



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

April 16th, 2023

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER—DIVINE MERCY

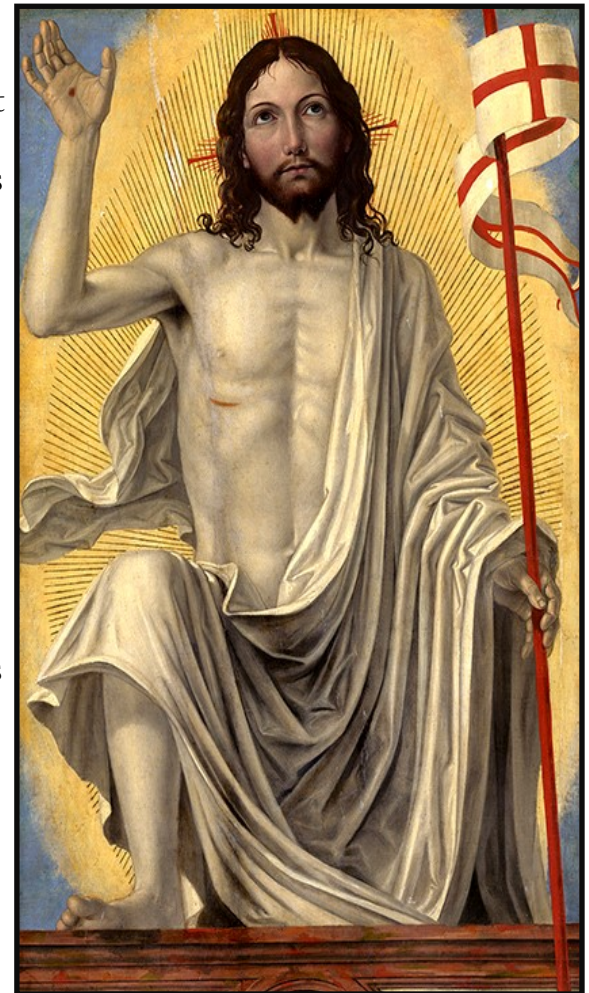
Today, for Divine Mercy Sunday, please turn your attention to this passage on mercy from the theologian Dietrich von Hildebrand's 1948 work *Transformation in Christ*.

"Mercy thrives in the souls of those alone who visualize everything in *conspetu Dei*; who, in full awareness, measure everything by supernatural standards. It also presupposes an inward suppleness and fluidity; a thoroughly melted, quickened, liberated heart. Every inward scar, as it were—every "hardening," every "incrustation" brought about by an experience we have failed to rectify before God—dams up the flux of mercy. Nay, the path of mercy is thwarted by every kind of inner unfreedom: by our bondage, for example, to anxiety or to disgust; to the rancor evoked in us by an insult; and in general to every over-emphatic preoccupation. For everything that stunts our freedom tends to make us self-conscious and to deprive us of the capacity, implied in mercy, of taking our stand "above the situation." He alone who has attained the supernatural sovereignty that results from true freedom and that is reserved for those who seek only the kingdom of God and His justice, who expects nothing of his own forces but everything of God — he alone can participate in the specifically divine virtue of mercy."

Pay special attention to von Hildebrand's injunction against a "hardened" heart. This phrase recurs in countless variations throughout the Old and New Testaments, e.g. "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity" (Proverbs, 28:13-14) or "And Jesus ... said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened?" (Mark, 8:17).

In both of those passages, we see the damage that can be done by the internal spiritual blockages that we inflict upon ourselves, and how these blockages deny us Christ's boundless mercy. Proverbs demonstrates the danger of holding onto our transgressions and defects, and the Gospel of Mark demonstrates that when we focus solely on our own concerns, we lose sight of the Kingdom of God.

If we wish to live in the Kingdom of God, we must orient ourselves properly to his mercy. Hostility, selfishness, dishonesty, and all forms of interior bondage will deny us the fruits which Christ has so freely, and at such great cost, given to us.



A COMMENTARY FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

HIS MERCY ENDURES

We are children of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. Through this wondrous sign of His great mercy, the Father of Jesus has given us new birth, as we hear in today's Epistle.

Today's First Reading sketches the "family life" of our first ancestors in the household of God (see 1 Peter 4:17). We see them doing what we still do—devoting themselves to the Apostles' teaching, meeting daily to pray and celebrate "the breaking of the bread."

The Apostles saw the Lord. He stood in their midst, He showed them His hands and sides. They heard His blessing and received His commission: to extend the Father's mercy to all peoples through the power and Spirit He conferred upon them.

We must walk by faith and not by sight—we must believe and love what we have not seen (see 2 Corinthians 5:7). Yet, the invisible realities are made present for us through the devotions the Apostles handed on.

Notice the experience of the risen Lord in today's Gospel is described in a way that evokes the Mass.

Both appearances take place on a Sunday. The Lord comes to be with His disciples. They rejoice, listen to His Word, and receive the gift of His forgiveness and peace. He offers His wounded body to them in remembrance of His Passion. And they know and worship Him as their Lord and their God.

Thomas' confession is a vow of faith in the new covenant. As promised long before, in the blood of Jesus we can now know the Lord as our God and be known as His people (see Hosea 2:20–25).

This confession is sung in the heavenly liturgy (see Revelation 4:11). And in every Mass on earth we renew our covenant and receive the blessings Jesus promised for those who have not seen but have believed.

In the Mass, God's mercy endures forever, as we sing in today's Psalm. This is the day the Lord has made—when the victory of Easter is again made wonderful in our eyes.

- 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, Daniel Lander, 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

Our office is open Tuesday-Thursday from 8:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, APRIL 17TH

5:30pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH

8:00am, Mass *Religious*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Eva Baillie*

THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH

8:00 am, Mass *Priests*

SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro populo*

SUNDAY, APRIL 22ND

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Poor Souls in Purgatory*



PARISH EVENTS & NOTIFICATIONS

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

The parish is in need of young men willing to train as acolytes. Some Latin comprehension, moral discipline, and a well kept appearance are required. Please email the office.

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE

The parish is looking for volunteers who would be interested in participating in the "Seven Sisters Apostolate." This Apostolate seeks to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed every day for the intention of the parish priest.

The Apostolate is for women, and involves a commitment of praying in the church one day a week. If you are interested, please contact Patty Parra at (509)993-2864.

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.

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

REMEMBER OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

We continue to distribute food through the Missionaries of Charity and Caritas services. Please leave your donations of nonperishable items by the doors of the church.

Diocesan news
to your inbox
every Friday

SCAN TO SIGN UP



SpokaneDiocese.flocknote.com/DiocesanUpdates



GRADUAL FOR VIGIL MASS

Alleluia, alleluia.

V. In die resurrectionis meae, dicit
Dominus, praecedam vos in Galilaeam.

Alleluia, alleluia

V. In the day of my resurrection saith the
Lord, I will go before you into Galilee

Saint Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church April 21st

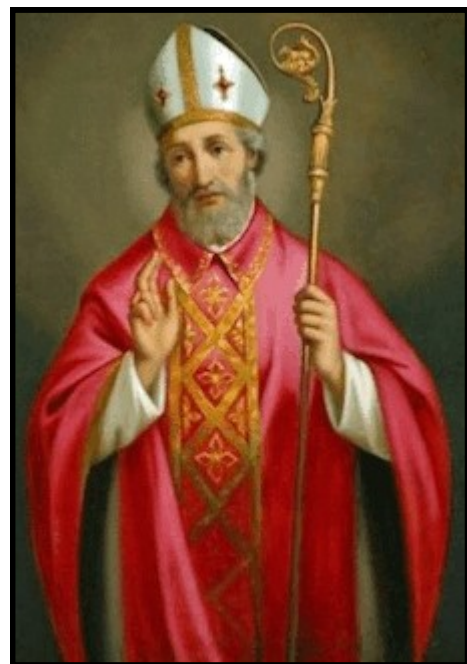
St. Anselm was born of noble parentage in Piedmont about the year 1033. At the age of twenty-seven, St. Anselm adopted the monastic state in the monastery of Bec, Studied under Lanfranc, and was made Prior in 1063 and Abbot in 1078.

Various voyages to England in the interest of his Abbey made St. Anselm known in that country, and in 1093 he succeeded his old master, Lanfranc, as Archbishop of Canterbury. His resistance to the unjust measures of King William Rufus drew upon him the anger of that monarch. In 1097-98, he made a voyage to Rome, and spend some time in a monastery of Calabria, where he composed a work on the Incarnation. In the same year he assisted at the Council of Bari, and by his prayers prevented the Pope from excommunicating the King of England.

During his travels the Saint composed several of his metaphysical works, and did not return to his See until after the death of King William Rufus in 1100. Differences with the new King caused him to undertake a second journey to Rome in 1103, and Pascal II upheld the authority of the Archbishop as his predecessor, Urban II, had done. He returned to England in 1106 and died in 1109.

St. Anselm was characterized by his spirit of recollection, which he preserved even in the most distracting occupations and by the metaphysical bent of his mind. His written works have deeply influenced Catholic Philosophy and Theology. In this field he is best known for his "Ontological Argument" for the existence of God. He was also a strenuous defender of the rights of the Church against the usurpation of kings.

PRAYER: God, You called St. Anselm, Your Bishop, to study and teach the sublime truths of Your Wisdom. Let Your gift of Faith come to the aid of our understanding and open our hearts to Your truth. Amen.





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