



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

September 24th, 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

The Man-God allowed temptation to approach His sacred Person in the desert... Our Jesus permitted the demon to tempt Him in order that He might show His faithful servants how they are to repel the assaults of the wicked spirit. Today, our adorable Master, who would be a model to His children in all their trials, is represented to us as having to contend, not with Satan's perfidy, but with the hypocrisy of His bitterest enemies, the pharisees. They seek to ensnare Him in His speech, just as the representatives of the world, which He has condemned [Jn. 16:8:11], will do to His Church, and that in all ages, right to the end of time. But as her divine Spouse triumphed, so will she; for He will enable her to continue His work upon earth, and amidst the same temptations and the same snares. She is ever to obtain the victory, by maintaining a most inviolable fidelity to God's law and truth. The tools of Satan, who are the heretics and the princes of the world, chafing at the restraint put by Christianity on their ambition and lust, will always be studying how best to outwit the guardian of the divine oracles, by their captious propositions or questions. When necessity requires her to speak, she is quite ready; for, as the bride of that divine Word, who is His Father's eternal and substantial utterance, what can she be but a voice, either to announce Him on earth, or to sing Him in heaven?

That word of hers, endowed as it is with the power and penetration of God Himself, will not only never be conquered by surprise, but, like a two-edged sword, it will generally go much deeper than the crafty questioners of the Church anticipated; it will not only refute their sophistry, it will also expose the hypocrisy and wickedness of their intentions. By their sacrilegious attempts, they will have gained nothing but disgrace and shame, and the mortification of having occasioned a fresh luster to truth by the new light in which it has been put, and of having procured a clearer knowledge of dogma or morals for the devoted children of the Church.



A COMMENTARY FOR THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST AND LAST

The house of Israel is the vine of God, who planted and watered it, preparing the Israelites to bear fruits of righteousness (see Isaiah 5:7; 27:2–5).

Israel failed to yield good fruits, and the Lord allowed His vineyard, Israel's kingdom, to be overrun by conquerors (see Psalm 80:9–20). But God promised that one day He would replant His vineyard and its shoots would blossom to the ends of the earth (see Amos 9:15; Hosea 14:5–10).

This is the biblical backdrop to Jesus' parable of salvation history in today's Gospel. The landowner is God. The vineyard is the kingdom. The workers hired at dawn are the Israelites, to whom He first offered His covenant. Those hired later in the day are the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, who, until the coming of Christ, were strangers to the covenants of promise (see Ephesians 2:11–13). In the Lord's great generosity, the same wages, the same blessings promised to the first-called, the Israelites, will be paid to those called last, the rest of the nations.

This provokes grumbling in today's parable. Doesn't the complaint of those first laborers sound like that of the older brother in Jesus' prodigal son parable (see Luke 15:29–30)? God's ways, however, are far from our ways, as we hear in today's First Reading. And today's readings should caution us against the temptation to resent God's lavish mercy.

Like the Gentiles, many will be allowed to enter the kingdom late—after having spent most of their days idling in sin.

But even these can call upon Him and find Him near, as we sing in today's Psalm. We should rejoice that God has compassion on all whom He has created. This should console us, too, especially if we have loved ones who remain far from the vineyard.

Our task is to continue laboring in His vineyard. As Paul says in today's Epistle, let us conduct ourselves worthily, struggling to bring all men and women to the praise of His name.

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

Our Mailing Address is:
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SFX DIRECTORY

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Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

Office Email: office@sfxspokane.org

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

5:30 pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

8:00am , Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Larry Geier*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

8:00am , Mass *Religious*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 31ST

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
Life Coach for Catholic Homeschooling Mothers

Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral
Spokane, WA

September 30
9 - 3:30

Registration \$35



Sacraments - Community - Reflection - Resources

GRADUAL FOR VIGIL MASS

Prope est Dominus omnibus invocantibus
eum: omnibus qui invocant eum in veritate.

The Lord is close to all who call him, who
call on him in the sincerity of their hearts.

V. Laudem Domini loquetur os meum: et
benedicat omnis caro nomen sanctum eius.

V. My mouth shall speak the praises of the
Lord; let all flesh bless his holy name.

St. Finbar, Bishop

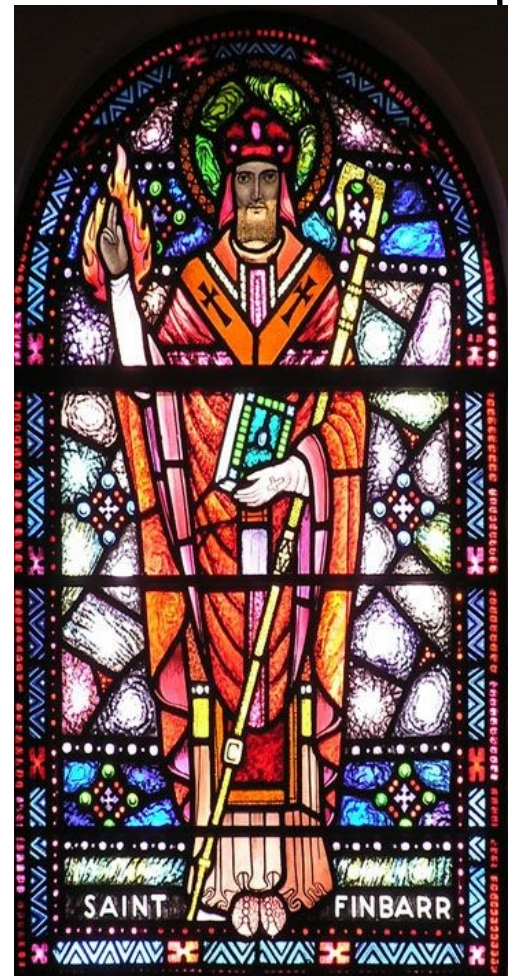
September 25th.

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 Pembrokehire 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, marhland 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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