



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

March 9th, 2025

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

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

This Sunday, the first of the six which come during Lent, is one of the most solemn throughout the year. It has the same privilege as Passion and Palm Sundays, - that is, it never gives place to any Feast, not even to that of the Patron, Titular Saint, or Dedication of the Church. In the ancient Calendars, it is called *Invocabit*, from the first word of the Introit of the Mass. In the Middle-Ages [More especially in France. Translator.], it was called *Brand Sunday*, because the young people, who had misconducted themselves during the carnival, were obliged to show themselves to-day, at the Church, with a torch in their hands, as a kind of public satisfaction for their riot and excess.

Lent solemnly opens to-day. We have already noticed, that the four preceding days were added since the time of St. Gregory the Great, in order to make up Forty days of fasting. Neither can we look upon Ash Wednesday as the solemn opening of the Season, for the Faithful are not bound to hear Mass on that day. The Holy Church, seeing her children now assembled together, speaks to them, in her Office of Matins, these eloquent and noble words of St. Leo the Great: "Having to announce to you, dearly beloved, the most sacred and chief Fast, how can I more appropriately begin, than with the words of the Apostle, (in whom Christ himself spoke,) and by saying to you what has just been read: Behold! now is the acceptable time; behold! now is the day of salvation. For although there be no time, which is not replete with divine gifts, and we may always, by God's grace, have access to his mercy, - yet ought we all to redouble our efforts to make spiritual progress and be animated with unusual confidence, now that the anniversary of the day of our Redemption is approaching, inviting us to devote ourselves to every good work, that so we may celebrate, with purity of body and mind, the incomparable Mystery of our Lord's Passion.



Continued on Third Page.....

Forty Days : Reflection on The First Sunday of Lent

In today's epic Gospel scene, Jesus relives in His flesh the history of Israel.

We've already seen that, like Israel, Jesus has passed through water and been called God's beloved Son (see Luke 3:22; Exodus 4:22). Now, as Israel was tested for forty years in the wilderness, Jesus is led into the desert to be tested for forty days and nights (see Exodus 15:25).

He faces the temptations put to Israel: Hungry, He's tempted to grumble against God for food (see Exodus 16:1–13). As Israel quarreled at Massah, He's tempted to doubt God's care (see Exodus 17:1–6). When the Devil asks for His homage, He's tempted to do what Israel did in creating the golden calf (see Exodus 32).

Jesus fights the Devil with the Word of God, three times quoting from Moses' lecture about the lessons Israel was supposed to learn from its wilderness wanderings (see Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16, 12–15).

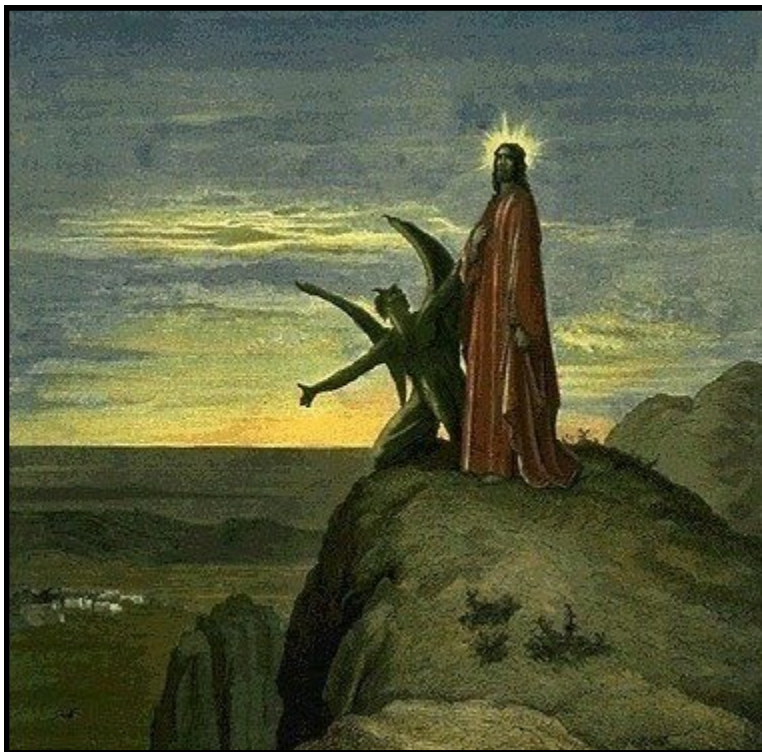
Why do we read this story on the first Sunday of Lent? Because like the biblical sign of forty (see Genesis 7:12; Exodus 24:18; 34:28; 1 Kings 19:8; Jonah 3:4), the forty days of Lent are a time of trial and purification.

Lent is to teach us what we hear over and over in today's readings. "Call upon me, and I will answer," the Lord promises in today's Psalm. Paul promises the same thing in today's Epistle (quoting Deuteronomy 30:14; Isaiah 28:16; Joel 2:32).

This was Israel's experience, as Moses reminds his people in today's First Reading: "We cried to the Lord . . . and He heard." But each of us is tempted, as Israel was, to forget the great deeds He works in our lives, to neglect our birthright as His beloved sons and daughters.

Like the litany of remembrance Moses prescribes for Israel, we should see in the Mass a memorial of our salvation, and "bow down in His presence," offering ourselves in thanksgiving for all He has given us.

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, MARCH 10TH

5:30pm, Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

TUESDAY, MARCH 11TH

8:00am, Mass *Priests in Purgatory*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH

8:00am, Mass *Priests in purgatory*

FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH

5:30pm, Stations of the Cross (Mary Queen Parish)

SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH

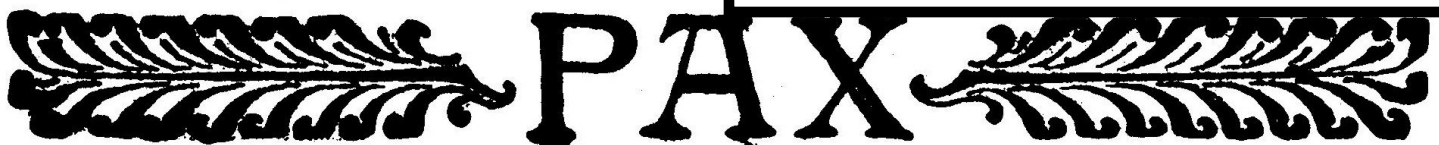
3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH

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**

From the cover...

“It is true, that our devotion and reverence towards so great a Mystery should be kept up during the whole year, and we ourselves be, at all times, in the eyes of God, the same as we are

bound to be at the Easter Solemnity. But this is an effort which only few among us have the courage to sustain. The weakness of the flesh induces us to relent our austerities; the various occupations of every-day life take up our thoughts; and thus, even the virtuous find their hearts clogged by this world’s dust. Hence it is, that our Lord has most providentially given us these Forty Days, whose holy exercises should be to us a remedy, whereby to regain our purity of soul. The good works and the holy fastings of this Season were instituted as an atonement and obliteration of the sins we commit during the rest of the Year.

“Now, therefore, that we are about to enter upon these days, which are so full of mystery, and were instituted for the holy purpose of purifying both our soul and body, let us, dearly beloved, be careful to do as the Apostle bids us, and cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the flesh and the spirit: that thus the combat between the two substances being made less fierce, the soul, which, when she herself is subject to God, ought to be the ruler of the body, will recover her own dignity and position. Let us also avoid giving offence to any man, so that there be none to blame or speak evil things of us. For we deserve the harsh remarks of infidels, and we provoke the tongues of the wicked to blaspheme religion, when we, who fast, lead unholy lives. For our Fast does not consist in the mere abstaining from food; nor is it of much use to deny food to our body, unless we restrain the soul from sin.”

Commentary Dom Prosper Guéranger (1805-1875)



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St. Heribert (Herbert), Bishop March 16th

St. Heribert was born at Worms in Germany about 970 and educated at the Abbey of Gorze in Lorraine. He wanted to enter the Benedictine Order there, but his father recalled him to Worms and obtained a canonry for him. As a young priest, Heribert became a trusted counselor of the youthful Emperor Otto III, chancellor of the diocese, and finally Archbishop of Cologne in 998.

In that same year the Saint accompanied the Emperor to Rome and assisted him in his last moments before his death in 1002. In the ensuing skirmishing for the post of Emperor, St. Heribert at first was opposed to St. Henry II through a mutual misunderstanding. But in time the two Saints, Archbishop and Emperor, were publicly reconciled and labored together for the good of the people.

St. Heribert was practically a model of what a Bishop should be. He was a peaceful man but a firm disciplinarian; a holy man but one who knew the value of money and saw to it that his was always divided among the poor. He was a man of prayer, and in a time of drought it was in answer to his prayers that a torrential rain fell, saving the harvest and

delivering the people from famine. He died in 1021 and is invoked in time of drought.

PRAYER: God, Light and Shepherd of souls, You established St. Heribert as Bishop in Your Church to feed Your flock by his word and form it by his example. Help us through his intercession to keep the Faith he taught by his word. **Amen.**

St. Patrick's Patronal Feast

Saturday March 15 at 5:30pm

School Hall

Traditional Irish Dinner

Live Music provided by
The Morgan Brother's Band

Crafts, Face Painting, Family Fun

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



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



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Mass at 8:30 (optional)

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