



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

February 16th , 2025

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



**SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY**

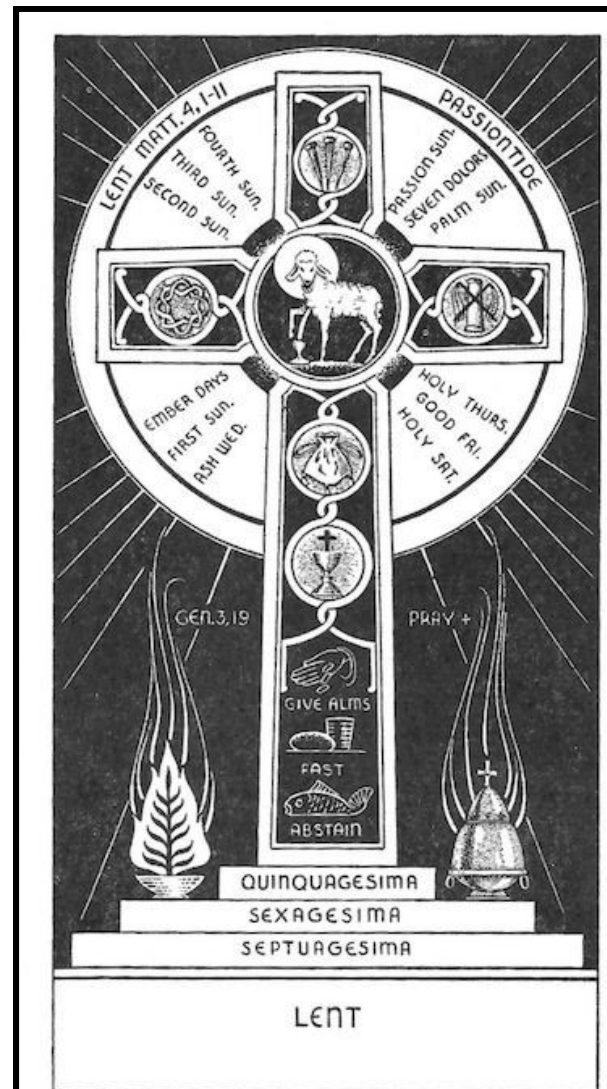
St. Paul tells us that this world is a race, wherein all must run; but that they alone win the prize, who run well. Let us, therefore, rid ourselves of everything that could impede us, and make us lose our crown. Let us not deceive ourselves: we are never sure, until we reach the goal. Is our conversion 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.

*Commentary from The Liturgical Year by*

*Dom Prosper Guéranger O.S.B. (1805-1875)*



## **Rich in Poverty: Reflection on The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

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:** 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)

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

5:30pm, Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

8:00am, Mass *Family Avila*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Family Avila*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

8:00am, Mass *Vocations*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



## 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**

## Women of St Francis Xavier

In an effort to cultivate more community at St Francis Xavier, the women of the parish have formed the group: the “Women of St X”.

All women - retired, widowed, single and married - are invited to join.

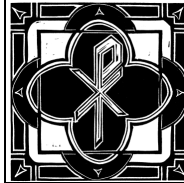
### Activities and volunteer possibilities include:

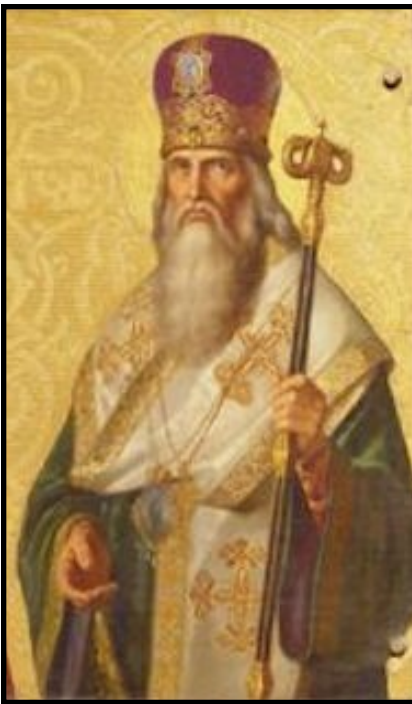
- Contributing to food prep for after mass socials during the warm months
  - Organizing parish picnics + potlucks
- Organizing + providing food for catechesis nights for children and adults
  - Formation of Bible studies + small groups
  - Corporal works of mercy for the sick and elderly
  - Other misc. needs of the parish

If you are interested in taking an active role in creating a vibrant parish community, please email **women.of.st.x@gmail.com**.



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# Stations of the Cross

AND LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS  
5:30pm at Mary Queen - Hillyard

St. Francis Xavier and St. Patrick are joining Mary Queen to bring this Lenten tradition to all our families.

Each parish will take turns volunteering to bring soup. Please see the dates and sign up in the vestibule to bring a meatless soup to share. From a different parish? Bring your favorite soup and join us!



**March 7**

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

**March 14**

ST. PATRICK

**March 21**

MARY QUEEN

**March 28**

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

**April 4**

ST. PATRICK



Questions? Email [women.of.st.x@gmail.com](mailto:women.of.st.x@gmail.com)



## St. Tarasius, Bishop February 18th



St. Tarasius was a subject of the Byzantine Empire. He was raised to the highest honors in the Empire as Consul, and later became first secretary to the Emperor Constantine and his mother, Irene. On being elected Patriarch of Constantinople, he consented to accept the dignity offered to him only on condition that a General Council should be summoned to resolve the disputes concerning the veneration of sacred images, for Constantinople had been separated from the Holy See on account of the war between the Emperors.

The Council was held in the Church of the Holy Apostles at Constantinople in 786; it met again the following year at Nicaea and its decrees were approved by the Pope.

The holy Patriarch incurred the enmity of the Emperor by his persistent refusal to sanction his divorce from his lawful wife. He witnessed the death of Constantine, which was occasioned by his own mother; he beheld the reign and the downfall of Irene and the usurpation of Nicephorus.

St. Tarasius's whole life in the episcopacy was one of penance and prayer, and of hard labor to reform his clergy and people. He occupied the See of Constantinople twenty-one years and two months. His charity toward the poor was one of the characteristic virtues of his life. He visited in person all the houses and hospitals in Constantinople, so that no indigent person might be overlooked in the distribution of alms. This saintly Bishop was called to his eternal reward in 806.

**PRAYER:** God, Light and Shepherd of souls. You established St. Tarasius as Bishop in Your Church to feed Your flock by his word and form it by his example. Help us through his intercession to keep the Faith he taught by his word and follow the way he showed by his example. **Amen.**

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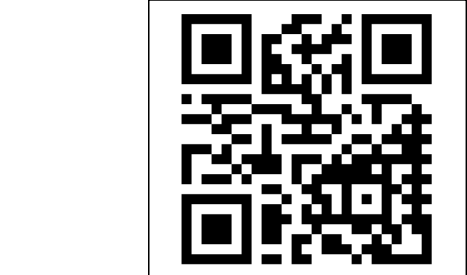

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# Are You Prepared? End of Life Workshop

Planning for Your Spiritual & Corporal Needs  
 Saturday, March 15 • 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
 Mass at 8:30 (optional)  
 St. Charles Parish  
 4515 N. Alberta St., Spokane, WA 99205

**NO CHARGE**

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Please RSVP to (509)467-5496 or [bernadettep@holycrossofspokane.org](mailto:bernadettep@holycrossofspokane.org)



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