



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

February 27th, 2022

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

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

On this Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, all over the world, Catholics are going to be praying and fasting. It is a powerful day to ask for God's forgiveness and for the salvations of Souls. On Ash Wednesday, Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick's at 7:00am, and here at St. Francis Xavier at 5:30pm.

This Lenten season it is our hope in the parishes to emphasize the importance of repentance, and the vehicles which Christ has given us to alleviate our sins, penance and indulgences. To begin, we will examine the role of repentance through an examination of the "ashes" used in penitential practices. As a gesture of repentance, ashes make a frequent appearances in the Old testament.

In the Book of Job, after indulging in theological discourses insulting to the Lord, Job states to the Lord "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" expressing his sorrow over the folly he and his friends had engaged in. In the book of the prophet Jeremiah, he admonishes Israel to repent with the following words: "O my poor people, put on sackcloth, and roll in ashes; make mourning as for an only child, most bitter lamentation." In the first book of Maccabees, the Jewish zealots preparing to take Jerusalem "fasted that day, put on sackcloth and sprinkled ashes on their heads, and tore their clothes." In perhaps the most powerful example, from the book of Jonah, that prophet admonishes the Ninevites to repent of their sins. When news of this preaching reaches the King of Nineveh, "he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes."

It is clear that ashes are part of a strong tradition in Hebrew mystical practice, and their use is spoken of by Jesus himself. In the 11th chapter of Matthew's Gospel, when admonishing the faithlessness of certain Galilean towns, Jesus states "if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."

The use of ashes in Christian tradition echoes these expressions of repentance. When we receive a cross on our foreheads (or a sprinkling of ashes, as is done in most non-English speaking countries), we are echoing these traditions of public repentance. It is a statement of our sinfulness, our imperfection, and our fragility in the face of the almighty. The formula "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return", taken from the third chapter of Genesis, is an explicit reminder of this fact. The Lord speaks those words to Adam and Eve after the first sin, and our use of these words in the liturgy is meant to reinforce our understanding of our sinfulness, and prepare us to enter fully into Lenten observances.

Finally, a short refresher of the Lenten restrictions which we are called to observe. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence, and all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence. On days of abstinence, all Catholics over the age of 14 are *required* to abstain from meat. On days of fasting, Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are *required* to limit consumption to one full meal, and two smaller meals whose combined size is equal to or lesser than one full meal. Additionally, we are *strongly recommended* to practice fasting on all other weekdays of Lent, to give generously to those causes which aid the poor of the world, and to engage in spiritual reading and practices of self-denial.

A COMMENTARY FOR 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HEART AND MOUTH

In today's readings we hear Jesus speaking in Galilee as well as a Jewish sage named Sirach writing in Jerusalem more than a century earlier. The two of them touch upon a single truth: The words that come out of us make known the hidden thoughts within us. Speech reveals the secrets of the heart.

Sirach teaches that speaking is "the test of men" and their character. One who is upright will utter words that are truthful and encouraging to others. But one whose heart is cluttered with "refuse" will be exposed, since the "fruit" of his mouth speaks volumes about the "tree" that produces it. Sirach also compares the testing of our words to clay fired in a kiln—if properly prepared, a useful vessel emerges; but if the clay is not fully dried, it will break apart in the extreme heat.

In a similar way, Jesus insists that a person speaks "out of the abundance of the heart." He too compares our speech, whether good or bad, to what grows on a tree: "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit."

Both readings urge us to make wholesome speech a habit. After all, much about who we are is brought to light through what we say. But there's an additional step: The Lord is asking us to look inward, to examine our hearts and fill them with the "good treasure" that God desires.

Why do purity of heart and speech matter so much? Because, as Jesus declares elsewhere: "by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:37). They matter because they help to decide our final judgment, and this is where the Second Reading comes in. Paul reminds us that God will destroy death forever, and if we are to share in this victory and live forever with the Lord, then we must take all steps necessary to give our hearts and lips to what is good.

- 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 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

Office Email: 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. 28TH

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

TUESDAY, MAR. 1ST

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

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 2ND

ASH WEDNESDAY

Confessions, 4:30 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, MAR. 3RD

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

FRIDAY, MAR. 4TH

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

English Mass & Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAR. 5TH

Confessions, 3:00 p.m.

English Mass, 4:00 p.m. *Lilley Family*

SUNDAY, MAR. 6TH

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

NORTHSIDE CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

Weekly youth group ministry is back on for the school year.

High School meets on Tuesdays from 6:30-8pm at the St. Charles Youth Room. Middle School on meets on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm at the St. Thomas More gym.

Visit "ncymspokane.com" for more details, or contact the Youth Ministry Coordinator, JJ Nazzaro, at "jnazzaro@dioceseofspokane.org"

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.

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

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 homebound 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/>

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

FUNERAL FOR JOE NGUYEN

Many of you know Joe Nguyen, a longtime parishioner in the parishes. Joe's funeral services will be at St. Francis of Assisi on the 22nd Vigil: 2/21 at 7:00 p.m.

Funeral: 2/22 at 11:00 a.m.

Committal: 2/22 at 1:00 p.m., Holy Cross

A potluck reception will be held at St. Francis of Assisi between the Mass and the Committal.

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

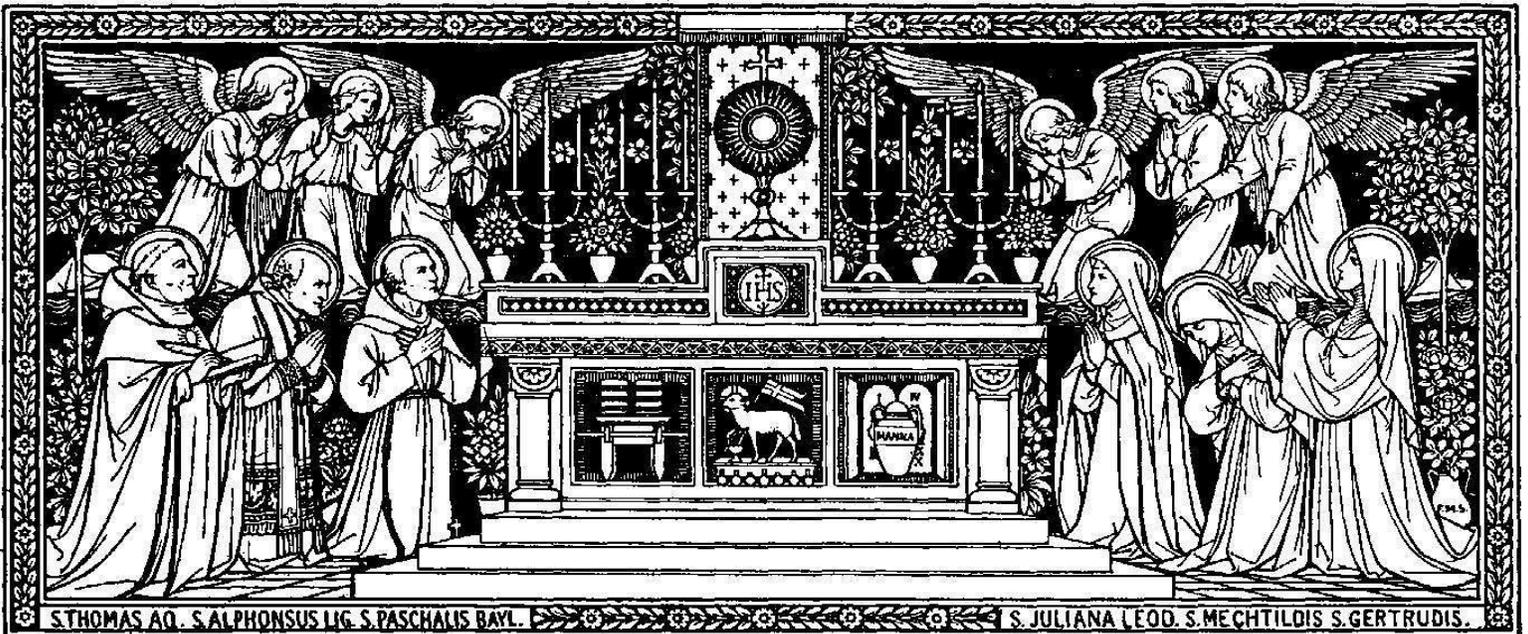
TRUE COMFORT IS TO BE SOUGHT IN GOD ALONE

THE VOICE OF THE DISCIPLE:

WHATEVER I can desire or imagine for my own comfort I look for not here but hereafter. For if I alone should have all the world's comforts and could enjoy all its delights, it is certain that they could not long endure. Therefore, my soul, you cannot enjoy full consolation or perfect delight except in God, the Consoler of the poor and the Helper of the humble. Wait a little, my soul, wait for the divine promise and you will have an abundance of all good things in heaven. If you desire these present things too much, you will lose those which are everlasting and heavenly. Use temporal things but desire eternal things. You cannot be satisfied with any temporal goods because you were not created to enjoy them.

Even if you possessed all created things you could not be happy and blessed; for in God, Who created all these things, your whole blessedness and happiness consists -- not indeed such happiness as is seen and praised by lovers of the world, but such as that for which the good and faithful servants of Christ wait, and of which the spiritual and pure of heart, whose conversation is in heaven, sometime have a foretaste.

Vain and brief is all human consolation. But that which is received inwardly from the Truth is blessed and true. The devout man carries his Consoler, Jesus, everywhere with him, and he says to Him: "Be with me, Lord Jesus, in every place and at all times. Let this be my consolation, to be willing to forego all human comforting. And if Your consolation be wanting to me, let Your will and just trial of me be my greatest comfort. For You will not always be angry, nor will You threaten forever."





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Planning for Your Spiritual & Corporal Needs

Saturday, March 12 • 8:30am – Noon

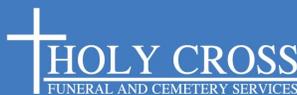
St. Peter Catholic Parish

(3520 E 18th Avenue, Spokane)

NO CHARGE

Join us for Mass with Rev. Lucas Tomson at 8:30, followed by this informative workshop at 9:15 on preplanning for the end of life. Refreshments provided.

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Please RSVP to (509)467-5496 or bernadettep@holycrossofspokane.org



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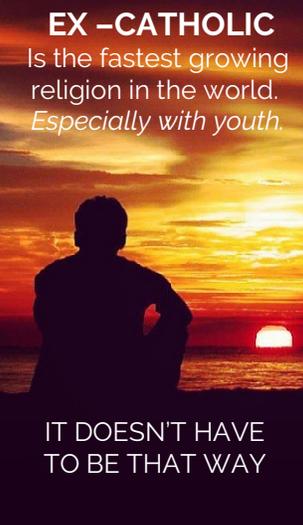


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