



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

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“Light Breaking Forth” : Reflection on The Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

As His disciples, we too are called to be “the light of the world,” He tells us in the Gospel this Sunday (see John 1:4–4, 9; 8:12; 9:5).

All three images that Jesus uses to describe the Church are associated with the identity and vocation of Israel.

God forever aligned His kingdom with the kingdom of David and his sons by a “covenant of salt,” salt being a sign of permanence and purity (see 2 Chronicles 13:5, 8; Leviticus 2:13; Ezekiel 43:24).

Jerusalem was to be a city set on a hill, high above all others, drawing all nations toward the glorious light streaming from her Temple (see Isaiah 2:2; 60:1–3).

And Israel was given the mission of being a light to the nations, that God’s salvation would reach to the ends of the earth (see Isaiah 42:6; 49:6).

The liturgy shows us this week that the Church, and every Christian, is called to fulfill Israel’s mission.

By our faith and good works we are to make the light of God’s life break forth in the darkness, as we sing in this week’s Psalm.

This week’s readings remind us that our faith can never be a private affair, something we can hide as if under a basket.

We are to pour ourselves out for the afflicted, as Isaiah tells us in the First Reading. Our light must shine as a ray of God’s mercy for all who are poor, hungry, naked, and enslaved.

There must be a transparent quality to our lives. Our friends and family, our neighbors and fellow citizens, should see reflected in us the light of Christ and through us be attracted to the saving truths of the Gospel.

So let us pray that we, like St. Paul in the Epistle, might proclaim with our whole lives “Christ, and him crucified.”

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

Office Email: office@sfxspokane.org

Office Hours.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

5:30pm Mass *Fr Gustavo's Mother Juana Juarez*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

8:00am Mass *Gerson Avila*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass *Poor Souls in Purgatory*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

8:00am Mass *Leslie Kilgore*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, High 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.

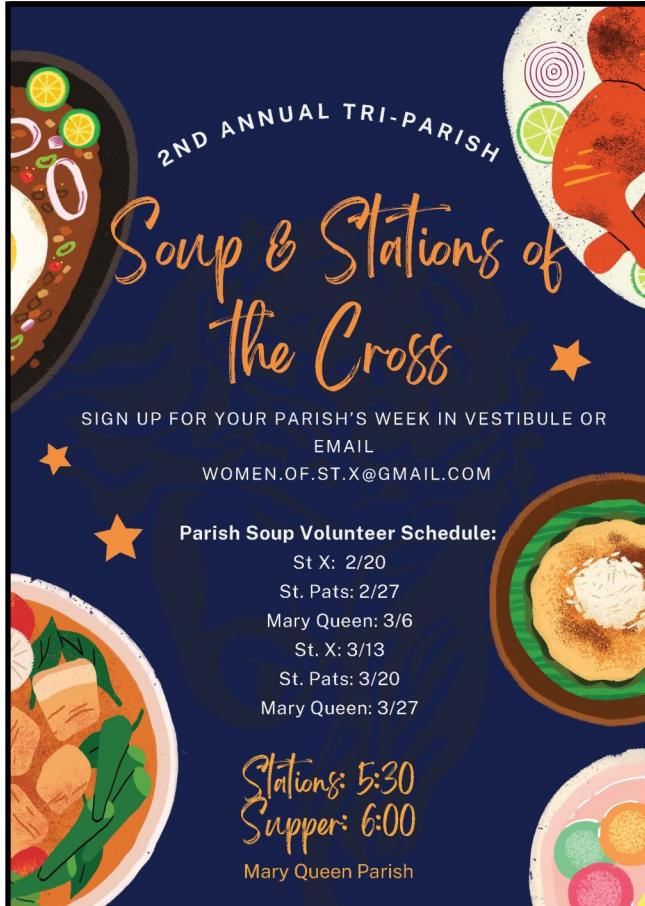
The Apostolate is for women, and involves a commitment of praying in the church one day a week. If you are interested, please contact Patty Parra at (509) 362-8646

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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.

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.”





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

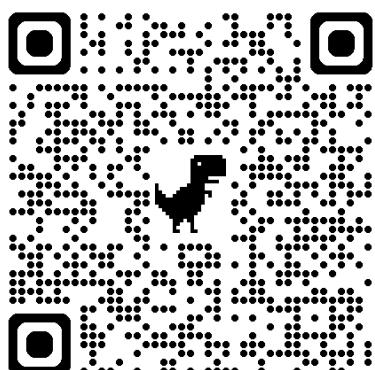
Classes will take place at St. Thomas More: 505 W St. Thomas More Way Spokane, WA 99208

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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Mass at 8:30 (optional)

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