



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

December 8th, 2019

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Musings from your Parish Priest:

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and Forever! Do you know the five forms of prayer described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church? In paragraphs 2626-2643 we find the following listed: blessing/adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise.

During the season of Holy Advent, as well as around the various holidays this time of year, one of the best ways to enter into the life of God is through the first of these I'd like to focus on, Thanksgiving. Of all the forms of prayer described in the Catechism, its description of thanksgiving is, at first glance, the most confusing: "Thanksgiving characterizes the prayer of the Church which, in celebrating the Holy Eucharist, reveals and becomes more fully what she is. Indeed, in the work of salvation, Christ sets creation free from sin and death to consecrate it anew and make it return to the Father, for his glory. The thanksgiving of the members of the Body participates in that of their head."

What is going on here? This description doesn't talk about recognizing gifts given, experiencing gratitude, or expressing that gratitude in words—all of which are elements that most of us associate with the term "thanksgiving". The reason that none of those things are mentioned under this form of prayer is because they are presupposed (as we will see more clearly when we reflect on the form of prayer called "blessing.")

The prayer of thanksgiving is the final fruition of gratitude. It is not merely a recognition of gifts received and a subsequent expression of appreciation. It is an offering made in response to this experience of gratitude. The prayer of thanksgiving, as the Catechism describes it, is a sacramental expression of gratitude—that is, it is an exterior, visible sign, of an interior reality. The prayer of thanksgiving gives flesh to our gratitude. Prayer of thanksgiving is like the retirement gift given to a dutiful employee, the dinner cooked for those who helped with a move, the bottle of wine given to a volunteer, or the wildflowers presented to a mother by her child. The prayer of thanksgiving is the token of appreciation, which expresses the hidden, interior reality of gratitude.

For Christians, the highest expression of gratitude is the Most Holy Eucharist, the Sacrifice of the Mass. It is the highest expression of the prayer of thanksgiving, because it is the one and only offering of gratitude that can be made to God that is equal to the gifts we have received from Him. He has given us life, all of creation, and Himself. In the Holy Mass, through the single, eternal sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we offer our lives, all of creation, and the fullness of the eternal God hidden under the appearances of bread and wine. Though the Sacrifice of the Mass is the culmination and fulfillment of our Thanksgiving, our entire lives outside of this celebration are meant to point toward it and participate in it. As St. Paul says, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you!"

In Mary's Immaculate Heart,



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC PARISH
THE SFX YOUTUBE CHANNEL

YOUTUBE.COM/USER/SFXPARISHSPOKANE

KINGDOM COME

“The kingdom of heaven is at hand,” John proclaims. And the Liturgy today paints us a vivid portrait of our new king and the shape of the kingdom He has come to bring.

The Lord whom John prepares the way for in today’s Gospel is the righteous king prophesied in today’s First Reading and Psalm. He is the king’s son, the son of David—a shoot from the root of Jesse, David’s father (see Ruth 4:17).

He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy Spirit (see 2 Samuel 23:1; 1 Kings 1:39; Psalm 2:2), endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel—but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a signal to all nations. And they will seek Him and pay Him homage.

In Him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promise to Abraham (see Genesis 12:3), renewed in God’s oath to David (see Psalm 89:4,28), will be fulfilled in His dynasty. And His name will be blessed forever.

In Christ, God confirms His oath to Israel’s patriarchs, Paul tells us in today’s Epistle. But no longer are God’s promises reserved solely for the children of Abraham.

The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for His mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in “the covenants of promise” (see Ephesians 2:12).

John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God’s chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham (see Isaiah 51:1–2). Now, God will raise up living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5)—children of Abraham born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit.

This is the meaning of the fiery baptism He brings—making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church.

—Scott Hahn, PhD



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 one of the deacons know: Carl Burrell, Elvira Colistro, Claire Smith, Helen Dietrich, Florence White, Ray Lobdell, Evelyn Miller, Rose Zinkgraf, Bella Mally, Jane Soars, Marge Ivanis, Shirley Donnelly, Eleanor Finley, Virginia Warren, Susan Fisher, Gerri Allen, Fr. Michael Irwin, Peggy Cloke, and the residents of Franklin Hills Care Center and Cherrywood Place.

Prayers for the infirm and homebound are a work of mercy.

SFX TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Telephone: (509) 487-6363

Extensions: Fr. Gaines 705 Office 703 Schedule 702

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 2pm-5pm

Father Gaines: Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30, after mass

SFX can be found online at: sfxspokane.org

E-MAIL

Father Gaines: pastor@sfxspokane.org

Office Matters: office@sfxspokane.org

PRAYER CHAIN

Contact Jackie Silvey for prayer requests or to volunteer, she can be reached at (509) 483-3109

ADORATION SCHEDULE

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament is held Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturdays at 4:00pm, Sundays at 7:30am in the Ordinary Form, & 11am in the Extraordinary Form.

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday 8:00am

On Holy Days of Obligation Mass is celebrated at 5:30 pm in the Extraordinary Form unless otherwise indicated.

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 7179

Spokane, WA 99207

CONFESSIONS

Tuesdays 4-5pm

Saturdays 3:00pm

Sundays 10:30am

Or By Appointment

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES,

CONVERSIONS

Please contact the parish office at "office@sfxspokane.org" to arrange a baptism or schedule marriage preparation.

If you are interested in becoming a Catholic, please contact either the parish office by email

MASS CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

Sat Dec 7 2nd Sunday, Advent *David Mannino*

Sun Dec 8 2nd Sunday, Advent *Pro Populo*

Sun Dec 8 2nd Sunday, Advent *Poor Souls*

Mon Dec 9 Weekday *Christian Schraeder*

Tue Dec 10 Weekday *Julianne Ciesielski*

Wed Dec 11 Weekday *Christine Brown*

Thu Dec 12 Weekday NO MASS

Fri Dec 13 Weekday NO MASS

Sat Dec 14 3rd Sunday, Advent *Rosalie Foster*

Sun

Sun

Dec 15 3rd Sunday, Advent *Pro Populo*

Dec 15 3rd Sunday, Advent *Poor Souls*

Dec 16 Weekday *Christian Schraeder*

Dec 17 Weekday *Julianne Ciesielski*

Dec 18 Weekday *Homeschool Families*

Dec 19 Weekday NO MASS

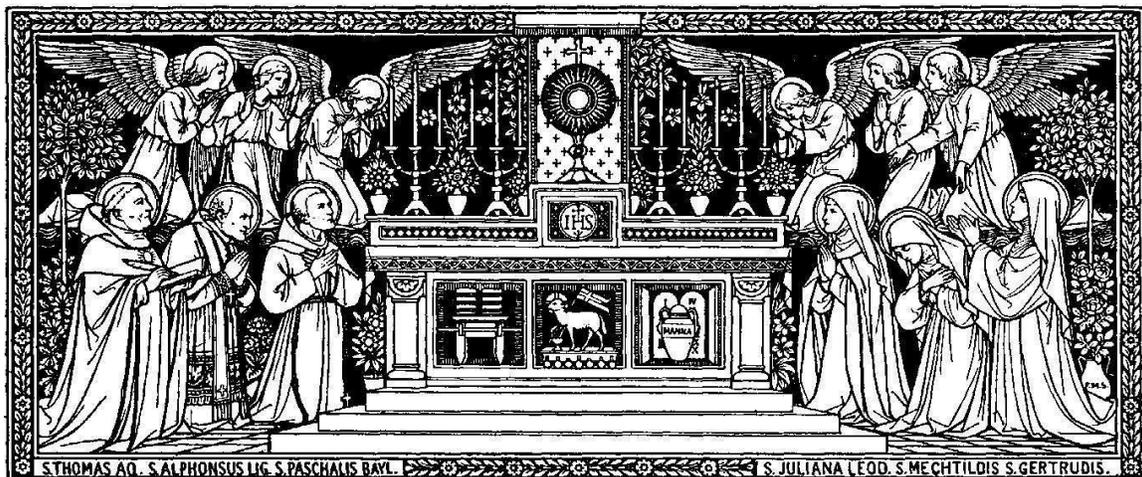
Dec 20 Weekday NO MASS

Dec 21 4th Sunday, Advent *Van Foster*

Dec 22 4th Sunday, Advent *Pro Populo*

Dec 22 4th Sunday, Advent *Poor Souls*

Masses without intentions are celebrated according to the intention of the priest celebrant. To request the offering of the mass for your intention, please call the parish office or place your request in the Sunday collection



PARISH EVENTS & NOTIFICATIONS

Parish Priest: Fr. David Gaines

Finance Council: Jerry Bluett

Altar Society: Marlene Edwards

Parish Office: Miles Ormsby

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BOOT DRIVE

Due to the overwhelming need for warm winter boots for children in the neighborhood, this year we are replacing our annual Giving Tree with a Boot Drive to help the children at the Boys and Girls Club.

Boots of all youth sizes can be left in the Nave of the Church to be collected. Please participate in this charitable endeavor, as works of charity are fundamental to the practice of a Christian and Catholic life.

NORTHSIDE CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

Northside Catholic Youth Ministries will be meeting every Tuesday evening, from 6:30-8:30pm at St. Charles Parish. Open for 6th-12th grades.

RORATE COELI

We are glad to celebrate the Rorate Coeli devotional this coming advent. The devotion consists of three pre-dawn Holy Masses celebrated in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The first Holy Mass will be December 7th at 6:55am, the second on the 14th at 7:00am, and the third on the 21st at 7:05am. Please join us for these beautiful candle-lit Holy Masses.

COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS

Are shared after both the 7:30am and 11am Mass. Please join your friends and neighbors.

BEATRICE CO-OPERATIVE ACADEMY

Do you have children in school? Do you have a subject you are passionate about integrating into Catholic living? How about exploring Beatrice Cooperative Academy (BCA) as we are in our development year? Firstly, we ask for your prayers on our endeavor and your discernment; recommending ourselves to Mary, as Mother of the Word Incarnate.

Whether you are in need of education for your child or embrace fully your mission as a Catholic to be a gift to others, with BCA you have the opportunity to joyfully live Catholic Truth, Beauty, and Goodness everyday. This year we are launching our pilot Kindergarten program (space is limited). We also want to build connections for the next stage of our launch in 2020-2021. Please contact Michael d'Esterre, MSW for additional information and inquiry call 509-903-3315 or email at "beatriceacademy@gmail.com".

REMEMBER OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Twice a month St. Peter's Lutheran Community distributes the food we collect. Bins are available at the church doors your for donations of nonperishable food items.



ON THE ADVANTAGES OF TRIBULATIONS

IN tribulations God enriches his beloved souls with the greatest graces. Behold, St. John in his chains comes to the knowledge of the works of Jesus Christ: "When John had heard in prison the works of Christ." Great indeed are the advantages of tribulations. The Lord sends them to us, not because he wishes our misfortune, but because he desires our welfare. Hence, when they come upon us we must embrace them with thanksgiving, and must not only resign ourselves to the divine will, but must also rejoice that God treats us as he treated his Son Jesus Christ, whose life, upon this earth was always full of tribulation. I shall now show, the advantages we derive from tribulations.

"What doth he know that had not been tried? A man that hath much experience shall think of many things, and he that hath learned many things shall show forth understanding." (Eccl. xxxiv. 9.) They who live in prosperity, and have no experience of adversity, know nothing of the state of their souls. In the first place, tribulation opens the eyes which prosperity had kept shut. St. Paul remained blind after Jesus Christ appeared to him, and, during his blindness, he perceived the errors in which he lived. The prodigal son, when he found himself under the necessity of feeding swine, and afflicted with hunger, exclaimed: "I will arise and go to my father." (Luke xv. 18.)

Secondly, tribulation takes from our hearts all affections to earthly things. When a mother wishes to wean her infant she puts gall on the paps, to excite his disgust, and induce him to take better food. God treats us in a similar manner: to detach us from temporal goods, he mingles them with gall, that by tasting its bitterness, we may conceive a dislike for them, and place our affections on the things of Heaven. "God," says St. Augustine, "mingles bitterness with earthly pleasures, that we may seek another felicity, whose sweetness does not deceive." (Ser. xxix., de Verb. Dom.)

Thirdly, they who live in prosperity are molested by many temptations of pride, of vainglory; of desires of acquiring greater wealth, great honours, and greater pleasures. Tribulations free us from these temptations, and make us humble and content in the state in which the Lord has placed us. Hence the Apostle says: "We are chastised by the Lord that we may not be condemned with this world." (1 Cor. xi. 32.)

Fourthly, by tribulation we atone for the sins we have committed much better than by voluntary works of penance. "Be assured," says St. Augustine, "that God is a physician, and that tribulation is a salutary medicine." Oh! how great is the efficacy of tribulation in healing the wounds caused by our sins! Hence, the same saint rebukes the sinner who complains of God for sending him tribulations. "Why," he says, "do you complain? What you suffer is a remedy, not a punishment." (In Ps. lv.) Job called those happy men whom God corrects by tribulation; because he heals them with the very hands with which he strikes and wounds them. "Blessed is the man whom God correcteth. . . . For he woundeth and cureth. He striketh, and his hand shall heal." (Job v. 17, 18.) Hence, St. Paul gloried in his tribulations: "Gloriamur in tribulationibus." (Rom. v. 3.)



SACRED HEART RADIO
CATHOLIC RADIO FOR SPOKANE

Listen On
AM 970
FM 106.1

Download Our App
and listen anywhere!

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

HOLY CROSS
FUNERAL AND CEMETERY SERVICES

Compassionate pricing with superior service.

(509)467-5496 holycrossofspokane.org 7200 N. Wall, Spokane, WA 99208



HOLY CROSS ST. JOSEPH QUEEN OF PEACE
MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE FAITHFUL: FUNERAL | CREMATION | CEMETERY | FAMILY ESTATES

A NON-PROFIT MINISTRY OF THE
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
SPOKANE



Grill & Chill.

Ice Cream
Cakes For Any
Occasion

487-4391

917 E. Wellesley Store

*Is it time for you to
incorporate?
Call Dan.
The answer is may
be easier than you
might think.*

**Income Tax
Services**

Dan Stadtmueller

216-0900



(509) 217-7889
vic@plese.com



Vic Plese
Broker



Have Mike Fix It

**Mikes Mobile
Computer Repair**

Guaranteed Virus Removal
Protect All Your Devices
From Pornography!
Call Mike Today!
509- 999-0014

New in Spokane!
Medicare Advantage Plans



We have a plan for you. Call **1-833-949-0268 (TTY: 711)**,
8 a.m. - 8 p.m., seven days a week.

H9047_2020PHAT11_C

**A Catholic
Legacy
for Over
125 Years.**



HENNESSEY
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY
328-2600



100% of Eligible Medical Bills shared
up to \$1 Million Per Incident
**Medical Cost
Sharing for
Catholics**

USE PROMO CODE
5093621556



NORTH SPOKANE 106
**AUTO
Licensing**

10208 N Division Suite 109
509-464-2294
www.northspokaneautolicensing.com

Listing Your
Business Here is
Easy! Call:
509-362-1556
Discounts for
Parishioners

**Spokane Catholic
Business Directory**

Businesses • Mass Times • Daily Readings/Rosary
Catholic Coupons • Discounts & More!

spokanecatholic.net



SACRED HEART RADIO

CATHOLIC RADIO FOR SPOKANE

AM 970 / FM 106.1

Download Our App and listen anywhere!

COONEY
LAW OFFICES, P.S.

Auto Accidents,
Wills & Estate
Planning,
Family Law

509-327-6000
330 W. Indiana Ave
www.jcooney.com



Roofing & Construction
509.489.3552
HRCSPokane.com
#HERITRC951MR



- Amazing Food
- Home-like Atmosphere
- Awesome Activities

Schedule a visit today!

ASSISTED LIVING DESIGNED FOR COMFORT

509.443.0401 • AvamereatSouthHill.com