



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

November 3rd, 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY RESUMED-

THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The boat was covered with waves, but He was asleep.”

It is a common way of speaking in the Old Testament Scriptures to describe almighty God as sleeping and awaking from sleep. When Israel is at the mercy of its enemies, and prayer and sacrifice is vain, when there is no voice and no answer of any that regards, then, by a natural metaphor, the Jew tells himself that God is asleep. He watching over Israel slumbers not, nor sleeps—that is the habitual confidence of Israel’s faith. But when persecution arises, that confidence begins to vanish: “Awake, Lord, why sleepest thou? Awake, and be not absent from us for ever”; and when deliverance comes, “the Lord awaked as one out of sleep.” And you will find that in some of our Lord’s parables almighty God is compared to a householder who slept—it is the same idea: wickedness flourishes on the earth, and divine Providence seems to take no notice, seems unwilling to interfere. So I imagine that when our Lord’s apostles came to look back upon that terrible night in the Lake of Galilee, when they strained every nerve against the tempest while their Master lay sleeping in the boat, they found in it an allegory of their own situation, as they launched out the frail bark of his Church upon waves so troubled, with prospects so uncertain. And in every age the Church has looked back to that picture and taken comfort from it in times of adversity: “Yes, our Master seems to sleep; he gives no sign, vouchsafes no apparent answer to our prayers: no matter, we are safe from shipwreck, for he is still in our midst.”

When Julius Cæsar wished to cross from Durazzo to Brindisi in a little boat, and the master of it wanted to turn back, because the wind had risen and he was in danger of shipwreck, Cæsar rebuked him for his cowardice in noble words that have come down to us: “Take courage, my friend, take courage, and fear nothing; Cæsar is your passenger, and Cæsar’s fortunes are your freight.” With greater, and with better grounded confidence, the Church of God, which is Peter’s boat, has breasted the waves all through her troubled history. It is not upon the captain’s judgment or the pilot’s experience, not upon human wisdom or human prudence, that she depends for her safe voyage: she rests secure in the presence of her inviolable passenger.

Commentary by Msgr. Ronald Knox (1888-1957).



The Law of Love: Reflection for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Love is only law we are to live by. And love is the fulfillment of the Law that God reveals through Moses in today's First Reading (see Romans 13:8–10; Matthew 5:43–48).

The unity of God—the truth that He is one God, Father, Son, and Spirit—means that we must love Him with one love, a love that serves Him with all our hearts and minds, souls and strength.

We love Him because He has loved us first. We love our neighbor because we can't love the God we haven't seen unless we love those made in His image and likeness, whom we have seen (see 1 John 4:19–21).

And we are called to imitate the love that Christ showed us in laying His life down on the Cross (see 1 John 3:16). As we hear in today's Epistle, by His perfect sacrifice on the Cross, He once and for all makes it possible for us to approach God.

There is no greater love than to lay down your life (see John 15:13). This is perhaps why Jesus tells the scribe in today's Gospel that he is not far from the kingdom of God.

The scribe recognizes that the burnt offerings and sacrifices of the old Law were meant to teach Israel that it is love that God desires (see Hosea 6:6). The animals offered in sacrifice were symbols of the self-sacrifice, the total gift of our selves, that God truly desires.

We are called today to examine our hearts. Do we have other loves that get in the way of our love for God? Do we love others as Jesus has loved us (see John 13:34–35)? Do we love our enemies and pray for those who oppose and persecute us (see Matthew 5:44)?

Let us tell the Lord we love Him, as we do in today's Psalm. And let us take His Word to heart, that we might prosper and have life eternal in His kingdom, the heavenly homeland flowing with milk and honey.

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, WEDNESDAY, 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
facebook.com/sfxspokane

Our Mailing Address is:

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

5:30pm Mass *Greg Hayward*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

8:00am Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Julia Hart*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

8:00am , Mass *Poor Souls in Purgatory*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

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) 362-8646



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Find a Time - Catechesis St X/St Pats

We are looking to have a meeting to get things organized for a catechetical program at St X/St Pats and possibly Mary Queen.

Those who are interested in helping with catechesis either on the front end to get the curriculum set up and/or those willing to teach please mark all times that would work for you to meet.

I would like to keep the meeting to no more than an hour. We plan to meet at Chesterton. If you know of anyone else who would like to assist, please put them in touch with me.

Text/Call/Email with any questions or comments (509-332-0850)

women.of.st.x@gmail.com

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. Willibrord, Bishop

Patron of Convulsions; Epilepsy

St. Willibrord was native of Northumberland, where he was born about 658. At the age of seven he was placed by his parents in the monastery of Ripon, under the care of St. Wilfrid.

Willibrord made his monastic profession when very young. Then at the age of twenty he went to Ireland and spent years in the study of the sacred sciences. At the age thirty he was ordained and together with St. Swidbert and ten other English monks traveled to Friesland, where St. Wilfrid had sown the seeds of the Faith in 678.

Pope Sergius consecrated Willibrord in St. Peter's Church, made him an Archbishop, and authorized him to fix his See in whatever part of the country he should deem most convenient.

On returning to his flock, the Saint chose the city of Utrecht for his residence. In 698, he founded the Abbey of Echternach (in modern Luxemburg), and governed it until his death, which probably occurred in 739.

PRAYER: God, You built up Your Church by means of the religious zeal and apostolic care of St. Willibrord. Grant by his intercession that she may ever experience a new increase of Faith and holiness. **Amen.**



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