



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

October 22nd, 2023

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

**29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ≈ 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

The wicked servant was soon brought before the king, who reminded him that he had been forgiven all the debt because he had asked, so he should have had like mercy upon his neighbor. The parable does not have the servant responding to the king, indicating that the wicked servant had finished life upon earth and was making a reckoning of his actions at his particular judgment. For at this time, we will not be able to respond in our defense or make excuse for our sins or plead for forgiveness, as the time of mercy is completed. The king brings forth the ungrateful servant and delivers him to the torturers. St. John Chrysostom says that the torturers represent the devils who torment the lost souls until payment is made; that is, for eternity, since one can never make adequate payment in that forsaken place....

It can be hard to forgive from the heart—mostly because we are proud and pride makes an offense feel like it is done against our very being. And when pride is mixed with a lack of forgiveness, it thirsts for revenge. The anger in the heart pursues retaliation and infliction of punishment on the offender. If the wound is brooded over in the mind, it wedges itself inside the soul and blackens the soul with bitterness and rancor. And it is easy to know if we haven't forgiven a person from our heart, for we will have the tendency to see only the bad in our neighbor, to be critical of him, to pounce upon his words and defects, and to think he has ulterior or hidden motives in his actions.

On the other hand, if we make an act of forgiveness from our will, we then decide to treat others as God has done to us. Such forgiveness does not mean that there will not be some pain remaining from the wound of the other person on an emotional level. But the soul—with its intellect and will— knows that it ought to forgive and then chooses to do so. And instead of throttling the other person and demanding from him the debt owed us, we train ourselves to recognize that all persons are made in the image and likeness of God, and we decide to do unto others—who are made in God's image—as God has done to us.



*Commentary by Fr. Eric Flood, F.S.S.P.*

## A COMMENTARY FOR THE 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### CAESAR AND THE KING

The Lord is king over all the earth, as we sing in today's Psalm. Governments rise and fall by His permission, with no authority but that given from above (see John 19:11; Romans 13:1).

In effect, God says to every ruler what He tells King Cyrus in today's First Reading: "I have called you . . . though you knew me not."

The Lord raised up Cyrus to restore the Israelites from exile, and to rebuild Jerusalem (see Ezra 1:1–4). Throughout salvation history, God has used foreign rulers for the sake of His chosen people. Pharaoh's heart was hardened to reveal God's power (see Romans 9:17). Invading armies were used to punish Israel's sins (see 2 Maccabees 6:7–16).

The Roman occupation during Jesus' time was, in a similar way, a judgment on Israel's unfaithfulness. Jesus' famous words in today's Gospel, "repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar," are a pointed reminder of this. And they call us, too, to keep our allegiances straight.

The Lord alone is our king. His kingdom is not of this world (see John 18:36) but it begins here in His Church, which tells of His glory among all peoples. Citizens of heaven (see Philippians 3:20), we are called to be a light to the world (see Matthew 5:14)—working in faith, laboring in love, and enduring in hope, as today's Epistle counsels.

We owe the government a concern for the common good and obedience to laws—unless they conflict with God's commandments as interpreted by the Church (see Acts 5:29).

But we owe God everything. The coin bears Caesar's image. But we bear God's own image (see Genesis 1:27). We owe Him our very lives—all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, offered as a living sacrifice of love (see Romans 12:1–2).

We should pray for our leaders, that like Cyrus they do God's will (see 1 Timothy 2:1–2)—until from the rising of the sun to its setting all humanity knows that Jesus is Lord.

-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:  
P.O. Box 7179, Spokane, WA, 99207

SFX DIRECTORY

Office Telephone: (509) 487-6363

Sacramental Emergencies: (509) 866-6098

Father Semple: [pastor@sfxspokane.org](mailto:pastor@sfxspokane.org)

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

Office Hours. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9am-12pm.

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

5:30 pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

8:00am , Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Priests*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

8:00am , Mass *Religious*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

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.

## **NCYM YOUTH GROUP**

**Middle School, Tuesdays**

**6-8pm**

**High School, Wednesdays**

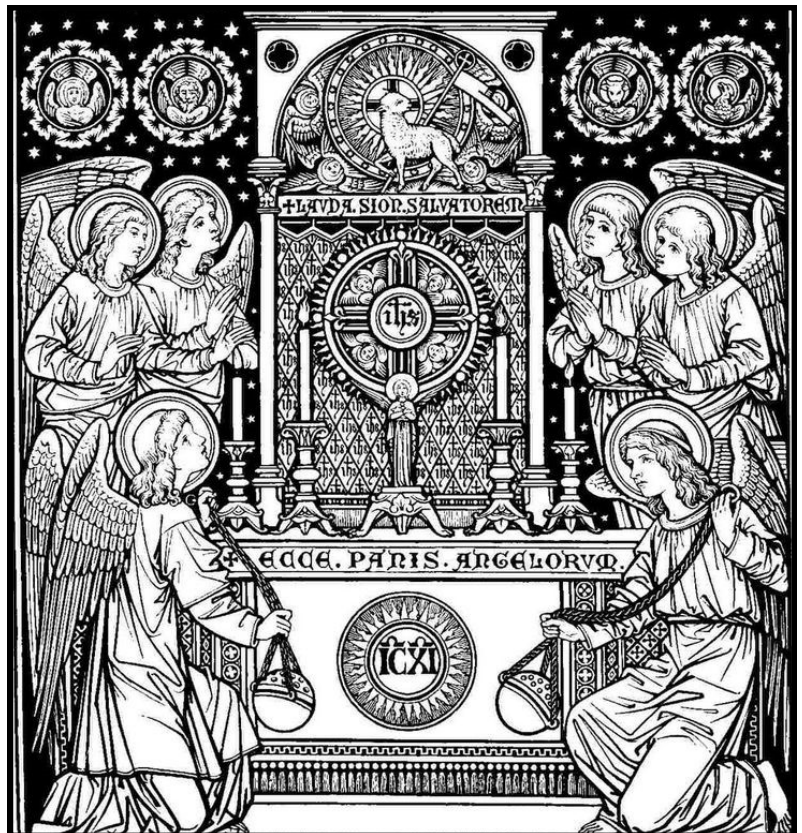
**6-8pm**

**Located at the north end of  
St. Charles Parish**

**Expect Fun, Games &  
Fellowship!**

Find us on Instagram @northsidecatholicyouthministry

Text NCYM to 84576 for Flocknote registration



## St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

October 24th

Born in Sallent, Spain, in 1807, the son of a weaver, St. Anthony was ordained a priest in 1835. After five years, he began to give missions and retreats all over Catalonia. Seeing their success and the people's need for them, he founded (in 1849) the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretians) to continue this work on a wider scale.

In that same year, the Saint was consecrated Bishop of Santiago de Cuba. Finding the diocese in a deplorable spiritual condition, he quickly initiated vigorous reform measures, one of which was the establishment of the Teaching Sisters of Mary Immaculate.

In 1857, St. Anthony was recalled to Spain and made the chaplain of Queen Isabella II. This position made it possible for him to continue his mission work by preaching and publishing. He established a museum, library, schools, and a laboratory, also helping to revive the Catalan language. He spread devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and after the revolution of 1868 ended his life in exile with the Queen in 1870. He was canonized in 1950 by Pope Pius XII.

PRAYER: God, You strengthened St. Anthony Mary with wondrous love and patience in evangelizing the people. Through his intercession, enable us to seek those things that are Yours, and to labor in Christ for the good of our fellowmen. **Amen.**

