



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

February 23rd , 2025

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

## THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

The season of Septuagesima comprises the three weeks immediately preceding Lent. It forms one of the principal divisions of the liturgical year, and is itself divided into three parts, each part corresponding to a week: the first is called Septuagesima; the second, Sexagesima; the third, Quinquagesima. All three are named from their numerical reference to Lent, which, in the language of the Church, is called Quadragesima, that is, Forty, because the great feast of Easter is prepared for by the holy exercises of forty days. The words Quinquagesima, Sexagesima, and Septuagesima, tell us of the same great solemnity as looming in the distance, and as being the great object towards which the Church would have us now begin to turn all our thoughts, and desires, and devotion.

Now, the feast of Easter must be prepared for by forty days of recollectedness and penance. Those forty days are one of the principal seasons of the liturgical year, and one of the most powerful means employed by the Church for exciting in the hearts of her children the spirit of their Christian vocation. It is of the utmost importance that such a season of grace should produce its work in our souls—the renovation of the whole spiritual life. The Church, therefore, has instituted a preparation for the holy time of Lent. She gives us the three weeks of Septuagesima, during which she withdraws us, as much as may be, from the noisy distraction of the world, in order that our hearts may be more readily impressed by the solemn warning she is to give us at the commencement of Lent by marking our foreheads with ashes.

This prelude to the holy season of Lent was not known in the early ages of Christianity: its institution would seem to have originated in the Greek Church. Besides the six Sundays of Lent, on which by universal custom the faithful never fasted, the practice of this Church prohibited fasting on the Saturdays likewise; consequently their Lent was short by twelve days of the forty spent by our Savior doing penance in the desert. To make up for the deficiency, they were obliged to begin their Lent so many days earlier. **Continued on middle page...**



# David and Saul: Reflection on The Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

The story of David and Saul in today's First Reading functions almost like a parable. Showing mercy to his deadly foe, David gives a concrete example of what Jesus expects to become a way of life for His disciples.

The new law Jesus gives in today's Gospel would have us all become "Davids"—loving our enemies, doing good to those who would harm us, extending a line of credit to those who won't ever repay us.

The Old Law required only that the Israelites love their fellow countrymen (see Leviticus 19:18). The new law Jesus brings makes us kin to every man and woman (see also Luke 10:29–36). His kingdom isn't one of tribe or nationality. It's a family. As followers of Jesus, we're to live as He lived among us—as "children of the Most High" (see Luke 6:35; 1:35).

As sons and daughters, we want to walk in the ways of our heavenly Father, to "be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Grateful for His mercy, we're called to forgive others their trespasses because God has forgiven ours.

In the context of today's liturgy, we're all "Sauls"—by our sinfulness and pride we make ourselves enemies of God. But we've been spared a death we surely deserved to die because God has loved and shown mercy to His enemies, "the ungrateful and the wicked," as Jesus says.

Jesus showed us this love in His Passion, forgiving His enemies as they stripped Him of cloak and tunic, cursed Him and struck Him on the cheek, condemned Him to death on a cross (see Luke 22:63–65; 23:34). "He redeems your life from destruction," David reminds us in today's Psalm.

That's the promise, too, of today's Epistle: that we who believe in the "last Adam," Jesus, will rise from the dead in His image, as today we bear the image of the "first Adam," who by his sin made God an enemy and brought death into the world (see 1 Corinthians 15:21–22).

*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](mailto:pastor@sfxspokane.org)

**Office Email:** [office@sfxspokane.org](mailto:office@sfxspokane.org)

**Office Hours.**

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

### THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

5:30pm, Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

8:00am, Mass *Priests in Purgatory*

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *The Holiness and Chasity of Priests*

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

8:00am, Mass *Fr Gaines*

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 30TH

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**

## 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”.

All women - retired, widowed, single and married - are invited to join.

### Activities and volunteer possibilities include:

- Contributing to food prep for after mass socials during the warm months
  - Organizing parish picnics + potlucks
- Organizing + providing food for catechesis nights for children and adults
  - Formation of Bible studies + small groups
  - Corporal works of mercy for the sick and elderly
  - Other misc. needs of the parish

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



**Give Online!!**  
**Just Scan the QR Code**  
**Above**

### **Continued from the cover....**

The Church of Rome had no such motive for anticipating the season of those privations which belong to Lent; for, from the earliest antiquity, she kept the Saturdays in Lent (and as often during the rest of the year as circumstances might require) as fasting days. At the close of the sixth century, St. Gregory the Great alludes, in one of his homilies, to the fast of Lent being less than forty days, owing to the Sundays which come during that holy season. “There are,” he says, “from this day (the first Sunday of Lent) to the joyous feast of Easter, six weeks, that is, forty-two days. As we do not fast on the six Sundays, there are but thirty-six fasting days ... which we offer to God as the tithe of our year.”

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





# Stations of the Cross

AND LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS  
5:30pm at Mary Queen – Hillyard

St. Francis Xavier and St. Patrick are joining Mary Queen to bring this Lenten tradition to all our families.

Each parish will take turns volunteering to bring soup. Please see the dates and sign up in the vestibule to bring a meatless soup to share. From a different parish? Bring your favorite soup and join us!



Questions? Email [women.of.st.x@gmail.com](mailto:women.of.st.x@gmail.com)



**March 7**

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

**March 14**

ST. PATRICK

**March 21**

MARY QUEEN

**March 28**

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

**April 4**

ST. PATRICK

**April 11**

MARY QUEEN

## St. Ethelbert, King of Kent February 24th

St. Ethelbert was a descendent of Hengist, the legendary ancestor of the Jutish House of Kent. He became King in 560 and extended his power to all England south of the Humber. He married a Christian princess, Bertha, who was the daughter of the Frankish King Charibert. This resulted in the first introduction of Christianity into Anglo-Saxon England, since her father insisted that his daughter should be free to practice her Faith in England.

When St. Augustine of Canterbury arrived in England in 597 with his Roman mission, he was accorded a pleasant welcome by Ethelbert who was himself still a heathen. Inspired by the example of his wife's Faith as well as St. Augustine's zeal, Ethelbert was converted and baptized on Pentecost in 597. He thus became the first Christian English King and thereafter gave his full support to the cause of Christ in his realm.


St. Ethelbert was constantly concerned to promote the welfare of his people. He enacted wholesome laws that were held in esteem in succeeding ages in England. He abolished the worship of idols throughout his kingdom and turned their temples into churches or shut them down. He was also instrumental in converting Sebert, King of the East Saxons, with his people, and Redwald, King of the East Angles. He died in 616 after reigning fifty-six years.

**PRAYER:** Lord God, You alone are holy and no one is good without You. Through the intercession of St. Ethelbert help us to live in such a way that we may not be deprived of a share in Your glory. **Amen.**



Below Are Some of Our Trusted Businesses... More Here  
**Spokane Catholic Business Directory**

**AF HONEST HOME SERVICES LLC**



**Call**  
**509.537.3022**  
 Military & Senior Discounts  
 Financing Available

**Roof Restore**  
 Why Re-Roof When You Can Restore?

All-natural Roof Maxx treatment is guaranteed to extend your roof's life by 5 years per treatment and up to 15 years with repeated treatments.

**Call Mike Muglia**  
**509-570-4958**

**FALL SPECIAL**  
 Mention this ad and receive a \$250 Discount!



**WANT MORE JOY, LAUGHTER AND LOVE?**  
**CONSIDER ADDING A NEW BEST FRIEND TO YOUR FAMILY**

What Makes a Blue Star Australian Labradoodle the Perfect Choice?  
 Gentle, Loving Therapy Dog Temperaments  
 Already Crate Trained & Sleep Thru the Night  
 Joyful, Incredibly Smart & Easy to Train  
 Know Basic Commands: Come, Sit, Down & Roll Over  
 Low to No Shedding and Allergy Friendly  
 Providing Families Exceptional Puppies for 18 Yrs.

**BLUE STAR LABRADOODLES**  
 www.bluestarlabradoodles.com  
 509-979-0949 | Spokane  
 CALL CAROL FOR MORE INFO AND PUPPY AVAILABILITY

**Mikes Mobile Computer Repair**

Just Call Mike!



**Havemikefixit.com**

**Networking**  
**Security Cameras**  
**Computer Use Lessons**  
**Custom Computer Builds**  
**(509) 999-0014**

**ST. JOSEPH'S FLOORING**  
**509-466-6433**

THE GREATER AND MORE PERSISTENT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN GOD, THE MORE ABUNDANTLY YOU WILL RECEIVE WHAT YOU ASK.

SAINT  
 ALBERT THE GREAT

**Interior Painting**



**J1 Finish Co.**

Mention This Ad for 10% Off Your Quote  
**509-655-7047**

**Are You Prepared?**  
**End of Life Workshop**  
*Planning for Your Spiritual & Corporal Needs*  
**Saturday, March 15 • 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
 Mass at 8:30 (optional)  
**St. Charles Parish**  
 4515 N. Alberta St., Spokane, WA 99205

**NO CHARGE**

Join us for this informative workshop and learn how to preplan for the end of life.  
 Light refreshments provided.

Sponsored by:

**HOLY CROSS**  
 FUNERAL AND CEMETERY SERVICES

A NON-PROFIT MINISTRY OF THE  
**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPOKANE**

Please RSVP to (509)467-5496 or [bernadettep@holycrossofspokane.org](mailto:bernadettep@holycrossofspokane.org)

**WANT MORE JOY, LAUGHTER AND LOVE?**  
**BETTER BREED BY DESIGN**  
 ★ Raising the Bar ★



CONSIDER ADDING A NEW BEST FRIEND TO YOUR FAMILY

**SUMMER SPECIAL**  
 Mention this ad and receive a \$250 Discount!

**ANGIE JOHNSON**  
 ST. JOHN VIANNEY PARISHIONER  
**HEALTH INSURANCE BROKER**

HELPING YOU NAVIGATE  
 MEDICARE OPTIONS.  
**509.418.8187**

**HERITAGE**  
 #HERITRC951MR



**Roofing & Construction**  
**509-489-3552**  
 HRCSPokane.com

**ODLIN PAINTING AND BUILDING**  
 Commercial & Residential Painting



FREE ESTIMATES

- INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING
- PRESSURE WASHING
- DECK REFINISHING
- CABINETS

**509-818-6335**

**BLUE STAR LABRADOODLES**



What Makes a Blue Star Australian Labradoodle the Perfect Choice?  
 Gentle, Loving Therapy Dog Temperaments  
 Already Crate Trained, Sleep Thru the Night.  
 Joyful, Smart, Easy to Train, Already Know... Come, Sit, Down & Roll Over.

**Call Carol 509-979-0949**

**CHATTAROY CABINET CO**  
*Real Wood Cabinets Below Box Store Prices*

804 W. Rosewood Spokane Wa

*Cabinetry - Installation - Contracting*  
*Value, Integrity, & Exceptional Service*

**509-951-2840**  
 CHATTAROYCABINETCO.COM

**BUSINESS OWNERS**

Is it a bad Idea to Eliminate Nearly All Your Credit Card Transaction Fees?

**Call**  
**Terri Gilbertz**  
 Schedule a Complimentary Review to Show You How.  
**509-993-4201**  
**MBNCARD**  
 PAINLESS PAYMENT SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

**THE 509 GARAGE**  
 3620 N Nevada Street



**PH (509) 598-8244**  
 Maintenance \* Diagnosis \* Brakes \* Emissions  
 Engines \* Transmissions \* High Performance

**OPEN 24 HOURS**  
**NO EXTRA SERVICE FEES**



**BIG RED WRENCH PLUMBING**  
**Call Timothy 509-822-1608**