



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

January 26th , 2025

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

**THRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ≈ THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

***“Many shall come from the east and the west, and  
shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob  
in the kingdom of heaven.”***



But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into the exterior darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. By these words our Lord wished to signify that many persons born in infidelity shall be saved, and enjoy the society of the saints, and that many who are born in the bosom of the Church shall be cast into Hell, where the worm of conscience, by its gnawing, shall make them weep bitterly for all eternity.

Let us examine the remorse of conscience which a damned Christian shall suffer in Hell: the remorse arising from the thought of the little which he was required to do in order to save his soul; from the remembrance of the trifles for which he lost his soul; from the knowledge of the great good which he has lost through his own fault.... Each of the reprobate will say for eternity: If I abstained from such a gratification; if in certain circumstances I overcame human respect; if I avoided such an occasion of sin, such a companion, I should not now be damned; if I had frequented some pious sodality; if I had gone to confession every week; if in temptations I had recommended myself to God, I would not have relapsed into sin. I have so often proposed to do these things, but I have not done them. I began to practice these means of salvation, but afterwards gave them up; and thus I am lost.

This torment will be increased by the remembrance of the good example given them by some young companions who led a chaste and pious life even in the midst of the world. It will be still more increased by the recollection of all the gifts which the Lord had bestowed upon them, that by their co-operation they might acquire eternal salvation; the gifts of nature — health, riches, respectability of family, talents; all gifts granted by God, not to be employed in the indulgence of pleasures and in the gratification of vanity, but in the sanctification of their souls, and in becoming saints.

*Commentary by St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori, C.Ss.R. (1696-1787)*

## New Day Dawns : Reflection on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The meaning of today's liturgy is subtle and many-layered.

We need background to understand what's happening in today's First Reading.

Babylon having been defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem. They rebuilt their ruined temple (see Ezra 6:15–17) and under Nehemiah finished rebuilding the city walls (see Nehemiah 6:15).

The stage was set for the renewal of the covenant and the re-establishment of the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life. That's what's going on in today's First Reading, as Ezra reads and interprets (see Nehemiah 8:8) the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!"

Israel, as we sing in today's Psalm, is rededicating itself to God and His Law. The scene seems like the Isaiah prophecy that Jesus reads from in today's Gospel.

Read all of Isaiah 61. The "glad tidings" Isaiah brings include these promises: the liberation of prisoners (61:1); the rebuilding of Jerusalem, or Zion (61:3–4; see also Isaiah 60:10); the restoration of Israel as a kingdom of priests (61:6; Exodus 19:6); and the forging of an everlasting covenant (61:8; Isaiah 55:3). It sounds a lot like the First Reading.

Jesus, in turn, declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The Gospel scene, too, recalls the First Reading. Like Ezra, Jesus stands before the people, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it (compare Luke 4:16–17, 21 and Nehemiah 8:2–6, 8–10).

We witness in today's Liturgy the creation of a new people of God. Ezra started reading at dawn of the first day of the Jewish new year (see Leviticus 23:24). Jesus also proclaims a "sabbath," a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin, a release from the debts we owe to God (see Leviticus 25:10).

The people greeted Ezra "as one man." And, as today's Epistle teaches, in the Spirit the new people of God—the Church—is made "one body" with Him.

*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**)

### 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  
**sfxspokane.org** or at  
**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

**Office Email:** office@sfxspokane.org

**Office Hours.**

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

### THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 27TH

5:30pm, Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 28TH

8:00am, Mass *Ceberiano Padilla*

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Guadalupe Guardado*

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 30TH

8:00am, Mass *Genoveba Carrillo*

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

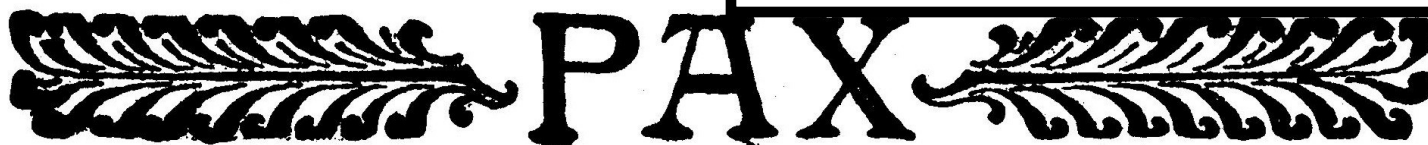
3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

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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### St. John Bosco, Priest January 31st

St. John Bosco was born in a poor farm near Turin, Italy, in 1815. At an age when the modern child would be enjoying the pastime of a kindergarten education, he was out on the hillside tending sheep. At about his ninth year, when he expressed the desire to become a priest, it was found possible to let him commence his education by walking more than four miles daily for half a year. The other half, in Spring and Summer. Was spent in the fields.

The day before the Saint entered the seminary, his mother, laying her hands on his shoulders as he stood robed in his clerical dress, said: "to see you dress in this manner fills my heart with joy. But remember that it is not the dress that gives honor to the state, but the practice of virtue. If at any time you come to doubt your vocation, I beseech you, lay it aside at once. I would rather have a poor peasant for my son than a negligent priest. When you come into the world I consecrated you to our Lady; when you began to study I bade you honor her and have recourse to her in all your difficulties; now I beg you to take her for your Queen."

Today the motto on the Salesian coat of arms: "Give me only souls and keep all the rest"—bears witness to the fidelity of Don Bosco to the words of a truly Christian mother.

This admirable "Apostle of Youth" is almost our contemporary. He founded the Salesian Society of St. Francis of Sales and the Daughter of the Mary Help of Christians. His life's work was consecrated to the care of young boys and girls. He died in 1888, and was canonized in 1934 by Pope Pius XI.

**PRAYER:** God of mercy, You called St. John Bosco to be a father and teacher of the young. Grant that inspired by his ardent charity we may serve You alone and never tire of bringing others to Your Kingdom and serving You alone. **Amen.**





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