



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

March 3rd, 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

The Third Sunday of Lent is called Oculi, from the first word of the Introit. In the primitive Church, it was called Scrutiny-Sunday, because it was on this day that they began to examine the Catechumens, who were to be admitted to Baptism on Easter night. All the Faithful were invited to assemble in the Church, in order that they might bear testimony to the good life and morals of the candidates.

The holy Church gave us, as the subject of our meditation for the first Sunday of Lent, the Temptation which our Lord Jesus Christ deigned to suffer in the Desert. Her object was to enlighten us with regard to our own temptations, and teach us how to conquer them. To-day, she wishes to complete her instruction on the power and stratagems of our invisible enemies; and for this she reads to us a passage from the Gospel of St. Luke. During Lent, the Christian ought to repair the past, and provide for the future; but he can neither understand how it was he fell, nor defend himself against a relapse, unless he have correct ideas as to the nature of the dangers which have hitherto proved fatal, and are again threatening him. Hence, the ancient Liturgists would have us consider it as a proof of the maternal watchfulness of the Church, that she should have again proposed such a subject to us. As we shall find, it is the basis of all to-day's instructions.



Spiritual Sacrifice : Reflection on the Third Sunday of Lent

Jesus does not come to destroy the temple, but to fulfill it (see Matthew 5:17)—to reveal its true purpose in God’s saving plan.

He is the Lord the prophets said would come—to purify the temple, banish the merchants, and make it a house of prayer for all peoples (see Zechariah 14:21; Malachi 3:1–5; Isaiah 56:7).

The God who made the heavens and the earth, who brought Israel out of slavery, does not dwell in sanctuaries made by human hands (see Acts 7:48; 2 Samuel 7:5).

Nor does He need offerings of oxen, sheep, or doves (see Psalm 50:7–13).

Notice in today’s First Reading that God did not originally command animal sacrifices—only that Israel heed His commandments (see Jeremiah 7:21–23; Amos 5:25).

His law was a gift of divine wisdom, as we sing in today’s Psalm. It was a law of love (see Matthew 22:36–40), perfectly expressed in Christ’s self-offering on the Cross (see John 15:13).

This is the “sign” Jesus offers in the Gospel today—the sign that caused Jewish leaders to stumble, as Paul tells us in the Epistle.

Jesus’ body—destroyed on the Cross and raised up three days later—is the new and true sanctuary. From the temple of His body, rivers of living water flow, the Spirit of grace that makes each of us a temple (see 1 Corinthians 3:16) and together builds us into a dwelling place of God (see Ephesians 2:22).

In the Eucharist we participate in His offering of His body and blood. This is the worship in Spirit and in truth that the Father desires (see John 4:23–24).

We are to offer praise as our sacrifice (see Psalm 50:14, 23). This means imitating Christ—offering our bodies—all our intentions and actions in every circumstance, for the love of God and the love of others (see Hebrews 10:5–7; Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5).

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 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

Office Hours.

Tuesday, Thursday 9am-12pm.

Wednesday 9am-11am

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, MARCH 4TH

5:30pm Mass *Peter Schmitt*

TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH

8:00am , Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Forgotten Souls in Purgatory*

THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH

8:00am , Mass *Vocations*

SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH

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.

Online List of Organ ranks for adoption with sound samples, and info on how to give are **coming soon.**

I want to finish the positif division and do a full tuning first.

We are now in Lent, so the organ will be silent on Sundays, with the exception of Laetare Sunday March 10th.



Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity and the friends who died with them at Carthage are in a special class among the primitive Martyrs since we possess authentic detailed records that give us a vivid picture of their experiences and personalities. There is a diary of St. Perpetua herself, a page by another martyr, and a concluding account by a first-hand witness who is thought to have been Tertullian.

St. Perpetua was a twenty-two-years-old noble lady of Carthage with a baby son and St. Felicity was a married slave who was pregnant. They were arrested under the anti-Christian edict of 202 along with three fellow Christians, Saturninus, Secundulus, and Revocatus. All had been converted by a layman, Saturus, who joined them voluntarily in the dungeon in which they were imprisoned for refusing to sacrifice to the gods.

St. Perpetua yielded her nursing child to her pagan father but remained firm in her Faith in spite of his pleas. St. Felicity gave birth to a child in prison and also remained steadfast in the Faith when the child was taken from her.

The Martyrs were condemned to death and mauled by beasts in the amphitheater before finally being beheaded in the year 203. So shaken was the executioner by St. Perpetua's commanding aristocratic appearance that she herself had to guide his blade to her neck.

Their martyrdom became known throughout the Church—St. Augustine preached in their honor at least three times. Sts. Perpetua and Felicity are mentioned in the Roman Canon.

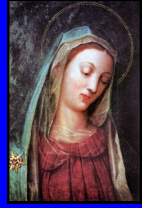
PRAYER: God, inspired by Your love, Sts. Perpetua and Felicity were able to disregard persecution and overcome the torment of death. Aided by their prayers, may we make constant progress in our love for You. **Amen.**



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Are You Prepared?

End of Life Workshop

Planning for Your Spiritual & Corporal Needs

Saturday, April 13 • 9:00 a.m. – Noon
St. Joseph Cemetery Chapel

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