



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

August 24th, 2025

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

21ST 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).

Gateway to Life: Reflection on Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus doesn't answer the question put to Him in this Sunday's Gospel. It profits us nothing to speculate on how many will be saved. What we need to know is what He tells us today—how to enter into salvation and how urgent it is to strive now, before the Master closes the door.

Jesus is “the narrow gate,” the only way of salvation, the path by which all must travel to enter the kingdom of the Father (see John 14:6).

In Jesus, God has come—as He promises in this week's First Reading—to gather nations of every language, to reveal to them His glory.

Eating and drinking with them, teaching in their streets, Jesus in the Gospel is slowly making His way to Jerusalem. There, Isaiah's vision will be fulfilled: On the holy mountain He will be lifted up (see John 3:14), and He will draw to Himself brethren from among all the nations to worship in the heavenly Jerusalem, to glorify Him for His kindness, as we sing in today's Psalm.

In God's plan, the kingdom was proclaimed first to the Israelites and last to the Gentiles (see Romans 1:16; Acts 3:25–26), who in the Church have come from the earth's four corners to make up the new people of God (see Isaiah 43:5–6; Psalm 107:2–3).

Many, however, will lose their place at the heavenly table, Jesus warns. Refusing to accept His narrow way they will weaken, rendering themselves unknown to the Father (see Isaiah 63:15–16).

We don't want to be numbered among those of drooping hands and weak knees (see Isaiah 35:3). So, we must strive for that narrow gate, a way of hardship and suffering—the way of the beloved Son.

As this week's Epistle reminds us, by our trials we know we are truly God's sons and daughters. We are being disciplined by our afflictions, strengthened to walk that straight and narrow path—that we may enter the gate and take our place at the banquet of the righteous.

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**)

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

SFX DIRECTORY

Office Telephone: (509) 487-6363

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Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

Office Email: office@sfxspokane.org

Office Hours.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, AUGUST 25TH

5:30pm Mass *Gerson Avila*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26TH

8:00am Mass *Rose Nguyen*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass *John Evans*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH

8:00am Mass *Daniel McLeod*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30TH

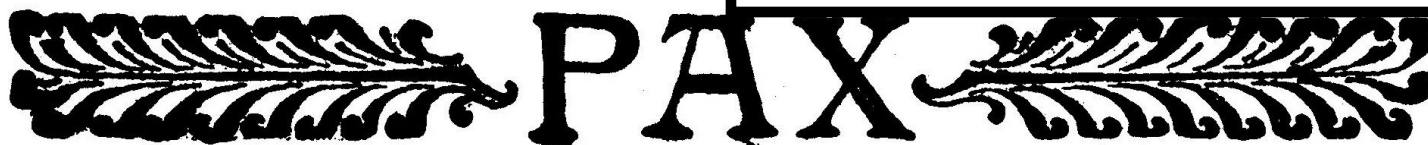
3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST

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. Elizabeth Bichier des Ages, Virgin August 26th

Elizabeth Bichier des Ages was born at La Blanc, France, in 1773. She was Christened Joan Elizabeth but commonly called by her second name. Educated in a Poitiers convent, she waged a successful fight to save family property from the National Assembly after the death of her father.

In 1797, St. Andrew Fournet encouraged Elizabeth to devote her life to education and the care of the sick. She lived for a while with the Carmelites and the Society of Providence in order to prepare herself for the religious life.

Under Fournet's direction, Elizabeth was put in charge of a group of women dedicated to Catholic education and care for the sick and aged. This group eventually became the Congregation of the Daughters of the Cross, which by 1830 had established sixty houses in France. At her suggestion, a community of men was formed into the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Betherran. Elizabeth died on August 26, 1838, and was canonized in 1947 by Pope Pius XII.

PRAYER: Lord, our God, grant that Your faithful spouse, St. Elizabeth, may enkindle in us the flame of Divine love that she enkindled in other virgins for the everlasting glory of Your Church. **Amen.**

Please join us for the Novena to St Mother Teresa, beginning on **August 27th** through the **5th of September** at St Patrick's Catholic Church Hilliard. The Novena begins at **6:00 p.m.** through **7:00 p.m.** there will be Eucharistic adoration, a conference given by one of our priests and praying of the rosary. Please help us spread the word.



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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