



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

September 15th, 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST -

TWENTYFOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Man-God allowed temptation to approach His sacred Person in the desert... Our Jesus permitted the demon to tempt Him in order that He might show His faithful servants how they are to repel the assaults of the wicked spirit. Today, our adorable Master, who would be a model to His children in all their trials, is represented to us as having to contend, not with Satan's perfidy, but with the hypocrisy of His bitterest enemies, the pharisees. They seek to ensnare Him in His speech, just as the representatives of the world, which He has condemned [Jn. 16:8:11], will do to His Church, and that in all ages, right to the end of time. But as her divine Spouse triumphed, so will she; for He will enable her to continue His work upon earth, and amidst the same temptations and the same snares. She is ever to obtain the victory, by maintaining a most inviolable fidelity to God's law and truth. The tools of Satan, who are the heretics and the princes of the world, chafing at the restraint put by Christianity on their ambition and lust, will always be studying how best to outwit the guardian of the divine oracles, by their captious propositions or questions. When necessity requires her to speak, she is quite ready; for, as the bride of that divine Word, who is His Father's eternal and substantial utterance, what can she be but a voice, either to announce Him on earth, or to sing Him in heaven?

That word of hers, endowed as it is with the power and penetration of God Himself, will not only never be conquered by surprise, but, like a two-edged sword, it will generally go much deeper than the crafty questioners of the Church anticipated; it will not only refute their sophistry, it will also expose the hypocrisy and wickedness of their intentions. By their sacrilegious attempts, they will have gained nothing but disgrace and shame, and the mortification of having occasioned a fresh luster to truth by the new light in which it has been put, and of having procured a clearer knowledge of dogma or morals for the devoted children of the Church.



Following the Messiah: Reflection for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

In today's Gospel, we reach a pivotal moment in our walk with the Lord. After weeks of listening to His words and witnessing His deeds, along with the disciples we're asked to decide who Jesus truly is. Peter answers for them, and for us, too, when he declares: "You are the Messiah." Many expected the Messiah to be a miracle worker who would vanquish Israel's enemies and restore the kingdom of David (see John 6:15).

Jesus today reveals a different portrait. He calls Himself the Son of Man, evoking the royal figure Daniel saw in his heavenly visions (see Daniel 7:13–14). But Jesus' kingship is not to be of this world (see John 18:36). And the path to His throne, as He reveals, is by way of suffering and death.

Jesus identifies the Messiah with the suffering servant that Isaiah foretells in today's First Reading. The words of Isaiah's servant are Jesus' words—as He gives Himself to be shamed and beaten, trusting that God will be His help. We hear our Lord's voice again in today's Psalm, as He gives thanks that God has freed Him from the cords of death.

As Jesus tells us today, to believe that He is the Messiah is to follow His way of self-denial—losing our lives to save them in order to rise with Him to new life. Our faith, we hear again in today's Epistle, must express itself in works of love (see Galatians 5:6).

Notice that Jesus questions the Apostles today "along the way." They are on the way to Jerusalem, where the Lord will lay down His life. We, too, are on a journey with the Lord.

We must take up our cross, giving to others and enduring all our trials for His sake and the sake of the Gospel.

Our lives must be an offering of thanksgiving for the new life He has given us until that day when we reach our destination and walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

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.



Sts. Andrew, Paul, and Companions, Martyrs September 20th



The evangelization of Korea began during the 17th century through a group of lay persons. A strong vital Christian community flourished there under lay leadership until missionaries arrived from the Paris Foreign Mission Society.

During the terrible persecutions that occurred in the 19th century (in 1839, 1866, and 1867), one hundred and three members of the Christian community gave their lives as Martyrs. Outstanding among these witnesses to the Faith were the first Korean priest and pastor, Andrew Kim Teagon (1846), and the lay apostle, Paul Chong Hasang (1839).

Among the other Martyrs were a few Bishops and priests, but for the most part lay people, men and women, married and unmarried, children, young people, and the elderly. All suffered greatly for the faith and consecrated the rich beginnings of the Church of Korea with their blood as Martyrs.


Pope John Paul II, during his trip to Korea, canonized these Martyrs on May 6, 1984, and inserted their feast into the Calendar of the Universal Church.

PRAYER: O God, You have created all nations and You are their salvation. In Korea You called a people of adoption to the Catholic faith and nurtured their growth by the blood of St. Andrew, Paul, and their Companions. Grant us strength through their martyrdom and their intercession so that we too may remain faithful to Your commandments even until our death. **Amen.**




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