



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

April 21st, 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ≈ THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

O my Delight, Lord of all creatures and my God! How long must I languish for Your presence?
O tedious, O painful, O dying life! What lonely, hopeless solitude! When then, O Lord, when, when...
What shall I do, my sovereign Good. What shall I do? Must I desire not to desire You? Ah! my God
and Creator, You wound and do not heal; You strike but leave no wound; You kill to give more life!

“O Lord, my Creator, my anguish draws this complaint from me, making me speak of that for
which there is no remedy until You provide one. My soul is in a narrow prison: it longs for liberty, yet
would not move one slightest degree from
Your will. O my Glory, either increase my
pain or cure it altogether. “O death, in
you is life, and I know not why men dread
you! Yet who that has not always loved
God would not fear you? Since I am such
a one, what do I desire and ask? Will death
be the punishment which my faults have
deserved? Do not permit it, O my
Sovereign Good, for it cost you much
to redeem me!



“O my soul, submit to the will of your God; it is best for you. Serve Him and trust in His mercy; when
by penance you have won some little claim to pardon for your sins, He will ease your pain. Do not try to
rejoice until you have suffered. But, O my true King and Lord, I am incapable even of this, unless You
sustain me by Your power and majesty. With Your help, I can do all things.”

St. Teresa of Jesus, Exclamations of the Soul to God, 6.

Painting: Christ Resurrected Surrounded by Angels Sebastiano Ricci Italian (Venetian School), 1659–1734 c. 1712–1716

The Shepherds Voice :Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

Jesus, in today's Gospel, says that He is the good shepherd the prophets had promised to Israel.

He is the shepherd-prince, the new David—who frees people from bondage to sin and gathers them into one flock, the Church, under a new covenant, made in His blood (see Ezekiel 34:10–13, 23–31).

His flock includes other sheep, He says, far more than the dispersed children of Israel (see Isaiah 56:8; John 11:52). And He gave His Church the mission of shepherding all peoples to the Father.

In today's First Reading, we see the beginnings of that mission in the testimony of Peter, whom the Lord appointed shepherd of His Church (see John 21:15–17).

Peter tells Israel's leaders that the Psalm we sing today is a prophecy of their rejection and crucifixion of Christ. He tells the “builders” of Israel's temple that God has made the stone they rejected the cornerstone of a new spiritual temple, the Church (see Mark 12:10–13; 1 Peter 2:4–7).

Through the ministry of the Church, the shepherd still speaks (see Luke 10:16), and forgives sins (see John 20:23), and makes His body and blood present, that all may know Him in the breaking of the bread (see Luke 24:35). It is a mission that will continue until all the world is one flock under the one shepherd.

In laying down His life and taking it up again, Jesus made it possible for us to know God as He did—as sons and daughters of the Father who loves us. As we hear in today's Epistle, He calls us His children, as He called Israel His son when He led them out of Egypt and made His covenant with them (see Exodus 4:22–23; Revelation 21:7).

Today, let us listen for His voice as He speaks to us in the Scriptures, and vow again to be more faithful followers. And let us give thanks for the blessings He bestows from His altar.

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

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Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

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Office Hours.

Tuesday—Thursday 9am-12pm.

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, APRIL 22ND

5:30pm Mass *Forgotten Souls in Purgatory*

TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD

8:00am , Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *His Holiness Pope Francis*

THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH

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.

Refreshments will be served after the 11am Mass, on the lawn in front of the rectory.

Please let the Women of Saint Francis Xavier (info on the middle page) know if you would like to help with food or beverages.

St. George, Martyr April 23rd

St. George (flourished 3rd century—died, traditionally Lydda, Palestine [now Lod, Israel]; feast day April 23) was an early Christian martyr who during the Middle Ages became an ideal of martial valour and selflessness. He is the patron saint of England and of Georgia and is venerated as one of the 14 Auxiliary Saints (Holy Helpers).

Nothing of George's life or deeds can be established, but tradition holds that he was a Roman soldier and was tortured and decapitated under Diocletian's persecution of Christians in 303. His remains were taken to Lydda (now Lod, Israel), the homeland of his mother, and were later transferred to the church that was built in his name there. Various relics reportedly are housed in both Western and Eastern churches worldwide. St. George's Chapel of Windsor Castle, for example, is said to have once held two fingers, part of the heart, and part of the skull of the saint.

Legends about him as a warrior-saint, dating from the 6th century, became popular and increasingly extravagant. Jacob de Voragine's *Legenda aurea* (1265–66; *Golden Legend*) repeats the story of his rescuing a Libyan king's daughter from a dragon and then slaying the monster in return for a promise by the king's subjects to be baptized. It is a theme much represented in art, the saint frequently being depicted as a youth wearing knight's armour with a scarlet cross.

George was known in England by at least the 8th century. Returning Crusaders likely popularized his cult (he was said to have been seen helping the Franks at the Battle of Antioch in 1098), but he was probably not recognized as England's patron saint until after King Edward III (reigned 1327–77) made him the patron of the newly founded Most Noble Order of the Garter. He was also adopted as protector of several other medieval powers, including Portugal, Genoa, and Venice.

PRAYER: Heroic Catholic soldier and defender of your Faith, you dared to criticize a tyrannical Emperor and were subjected to horrible torture. You could have occupied a high military position but you preferred to die for your Lord. Obtain for us the great grace of heroic Christian courage that should mark soldiers of Christ. Amen





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