



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

August 18th, 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Epistle reminds us of the true relation between Judaism and Christianity. The institutions of Judaism were intended as a preparation for the coming of Christ, and were to be abrogated when He should appear. Salvation was not to be dependent on the established usages of a single people, nor to be imparted in view of membership of any race or nation; it was promised to the Seed and through the Seed of Abraham, but the true Seed of Abraham were not to be merely his racial descendants, but all those who should accept, as he accepted, by faith the promised Messiah. The “Seed” of Abraham to which the Promise primarily made reference, was indeed to be, in a true sense, bodily genuine descendants of Abraham (cf. Hebrews vii), but there was to be added to, and mysteriously united with, the “Seed” an uncountable multitude from every race and clime—whose inner bond of union would be acceptance of Jesus as the promised Savior, and the practical attitude which would logically follow from that acceptance. Neither race nor blood nor soil has, then, anything to do with justification and salvation, but only faith in Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of His will.

To St. Luke, the physician, the incident described in the Gospel is of special importance, because it depicts Jesus as the Great Physician before whom Jew and non-Jew are of like value. As the genuine physician cares not whence his patient comes, or what is his point of view, so Jesus, the Physician of souls and bodies, is ready to receive all who come to Him to be healed. He makes no distinctions of race or origin in those who come confidently to seek His help. Today’s Gospel, then, reminds us, above all, that Jesus is our Physician. We are sick. The whole world is sick—diseased with the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. We all have sinned and all of us need the touch of the Physician. Let us go to Him and cry with the lepers (symbols, as they are, of us who are tainted with the leprosy of sin): “Master, have pity on us!”

Commentary by Msgr. Patrick Boylan (1879-1974)



Wisdom's Feast: Reflection for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The Wisdom of God has prepared a feast, we hear in today's First Reading.

We must become like children (see Matthew 18:3–4) to hear and accept this invitation. For in every Eucharist, it is the folly of the Cross that is represented and renewed.

To the world, it is foolishness to believe that the crucified Jesus rose from the dead. And for many, as for the crowds in today's Gospel, it is foolishness—maybe even madness—to believe that Jesus can give us His Flesh to eat.

Yet Jesus repeats himself with gathering intensity in the Gospel today. Notice the repetition of the words “eat” and “drink,” and “my Flesh” and “my Blood.” To heighten the unbelievable realism of what Jesus asks us to believe, John in these verses uses not the ordinary Greek word for eating but a cruder term, once reserved to describe the “munching” of feeding animals.

The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom (see 1 Corinthians 1:18–25). In His foolish love, He chooses to save those who believe that His Flesh is true food, His Blood, true drink.

Fear of the Lord, the desire to live by His will, is the beginning of true wisdom, Paul says in today's Epistle (see Proverbs 9:10). And as we sing in today's Psalm, those who fear Him shall not want for any good thing.

Again today in the liturgy, we are called to renew our faith in the Eucharist, to forsake the foolishness of believing only what we can see with our eyes.

We approach, then, not only an altar prepared with bread and wine, but the feast of Wisdom, the banquet of heaven—in which God our Savior renews His everlasting covenant and promises to destroy death forever (see Isaiah 25:6–9).

Let us make the most of our days, as Paul says, always, in the Eucharist, giving thanks to God for everything in the name of Jesus, the bread come down from heaven.

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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Office Hours.

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

sfxspokane.org or at
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Our Mailing Address is:

P.O. Box 7179, Spokane, WA, 99207

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, AUGUST 19TH

5:30pm Mass *Melissa Hart*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20TH

8:00am , Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21ST

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Peter Schmitt*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND

8:00am , Mass *Priests who have passed away*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH

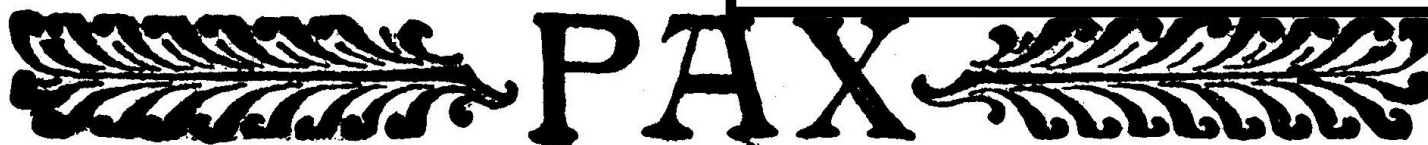
3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH

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)993-2864.



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.



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**.



St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church



August 20th

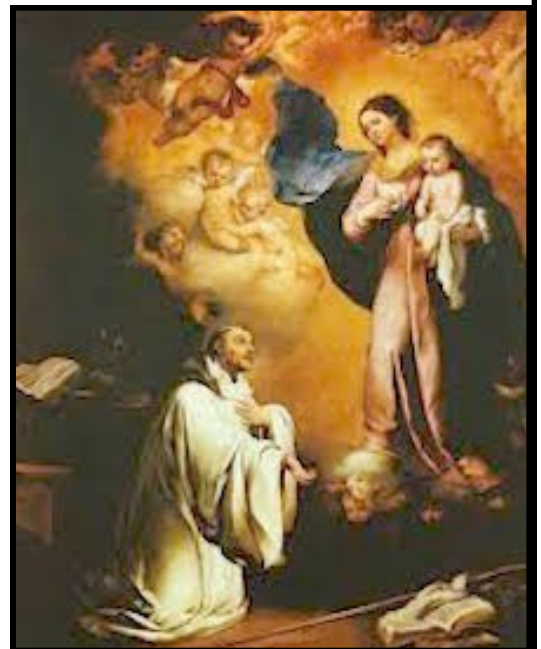
St. Bernard was born of noble parentage in Burgundy, France, in the castle of Fontaines near Dijon. Under the care of his pious parents he was sent at an early age to a college at Chatillon, where he was conspicuous for his remarkable piety and spirit of recollection. At the same place he entered upon the studies of Theology and Holy Scripture. After the death of his mother, fearing the snares and temptations of the world, he resolved to embrace the newly established and austere institute of the Cistercian Order, of which he was destined to become the greatest ornament. He also persuaded his brothers and several of his friends to follow his example.

In 1113, St. Bernard, with thirty young noblemen, presented himself to the holy Abbot, St. Stephen, at Citeaux. After a novitiate spent in great fervor, he made his profession in the following year. His superior soon after, seeing the great progress he had made in the spiritual life, sent him with twelve monks to found a new monastery, which became known as the celebrated Abbey of Clairvaux. St. Bernard was at once appointed Abbot and began that active life which has rendered him the most conspicuous figure in the history of the 12th century.

The Saint founded numerous other monasteries, composed a number of works, and undertook many journeys for the honor of God. Several Bishoprics were offered him, but he refused them all. His reputation spread far and wide; even Popes were governed by his advice.

St. Bernard was commissioned by Pope Eugene III to preach the second Crusade. In obedience to the Sovereign Pontiff, he traveled through France and Germany, and aroused the great enthusiasm for the holy war among the masses of the population. The failure of the expedition raised a great storm against the Saint, but he attributed it to the sin of the Crusaders. St. Bernard was eminently endowed with the gift of miracles. He died on August 20, 1153, and was canonized in 1174 by Pope Alexander III.

PRAYER: God, You blessed Your Church with St. Bernard, a man full of zeal for Your house, radiating brightness and ardent love. Through his intercession, grant that we may be animated by the same spirit and always walk as children of light. **Amen.**



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