



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

June 25th, 2023

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today's Gospel reading for the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Mark's account of Jesus calming the storm, is one of the greatest, if briefest, miracles recounted in Mark's Gospel. While the winds and waters of the storm are crashing against their boat, the disciples fear for their lives, confused by the calm with which Christ faces their impending doom. After commanding the storm to cease, Christ delivers one of the greatest rebukes in all of scripture: "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Why are we afraid? In our confusing lives today, it is easy to forget that the fundamental root to many of our fears is a lack of faith. This connection is so fundamental that Christ offers no alternative cause to their fears; to our Savior, the relationship is absolute. We might have orthodoxy, we might have beautiful liturgies, strong and healthy families, unwavering convictions, and many other testaments to our faith. But if our faith is insufficient to conquer fear, that potent weapon of the enemy, we have much work to do.

And it is important to distinguish between the rational fears which are necessary to our survival, and the irrational fears which we inflict upon ourselves. It is natural for us to have a fear of hunger and thirst, violence and danger. But the hypothetical and speculative fears which we create for ourselves serve only to draw us away from the Son of God. He is with us here today, in His Holy Church, in the same manner that He was with the disciples.

The calming of the storm contains another vital detail, which can be easily overlooked. It was Christ who suggested that He and the disciples cross to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. In His infinite wisdom, the coming of the storm was known to Him; yet He still brought the disciples out into the sea. Perhaps the events we encounter today are also planned and known, perhaps Christ's unfathomable power can calm the storms of our lives, and perhaps the Savior's rebuke applies to our current interior lives.



A COMMENTARY FOR THE 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

BE NOT AFRAID

Our commitment to Christ will be put to the test.

We will hear whispered warnings and denunciations, as Jeremiah does in today's First Reading. Even so-called friends will try to trap and trip us up.

For His sake we will bear insults and be made outcasts—even in our own homes, we hear in today's Psalm.

As Jeremiah tells us, we must expect that God will challenge our faith in Him, and probe our minds and hearts, to test the depths of our love.

“Do not be afraid,” Jesus assures us three times in today's Gospel.

Though He may permit us to suffer for our faith, our Father will never forget or abandon us. As Jesus assures us today, everything unfolds in His providence, under His watchful gaze—even the falling of the tiniest sparrow to the ground. Each one of us is precious to Him.

Steadfast in this faith, we must resist the tactics of Satan. He is the enemy who seeks the ruin of our soul in Gehenna, or hell.

We are to seek God, as the Psalmist says. Zeal for the Lord's house, for the heavenly kingdom of the Father, should consume us, as it consumed Jesus (see John 2:17). As Jesus bore the insults of those who blasphemed God, so should we (see Romans 15:3).

By the gracious gift of Himself, Jesus bore the transgressions of the world, Paul tells us in today's Epistle. In rising from the dead, He has shown us that God rescues the life of the poor, that He does not spurn His own when they are in distress. In His great mercy, He will turn toward us, as well. He will deliver us from the power of the wicked.

That is why we proclaim His name from the housetops, as Jesus tells us. That is why we sing praise and offer thanksgiving in every Eucharist. We are confident in Jesus' promise—that we who declare our faith in Him before others will be remembered before our heavenly Father.

- 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

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, JUNE 26TH

5:30pm, Mass *Priests of the Diocese*

TUESDAY, JUNE 27TH

8:00am Mass, *Religious*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28TH

4:30pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Maud Barrett*

THURSDAY, JUNE 29TH

8:00am, Mass *Richard Barrett*

SATURDAY, JULY 1ST

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Religious*

SUNDAY, JULY 2ND

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.

COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS AFTER 11AM MASS

Anyone who wants to help set up and/or take down the folding chairs and tables, or provide the refreshments please call or email the office. We would like to involve as many people as we can to get this going strong so we can continue it as long as possible.

Thanks, Taylor



GRADUAL FOR VIGIL MASS

Convertere Domine aliquantulum, et deprecare super servos tuos.

V. Domine refugium factus es nobis, a generatione et progenie.

Turn back, O Lord, ever so slightly, we beseech you, and consent to be entreated by your servants.

V. O Lord, you have been unto us a refuge, from age to age.

Saint Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr

We know very little about the life of St. Irenaeus, who is one of the most important theologians of the 2nd century. He was born about 130 in Asia Minor and placed in the care of St. Polycarp, the disciple of St. John the Apostle, and Bishop of Smyrna. He studied in Rome and later became a priest of Lyons in Gaul. In 178, he succeeded St. Pothinus as Bishop of Lyons.

Through his preaching Irenaeus converted many to the faith, and his writing did much to combat the heresies that were rampant, especially, those of the Gnostics and Valentinians. His thought, overwhelmingly Biblical in inspiration, is at once simple, vigorous, and profound. Opposed to the dualism of Gnosticism, it is characterized by a single vision: universal recapitulation in Christ.

Irenaeus's principal works are: *Against Heresies* and *The Proof of the Apostolic Preaching*. Accordingly, he is regarded as a link between the East and West. He died a martyr in 202 during the persecution of Septimus Severus.

PRAYER: God, You enabled St. Irenaeus, Your Bishop, to strengthen the truth of faith and the peace of the Church. Through his intercession may we be renewed in faith and love, and always strive to foster unity and concord. Amen.





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