



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

April 14th, 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER ≈ SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**

**“I know Mine, and Mine know Me.”**

This Sunday goes under the name Good Shepherd Sunday, because in the Mass there is read the Gospel of St. John, wherein our Lord calls himself by this name. How very appropriate is this passage of this Gospel to the present season, when our divine Master began his work of establishing and consolidating the Church, by giving it the pastor, or shepherd, who was to govern it to the end of time!

In accordance with the eternal decree, the Man-God, on the fortieth day after his Resurrection, is to withdraw his visible presence from the world. He is not to be seen again upon the earth until the last day, when he will come again to judge the living and the dead. And yet he could never abandon mankind, for which he offered himself on the Cross, and delivered from death and hell by rising triumphantly from the grave. He will continue to be its Head after his Ascension into heaven: but what shall we have on earth to supply his place? We shall have the Church.

It is to the Church that he will leave all his own authority to rule us; it is into the hands of the Church that he will entrust all the truths he has taught; it is the Church that he will make the dispenser of all those means of salvation which he has destined for the world. This Church is a society, unto which all mankind is invited. It is composed of two classes of members; the governing and the governed; the teaching and the taught; the sanctifying and the sanctified. This society is the Spouse of Christ; it is by her that he produces his elect. She is the one only Mother of the elect; out of her bosom there is no salvation.

**Continued on the last page....**



## Understanding the Scriptures : Reflection for the Third Sunday of Easter

Jesus in today's Gospel teaches His apostles how to interpret the Scriptures.

He tells them that all the Scriptures of what we now call the Old Testament refer to Him. He says that all the promises found in the Old Testament have been fulfilled in His Passion, death, and Resurrection. And He tells them that these Scriptures foretell the mission of the Church—to preach forgiveness of sins to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

In today's First Reading and Epistle, we see the beginnings of that mission. And we see the apostles interpreting the Scriptures as Jesus taught them to.

God has brought to fulfillment what He announced beforehand in all the prophets, Peter preaches. His sermon is shot through with Old Testament images. He evokes Moses and the Exodus, in which

God revealed himself as the ancestral God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (see Exodus 3:6, 15). He identifies Jesus as Isaiah's suffering servant who has been glorified (see Isaiah 52:13).

John, too, describes Jesus in Old Testament terms. Alluding to how Israel's priests offered blood sacrifices to atone for the people's sins (see Leviticus 16; Hebrews 9–10), he says that Jesus intercedes for us before God (see Romans 8:34), and that His blood is a sacrificial expiation for the sins of the world (see 1 John 1:7).

Notice that in all three readings, the Scriptures are interpreted to serve and advance the Church's mission—to reveal the truth about Jesus, to bring people to repentance, the wiping away of sins, and the perfection of their love for God.

This is how we, too, should hear the Scriptures. Not to know more “about” Jesus, but to truly know Him personally, and to know His plan for our lives.

In the Scriptures, the light of His face shines upon us, as we sing in today's Psalm. We know the wonders He has done throughout history. And we have the confidence to call to Him, and to know that He hears and answers.

*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](http://sfxspokane.org) or at [facebook.com/sfxspokane](https://www.facebook.com/sfxspokane)

Our Mailing Address is:

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Office Hours.

Tuesday—Thursday 9am-12pm.

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, APRIL 15TH

5:30pm Mass *Pro Populo*

TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH

8:00am , Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Religious*

THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH

8:00am , Mass *Poor Souls in Purgatory*

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, APRIL 21ST

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



## Volunteers Needed

**Ushers:** Help collect Offering and count attendance at the your Mass.

**Altar Flowers:** Would you like to provide flowers to add beauty to the altar? It can be for just one time, or on the regular schedule.

**Please let the office know if you would like to volunteer or need more information.**

## 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 see the girls in the back with the email signup sheets + clipboards after mass on 4/14, 4/21, & 4/28 or email [women.of.st.x@gmail.com](mailto:women.of.st.x@gmail.com).

## Continued From Cover

But how is this society to subsist? How is it to persevere through the long ages of time, even to the last day? Who is to give it unity and adhesion of its parts? What is to be the visible link between its members—the palpable sign of its being the true Spouse of Christ, in the event of other societies rising up and disputing her titles? If Jesus himself could have remained with us we should have had nothing to fear, for where he is, there also are truth and life; but, as he says, he is going, and we may not as yet follow him. Give ear, then, and learn what is the primary quality of the true Spouse of Christ.

Jesus was one day, previous to his Passion, in the country of Cæsarea Philippi, his Apostles standing around him, and he began questioning them about what they thought of him. One of them, Simon the son of John or Jonas, and brother to Andrew, answered in the name of all, and said: Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God! Jesus expressed his pleasure at receiving Simon's testimony, which was not the result of any human knowledge, but the expression of a divine revelation there and then granted to him; and he immediately told this Apostle that from that time forward he was to be, not Simon, but Peter (which means a rock). Christ had been spoken of by the prophets under the name of a Rock, or Stone [Is. 28:16]; by thus solemnly conferring upon his disciple a title so characteristically that of the Messiah, Jesus would give us to understand that Simon was to have something in common with Himself which the other Apostles were not to have. After saying to him: Thou art Peter (that is, thou art the rock), he added: And upon this rock I will build my Church. Let us weigh the force of these words of the Son of God. He has a project in view: he intends to build a Church. It is not now that he will build it, but at some future period; but one thing we already know as a certainty—that this Church will be built on Peter.

That future is now become the present. We are come to the last days of Jesus' visible presence here below. The time is come for him to make good his promise, and found the kingdom of God—that Church which he was to build upon the earth.... He suddenly addresses himself to Peter: Simon, son of John, lovest thou me? Peter, with his usual eagerness, answers his Master's question: Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus resumes, with a tone of authority: Feed my lambs ... Feed my lambs ... Feed my sheep!

Here, then, we have Peter made shepherd by him who says of himself: I am the good Shepherd. Firstly, our Lord gives his Apostle, twice over, the care of his lambs; this does not make him the complete shepherd: but when he bids him feed his sheep too, the whole flock is subjected to his authority. Now, therefore, let the Church show herself, let her take her stand, let her spread herself through the length and breadth of the nations; Simon, the son of John, is proclaimed its visible head.





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