



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

February 13th, 2022

*In Thee, O Lord, have I put my  
hope. Let me never be confounded.*  
- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

## 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

Today we will discuss the time of *Pre-Lent*, known in the old Calendar as *Septuagesima*— 70 days. The time of Septuagesima comprises the three weeks immediately preceding Lent. It is divided into three parts, each part corresponding to a week: the first is called Septuagesima; the second, Sexagesima; the third, Quinquagesima.

The function of Septuagesima is to prepare us for the Lenten fast and to point our minds toward the sacrifices which Christ made on our behalf. In the words of Dom Prosper Guerganger: *The Word was made Flesh in order that he might dwell among us. A glory, far greater than that of his Birth awaits him, and we are to share it with him. The Church advises us to prepare for the Lenten Penance by employing these three weeks in considering the deep wounds caused in our souls by sin. Our Jesus is the Victim of the divine justice, and since it is for us that he is to be sacrificed, we should at once set ourselves to consider, what are the debts we have contracted towards that infinite Justice, which is about to punish the Innocent One instead of us the guilty.* Therefore, we can see that the intention of these three weeks is to reflect upon our weaknesses and sins, and to conduct a thorough examination of conscience so as to be effectively prepared for the penitential fast of Lent.

This prelude to the holy season of Lent was not known in the earliest ages of Christianity: its institution would seem to have originated in the Greek Church. It would appear that this tradition was also observed in the Latin Church by the pontificate of St. Gregory the Great, who preached on the significance of reconciliation for the three Sundays preceding Lent.

Peter of Blois, who lived in the 12th century, tells us what was the practice in his days. He says: *All Religious begin the Fast of Lent at Septuagesima; the Greeks, at Sexagesima; the Clergy, at Quinquagesima; and the rest of Christians, who form the Church militant on earth, begin their Lent on the Wednesday following Quinquagesima.* The exact times of the fasting have changed over the centuries, and by the 15th century, the Clergy, both secular and religious, began the Lenten Fast on Ash Wednesday. This is the timing for the fast in both the current Roman Calendar and in the 1962 Roman Calendar.

Let us take this time to reflect on the ways in which we have sinned, and on how our defects of character have contributed to both the suffering in the world, and to humanity's deep need for the sacrifice and salvation of Christ, our Lord.



## A COMMENTARY FOR 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### RICH IN POVERTY

The blessings and woes we hear in today's Gospel mark the perfection of all the wisdom of the Old Testament.

That wisdom is summed up with marvelous symmetry in today's First Reading and Psalm: Each declares that the righteous—those who hope in the Lord and delight in His Law—will prosper like a tree planted near living waters. The wicked, who put their “trust in human beings,” are cursed to wither and die.

Jesus is saying the same thing in the Gospel. The rich and poor are, for Him, more than members of literal economic classes. Their material state symbolizes their spiritual state.

The rich are “the insolent” of today's Psalm, boasting of their self-sufficiency, the strength of their flesh, as Jeremiah says in the First Reading. The poor are the humble, who put all their hope and trust in the Lord.

We've already seen today's dramatic imagery of reversal in Mary's Magnificat. There, too, the rich are cast down while the hungry are filled and the lowly exalted (see Luke 1:45–55, also 16:19–31).

That's the upside-down world of the Gospel: in poverty, we gain spiritual treasure unimaginable; in suffering and even dying “on account of the Son of Man,” we find everlasting life.

The promises of the Old Testament were promises of power and prosperity—in the here and now. The promise of the New Covenant is joy and true freedom even amid the misery and toil of this life.

But not only that. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we're to be pitied if our hope is “for this life only.”

The blessings of God mean that we'll laugh with the thanksgiving of captives released from exile (see Psalm 126:1–2), feast at the heavenly table of the Lord (see Psalm 107:3–9), “leap for joy” as John the Baptist leapt in his mother's womb (see Luke 6:23; 1:41, 44), and rise with Christ, “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

- 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, Elvira Colistro, Rose Zinkgraf, Bella Mally, Jane Soars, Eleanor Finley, Susan Fisher, Gerri Allen, Peggy Cloke, Kathy McCarthy, Christopher Pitner, Ken Keyes, Wayne Anderson, 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

8am – Daily Mass followed by Confessions  
(**St. Patrick**)

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, Extraordinary Form  
(**St. Francis Xavier**)

12:30pm – Holy Mass, Extraordinary Form  
(**St. Francis Xavier**)

*On most Sundays, Confessions are heard during the  
11am Holy Mass*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

School Mass for Chesterton Academy is open to the  
public, and is celebrated at St. Patrick's Monday  
through Friday at 12:00 p.m.

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.

Please contact Jackie Silvey for prayer requests.  
She can be reached at (509) 483-3109

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:  
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)

**Our office is open on Saturdays  
from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

## THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

### MONDAY, FEB. 14TH

Latin Mass, 5:30 p.m. *Harry Lewis +*

### TUESDAY, FEB. 15TH

Latin Mass, 8:00 a.m., *Abigail Nurvic*

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16TH

Confessions, 4:30 p.m.

English Mass, 5:30 p.m. *Seminarians*

### THURSDAY, FEB. 17TH

English Mass, 8:00 a.m. *Seminarians*

### SATURDAY, FEB. 19TH

Confessions, 3:00 p.m.

English Mass, 4:00 p.m. *Ethan Dasbiell*

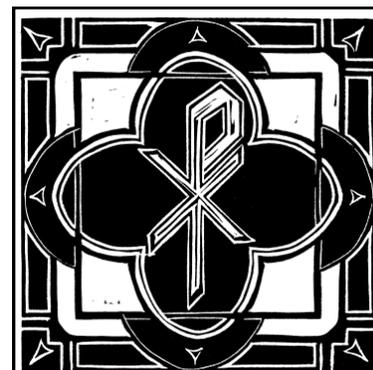
### SUNDAY, FEB. 20TH

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME &  
SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

English Mass, 7:30 a.m. *Pro Populo*

Latin Mass, 11:00 a.m. *Poor Souls*

Latin Mass, 12:30 p.m. *Private Intention*



## PARISH EVENTS & NOTIFICATIONS

### YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Northside Youth Ministry is hosting a Laser Tag event for all 6th-12th graders at LaserMaxx downtown from 8:30-11pm on Sunday, February 20th. Cost is \$30 and registration can be found on St. Thomas More's Youth Group page or by visiting ncymspokane.com and clicking the laser tag poster. Also, our annual high school conference is coming up! CYC is Saturday, March 5th. All information can be found through the Diocese's youth page. Students must register with a youth group. Contact JJ Nazzaro at "jnazzaro@dioceseofspokane.org" for the sign up process.

### LOVE AND RESPONSIBILITY

All young adults in their 20s and 30s are welcomed to join a reading group on St. John Paul II's 'Love and Responsibility'. Weekly discussions will explore the Catholic understanding of human sexuality through the words of St. John Paul II. To join and receive updates, please contact Evan Schmittgen: emschmittgen@gmail.com or 614-598-4378

### BEATRICE CO-OPERATIVE ACADEMY

Beatrice Co-Operative Academy is a home education community looking for amateurs (lovers of arts) and students wanting to develop via Classical Studies. We have a weekly Mass emphasizing the Source and Summit of our Faith, followed by a study of the Great Souls of the Saints; with a community, brown-bag lunch.

We are ready to expand to other activities of enrichment in classic arts and handicrafts. Let us know if you would like to serve by sharing your talent and passion, or if you are a family looking for such a community. Please contact Michael d'Esterre, at beatriceacademy@gmail.com or 509-903-3315

### MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY

If you desire consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, please contact the sisters at 487-3963.

Every Friday evening at St. Patrick's from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., the sisters pray for our families and friends who are not in full communion with the Catholic church and no longer practicing their Catholic faith. Please join us.

### MONASTERY ICONS

It has been brought to the attention of the parish that a company called "Monastery Icons", which produces and sells Greek-style icons of western saints, is in fact owned the holding company of a Hindu Ashram.

Given the danger of venerating objects which may be tainted by idolatry, if you have purchased items from this company, please turn them over to Fr. Semple so that they may be destroyed.

### MEALS ON WHEELS

Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels needs drivers county wide, this need is particularly desperate in the north and central areas of the City of Spokane. As a Meals on Wheels volunteer, you are delivering much more than a hot meal - you are providing a human connection. A typical volunteer route takes about an hour to an hour and a half to complete. For many of our home-bound neighbors, A MOW volunteer will be the only person they will see or speak with all day. If you have an hour or two a week, month, or something in between to spare, please consider being a volunteer. Please contact Donna Ennis, our Volunteer Coordinator at 509-924-6976 for more information or apply on our website at <https://gscmealsonwheels.org/volunteer/>

### NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

NFP uses the physical signs placed by God within each woman's body to identify when pregnancy can occur. Monthly classes for three months. Tuition \$95.00 for the series. Classes are currently conducted virtually. Contact the Women's Health Center: 509-474-2400



## SELECTIONS FROM THE *IMITATION OF CHRIST*, BY THOMAS KEMPIS

### ACQUIRING PATIENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CONCUPISCENCE

THE VOICE OF THE CHRIST:

MY CHILD, he who attempts to escape obeying withdraws himself from grace. Likewise he who seeks private benefits for himself loses those which are common to all. He who does not submit himself freely and willingly to his superior, shows that his flesh is not yet perfectly obedient but that it often rebels and murmurs against him.

Learn quickly, then, to submit yourself to your superior if you wish to conquer your own flesh. For the exterior enemy is more quickly overcome if the inner man is not laid waste. There is no more troublesome, no worse enemy of the soul than you yourself, if you are not in harmony with the spirit. It is absolutely necessary that you conceive a true contempt for yourself if you wish to be victorious over flesh and blood.

Because you still love yourself too inordinately, you are afraid to resign yourself wholly to the will of others. Is it such a great matter if you, who are but dust and nothingness, subject yourself to man for the sake of God, when I, the All-Powerful, the Most High, Who created all things out of nothing, humbly subjected Myself to man for your sake? I became the most humble and the lowest of all men that you might overcome your pride with My humility.

Learn to obey, you who are but dust! Learn to humble yourself, you who are but earth and clay, and bow down under the foot of every man! Learn to break your own will, to submit to all subjection! Be zealous against yourself! Allow no pride to dwell in you, but prove yourself so humble and lowly that all may walk over you and trample upon you as dust in the streets!

What have you, vain man, to complain of? What answer can you make, vile sinner, to those who accuse you, you who have so often offended God and so many times deserved hell? But My eye has spared you because your soul was precious in My sight, so that you might know My love and always be thankful for My benefits, so that you might give yourself continually to true subjection and humility, and might patiently endure contempt.

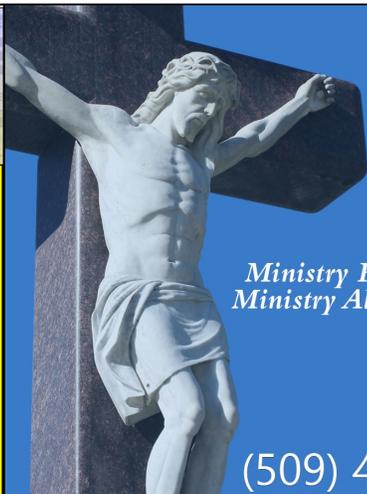




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