



**ST.  
FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

February 11th , 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY**



**Ash Wednesday Schedule**

**St Patricks 11:55am**

**St Francis Xavier 5:30pm**

**St Thomas More**

7:30am, 9:00am, 4:30pm , 7:00pm

**Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes**

7:00am, 12pm, 5:30pm

**Mary Queen**

9:00am, 5:30pm



Though the divine mysteries whereby our Savior wrought our redemption have been consummated, yet are we still sinners: and where there is sin, there must be expiation.

The apostles, therefore, legislated for our weakness by instituting, at the very commencement of the Christian Church, that the solemnity of Easter should be preceded by a universal fast; and it was only natural that they should have made this period of penance to consist of forty days, seeing that our divine Master had consecrated that number by His own fast. St. Jerome, St. Leo the Great, St. Cyril of Alexandria, St. Isidore of Seville, and others of the holy fathers, assure us that Lent was instituted by the apostles, although, at the commencement, there was not any uniform way of observing it....

“The observance of Lent is the very badge of the Christian warfare. By it we prove ourselves not to be enemies of the cross of Christ. By it we avert the scourges of divine justice. By it we gain strength against the princes of darkness, for it shields us with heavenly help. Should mankind grow remiss in their observance of Lent, it would be a detriment to God’s glory, a disgrace to the Catholic religion, and a danger to Christian souls. Neither can it be doubted that such negligence would become the source of misery to the world, of public calamity, and of private woe” [*Encyclical Non ambigimus, Pope Benedict XIV*].

## Made Clean : Reflection on the sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the Old Testament, leprosy is depicted as punishment for disobedience of God's commands (see Numbers 12:12–15; 2 Kings 5:27; 15:5).

Considered “unclean”—unfit to worship or live with the Israelites, lepers are considered “stillborn,” the living dead (see Numbers 12:12). Indeed, the requirements imposed on lepers in today's First Reading—rent garments, shaven head, covered beard—are signs of death, penance, and mourning (see Leviticus 10:6; Ezekiel 24:17).

So there's more to the story in today's Gospel than a miraculous healing.

When Elisha, invoking God's name, healed the leper, Naaman, it proved there was a prophet in Israel (see 2 Kings 5:8). Today's healing reveals Jesus as far more than a great prophet—He is God visiting His people (see Luke 7:16).

Only God can cure leprosy and cleanse from sin (see 2 Kings 5:7), and only God has the power to bring about what He wills (see Isaiah 55:11; Wisdom 12:18).

The Gospel scene has an almost sacramental quality about it.

Jesus stretches out His hand—as God, by His outstretched arm, performed mighty deeds to save the Israelites (see Exodus 14:6; Acts 4:30). His ritual sign is accompanied by a divine word (“Be made clean”). And, like God's word in creation (“Let there be”), Jesus' word “does” what He commands (see Psalm 33:9).

The same thing happens when we show ourselves to the priest in the sacrament of penance. On our knees like the leper, we confess our sins to the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm. And through the outstretched arm and divine word spoken by His priest, the Lord takes away the guilt of our sin.

Like the leper we should rejoice in the Lord and spread the good news of His mercy. We should testify to our healing by living changed lives. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we should do even the littlest things for the glory of God and that others may be saved.

*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](http://sfxspokane.org) or at [facebook.com/sfxspokane](https://www.facebook.com/sfxspokane)

Our Mailing Address is:

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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 12TH

5:30pm Mass

*Peter Schmitt for the repose of his soul*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

8:00am , Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Religious*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

8:00am , Mass *Joseph, Pierre, and Julie Nguyen*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



PARISH EVENTS & NOTIFICATIONS

Organ Project Fundraising

The church website now has a page for the organ project and pictures of work to this point.

5 New ranks (sets of Pipes) are playing this weekend.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of giving.



Happy 100th Birthday

This is a shout out to **Mildred** (Millie) **Crawford** who turned 100 on February 9th.

"On this special day, we ask God to shower you with His abundant blessings. May He fill your heart with joy, your life with love, and your days with laughter.

May you experience His grace and favor in all that you do. Happy birthday, and may you enjoy a year filled with blessings and abundance!"

"A Special Thank you to all who helped us take down the Christmas decorations! We could not do it without you, and your kind support.

May God bless you and reward you for your good efforts!"



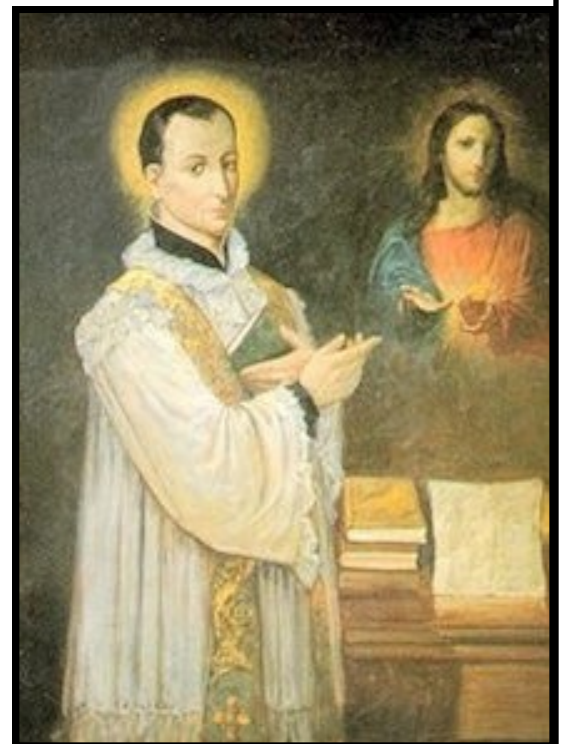
## St. Claude de la Colombiere, Priest

Born in 1641, St. Claude entered the Society of Jesus in Lyons, France, and gained widespread fame as an orator and educator in Paris. He had great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and, on a visit to the Visitation convent in Paray-le-Monial, met St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and learned of the vision she had been privileged to receive. He spent eighteen months at Paray-le-Monial acting as her spiritual director and encouraging her to spread the devotion as she had been commanded by our Lord.

Father Claude himself became a zealous apostle of the devotion to the Sacred Heart, regarding it as the means of revitalizing the Faith among the people. He continued to promote the devotion when he was sent to London to preach to the Duchess of York, and succeeded in converting the Duke of York as well as other Protestants. Because of the intense hostility against Catholics at the time, his efforts earned a death sentence.

Father Claude received a commutation of his death sentence and returned to France in ill health. He died at Paray-le-Monial in 1682. He was beatified in 1929 by Pope Pius XI and canonized on May 31, 1992, by Pope John Paul II.

**PRAYER:** Lord, our God, You spoke to St. Claude in the depths of his heart that he might bear witness to Your boundless love. May his gifts of grace illumine and comfort Your Church. Amen.





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