



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

August 17th, 2025

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Corinthians had consulted St. Paul about the relative value of the gifts of the Holy Spirit—the charisms—which were so marked a feature of the Corinthian Church. There was, apparently, a tendency at Corinth to regard the rather sensational gift of tongues—the gift of speaking in foreign languages which the speakers had not learned—as more important and desirable than other charisms. An attitude of comparing and classifying charisms had arisen which was leading to jealousies and feuds. St. Paul shows here that all the gifts have a single source, and that none of them has been given for the profit or advancement of any recipient of the gifts. They are all products of the Holy Spirit's activity, and they are given for the common good. It is foolish, therefore, for any individual to boast of his own charism, or to despise the possessors of other kinds.

In the Gospel, the manner and content of the Pharisee's prayer are an insult to God rather than an act of homage. What is it, then, in the Publican's prayer that makes it acceptable to God? His prayer is humble. His attitude is humble. He stands afar off: he will not raise up his eyes to heaven: he is bowed down by his sense of guilt and unworthiness before God. It is contrite. He strikes his breast in token of sorrow: he cries out of the depths of his grief, "God be merciful to me a sinner!" He does not remember his good deeds; he is mindful of his sins alone. It is full of confidence. It wells up from his heart: its very simplicity and earnestness betoken its confidence; the realization of God's gracious mercy which its words imply is the attitude of one who remembers that God will not despise a contrite and humble heart.

Here, then, in the prayer of the Publican, we have the model of every prayer of petition. It is not greatness, pride and worldly success that command the ear of God, but lowliness and humility. God resists the proud and gives His grace to the humble. When, then, we come to pray we must not think of our own virtues and our neighbor's defects. When we have done all that we are bound to do we must remember that we are still but useless servants.



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

Consuming Fire: Reflection on Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our God is a consuming fire, the Scriptures tell us (see Hebrews 12:29; Deuteronomy 4:24). And in this week's Gospel, Jesus uses the image of fire to describe the demands of discipleship.

The fire He has come to cast on the earth is the fire that He wants to blaze in each of our hearts. He made us from the dust of the earth (see Genesis 2:7) and filled us with the fire of the Holy Spirit in Baptism (see Luke 3:16).

We were baptized into His death (see Romans 6:3). This is the baptism our Lord speaks of in the Gospel this week. The baptism with which He must be baptized is His passion and death, by which He accomplished our redemption and sent forth the fire of the Spirit on the earth (see Acts 2:3).

The fire has been set, but it is not yet blazing. We are called to enter deeper into the consuming love of God. We must examine our consciences and our actions, submitting ourselves to the revealing fire of God's Word (see 1 Corinthians 3:13).

In our struggle against sin, we have not yet resisted to the point of shedding our own blood, Paul tells us in this week's Epistle. We have not undergone the suffering that Jeremiah suffers in the First Reading this week.

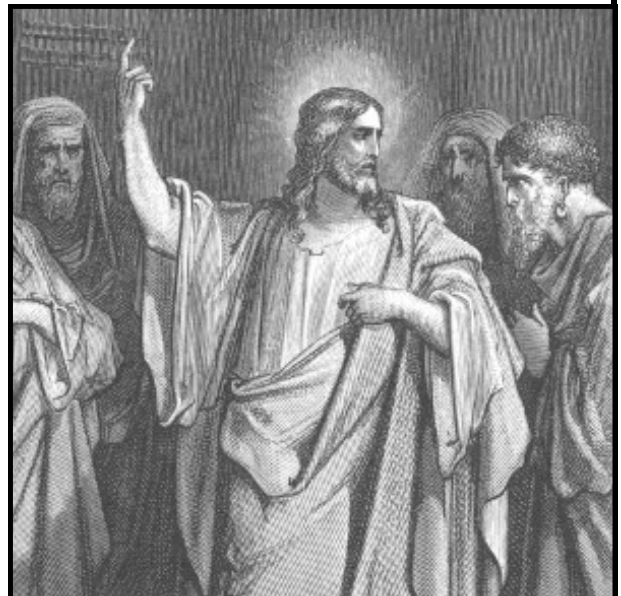
But this is what true discipleship requires. To be a disciple is to be inflamed with the love of the God. It is to have an unquenchable desire for holiness and zeal for the salvation of our brothers and sisters.

Being His disciple does not bring peace in the false way that the world proclaims peace (see Jeremiah 8:11). It means division and hardship. It may bring us to conflict with our own flesh and blood.

But Christ is our peace (see Ephesians 2:14). By His Cross He has lifted us up from the mire of sin and death—as He will rescue the prophet Jeremiah (see Jeremiah 38:10).

And as we sing in the Psalm this week, we trust in our deliverer.

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:** Bella Mally, Jim Moore, Jane Soars, 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**)

SFX DIRECTORY

Office Telephone: (509) 487-6363

Sacramental Emergencies: (509) 866-6098

Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

Office Email: office@sfxspokane.org

Office Hours.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, AUGUST 18TH

5:30pm Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19TH

8:00am Mass *Melissa Hart*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass *Rose Nguyen*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21ST

8:00am Mass *Priests in Purgatory*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD

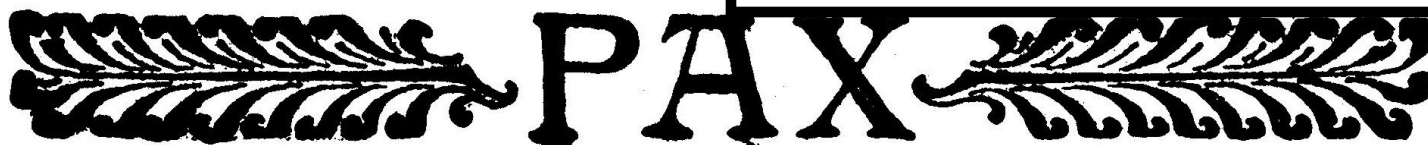
3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



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) 362-8646**

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.

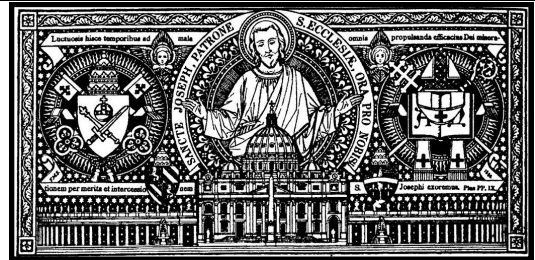
Activities and volunteer possibilities include:

- 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 email **women.of.st.x@gmail.com**.



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Pipe Organ fundraiser Adopt a Rank

Available now at our church website
sfxspokane.org, or in person by
appointment!!!

We still have Ranks in our Organ left to adopt each giving its own color and voice to the ensemble.

Under our Organ Fundraiser page you will find descriptions and recordings of all the Ranks in the Organ awaiting adoption.

St. Helena, August 18th

It is generally believed by ecclesiastical historians of England that St. Helena was born in that country, and according to Leland, she was the daughter of Coel, a British King who lived in friendship with the Romans. Constantius, at that time officer in the Roman army in Britain, married her. Constantine, his eldest son, received his education under her eyes.

In 293, Constantius was honored by the Empire with the title of Ceasar, obtaining the government of Gaul and Britain. In return for this honor he was obliged to divorce St. Helena and marry Theodora, the daughter-in-law of the Emperor Maximian. St. Helena was not at that time a Christian, but after the accession of her son Constantine and his miraculous victory, she embraced the Christian faith and the most heroic practiced of Christian perfection. Her dutiful son proclaimed her Empress and struck medals in her honor.

In spite of this new dignity St. Helena assisted with the people at the Divine Office in modest attire, and employed her wealth in charity to the poor and the building of churches. When the Emperor determined to erect a church on Mount Calvary, St. Helena, although eighty years of age, undertook to see the work executed, and started for Jerusalem hoping to find the Holy Cross. Excavations were made and three crosses were discovered. The title that lay near one of the crosses, and perhaps the marks of the nails by which it had been attached, seemed to indicate which was the Cross of our Savior.

St. Helena built two magnificent churches, one on Mount Calvary, the other on Mount Olivet. After traveling through the East, where she beautified the city of Drepanum in honor of St. Lucian, so that Constantine afterward gave it the name of Helenopolis, she returned to Rome. Her journey had been marked by the most illustrious deeds of virtue and by innumerable charities. She died at Rome in August, 329. Constantine caused her obsequies to be performed with the utmost magnificence, and erected a statue to her memory.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, You willed to enrich Your Church through St. Helena with a treasure beyond price and so revealed to her the hiding place of Your Cross. Through her intercession, grant that the ransom paid on that life-giving wood may win the rewards of everlasting life for us. **Amen.**



ACA PRIME RIB DINNER

Join us for vespers, dinner, a pie auction, and live music as we celebrate the parishes of St. Patrick, St. Francis Xavier and the Diocese of Spokane.

Your admission is your ACA pledge and a dessert to share as we work together to reach our goal of \$62,000.



**September 13, 2025 at 5PM
St. Francis Xavier Parish**


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Are You Prepared?
End of Life Workshop
Planning for Your Spiritual & Corporal Needs
Saturday September 20th - 9 a.m. - Noon
 Mass at 8:30 a.m. (optional)
St. John Vianney Parish
 503 N. Walnut Rd Spokane Valley 99206

NO CHARGE

Join us for this informative workshop and learn how to preplan for the end of life.
 • light refreshments provided.

Please RSVP to (509) 467-5496 or bernadettep@holycrossofspokane.org

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Spokane Group - Meeting Weekly