



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

March 10th, 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Easter Schedule on the Announcement page of the Insert.

This Sunday, called, from the first word of the Introit, Laetare Sunday, is one of the most solemn of the year. The Church interrupts her Lenten mournfulness; the chants of the Mass speak of nothing but joy and consolation; the Organ, which has been silent during the preceding three Sundays, now gives forth its melodious voice; the Deacon resumes his Dalmatic, and the Subdeacon his Tunic; and instead of purple, Rose-coloured Vestments are allowed to be used. These same rites were practised in Advent, on the third Sunday, called Gaudete. The Church's motive for introducing this expression of joy in to-day's Liturgy, is to encourage her Children to persevere fervently to the end of this holy Season. The real Mid-Lent was last Thursday, as we have already observed; but the Church, fearing lest the joy might lead to some infringement on the spirit of penance, has deferred her own notice of it to this Sunday, when she not only permits, but even bids, her children to rejoice!

We now come to the explanation of another name given to the Fourth Sunday of Lent, which was suggested by the Gospel of the day. We find this Sunday called in several ancient documents, the Sunday of the Five Loaves. The miracle alluded to in this title not only forms an essential portion of the Church's instructions during Lent, but it is also an additional element of to-day's joy. We forget for an instant the coming Passion of the Son of God, to give our attention to the greatest of the benefits he has bestowed on us; for under the figure of these Loaves multiplied by the power of Jesus, our Faith sees that Bread which came down from heaven, and given life to the world'[St. John, vi. 33]. The Pasch, says our Evangelist, was near at hand; and, in a few days, our Lord will say to us: With desire I have desired to eat this Pasch with you [St. Luke, xxii. 15]. Before leaving this world to go to his Father, Jesus desires to feed the multitude that follows him; and in order to this, he displays his omnipotence.



Continued on Last Page...

Living in the Light : Reflection on the Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history—God’s covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai.

In today’s First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God’s final Old Testament covenant—the covenant with David (see 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89:3).

His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today’s Psalm.

But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple (see Isaiah 44:28–45:1, 4).

God is rich in mercy, as today’s Epistle teaches. He promised that David’s kingdom would last forever, that David’s son would be His Son and rule all nations (see 2 Samuel 7:14–15; Psalm 2:7–9). In Jesus, God keeps that promise (see Revelation 22:16).

Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation (see Wisdom 16:6–7; Numbers 21:9). Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to Himself (see John 12:32).

Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father’s love condemn themselves—as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves.

But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God’s handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth.

Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One (see John 19:37) and rededicate ourselves to living the “good works” that God has prepared us for.

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 11TH

5:30pm Mass *Peter Schmitt*

TUESDAY, MARCH 12TH

8:00am , Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Religious*

THURSDAY, MARCH 14TH

8:00am , Mass *Vocations*

SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH

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.



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday March 28th **6pm** St Francis Xavier

Good Friday March 29th **6pm** St Francis Xavier

Holy Saturday March 30th **7:30pm** St Francis Xavier

Easter Sunday March 31st

Holy Mass **7:30am** St Francis Xavier

Holy Mass **9:00am** St Patricks

Holy Mass **11:00am** St Francis Xavier



Continued from cover...

Well may we admire that creative power, which feeds five thousand men with five loaves and two fishes, and in such wise, that even after all have partaken of the feast as much as they would, there remain fragments enough to fill twelve baskets. Such a miracle is, indeed, an evident proof of Jesus' mission; but he intends it as a preparation for something far more wonderful; he intends it as a figure and a pledge of what he is soon to do, not merely once or twice, but every day, even to the end of time; not only for five thousand men, but for the countless multitudes of believers. Think of the millions, who, this very year, are to partake of the banquet of the Pasch; and yet, He whom we have seen born in Bethlehem, (the House of Bread,) He is to be the nourishment of all these guests; neither will the Divine Bread fail. We are to feast as did our fathers before us; and the generations that are to follow us, shall be invited as we now are, to come and taste how sweet is the Lord [Ps. xxxiii. 9].

But observe, it is in a desert place, (as we learn from St. Matthew, [St. Matth, xiv. 13]) that Jesus feeds these men, who represent us Christians. They have quitted the bustle and noise of cities in order to follow him. So anxious are they to hear his words, that they fear neither hunger nor fatigue; and their courage is rewarded. A like recompense will crown our labours, - our fasting and abstinence, - which are now more than half over. Let us, then, rejoice, and spend this day with the light-heartedness of pilgrims, who are near the end of their journey. The happy moment is advancing, when our soul, united and filled with her God, will look back with pleasure on the fatigues of the body, which, together with our heart's compunction, have merited for her a place at the Divine Banquet.

From: THE LITURGICAL YEAR BY THE VERY REV. DOM PROSPER GUÉRANGER, ABBOT OF SOLESMES

St. Louise de Marillac, Widow March 15th

St. Louise de Marillac was born on August 15, 1591. In 1613, she married Antoine le Grass, who died thirteen years later, leaving Louise with a young son. She became a nun, and in 1625 chose St. Vincent de Paul, then known as Monsieur Vincent, as her spiritual director.

With the help of Monsieur Vincent, Louise established the Daughters of Charity, Servants of the Sick Poor, dedicated to the corporal and spiritual service of the poor in their homes. She died in 1660, and was canonized in 1934 by Pope Pius XI.

PRAYER: *God, You inspired St. Louise to strive for perfect charity and so attain Your Kingdom at the end of her pilgrimage on earth. Strengthen us through her intercession in the way of love. Amen.*





March 28 • 4 pm - March 30 • 1 pm
Men's and Women's Holy Week Retreat
 The Triduum in Light of the Holy Year of Prayer:
 Praying the Three Days of the Pascal Mystery with Fr. Roger Keeler

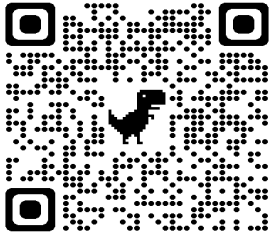
ihrc.net/events
(509) 448-1224

Individuals: \$240, Couples: \$395 (includes lodging & 5 meals)
 Commuter: \$200 (includes up to 5 meals)

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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

(17825 E. Trent Ave., Spokane Valley, WA 99216)

NO CHARGE

Join us for this informative workshop and learn how to preplan for the end of life.

Light refreshments provided.

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

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