



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

February 6th, 2022

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

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin didst prepare a worthy habitation for Thy Son; we humbly beseech Thee, that we who celebrate the feast of the Apparition of the same holy Virgin, may obtain health both of soul and body.

This coming Friday the 11th, the church will celebrate the Apparition of the Immaculate Virgin Mary at Lourdes. Our Lady of Lourdes is the patroness of our diocese, and therefore it is appropriate for us to celebrate this feast at the Cathedral; Mass will be celebrated there at Noon, and the final night of their Novena begins at 5:30 p.m.

The Blessed Virgin saw fit to reveal herself to a modest and faithful child, Bernadette Soubirous, at a grotto outside Lourdes on the 11th of February, 1858. Growing up in a small village in a marginal part of the French Pyrenees, Bernadette suffered from ill health and extreme poverty, and never had the benefits of a formal education. Yet she was a child of immeasurable faith. Over the course of 18 appearances throughout the year, the Blessed Virgin instructed Bernadette to visit the grotto and build a small chapel for her.



Many in the village were concerned about Bernadette's visions. Though not a formal part of doctrine, the concept of a revenant was deeply rooted in Pyrenean folklore, and many wondered if perhaps the visions were of a spirit returned from the dead.

Soon, the Virgin instructed Bernadette to dig a small hole, out of which began to flow the springs we know today. Multitudes from the village came to see this wonder, and before long the waters of the spring were being used to treat illness. After deliberations by the government authorities and church leaders lasting six months, it was decided to commence construction of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Bernadette eventually entered a convent, and maintained her modesty and humility. Though something of a celebrity, she turned away from all recognition to live a life of service. She once said: "The Virgin used me as a broom to remove the dust. When the work is done, the broom is put behind the door again." Unfortunately, afflicted by tuberculosis, Sr. Bernadette died in 1879 at the age of 35, after refusing to partake of the water of Lourdes. This spirit of humility is one from which we can all benefit. Led by God to fulfill her mission, she lived out His will with great faith, knowing that it was not this life she was destined for, but the next.

A COMMENTARY FOR 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

INTO THE DEEP

Simon Peter, the fisherman, is the first to be called personally by Jesus in Luke's Gospel.

His calling resembles Isaiah's commissioning in the First Reading: confronted with the holiness of the Lord, both Peter and Isaiah are overwhelmed by a sense of their own sinfulness and inadequacy. Yet each experiences the Lord's forgiveness and is sent to preach the good news of His mercy to the world.

No one is "fit to be called an apostle," Paul recognizes in today's Epistle. But by "the grace of God," even a persecutor of the Church—as Paul once was—can be lifted up for the Lord's service.

In the Old Testament, humanity was unfit for the divine—no man could stand in God's presence and live (see Exodus 33:20). But in Jesus, we're made able to speak with Him face-to-face, to taste His Word on our tongue.

Today's scene from Isaiah is recalled in every Mass. Before reading the Gospel, the priest silently asks God to cleanse his lips that he might worthily proclaim His Word.

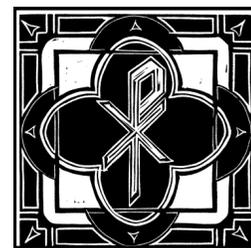
God's Word comes to us as it came to Peter, Paul, Isaiah, and today's Psalmist—as a personal call to leave everything and follow Him, to surrender our weaknesses in order to be filled with His strength.

Simon put out into deep waters even though, as a professional fisherman, he knew it would be foolhardy to expect to catch anything. In humbling himself before the Lord's command, he was exalted—his nets filled to overflowing; later, as Paul tells us, he will become the first to see the risen Lord.



Jesus has made us worthy to receive Him in the company of angels in God's holy Temple. On our knees like Peter, with the humility of David in today's Psalm, we thank Him with all our hearts and join in the unending hymn that Isaiah heard around God's altar: "Holy, holy, holy . . ." (see also Revelation 4:8).

- 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, Elvira Colistro, Rose Zinkgraf, Bella Mally, Jane Soars, Eleanor Finley, Susan Fisher, Gerri Allen, Peggy Cloke, Kathy McCarthy, Christopher Pitner, Ken Keyes, Wayne Anderson, 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

8am – Daily Mass followed by Confessions
(**St. Patrick**)

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, Extraordinary Form
(**St. Francis Xavier**)

12:30pm – Holy Mass, Extraordinary Form
(**St. Francis Xavier**)

*On most Sundays, Confessions are heard during the
11am Holy Mass*

SFX DIRECTORY

Office Telephone: (509) 487-6363

Sacramental Emergencies: (509) 866-6098

Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

Office Email: office@sfxspokane.org

**Our office is open on Saturdays
from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, FEB. 7TH

ST. ROMUALD

Latin Mass, 5:30 p.m. *Czapla Family*

TUESDAY, FEB. 8TH

ST. JOHN OF MATHA

Latin Mass, 8:00 a.m., *Czapla Family*

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9TH

Confessions, 4:30 p.m.

English Mass, 5:30 p.m. *Mashburn Family*

THURSDAY, FEB. 10TH

ST. SCHOLASTICA

English Mass, 8:00 a.m. *Mashburn Family*

SATURDAY, FEB. 12TH

Confessions, 3:00 p.m.

English Mass, 4:00 p.m. *Abraham Lincoln +*

SUNDAY, FEB. 13TH

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME &

SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

English Mass, 7:30 a.m. *Pro Populo*

Latin Mass, 11:00 a.m. *Poor Souls*

Latin Mass, 12:30 p.m. *Private Intention*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Daily Mass is celebrated in the Convent at
St. Patrick's Monday through Friday at 7:00 a.m.

School Mass for Chesterton Academy is open to the
public, and is celebrated at St. Patrick's Monday
through Friday at 12:00 p.m.

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.

Please contact Jackie Silvey for prayer requests.
She can be reached at (509) 483-3109

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



PARISH EVENTS & NOTIFICATIONS

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Northside Youth Ministry is hosting a Laser Tag event for all 6th-12th graders at LaserMaxx downtown from 8:30-11pm on Sunday, February 20th. Cost is \$30 and registration can be found on St. Thomas More's Youth Group page or by visiting ncymspokane.com and clicking the laser tag poster. Also, our annual high school conference is coming up! CYC is Saturday, March 5th. All information can be found through the Diocese's youth page. Students must register with a youth group. Contact JJ Nazzaro at "jnazzaro@dioceseofspokane.org" for the sign up process.

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

EXTRAORDINARY FORM QUESTIONS

As interest grows in the Extraordinary Form Mass, we want to offer help for any who are confused about certain elements to the Mass, or who require help in navigating the Missal. If you ever have questions, please feel free to contact Miles in the parish office.

BEATRICE CO-OPERATIVE ACADEMY

Beatrice Co-Operative Academy is a home education community looking for amateurs (lovers of arts) and students wanting to develop via Classical Studies. We have a weekly Mass emphasizing the Source and Summit of our Faith, followed by a study of the Great Souls of the Saints; with a community, brown-bag lunch.

We are ready to expand to other activities of enrichment in classic arts and handicrafts. Let us know if you would like to serve by sharing your talent and passion, or if you are a family looking for such a community. Please contact Michael d'Esterre, at beatriceacademy@gmail.com or 509-903-3315

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.

MONASTERY ICONS

It has been brought to the attention of the parish that a company called "Monastery Icons", which produces and sells Greek-style icons of western saints, is in fact owned the holding company of a Hindu Ashram.

Given the danger of venerating objects which may be tainted by idolatry, if you have purchased items from this company, please turn them over to Fr. Semple so that they may be destroyed.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels needs drivers county wide, this need is particularly desperate in the north and central areas of the City of Spokane. As a Meals on Wheels volunteer, you are delivering much more than a hot meal - you are providing a human connection. A typical volunteer route takes about an hour to an hour and a half to complete. For many of our home-bound neighbors, A MOW volunteer will be the only person they will see or speak with all day. If you have an hour or two a week, month, or something in between to spare, please consider being a volunteer. Please contact Donna Ennis, our Volunteer Coordinator at 509-924-6976 for more information or apply on our website at <https://gscmealsonwheels.org/volunteer/>

CHESTERTON SPEAKER SERIES

Please join the Spokane Chapter of the Chesterton Society for a presentation on February 10th at 6:30p.m., at the Chesterton Academy of Notre Dame. Fr. Michael Maher, SJ, will be speaking on the errors of Eugenics.

SELECTIONS FROM THE *IMITATION OF CHRIST*, BY THOMAS KEMPIS

ACQUIRING PATIENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CONCUPISCENCE

THE VOICE OF THE CHRIST:

My wish is not that you seek that peace which is free from temptations or meets with no opposition, but rather that you consider yourself as having found peace when you have been tormented with many tribulations and tried with many adversities.

If you say that you cannot suffer much, how will you endure the fire of purgatory? Of two evils, the lesser is always to be chosen. Therefore, in order that you may escape the everlasting punishments to come, try to bear present evils patiently for the sake of God.

Do you think that men of the world have no suffering, or perhaps but little? Ask even those who enjoy the most delights and you will learn otherwise. "But," you will say, "they enjoy many pleasures and follow their own wishes; therefore they do not feel their troubles very much." Granted that they do have whatever they wish, how long do you think it will last? Behold, they who prosper in the world shall perish as smoke, and there shall be no memory of their past joys. Even in this life they do not find rest in these pleasures without bitterness, weariness, and fear. For they often receive the penalty of sorrow from the very thing whence they believe their happiness comes. And it is just. Since they seek and follow after pleasures without reason, they should not enjoy them without shame and bitterness.

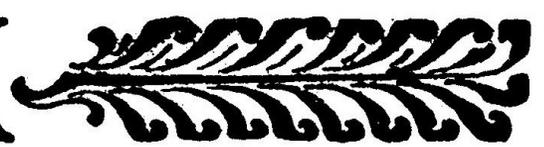
How brief, how false, how unreasonable and shameful all these pleasures are! Yet in their drunken blindness men do not understand this, but like brute beasts incur death of soul for the miserly enjoyment of a corruptible life.

Therefore, My child, do not pursue your lusts, but turn away from your own will. "Seek thy pleasure in the Lord and He will give thee thy heart's desires."³³ If you wish to be truly delighted and more abundantly comforted by Me, behold, in contempt of all worldly things and in the cutting off of all base pleasures shall your blessing be, and great consolation shall be given you. Further, the more you withdraw yourself from any solace of creatures, the sweeter and stronger comfort will you find in Me.

At first you will not gain these blessings without sadness and toil and conflict. Habit already formed will resist you, but it shall be overcome by a better habit. The flesh will murmur against you, but it will be bridled by fervor of spirit. The old serpent will sting and trouble you, but prayer will put him to flight and by steadfast, useful toil the way will be closed to him.



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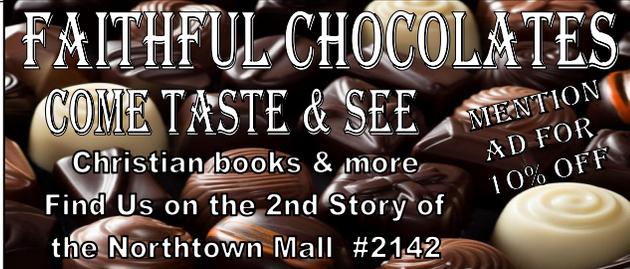
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