



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

May 7th, 2023

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ 4TH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER



As we continue the Easter season, please reflect on this sermon from St. Alphonsus Ligouri, on the continuing importance of repentance, and the miserable state of those who relapse in sin.

I hope, my dear Christians, that, as Christ is risen, you have in this holy paschal time, gone to confession, and have risen from your sins. But, attend to what St. Jerome teaches: many begin well, but few persevere. Now, the Holy Spirit declares that he who perseveres in holiness to death, and not simply they who begin a good life, shall be saved: "But he that shall persevere to the end, he shall be saved." (Matt. 24:13.)

The crown of Paradise, says St. Bernard, is promised to those who commence, but it is given only to those who persevere. Since, brothers, you have resolved to give yourselves to God, listen to the admonition of the Holy Spirit: "Son, when thou comes to the service of God, stand in justice and in fear, and prepare thyself for temptation" (Eccl. 2:1). Do not imagine that you shall have no more

temptations, but prepare yourself for the combat, and guard against a relapse into the sins you have confessed; for, if you lose the grace of God again, you shall find it difficult to recover it.

Since, then, dearly beloved Christians, you have made a sincere confession of your sins, Jesus Christ says to you what he says to the paralytic: "Behold, thou art made whole. Sin no more, lest some worse thing happen to thee" (John 5:14). By the confessions which you have made your souls are healed, but not as yet saved; for, if you return to sin, you shall be again condemned to hell, and the injury caused by the relapse shall be far greater than that which you sustained from your former sins.

If a man recover from a mortal disease, and afterwards fall back into it, he shall have lost so much of his natural strength, that his recovery from the relapse will be impossible. This is precisely what will happen to relaxing sinners; returning to the disease, taking back into the soul the sickness vomited forth in confession, they shall be so weak, that they will become objects of amusement to the devil. St. Anselm says that the devil acquires a certain dominion over them, so that he makes them fall, and fall again as he wishes. Hence the miserable beings become like birds with which a child amuses himself. He allows them, from time to time, to fly to a certain height, and then draws them back again when he pleases, by means of a cord made fast to them. Such is the manner in which the devil treats relapsing sinners.

A COMMENTARY FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

BUILDING HIS HOUSE.

By His death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in His Father's house.

His Father's house is no longer a temple made by human hands. It is the spiritual house of the Church, built on the living stone of Christ's body.

As Peter interprets the Scriptures in today's Epistle, Jesus is the "stone" destined to be rejected by men but made the precious cornerstone of God's dwelling on earth (see Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14; 28:16).

Each of us is called to be a living stone in God's building (see 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16). In this edifice of the Spirit, we are to be "holy priests" offering up "spiritual sacrifices"—all our prayer, work and intentions—to God.

This is our lofty calling as Christians. This is why Christ led us out of the darkness of sin and death as Moses led the Israelites from bondage in Egypt.

God's covenant with Israel made them a royal and priestly people who were to announce His praises (see Exodus 19:6). By our faith in Christ's new covenant, we have been made heirs of this chosen race, called to glorify the Father in the temple of our bodies (see 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; Romans 12:1).

In today's First Reading, we see the spiritual house of the Church being built up as the Apostles consecrate seven deacons so they can devote themselves more fully to the "ministry of the Word."

The Lord's Word is upright and all His works trustworthy, we sing in today's Psalm. So we can trust Jesus when He tells us never to be troubled but to believe that His Word and works come from the Father.

His Word continues its work in the world through the Church. We see its beginnings today in Jerusalem. It is destined to spread with influence and power (see Acts 19:20) and to become the imperishable seed by which every heart is born anew (see 1 Peter 1:23).

- 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.

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Last night I was backstage at the Celine Dion concert in Vegas. Today I'm at a concert in my own living room and I have never been more moved.

– Jim Caviezel (The Count of Monte Cristo and Passion of the Christ)

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, MAY 8TH

5:30pm, Mass *Thomas Osten*

TUESDAY, MAY 9TH

8:00am Mass, *Thomas Osten*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH

4:30pm, Confessions

5:30pm, Mass

THURSDAY, MAY 11TH

8:00 am, Mass *Joshua Bassett*

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Religious*

SUNDAY, MAY 14TH

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

Alleluia, alleluia

V. *Dextera Dei fecit virtutem:
dextera Domini exaltavit me.*

V. The right hand of the Lord hath
wrought strength: the right hand of the
Lord hath exalted me.

Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs May 12th

We do not know much about Nereus and Achilleus except that they were among the first martyrs to be venerated as saints. It seems that both men were Roman soldiers who persecuted Christians until they themselves were converted to Christianity.

An epitaph written by Pope Damasus says the following: "Nereus and Achilleus the martyrs joined the army and carried out the cruel orders of the tyrant, obeying his will continually out of fear. Then came a miracle of faith. They suddenly gave up their savagery, they were converted, they fled the camp of their evil leader, throwing away their shields, armor, and bloody spears. Professing the faith of Christ, they are happy to witness to its triumph. From these words of Damasus understand what great deeds can be brought about by Christ's glory."

PRAYER: Lord, we honor Sts. Nereus and Achilleus for their courage in dying to profess their Faith in Christ. May we experience the help of their prayers at the throne of Your mercy. Amen.



We give thanks to God always for you all; making a remembrance of you in our prayers without ceasing, (1 Thessalonians 1:2)



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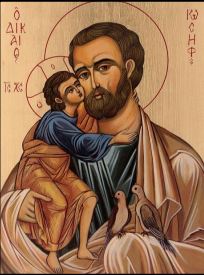
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