



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

August 13th, 2023

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ≈ 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Our merciful Lord, by this cure, aims not so much at showing the power of His divine word as at giving a glorious teaching to His followers. He wishes to reveal to them, under certain visible symbols, the invisible realities produced by His grace in the secret of the sacraments. It is for the sake of such teaching that the Gospel has mentioned such an apparently trifling detail as this—that when the deaf and dumb man was brought before Him, He took him apart—apart, so to say, from the multitude of the noisy passions and the vain thoughts which had made him deaf to heavenly truths. After all, would there be much good in curing him if the occasion of his malady were not removed, and he were to relapse perhaps that same day? So, then, having by this separation taken precautions for the future, Jesus inserts into the man's ears His own divine fingers which bring the Holy Ghost, and make to penetrate right to the ears of his heart the restorative power of this Spirit of love. And finally, more mysteriously, because the truth which was to be expressed is more profound, He touches with the saliva of His sacred mouth that tongue which had become incapable of giving glory and praise; and Wisdom (for it is she that is here mystically signified) — Wisdom, “that cometh forth from the mouth of the Most High,” and flows for us from the Savior's fountains as a life-giving drink — openeth the mouth of the dumb man, just as she maketh eloquent the tongues of speechless infants.

Therefore it is that the Church — in order to show us that the event recorded in today's Gospel is figurative, and regards not merely one individual man, but all of us — has prescribed that the circumstances which accompanied the cure of this deaf and dumb sufferer shall be expressed in the ceremonies of holy Baptism, in which the priest puts on the catechumen's tongue the salt of wisdom and touches his ears, saying: Ephpheta! that is, Be opened!



Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger (1805-1875).

A COMMENTARY FOR THE 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SINKING FEAR

How do we find God in the storms and struggles of our lives, in the trials we encounter in trying to do His will?

God commands Elijah in today's First Reading to stand on the mountain and await His passing by. And in the Gospel, Jesus makes the disciples set out across the waters to meet Him.

In each case, the Lord makes Himself present amid frightening tumult—heavy winds and high waves, fire and earthquakes.

Elijah hides his face. Perhaps he remembers Moses, who met God on the same mountain, also amid fire, thunder, and smoke (see Deuteronomy 4:10–15; Exodus 19:17–19). God told Moses no one could see His face and live, and He sheltered Moses in the hollow of a rock, as He shelters Elijah in a cave (see Exodus 33:18–23).

The disciples, likewise, are too terrified to look on the face of God. Today's Gospel is a revelation of Jesus' divine identity. Only God treads across the crest of the sea (see Job 9:8) and rules the raging waters (see Psalm 89:9–10). And the words of assurance that Jesus speaks—"It is I"—are those God used to identify Himself to Moses (see Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 43:10).

Even Peter is too overcome by fear to imitate his Lord. His fears, Jesus tells him, are a sign of his lack of faith. And so it often is with us. Our fears make us doubt, make it hard to see His glory dwelling in our midst.

Yet, we should know, as we sing in today's Psalm, that His salvation is near to those who hope in Him. By faith we should know, as Paul asserts in today's Epistle, that we are heirs to the promises made to His children, Israel.

We must trust that He whispers to us in the trials of our lives—that He who has called us to walk along the way of His steps—save us whenever we begin to sink.

-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, AUGUST 14TH

5:30 pm, Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15TH

5:30pm , Mass Assumption B.V.M

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16TH

4:30pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Priests*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17TH

8:00am, Mass *Pro populo*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Religious*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20TH

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.

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



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

August 16th St. Stephen, King

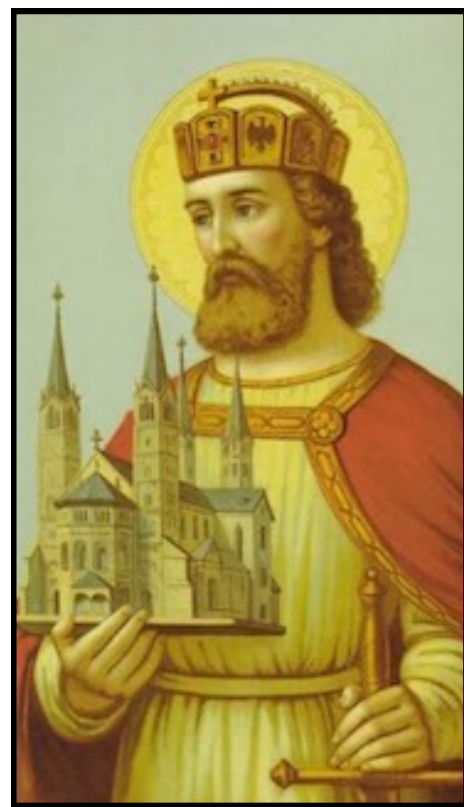
The son of Geysa, the fourth Duke of the Hungarians, and of Sarboth, his wife, who had both been recently to Christianity, St. Stephen was born in 977 at Gran, then the capital of Hungary. After a Christian education under the care of St. Adalbert, Bishop of Prague, and of Theodatus, a virtuous Italian Count, he succeeded his father upon the latter's death in 997.

The Saint established a solid peace with all neighboring nations and then turned his attention to rooting idolatry out of his country. His methods were those of persuasion and exhortation, but many of his subjects, on account of their attachment to the religion of their ancestors, rebelled and besieged their King in Vesprin. St. Stephen prepared himself for battle by fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, and though his forces were inferior in number to those of the rebels he nevertheless completely routed them.

The work of propagating the faith now went on with renewed vigor. Churches, monasteries, and Bishoprics were founded, and the King sent an embassy to Rome to obtain from Pope Sylvester II the confirmation of his foundations; and, in order to gratify the wish of his subjects, he also besought for himself the title of King. The request was granted, and the Pope sent a rich crown to the holy King. The prelate who brought the crown from Rome anointed and crowned St. Stephen King in the year 1000.

The devotion of St. Stephen toward the Blessed Virgin Mary was such that he placed all his dominions under her special patronage. In war, which he never undertook without necessity, he was always victorious, nor was he ever the aggressor. His time was divided between the duties of religion and those of his station; he kept his soul constantly recollected in God, and in the midst of the world he practiced great mortification and humility. He died August 15, 1038, and his cult was approved in 1083 by Pope Gregory VII.

PRAYER: *Almighty God, Your Church flourished through the efforts of St. Stephen when he reigned on earth. Grant that she may now be defended by him dwelling gloriously in heaven.*
Amen.





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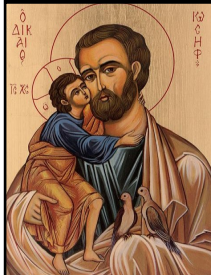
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