



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

September 22nd, 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - TWENTYFIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**The Delegation of the Power to Absolve Sins**

Today's Gospel shows us how, in a concrete case, our Lord established His claim to divine character and power by the performance of a miracle. Many miracles like those which our Lord performed were wrought at various times by holy servants of God, so that the miracles, in themselves, would not prove more than that Jesus was a very special instrument of divine power. But when He wrought visible and undeniable miracles as a proof of His claim to the possession of divine power, such miracles actually established the claim. No one but a friend of God could work miracles, and if a friend of God made a claim that was not true, he could not substantiate it by a miracle. Over and over again in His preaching our Lord appealed to the evidence of His works for the truth of His claims and His teaching (cf. Jn. 10:25-32, 38; 14:11; 15:24). Today's Gospel gives us the clearest of all the examples of such appeals to the evidential value of Christ's miracles. Jesus proves, then, that in Himself, as the Messiah, He possesses immediately the power of forgiving sin, and from the Gospels it is certain that He imparted that power to His representatives in the Church. To St. Peter, He promised the power of the Keys at Cæsarea Philippi (Mt. 16:19). To the whole Apostolic College, He later promised the power of binding and loosing (Mt. 18:18), and on the evening of Resurrection Day He actually conferred on the Apostles the power of remitting sin (Jn. 20:21ff).

This wondrous power of remitting sin—a power surpassing every earthly power—belongs to every Catholic priest, however simple and obscure he may be. That Catholic priests have this power is certain with all the certainty of faith, so that in the confessional the work of Jesus at Capharnaum is surely continued.

Apart from the gift of Himself in the Holy Eucharist, this gift of absolving power is the most gracious and beneficent of all the gifts that God has given to His Church. The peace and serenity which the absolution of the priest can give the troubled soul is surely one of the greatest of all the myriad comforts which Jesus has provided for His own.

The people at Capharnaum glorified God because He had given to one, Who seemed to them to be a mere man, power to work a miracle of bodily healing. How greatly, then, should we glorify God and thank Him for the power of absolving which He has given to Catholic priests! And if we rightly rejoice in this gracious gift of God to men, why do we not, at the same time, resolve to make use of that gift as frequently as we can?



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

## Servant of All: Reflection for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

In today's First Reading, it's like we have our ears pressed to the wall and can hear the murderous grumbings of the elders, chief priests, and scribes—who last week Jesus predicted would torture and kill Him (see Mark 8:31; 10:33–34).

The liturgy invites us to see this passage from the Book of Wisdom as a prophecy of the Lord's Passion. We hear His enemies complain that “the Just One” has challenged their authority, reproached them for breaking the law of Moses, for betraying their training as leaders and teachers.

And we hear chilling words that foreshadow how they will mock Him as He hangs on the Cross: “For if the Just One be the Son of God, He will . . . deliver Him . . .” (compare Matthew 27:41–43).

Today's Gospel and Psalm give us the flip side of the First Reading. In both, we hear of Jesus' sufferings from His point of view. Though His enemies surround Him, He offers Himself freely in sacrifice, trusting that God will sustain Him.

But the Apostles today don't understand this second announcement of Christ's Passion. They begin arguing over issues of succession—over who among them is greatest, who will be chosen to lead after Christ is killed.

Again they are thinking not as God but as human beings (see Mark 8:33). And again Jesus teaches the Twelve—the chosen leaders of His Church—that they must lead by imitating His example of love and self-sacrifice. They must be “servants of all,” especially the weak and the helpless—symbolized by the child He embraces and places in their midst.

This is a lesson for us, too. We must have the mind of Christ, who humbled Himself to come among us (see Philippians 2:5–11). We must freely offer ourselves, making everything we do a sacrifice in praise of His name.

As James says in today's Epistle, we must seek wisdom from above, desiring humility, not glory, and in all things be gentle and full of mercy.

*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**)

### SFX DIRECTORY

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

**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](http://sfxspokane.org)** or at  
**[facebook.com/sfxspokane](https://facebook.com/sfxspokane)**

Our Mailing Address is:

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

### THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

5:30pm Mass *Mark Mckay*

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

8:00am Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Forgotten Souls in Purgatory*

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

8:00am , Mass *Religious*

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

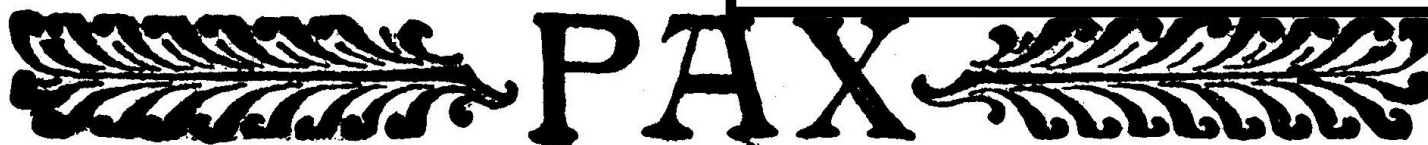
3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

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.



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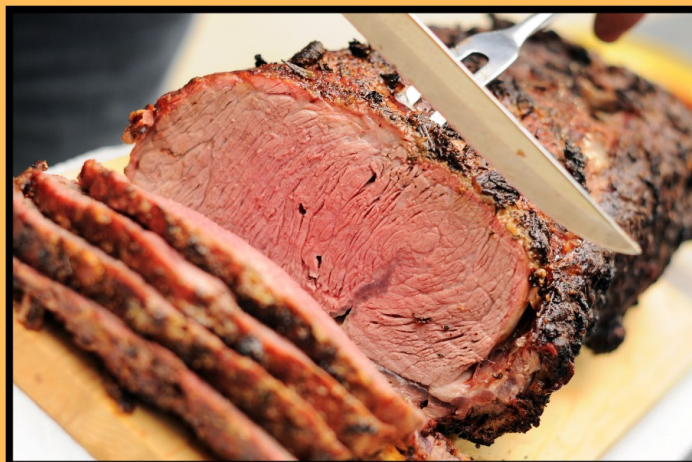
### St. Constantius September 23rd

According to St. Gregory the Great, St. Constantius, a layman, was sacristan of the famous Cathedral of St. Stephen at Ancona, Italy, in the fifth century. In monastic garb, he attended to his duties with a great spirit of perfection that belied his slight stature. He was known as a wonder-worker, and one of his deeds consisted in keeping the lamps of the church lighted even with water or oil in them. Word of his holiness and extraordinary powers spread far and wide, prompting many to ask spiritual favors of him.

The character of the Saint is best illustrated by a story told about him. One day a rude fellow happened into the church and at the sight of the Saint on a ladder attending to the lamps refused to believe in his sanctity. Instead, he began to insult and ridicule the man of God, calling him a liar and a man full of pride; St. Constantius, hearing this tirade, ran to the man and embraced and kissed him in gratitude for having seen him as he was and telling him so. As St. Gregory remarked, he thus gave conclusive proof that he was as great in humility as in miracles.

**PRAYER:** God, through the intercession of St. Constantius, grant that we may overcome all feelings of pride. May we always serve You with the humility that pleases You, through his merits and example. **Amen.**





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# PRIME RIB DINNER

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