

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

# 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today we see Jesus work a miracle in order to console a widowed mother; He restores her dead son to life. This was an expression of the delicacy of His love for us; but how many others, less visible perhaps but no less full of love and life, have surged from His heart! "The Gospel speaks of three who were dead and who were visibly restored to life by our Lord," St. Augustine tells us, "but He has restored thousands invisibly." When writing these words, the Saint must have recalled with ineffable gratitude the much greater miracle Jesus had wrought for him, making him rise from the death of sin.

St. Augustine and many other saints have been restored to life. If the saints who led lives of innocence attract us so much, those who were brought back from sin have still greater power to encourage us in our struggles. It may be a laborious task for us to overcome pride, sensuality, and all the other passions, but it was no easier for them. They too knew our temptations, struggles and falls; if they overcame them, why cannot we do the same?

Thanks be to God, it is not always a question of having to rise from a life of serious sin, but there is always occasion for a resurrection from our little daily infidelities; if they are not corrected, our fervor in the spiritual life will gradually weaken. In this regard, we need to rise every day, indeed every hour; yet so many times we lack the strength for it. But if we beseech Jesus, our Life, He will touch us with His grace as He once touched the bier of the young man of Naim; He will give us fresh vigor and will put us back again, full of courage, on the way to perfection. The resurrection of the young man was implored by his mother's tears; let ours be implored every day by the tears of our hearts, by our compunction, humility, and trust.

Commentary from Divine Intimacy by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D. (1893-1953).



# Prudent Stewards: Reflection on The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The steward in today's Gospel confronts the reality that he can't go on living the way he has been. He is under judgment. He must give account for what he has done.

The exploiters of the poor in today's First Reading are also about to be pulled down, to be thrust from their stations (see Isaiah 22:19). Servants of mammon, or money, they're so in love with wealth that they reduce the poor to objects; they despise the new moons and sabbaths—the observances and holy days of God (see Leviticus 23:24; Exodus 20:8).

Their only hope is to follow the steward's path. He is no model of repentance. But he makes a prudent calculation—to use his last hours in charge of his master's property to show mercy to others, to relieve their debts.

He is a child of this world, driven by a purely selfish motive—to make friends and be welcomed into the homes of his master's debtors. Yet his prudence is commended as an example to us, the children of light (see 1 Thessalonians 5:5; Ephesians 5:8). We too must realize, as the steward does, that what we have is not honestly ours, but in truth belongs to another, our Master.

All the mammon in the world could not have paid the debt we owe our Master. So He paid it for us. He gave His life as a ransom for all, as we hear in today's Epistle.

God wants everyone to be saved, even kings and princes, even the lovers of money (see Luke 16:14). But we cannot serve two Masters. By His grace, we should choose to be, as we sing in today's Psalm, "servants of the Lord."

We serve Him by using what He has entrusted us with to give alms, to lift the lowly from the dust and dunghills of this world. By this we will gain what is ours and be welcomed into eternal dwellings, the many mansions of the Father's house (see John 14:2).



# 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 22ND

5:30pm Mass Georgia Shrempp

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

8:00am Mass Leslie Ray

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass Priests in Purgatory

# THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

8:00am Mass Julia Hart

# **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH**

3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass Pro Populo

# SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

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. Finbar, Bishop September 25th

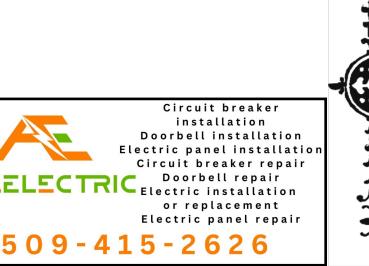
Finbar was born in the latter part of the 6th century to a lady of the Irish royal court and an artisan. At Baptism he was given the name Lochan but received the name Fionbarr ("White-head") from his educators, the monks of Kilmacahill, Kilkenny, on account of his light hair. He is reported to have visited St. David in Pembrokenhire in southern Wales and to have accompanied him to Rome. Pope St. Gregory is said to have wanted to make Finbar a Bishop but to have been deterred by a vision notifying him that God had reserved that honor to Himself.

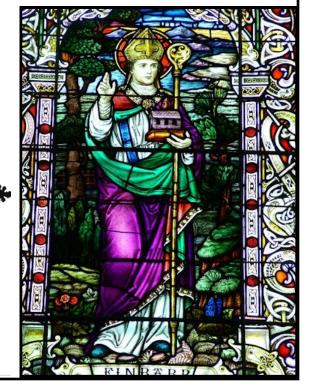
St. Finbar preached the Gospel throughout southern Ireland and founded a number of churches. He then went to live the life of a hermit on a small island in Gouganebarra. Later, he founded a monastery at Lough Eirc, marshland at the mouth of the Lee River, called Corcaghmer from which Cork is derived.

Soon candidates for the monastery began arriving in ever-increasing numbers and its school began to extend its influence over the whole of southern Ireland. Out of the desert arose the great city of Cork, and Finbar is regarded as its founder and first Bishop.

**PRAYER:** God, You made St. Finbar an outstanding exemplar of Divine love and the faith that conquers the world, and added him to the roll of saintly pastors. Grant by his

intercession that we may persevere in Faith and love and become sharers of his glory. **Amen.** 







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# **Are You Prepared?**

# of Life Workshop

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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

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light refreshments provided.



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