the fast of Lent being less than forty days, owing to the Sundays which come during that holy season. "There are," he says, "from this day (the first Sunday of Lent) to the joyous feast of Easter, six weeks, that is, forty-two days. As we do not fast on the six Sundays, there are but thirty-six fasting days ... which we offer to God as the tithe of our year."

Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger (1805-1875).

Second Collection Today for the HGN Mission Appeal

Heralds of Good News is a Clerical Missionary Society of Apostolic Life. It was founded by Rev. Fr. Jose Kaimlett on October 14, 1984, in the diocese of Eluru, India. Initially it was erected as a diocesan right but later it became an "Institute of Pontifical Right" on May 5, 1999. The specific aim of the Society is "the promotion of vocations to priesthood, the training of seminarians and the supply of zealous and hardworking missionaries to the dioceses in India and abroad which experience a shortage of priests due to the lack of local vocations." The Society has Mary Queen of Apostles and St. Joseph the Worker as the Patrons.

Continued on next page →

Mission Appeal Continued

Through the blessings of God, the Society has made rapid progress, and to better administer our members, the Society was divided into four Provinces in August 2008. In 2017, less than 10 years later, it became necessary to establish a fifth province; the Divine Mercy Province. Two priests from this Religious order are rendering their service to our diocese of Spokane. Fr. B (Baskar Anandan) is the pastor of the churches in Colton and Uniontown and Fr. Raj (Arockiaraj) is the pastor of the churches in Wilbur, Odessa and Ritzville. While this newly erected province has 130 priests and 50 seminarians in various levels of formation, they do not yet have an administrative building or even a Priests Retirement House. However, through the grace of God, they have been able to continue to run schools and hostels for the poor children in India and Tanzania. Our Moto is "To proclaim the mercy of the father." We have 130 laborers (priests) working in the vineyard of the Lord. They are rendering their selfless service in 14 countries around the world. There are 36 of them working in 12 dioceses of the USA.

Our Objectives and Apostolate **1. Pastoral** • Promoting Vocation to priesthood and formation of the seminarians • Parish Ministry, Prison ministry and family apostolate **2. Educational** • Resident education centers for the underprivileged children. • Homes for the orphans, semi orphans and special children. Free education to all of them **3. Humanitarian** • Training centers for the school drop-outs and small scale industries for the poor young people • Homes for the homeless and the destitute • Self-employment scheme • Women empowerment programs and working women's hostel for the poor women from poor rural • Help to the women through minority scheme of the government **4. Spiritual** • Spiritual renewal programs and retreat centers • Center for Counseling **5. Present Endeavors and Projects** • Jesus Feeds: providing midday meals to 150 poor and disabled daily • Remodeling of 4 of our schools • Construction of schools in the rural • Construction of a spiritual renewal and retreat center • Construction of Arts and Science College for the poor in the rural area • Construction of Cemetery for priests **6. Enriching and extending our mission in Tanzania, Africa** • Construction of Schools for rural poor children • Orphanages • Construction of Seminaries and formation of local seminarians • Spirituality center and pilgrim center • Construction of churches in the remote areas • Making Drinking water facilities • Center for HIV infected Children

Thank you very much for your consideration and the love for our order. May God continue to bless you. (Note: Our nonprofit organization 'Divine Mercy Province of Heralds of Good News, Inc.' has its own IRS determination letter recognizing it as being described in section 501(c)(3) and are eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. Our nonprofit has been listed in the Official Catholic Directory under the Archdiocese of Mobile institutions located in diocese).

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