



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

March 20th, 2022

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

To continue our discourse on repentance, we now turn to the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Sin is before all else an offense against God, who is perfect justice.

Sin is rupture of communion with God, which at the same time damages communion with the Church. For this reason conversion entails both God's forgiveness and reconciliation with the Church, which are expressed and accomplished liturgically by the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Only God forgives sins. Since he is the Son of God, Jesus says of himself, "The Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" and exercises this divine power: "Your sins are forgiven." Further, by virtue of His divine authority he gives this power to men to exercise in His name.

Christ has willed that in her prayer and life and action, His whole Church should be the sign and instrument of the forgiveness which He acquired for us at the price of His blood. But He entrusted the exercise of the power of absolution to the apostolic ministry. The apostles were sent out "on behalf of Christ" with "God making His appeal" through them and pleading, "be reconciled to God."

During his public life, Jesus not only forgave sins, but also made plain the effect of this forgiveness: He reintegrated forgiven sinners into the community of the People of God from which sin had alienated or even excluded them. A remarkable sign of this is that Jesus received sinners at His table, a gesture that expresses in a profound way both God's forgiveness and the return to the bosom of the people of God. In this way, we are enjoined to remember that penance and reconciliation are necessary to return to a state of acceptance, both with the Church and with God. *Reconciliation with the Church is inseparable from reconciliation with God.*



Over the centuries, the concrete form in which the Church has exercised this power has varied considerably. In the earliest centuries, penances were undertaken publicly, and sometimes of the course of several years before a penitent was readmitted to communion. In the 7th century, Irish monks inspired by the Eastern monastic tradition brought to continental Europe the practice of "private" penance, which continues as the norm today.

The confession of sins, even from a simply human point of view, frees us and facilitates our reconciliation with others. Through such an admission man looks squarely at the wrongs he has done, takes responsibility for them, and thereby opens himself again to God and to the communion of the Church in order to make a new future possible.

A COMMENTARY FOR 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

FRUITS OF THE FIG

In the Church, we are made children of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God who makes known His name and His ways to Moses in today’s First Reading.

Mindful of His covenant with Abraham (see Exodus 2:24), God came down to rescue His people from the slave drivers of Egypt. Faithful to that same covenant (see Luke 1:54–55, 72–73), He sent Jesus to redeem all lives from destruction, as today’s Psalm tells us.

Paul says in today’s Epistle that God’s saving deeds in the Exodus were written down for the Church, intended as a prelude and foreshadowing of our own Baptism by water, our liberation from sin, our feeding with spiritual food and drink.

Yet the events of the Exodus were also given as a “warning”—that being children of Abraham is no guarantee that we will reach the promised land of our salvation.

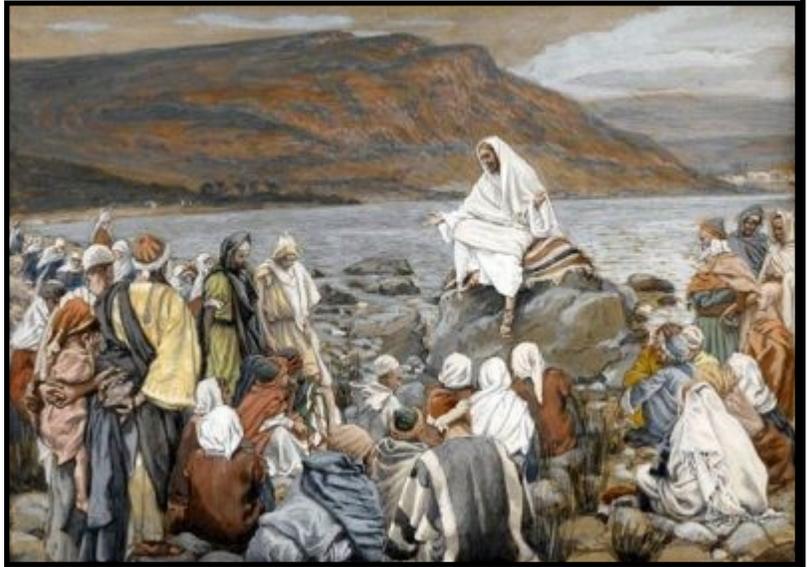
At any moment, Jesus warns in today’s Gospel, we could perish, not as God’s punishment for being “greater sinners” but because, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we stumble into evil desires, fall into grumbling, forget all His benefits.

Jesus calls us today to “repentance”—not a one-time change of heart, but an ongoing, daily transformation of our lives. We’re called to live the life we sing about in today’s Psalm, blessing His holy name, giving thanks for His kindness and mercy.

The fig tree in His parable is a familiar Old Testament symbol for Israel (see Jeremiah 8:3; 24:1–10). As the fig tree is given one last season to produce fruit before it is cut down, so too Jesus is giving Israel one final opportunity to bear good fruits as evidence of its repentance (see Luke 3:8).

Lent should be for us like the season of reprieve given to the fig tree, a grace period in which we let “the gardener,” Christ, cultivate our hearts, uprooting what chokes the divine life in us, strengthening us to bear fruits that will last into eternity.

- 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, Rose Zinkgraf, Bella Mally, Jane Soars, Eleanor Finley, Susan Fisher, Gerri Allen, Peggy Cloke, Kathy McCarthy, 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**)

9:00am – Holy Mass, Extraordinary Form
(**St. Francis Xavier**)

11:00am – Holy Mass, Extraordinary Form
(**St. Francis Xavier**)

*On most Sundays, Confessions are heard during the
9am & 11am Holy Masses*

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

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, MAR. 21ST

Latin Mass, 5:30 p.m. *Cools Family*

TUESDAY, MAR. 22ND

Latin Mass, 8:00 a.m., *Cools Family*

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 23RD

Confessions, 4:30 p.m.

English Mass, 5:30 p.m. *Larry Pitner*

THURSDAY, MAR. 24TH

English Mass, 8:00 a.m. *Christopher Pitner +*

FRIDAY, MAR. 25TH

Stations of the Cross, 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAR. 26TH

Confessions, 3:00 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, MAR. 27TH

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE)

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

Latin Low Mass, 9:00 a.m. *Poor Souls*

Latin Sung Mass, 11:00 a.m. *Private Intention*



PARISH EVENTS & NOTIFICATIONS

EXTRAORDINARY FORM QUESTIONS

As interest grows in the Extraordinary Form Mass, we want to offer help for any who are confused about certain elements to the Mass, or who require help in navigating the Missal. If you ever have questions, please feel free to contact Miles in the parish office.

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.

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"

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/>

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

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

St. Francis Xavier and St Patrick parishes are signed up to pray outside of the Spokane Planned Parenthood at 123 E Indiana Ave every Tuesday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. during the Spring 40 Days for Life campaign. Those days are March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5. Everyone is welcome to join us, even if only for part of the time. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring your rosary.

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

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

GRADUALE ROMANUM, THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

FOR USE AT VIGIL MASS

Exsurge Domine, non Praevaleat homo:
Judicentur gentes in conspectu tuo
In convertendo inimicum meum retrorum
Infirmabuntur, et peribunt a facie tua

Arise, O Lord, let not man be strengthened
Let the Gentiles be judged in your sight
When my enemy shall be turned back
They shall be weakened and perish before
your face



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JOURNEY
THAT
MOVES US
TOWARD
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St. Thomas More Parish

(515 W. St. Thomas More Way, Spokane, WA 99208)

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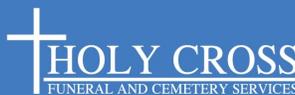
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