



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

September 14th, 2025

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

I am going to talk to you now about the public crosses, and I am going to give you the reason for their number, for the blessings which flow from them, and for the great honor which the Church pays them. If our interior crosses are so numerous, and if the public crosses, these images of that Cross on which our God died, are also so numerous, it is that we may have always present in our thoughts the reminder that we are the children of a crucified God.

We need not be surprised, my dear brethren, at the honor which the Church pays to this holy wood, which obtains for us so many graces and so many benefits. We see that the Church makes the Sign of the Cross in all her ceremonies, in the administration of all the Sacraments. Why is that? My friends, this is why. It is because all our prayers and all the Sacraments draw from the Cross their power and their virtue. During the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which is the greatest, the most solemn and the most sublime of all those actions which can glorify God, the priest makes the Sign of the Cross over and over again. God desires that we may never lose the memory of it as the surest means of our salvation and the most formidable instrument for repelling the Devil. He has created us in the form of a cross so that every man might be the image of this cross upon which Jesus Christ died to save us. See how eager the Church is to increase their number? She urges them as a special embellishment on our churches and on all altars; she places them in the most public places.



Commentary from a homily by the Curé d'Ars, St. Jean-Marie
Baptiste Vianney (1786-1859)

The Promised Land : Reflection on The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Today's feast embodies a great mystery. Like the people of Israel in the first reading, we are called to a long journey to the Promised Land of heaven. Like them, we can lose patience and fall into sin, sin that can literally kill us (Numbers 21:4-5). Like them, our only hope for salvation is to cling to God's merciful provision.

Pope Benedict XVI summed it up beautifully in a 2008 homily given in Lourdes:

“The Gospel for this feast reminds us of the meaning of this great mystery: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that men might be saved (Jn 3:16). The Son of God became vulnerable, assuming the condition of a slave, obedient even to death, death on a cross (cf. Phil 2:8). By his Cross we are saved. The instrument of torture which, on Good Friday, manifested God's judgment on the world, has become a source of life, pardon, mercy, a sign of reconciliation and peace. “In order to be healed from sin, gaze upon Christ crucified!” said Saint Augustine.”

By raising our eyes towards the Crucified one, we adore him who came to take upon himself the sin of the world and to give us eternal life.

And the Church invites us proudly to lift up this glorious Cross so that the world can see the full extent of the love of the Crucified one for all, for us men. She invites us to give thanks to God because from a tree which brought death, life has burst out anew.

On this wood Jesus reveals to us his sovereign majesty, he reveals to us that he is exalted in glory. Yes, “Come, let us adore him!” In our midst is he who loved us even to giving his life for us, he who invites every human being to draw near to him with trust.

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

Sacramental Emergencies: (509) 866-6098

Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

Office Email: office@sfxspokane.org

Office Hours.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

5:30pm Mass *Alisha Hayword*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

8:00am Mass *Gerson Avila*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass *Gerson Avila*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

8:00am Mass *Family Avila*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

3:00pm Confessions

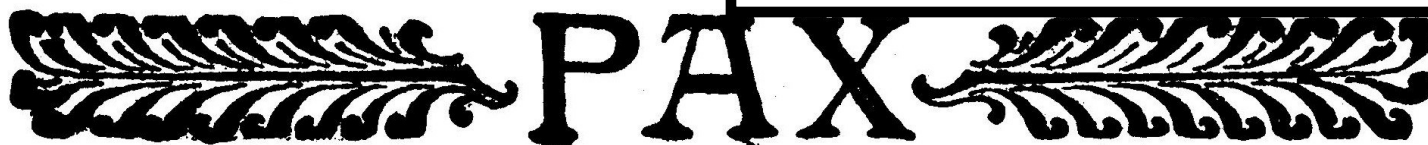
4:00pm Mass *Pro Populo*

5:00PM ACA Dinner

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

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
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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. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church September 17th

Born at Montepulciano, Italy, on October 4, 1542. St. Robert Bellarmine was the third of ten children. His mother, a niece of Pope Marcellus II, was dedicated to almsgiving, prayer, meditation, fasting, and mortification.

Robert entered the newly formed Society of Jesus in 1560 and after his ordination went on to teach at Louvain (1570-1576) where he became famous for his Latin sermons. In 1576, the Saint was appointed to the chair of Controversial Theology at the Roman College, becoming Rector in 1592; he went on to become Provincial of Naples in 1594 and Cardinal in 1598.

Robert defended the Apostolic See against the anti-clericals in Venice and against the political tenets of James I of England. He composed an exhaustive apologetic work against the prevailing heresies of his day. In the field of Church-State relations, he took a position based on principles now regarded as fundamentally democratic—authority originates with God, but is vested in the people, who entrust it to fit rulers.

This Saint was the spiritual father of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, helped St. Francis de Sales obtain formal approval of the Visitation Order, and in his prudence apposed severe action in the case of Galileo. He has left many important writings, including works of devotion and instruction, as well as controversy (Defense of Catholic Doctrine against Protestantism). He died in 1621, was canonized in 1930 by Pope Pius XI and named a Doctor in 1931 by the same Pontiff.

PRAYER: God, in order to vindicate the faith of Your Church You endowed St. Robert, Your Bishop, with wondrous erudition and virtues. Through his intercession, grant that Your people may ever rejoice in the integrity of that faith. Amen.

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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

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how to preplan for the end of life.

• light refreshments provided.

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