

July 30th, 2023



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

As our Lord wept over the doom of Israel's ancient Sanctuary He thought also of myriads of sinners everywhere for whom His coming and His Sacrifice would be, instead of a source of blessing, an occasion of greater condemnation. He thought as He looked down through His tears on the pride and beauty of the shrine that was soon to collapse in ruin, how many other centers of God's dwelling, how many souls that God's grace would build up into living Temples of the Holy Spirit, were to be overthrown and made desolate. As He thought of the Roman armies encircling Jerusalem and building up the "stifling" barricades round her walls, He could see also the cohorts of Satan's army—the forces of pride, sensuality and unbelief, beleaguering the shrines of God in the souls of men, and threatening them with ruin.

The fall of Jerusalem is a symbol of the lot of every soul that misses its hour, that knows not the time of God's visitation. The miracles, the teaching, the gracious words, the never-ceasing goodness of Christ, were all forgotten or disregarded by a city and a people which worldliness had stricken blind, and made foolish.

The brief outburst of acclamation round the Messianic King on Palm Sunday was quite forgotten amid the sneering at the unmasking of the alleged "charlatan" on Good Friday. And as Jesus wept over Jerusalem's blindness, so He wept also over the instability of so many Christians whose loyalty to Him would be as brief, and whose hostility towards Him would be as bitter as that of the children of Jerusalem. Jerusalem would be destroyed because she had not known the hour of God's visitation, the decisive hour of grace. To every soul is given such a time of grace—as to the Apostle Levi (Matthew), the tax collector Zacchaeus, the Woman of Samaria, the Sinner in the town, the Good Thief. On the use of the season of grace may depend eternity.

We cannot tell which of the many graces we receive is the most decisive. It may be a sermon, a confession, a mission; or it may be some misfortune, some family grief, or some problem of business. Let us pray that we never be blind to the mercies of God, and that we may be always ready to cooperate loyally with His Grace.



Commentary by Msgr. Patrick Boylan (1879-1974).

A COMMENTARY FOR THE 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TREASURES OF THE KINGDOM

What is your new life in Christ worth to you?

Do you love His words more than gold and silver, as we sing in today's Psalm? Would you, like the characters in the Gospel today, sell all that you have in order to possess the kingdom He promises to us? If God were to grant any wish, would you follow Solomon's example in today's First Reading—asking not for a long life or riches but for wisdom to know God's ways and to desire His will?

The background for today's Gospel, as it has been for the past several weeks, is the rejection of Jesus' preaching by Israel. The kingdom of heaven has come into their midst; yet, many cannot see that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises, a gift of divine compassion given so that they—and we—might live.

We, too, must ever discover the kingdom anew. We are called to find it as a treasure, a pearl of great price. By comparison with the kingdom, we must count all else as rubbish (see Philippians 3:8). And we must be willing to give up all that we have—all our priorities and plans—in order to gain it.

Jesus' Gospel discloses what Paul in today's Epistle calls the purpose of God's plan (see Ephesians 1:4): for Jesus be the firstborn of many brothers.

His words give understanding to the simple, the childlike. As Solomon does today, we must humble ourselves before God, giving ourselves to His service. Let our prayer be for an understanding heart, one that desires only to do His will.

We are called to love God, to delight in His law, and to forsake every false way. And we are to conform ourselves daily ever more closely to the image of His Son.

If we do this, we can approach His altar as a pleasing sacrifice, confident that all things work for the good—that we whom He has justified will also be glorified.

-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

Office Telephone: (509) 487-6363

Sacramental Emergencies: (509) 866-6098

Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

Office Email: office@sfxspokane.org

Our office will not have set hours till Taylors
Knee heals enough to drive.

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, JULY 31ST

5:30 pm, Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1ST

8:00am, Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2ND

4:30pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Priests*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3RD

8:00am, Mass *Pro populo*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4TH

5:30pm, First Friday Devotion

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Religious*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

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



PAX

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.

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.

Till my knee heals enough to drive there will not be scheduled office hours. Please leave a voice message or email, and I will respond as quickly as I can.

Coffee and Donuts will continue after 11am Mass if there are Volunteers to help, otherwise it will have to stop till I recover.

Thanks, Taylor

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



St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

August 1st

St. Alphonsus was born in the village of Marianella near Naples, Italy, September 27, 1696. At a tender age he was inspired by pious mother with the deepest sentiments of piety. The education he received under the auspices of his father, aided by his own intellect, produced in him such results that at the early age of sixteen he graduated in Law. Shortly after, he was admitted to the Neapolitan bar. In 1723, he lost a case, and God made use of his disappointment to wean his heart from the world. In spite of all opposition he now entered the ecclesiastical state. In 1726, he was ordained a priest. He exercised the ministry at various places with great fruit, zealously laboring for his own sanctification.

In 1732, God called the Saint to found the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, with the object of laboring for the salvation of the most abandoned souls. Amid untold difficulties and innumerable trials, St. Alphonsus succeeded in establishing his Congregation, which became his glory and crown, but also his cross. The holy founder labored incessantly at the work of the mission until, about 1756, he was appointed Bishop of St. Agatha, a diocese he governed until 1775, when, broken by age and infirmity, he resigned this office to retire his monastery where he died.

Few Saints labored as much, either by world or writing, as St. Alphonsus. He was a prolific and popular author, the utility of whose works will never cease. His last years were characterized by intense suffering, which he bore with resignation. His happy death occurred at Nocera de Pagani, August 1, 1871. He was canonized in 1839 by Pope Gregory XVI and declared Doctor of the Church in 1871 by Pope Pius IX.

PRAYER: God, You constantly introduce new examples of virtue in Your Church. Walking in the footsteps of St. Alphonsus Your Bishop, may we be consumed with zeal for souls and attain the rewards he has won in heaven. Amen.



Spiritus
A HOMESCHOOL MOM'S RETREAT



KEYNOTE SPEAKER EMILY BROWN
Life Coach for Catholic Homeschooling Mothers

Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral
Spokane, WA

September 30
9 - 3:30

Registration \$35



Sacraments Community Reflection Resources

