



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

December 28th, 2025

*In Thee, O Lord, have I put my
hope. Let me never be confounded.*
- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

THE HOLY FAMILY—SUNDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY

Mary Mother of God

December 31st Vigil

4:30pm English (St Patrick)

6:00pm Latin (St Francis Xavier)

January 1st

8:00 am English Mass (St Francis Xavier)

10:00am Latin Mass (St Francis Xavier)



There is only one day within the Christmas Octave (i.e. the 30th of December) which is not a Saint's Feast. During the Octaves of the Epiphany, Easter and Pentecost, the Church is so absorbed in the respective mysteries that she puts off everything that could share her attention; whereas during this of Christmas, there is only one day which does not celebrate the memory of some glorious Saint, and our Infant Jesus is surrounded by a choir of heroes who loved and served him. Thus the Church, or, more correctly, God—for God is the first author of the cycle of the year—shows us how the Incarnate Word, who came to save mankind, desires to give mankind confidence by this his adorable familiarity.

We have already shown that the Birth of our Lord took place on a Sunday, the Day on which, in the beginning of the world, God created Light. We shall find, later on, that his Resurrection also was on a Sunday. This the first day of creation, and the first of the week, was consecrated by the old Pagans to the Sun; with us Christians, it is most sacred and holy, on account of the two risings of our divine Sun of Justice—his Birth and his Resurrection. Whilst the solemnity of Easter is always kept on a Sunday, that of Christmas falls by turns on each of the days of the week—we have already had this difference explained to us by the Holy Fathers: but the mystery of Jesus' Birth is more aptly and strongly expressed, when its anniversary falls on a Sunday. Other years, when the coincidence does not happen, the Faithful will at least be led by their Christian instincts, to give special honor to the day within the Octave which falls on the Sunday. The Church has honored it with a proper Mass and Office....

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“Our True Home” : Reflection on the Feast of The Holy Family

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God’s plan to make all people live as one “holy family” in His Church (see 2 Corinthians 6:16–18).

In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We’re to live as His children, “chosen ones, holy and beloved,” as the First Reading puts it.

The family advice we hear in today’s readings—for mothers, fathers, and children—is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today’s Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today’s Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren’t identified by name, but three times are called “his parents” and are referred to separately as his “mother” and “father.” The emphasis is all on their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke’s Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls “my Father’s house,” every family finds its true meaning and purpose (see Ephesians 3:15). The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God’s house, His dwelling (see Luke 19:46). But it’s also an image of the family of God, the Church (see Ephesians 2:19–22; Hebrews 3:3–6; 10:21).

In our families we’re to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God—until He reveals His new dwelling among us and says of every person: “I shall be his God and he will be my son” (see Revelation 21:3, 7).

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:

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Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

Office Email: office@sfxspokane.org

Office Hours.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

NO MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

VIGIL MARY MOTHER OF GOD

4:30pm English Mass St Patrick Parish

6:00pm Latin Mass St Francis Xavier

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST

Mary Mother of God

8:00am English Mass St Francis Xavier

10:00am Latin Mass St Francis Xavier

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND

5:30pm First Friday Devotion

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3RD

3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



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”.

If you are interested in taking an active role in creating a vibrant parish community, please email women.of.st.x@gmail.com.

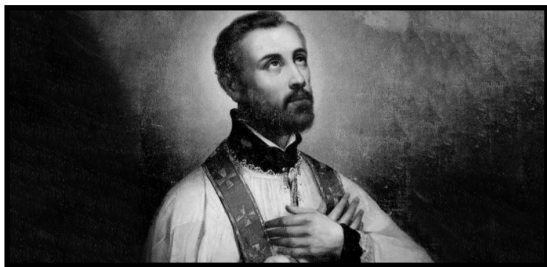


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We would like to
Thank everyone
who participated
in the giving tree
this year.

Because of your generosity we fulfilled all of the gifts., and have dropped them off at the boys and girls club. They were overjoyed at the sight of all the beautifully wrapped presents!!



Catechism and Sacramental Preparation

We are pleased to announce that catechism and sacrament preparation classes are in the mornings on **Jan 24th, Feb 21st, March 28th, and April 18th**. First Communion and Confirmation will be celebrated in late April or early May.

To make this program successful, we need dedicated volunteers to serve as catechists and assistants. No previous teaching experience is necessary—just a willing heart and love for the faith.

Training and materials will be provided.

If you feel called to help form our children in their Catholic faith, please contact the parish office. Your gift of time can make an eternal difference in a child's life.

More details about registration and class schedules will be announced soon. Please keep this important ministry in your prayers.



Continued from the cover...

The passage of the Gospel selected for this Mass, though bearing on the Divine Infancy, yet gives us, we may almost say prematurely, the terrible prophecy of Simeon regarding the dear Babe of Bethlehem. The heart of Mary, that was overflowing with joy at the miraculous Birth of her Child, is here made to feel the sword spoken of by the venerable Priest of the temple. Her Son, then, is to be but a sign that shall be contradicted! The mystery of man's adoption by God is to cost this Child of hers his life! We that are the Redeemed in his Blood, we may not yet dwell on the fatigues and the Passion and the Death of our Emmanuel: the time will come for that. At Present we are forbidden to think of him other than as the sweet Child that is born to us, the source of all our happiness by his having come among us.

Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger (1805-1875)



St. Catherine Laboure, Virgin December 31st

St. Catherine Laboure was born on May 2, 1806. At an early age she entered the community of the Daughters of Charity, in Paris, France. Three times in 1830 the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine Laboure, who then was a 24-years-old novice.

On July 19th, the first apparition occurred in the community's motherhouse. St. Catherine beheld a Lady seated on the left side of the sanctuary. When St. Catherine approached her, the heavenly visitor told her how to act in time of trial and pointed to the altar as the source of all consolation. Promising to entrust St. Catherine with a mission that would cause her great suffering, the Lady also predicted the anticlerical revolt that occurred at Paris in 1870.

On November 27, the Lady showed St. Catherine the medal of the Immaculate Conception, now universally known as "The Miraculous Medal." She commissioned St. Catherine to have one made, and to spread devotion to this medal.

At that time, only the Saint's spiritual director, Father Aladel, St. Catherine spoke fully of the apparitions to one of her superiors. She died on December 31, 1876, and was canonized on July 27, 1947, by Pope Pius XII.

PRAYER: O Lord Jesus Christ, You were pleased to gladden the holy Virgin Catherine by the wonderful apparition of your Immaculate Mother. Grant that we may follow the example of the same Saint in honoring Your most holy Mother with filial devotion and obtain the joy of eternal life.
Amen.





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