



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

July 21st 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

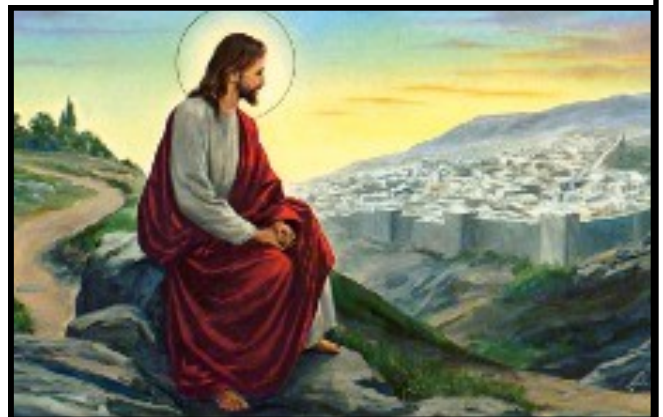
Daily Mass is only on Monday and Wednesday this week

As our Lord wept over the doom of Israel's ancient Sanctuary He thought also of myriads of sinners everywhere for whom His coming and His Sacrifice would be, instead of a source of blessing, an occasion of greater condemnation. He thought as He looked down through His tears on the pride and beauty of the shrine that was soon to collapse in ruin, how many other centers of God's dwelling, how many souls that God's grace would build up into living Temples of the Holy Spirit, were to be overthrown and made desolate. As He thought of the Roman armies encircling Jerusalem and building up the "stifling" barricades round her walls, He could see also the cohorts of Satan's army—the forces of pride, sensuality and unbelief, beleaguering the shrines of God in the souls of men, and threatening them with ruin.

The fall of Jerusalem is a symbol of the lot of every soul that misses its hour, that knows not the time of God's visitation. The miracles, the teaching, the gracious words, the never-ceasing goodness of Christ, were all forgotten or disregarded by a city and a people which worldliness had stricken blind, and made foolish. The brief outburst of acclamation round the Messianic King on Palm Sunday was quite forgotten amid the sneering at the unmasking of the alleged "charlatan" on Good Friday. And as Jesus wept over Jerusalem's blindness, so He wept also over the instability of so many Christians whose loyalty to Him would be as brief, and whose hostility towards Him would be as bitter as that of the children of Jerusalem. Jerusalem would be destroyed because she had not known the hour of God's visitation, the decisive hour of grace. To every soul is given such a time of grace—as to the Apostle Levi (Matthew), the tax collector Zacchaeus, the Woman of Samaria, the Sinner in the town, the Good Thief. On the use of the season of grace may depend eternity.

We cannot tell which of the many graces we receive is the most decisive. It may be a sermon, a confession, a mission; or it may be some misfortune, some family grief, or some problem of business. Let us pray that we never be blind to the mercies of God, and that we may be always ready to cooperate loyally with His Grace.

Commentary by Msgr. Patrick Boylan (1879-1974).



One Flock: Reflection for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

As the Twelve return from their first missionary journey in today's Gospel, our readings continue to reflect on the authority and mission of the Church.

Jeremiah says in the First Reading that Israel's leaders, through godlessness and fanciful teachings, had misled and scattered God's people. He promises God will send a shepherd, a king and son of David, to gather the lost sheep and appoint for them new shepherds (see Ezekiel 34:23).

The crowd gathering on the green grass (see Mark 6:39) in today's Gospel is the start of the remnant that Jeremiah promised would be brought back to the meadow of Israel. The people seem to sense that Jesus is the Lord, the good shepherd (see John 10:11), the king they've been waiting for (see Hosea 3:1-5).

Jesus is moved to pity, seeing them as sheep without a shepherd. This phrase was used by Moses to describe Israel's need for a shepherd to succeed him (see Numbers 27:17). And as Moses appointed Joshua, Jesus appointed the Twelve to continue shepherding His people on earth.

Jesus had said there were other sheep who did not belong to Israel's fold but would hear His voice and be joined to the one flock of the one shepherd (see John 10:16).

In God's plan, the Church is to seek out first the lost sheep of the house of Israel and then to bring all nations into the fold (see Acts 13:36; Romans 1:16).

Paul, too, in today's Epistle, sees the Church as a new creation, in which those nations who were once far off from God are joined as "one new person" with the children of Israel.

As we sing in today's Psalm, through the Church, the Lord, our good shepherd, still leads people to the verdant pastures of the kingdom, to the restful waters of baptism; He still anoints with the oil of confirmation, and spreads the Eucharistic table before all people, filling their cups to overflowing.

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:** Carl Burrell, 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-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, JULY 22ND

5:30pm Mass *Robert Demotte*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Susie Stinebaugh*

SATURDAY, JULY 27TH

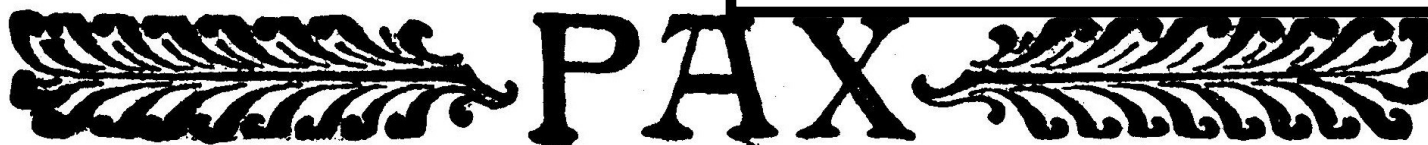
3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, JULY 28TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



Volunteers Needed

Ushers: Help collect Offering and count attendance at the your Mass.

Altar Flowers: Would you like to provide flowers to add beauty to the altar?
It can be for just one time, or on the regular schedule.

Altar Servers: The parish is in need of young men willing to train as acolytes, to serve at the 7:30am or 11:00am Mass.

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)993-2864.

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**.

Thank you to everyone who helped and attended the Picnic last Sunday.

Special thanks to those who helped set up/take down, and everyone who brought so much wonderful food.



Keep you ears open for our next Parish activity.



St. Bridget of Sweden, Religious July 23rd

St. Bridget was the daughter of a royal Prince of Sweden, named Birger, and of Ingeburdis, a descendant of the Gothic Kings. From these pious parents she inherited a great love for the Passion of our Lord. Her father consecrated all Fridays to special acts of penance, and from her childhood St. Bridget loved to meditate upon the Passion of Christ. In obedience to her father, at the age of sixteen she married Ulfo, Prince of Nericia in Sweden, by whom she had eight children, the last of whom, Catherine, is now honored among the Saints.

Later the holy couple bound themselves by a vow of chastity and made a pilgrimage to Compostela in Galicia. On their return, Ulfo with his wife's consent, entered a Cistercian monastery, where he died soon after in odor of sanctity. After his death St. Bridget renounced her rank of princess and changed her habit.

In 1344, Bridget built the great monastery of Wastein, which became the motherhouse of a new Order, that of the Brigittines. She next undertook a pilgrimage to Rome and to Palestine. Having satisfied her devotion at the holy places sanctified by the Life and Passion of our Redeemer, she returned to Rome, where she lived a year longer. She was afflicted by sickness, but endured it with heroic patience and resignation. Her son, Birger, and her daughter, Catherine, were with her in her last moments. She received the Last Sacraments and died in 1373. She was canonized in 1391 by Pope Boniface IX.

PRAYER: Lord God, You revealed heavenly secrets to St. Bridget as she meditated on the Passion of Your Son. Grant that we Your servants may attain the joyful contemplation of Your glory. Amen.



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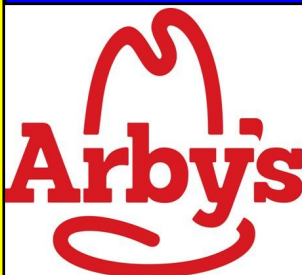
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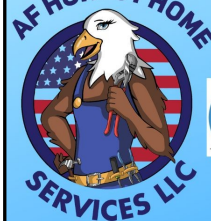
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