



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

September 17th, 2023

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

**24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ≈ 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

At the sight of the sick man who stands before him, Jesus is filled with compassion. He cures the affliction even though He knows that there are those who will criticize him for curing on the Sabbath. Jesus acts in a forthright manner. He pays no heed to human respect, to what others will say. His critics consider themselves to be the authentic interpreters of the Law. Later on, the Lord will show them that mercy should be exercised even on the Sabbath. He provides an example gleaned from the common sense of the countryside.

We may find obstacles to our faith in the environment around us, such as envy, prejudice and misunderstandings due to ignorance. Our response should be the same as that of Jesus. We should not be afraid to give clear testimony to our beliefs. This type of behavior can be of great apostolic value. On the other hand, “it is terrible how much harm we can do if we allow ourselves to be carried away by the fear or the shame of being seen as Christians in ordinary life” [St. Josemaría Escrivá, Furrow, 36].

Let us not fail to make manifest our Christian faith, always with humility and naturalness, whenever the situation requires it. We will never regret having acted in a manner so consistent with our deepest beliefs. The Lord will be filled with joy at such evidence of our fidelity.



## A COMMENTARY FOR THE 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### THE DEBT WE OWE

Mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life.

Yet, as today's First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, and refuse mercy to those who have done us wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in today's Gospel with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant who won't forgive a fellow servant's debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their master.

It can't be this way in the kingdom, the Church. In the Old Testament, seven is frequently a number associated with mercy and the forgiveness of sins. The just man sins seven times daily; there is a sevenfold sprinkling of blood for atonement of sins (see Proverbs 24:6; Leviticus 16). But Jesus tells Peter today that we must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times. That means: every time.

We are to be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful (see Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:48). But why? Why does Jesus repeatedly warn that we can't expect forgiveness for our trespasses unless we're willing to forgive others their trespasses against us?

Because, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle, we are the Lord's. Each of us has been purchased by the blood of Christ shed for us on the Cross (see Revelation 5:9). As we sing in today's Psalm, though we deserved to die for our sins, He doesn't deal with us according to our crimes. The mercy and forgiveness we show to others should be the heartfelt expression of our gratitude for the mercy and forgiveness shown to us.

This is why we should remember our last days, set our enmities aside, and stop judging others. We know that one day we will stand before the judgment seat and give account for what we've done with the new life given to us by Christ (see Romans 14:10, 12).

So we forgive each other from the heart, overlook each other's faults, and await the crown of His kindness and compassion.

-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](http://sfxspokane.org) or at [facebook.com/sfxspokane](https://www.facebook.com/sfxspokane)

Our Mailing Address is:  
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Father Semple: [pastor@sfxspokane.org](mailto:pastor@sfxspokane.org)

Office Email: [office@sfxspokane.org](mailto:office@sfxspokane.org)

Office Hours. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
8am-12pm.

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

5:30 pm, Mass *Edith Mary Ward*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

8:00am , Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Priests*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

8:00am , Mass *Religious*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

7:30 am, Mass *Poor souls*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



## 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.

We are looking for Volunteers to help with the 11am Mass' Coffee and Donuts. If you are interested please let the office know.

Would you like to help with the altar flowers? We are trying to get a few people to take turns.

Thanks, Taylor



*Spiritus*  
A HOMESCHOOL MOM'S RETREAT

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER EMILY BROWN**  
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Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral  
Spokane, WA

September 30  
9 - 3:30

Registration \$35



*Sacraments - Community - Reflection - Resources*

## GRADUAL FOR VIGIL MASS

Laetatus sum in his quae dicta sunt mihi: in domum Domini ibimus

I rejoiced when it was said unto me: "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

V. Fiat pax in virtute tua: et abundantia in turribus tuis.

V. Let peace reign within your walls, and abundance in your towers.

### St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr

St. Januarius, born about 275, was Bishop of Benevento when the persecution of Diocletian broke out. Sosius, deacon of Misenum; Proculus, deacon of Puzzuoli; Euthyches and Acutius, eminent laymen, were imprisoned for the faith at Puzzuoli, by order of Dracontius, Governor of Campania. St. Januarius, who was a special friend of Sosius, hearing of this, determined to pay the confessors a visit, in order to encourage them.

The keepers, being aroused to suspicion, gave information that an eminent person from Benevento had visited the prisoners. Timothy, who had succeeded Dracontius, gave orders that St. Januarius should be brought before him at Nola, the usual place of his residence. Festus, his deacon, and Desiderius, a lector of his church, were also apprehended and they shared in his sufferings.

Some time after, when the Governor went to Puzzuoli, the three confessors, loaded with irons, were made to walk before his chariot to that town, where they were thrown into the same prison in which the four other Martyrs were detained. They had been condemned, by an order of the Emperor, to be torn to pieces by wild beasts. The day after the arrival of St. Januarius, they were all exposed in the amphitheater, but none of the animals touched them. The people imputed this to magic and the Martyrs were condemned to be beheaded, the sentence was executed near Puzzuoli, about 305. The relics of St. Januarius were later translated to Naples, of which city he became the Patron.

St. Januarius has become famous for the liquefaction of his blood, a dark solid mass in a sealed vial, which becomes liquid when held near the relic, believed to be his head. This usually happens on September 19, the first Sunday of May (the day of the transferal of his relics to Naples), and on December 16 (the anniversary of Naples' deliverance from Vesuvius through the intercession of St. Januarius).

Scientists have for a long time been seeking a natural explanation for this well-attested phenomenon but have never been successful in their quest.

**PRAYER:** God, You enable us to celebrate the memorial of Your Martyr, St. Januarius. Grant that we may also enjoy his company in eternal beatitude. **Amen.**





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