



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

January 5th , 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

## **EPIPHANY—THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS**

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany, which recalls the Marriage feast of Cana, was at first chosen as the day on which to honor the most holy Name of Jesus. It is on the Wedding Day that the Bridegroom gives his Name to the Bride, and it is the sign that, from that day forward, she belongs to him alone. The Church, therefore, wishing to honor a name so precious to her with a special feast, could find no day more appropriate for it than that of the Marriage at Cana. But now she has chosen for the celebration of this august Name, a day closer to the Anniversary on which it was given: “after eight days were accomplished, his name was called Jesus.” She leaves, however, the commemoration of the Sacred Nuptials to the Sunday of which it has ever been the glory.

In the Old Covenant, the Name of God inspired fear and awe: nor was the honor of pronouncing it granted to all the children of Israel. We can understand this. God had not yet come down from heaven to live on earth, and converse with men; he had not yet taken upon himself our poor nature, and become Man like ourselves; the sweet Name expressive of love and tenderness, could not be applied to him.

But, when the fullness of time had come—when the mystery of love was about to be revealed—then did heaven send down the Name of “Jesus” to our earth, as a pledge of the speedy coming of him who was to bear it. The archangel Gabriel said to Mary: Thou shalt call his Name Jesus. “Jesus” means Savior. How sweet will this Name not be to poor lost man! It seems to link earth to heaven! No name is so amiable, none is so powerful. Every knee in heaven, on earth, and in hell, bows in adoration at hearing this Name! And yet, who can pronounce it, and not feel love spring up within his heart?

The feast of the Holy Name is of comparatively recent origin. Its first promoter was St. Bernardine of Siena, who lived in the fifteenth century. This holy man established the practice of representing the Holy Name of Jesus surrounded with rays, and formed into a monogram of its three first letters, *ihs*. The custom spread rapidly through Italy, and was zealously propagated by the great St. John of Capistrano, who, like St. Bernardine of Siena, was of the Order of Friars Minor. The Holy See gave its formal approbation to this manner of honoring the Name of our Savior, and, in the early part of the sixteenth century, Pope Clement VI, after long entreaties, granted to the whole Franciscan Order the privilege of keeping a special Feast in honor of the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

**Continued on Last Page...**



## A King To Behold : Reflection on the Feast of The Epiphany

An “epiphany” is an appearance. In today’s readings, with their rising stars, splendorous lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears.

Herod, in today’s Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David (see 2 Samuel 2:5), the other predicting “a ruler of Israel” who will “shepherd his flock” and whose “greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth” (see Micah 5:1–3).

Those promises of Israel’s king ruling the nations resound also in today’s Psalm. The psalm celebrates David’s son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch “to the ends of the earth,” and the world’s kings will pay him homage. That’s the scene too in today’s First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing “gold and frankincense” for Israel’s king.

The Magi’s pilgrimage in today’s Gospel marks the fulfillment of God’s promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler’s staff over the house of Jacob (see Numbers 24:17).

Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the “kings of the earth” (see 1 Kings 10:2, 25; 2 Chronicles 9:24). Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon (see Song of Songs 3:6; 4:6, 14).

One greater than Solomon is here (see Luke 11:31). He has come to reveal that all peoples are “coheirs” of the royal family of Israel, as today’s Epistle teaches.

His manifestation forces us to choose: will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and scribes who let God’s words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?

*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:** 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**)

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TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

St. Francis Xavier can be found online at  
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Our Mailing Address is:  
P.O. Box 7179, Spokane, WA, 99207

### THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 6TH

**5:30PM MASS EPIPHANY(LATIN)**

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 7TH

No Mass

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8TH

NO MASS

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 2ND

NO MASS

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 4TH

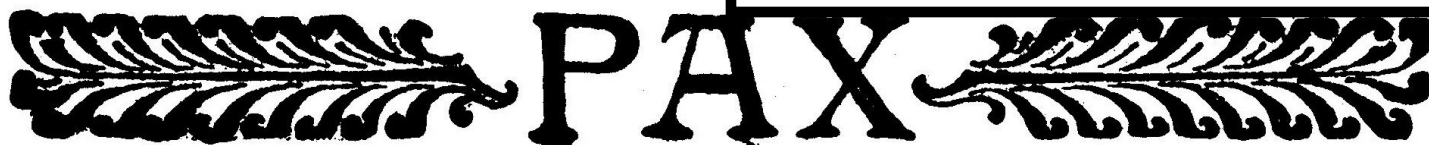
3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



## 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) 362-8646



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## 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.**





### Continued from Cover...

Rome extended the same favor to various Churches; and, at length, the Feast was inserted in the universal Calendar. It was in the year 1721, at the request of Charles VI, Emperor of Germany, that Pope Innocent XII decreed that the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus should be kept throughout the whole Church; he also chose the Second Sunday after the Epiphany as the day, but as we have already explained, the feast is now fixed for the Sunday following the Circumcision.

*Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger, O.S.B. (1805-1875).*



#### St. Andre Bessette, Religious January 6th

Born near Quebec in 1845, Andre worked in the United States for a few years. Returning to Canada, he entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross as a Brother. Because of poor health as a child, Andre had been unable to attend school regularly and could not read or write. He was assigned as a doorkeeper at the College of Notre Dame in Montreal and remained in that capacity for over forty years. He also performed the tasks of janitor, infirmarian, barber, gardener, and lamplighter. His piety and willingness to help other charmed the students and their parents.

Andre also developed a great devotion to St. Joseph. People flocked to his cell to ask his opinion and his prayers for some favor or some cure, and Andre complied, while entrusting all to St. Joseph, the Spouse of the Virgin Mother of God and foster-father of the Divine Infant. In time, he was able to have a chapel built to St. Joseph. After his death on January 6, 1937, the shrine grew into a great basilica of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, which is visited by pilgrims from all over the world. He was beatified in 1982 by Pope John II and canonized on October 17, 2010, by Pope Benedict XVI.

**PRAYER:** O God, friend of the humble, You inspired Brother Andre with great devotion to St. Joseph and singular dedication to the poor and afflicted. Grant us, through his intercession, to follow his example of prayer and charity, so that with him we may attain the splendor of Your glory. **Amen.**



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