



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

September 29th, 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

**THE DEDICATION OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

**-TWENTYSIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Today's feast is of the first class; it therefore bumps the sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost to the commemoration spot, so important is St. Michael's feast deemed by Holy Mother Church.

St. Michael is known to us as the prince of the angels and leader of the heavenly armies, and as such he is the great nemesis of Satan. The latter said, "I will not serve" and aspired to defeat God Himself; the very name of St. Michael, by contrast, means "Who is like God?" and he led the good angels in battle against Satan and the fallen angels, casting them out of Heaven forever. He is mentioned by name both in Sacred Scripture (the book of Daniel, the letter of Jude and Revelation) and in the Sacred Liturgy as well.

Nearly always portrayed in battle array with a sword or spear in his hand and Satan under his feet,

St. Michael is the stalwart defender of Christians against the attacks of the Devil and our constant help in our spiritual battles. He is invoked in the well-known prayer to St. Michael, which we say with the other Leonine prayers after Low Mass and which should be in our hearts frequently besides. Let us not take our angelic friends for granted, but rather let us call upon them always, especially St. Michael, his fellow Archangels and our Guardian Angels,.



Deus, qui miro ordine, Angelorum ministéria hominúmque dispensas: concède propítius; ut, a quibus tibi ministrántibus in cœlo semper assístitur, ab his in terra vita nostra muniátur.

O God, Who hast constituted the services of Angels and of men in a wonderful order, mercifully grant, that they who ever stand before Thy face to do Thee service in Heaven, may also defend our life upon earth.

-the Collect for today

*St. Michael Vanquishing Satan by Raphael*

## To Belong To Christ: Reflection for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Today's Gospel begins with a scene that recalls a similar moment in the history of Israel, the episode recalled in today's First Reading. The seventy elders who receive God's Spirit through Moses prefigure the ministry of the Apostles.

Like Joshua in the First Reading, John makes the mistake of presuming that only a select few are inspired and entrusted to carry out God's plans. The Spirit blows where it wills (see John 3:8), and God desires to bestow His Spirit on all the people of God in every nation under heaven (see Acts 2:5, 38).

God can and will work mighty deeds through the most unexpected and unlikely people. All of us are called to perform even our most humble tasks, such as giving a cup of water, for the sake of His name and the cause of His kingdom.

John believes he is protecting the purity of the Lord's name. But, really, he's only guarding his own privilege and status. It's telling that the Apostles want to shut down the ministry of an exorcist. Authority to drive out demons and unclean spirits was one of the specific powers entrusted to the Twelve (see Mark 3:14–15; 6:7, 13).

Cleanse me from my unknown faults, we pray in today's Psalm. Often, like Joshua and John, perhaps without noticing it, we cloak our failings and fears under the guise of our desire to defend Christ or the Church.

But as Jesus says today, instead of worrying about who is a real Christian and who is not, we should make sure that we ourselves are leading lives worthy of our calling as disciples (see Ephesians 1:4).

Does the advice we give, or the example of our actions, give scandal—causing others to doubt or lose faith? Do we do what we do with mixed motives instead of seeking only the Father's will? Are we living, as this Sunday's Epistle warns, for our own luxury and pleasure while neglecting our neighbors?

We need to keep meditating on His Law, as we sing in today's Psalm. We need to pray for the grace to detect our failings and to overcome them.

*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**)

### 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:  
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### SFX DIRECTORY

**Office Telephone:** (509) 487-6363

**Sacramental Emergencies:** (509) 866-6098

**Father Semple:** [pastor@sfxspokane.org](mailto:pastor@sfxspokane.org)

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

**Office Hours.**

**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY**

**9AM-12PM**

### THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

5:30pm Mass *Mark Mckay*

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

8:00am Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

4:30pm Confessions

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

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

8:00am , Mass *Religious*

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

8:00am , Mass *Religious*

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

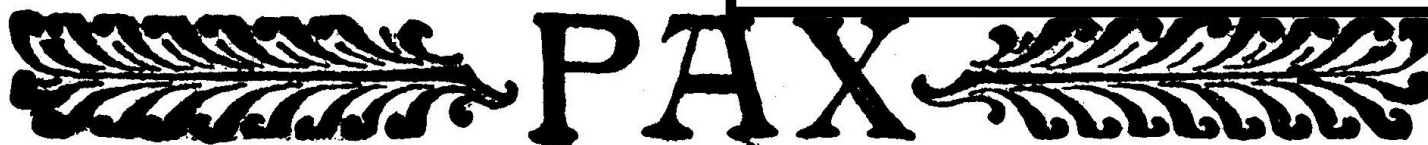
3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

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. Gerard Of Brogne, Abbot October 3rd

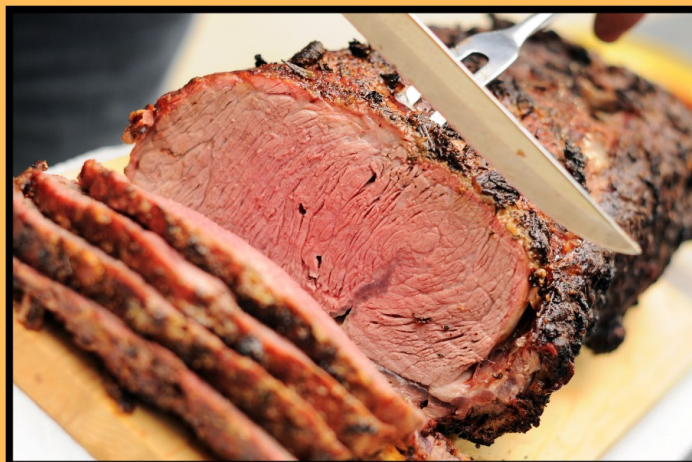
A nobleman by his birth, which occurred about 895, Gerard was brought up in a military atmosphere and assigned to the household of Berengarius, the ruling Count of Namur, Belgium. However, amid the countless privileges, pleasures, and pursuits of his noble way of life, Gerard felt called to the religious life—but not in the lay monasteries of his milieu. While on an important mission on behalf of his sovereign to the court of France in 918 he caught a glimpse of the life led by monks of St. Denis and was greatly attracted to it. After settling all his temporal affairs, he returned to the monastery and became a member with wholehearted joy.

In time, St. Gerard was ordained, though only after wrestling with his sense of total inadequacy, and he helped reform the monastery. After eleven years he was sent by his Abbot to found a monastery on his estate at Brogne, so that his countrymen who desired to be monks might have a place to go to. As its Abbot, Gerard formed a well-nigh model monastery, and its fame spread far and wide. Duke Gislebert of Lorraine saw his work and commissioned him to reform the Abbey of St. Ghislain near Mons, where the holy monk established the Rule of St. Benedict. And herein he discovered his true vocation.

Over the course of the next twenty years, St. Gerard labored zealously in this work, restoring Benedictine rule and discipline in some eighteen monasteries, as far as Flanders, Lorraine, and Champagne. Finally, advanced in age and slowed down by his extensive labors for God, he retired to Brogne and passed his last few years in solitude and prayer, before being born to his heavenly life on October 3, 959.

**PRAYER:** Lord, amid the things of this world, let us be wholeheartedly committed to heavenly things in imitation of the example of evangelical perfection that You have given us in St. Gerard the Abbot. **Amen.**





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