



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

December 1st , 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

EXTERNAL SOLEMNITY OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This First Sunday of Advent or the Fourth before Christmas, is the first day of the Liturgical Year. The Mass prepares us this day for the double coming (advéntus) of mercy and justice. That is why St. Paul tells us, in the Epistle, to cast off sin in order that, being ready for the coming of Christ as our Savior, we may also be ready for His coming as our Judge, of which we learn in the Gospel. Let us prepare ourselves, by pious aspirations and by the reformation of our life, for this twofold coming. Jesus our Lord will reward those who yearn for Him and await him: “Those who trust in Him shall not be confounded.”



Commentary by Fr. Sylvester Juergens S.M. (1894-1969)

Heads Up: Reflection for the First Sunday in Advent

Every Advent, the Liturgy of the Word gives our sense of time a reorientation. There's a deliberate tension in the next four weeks' readings—between promise and fulfillment, expectation and deliverance, between looking forward and looking back.

In today's First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah focuses our gaze on the promise God made to David, some 1,000 years before Christ. God says through the prophet that He will fulfill this promise by raising up a “just shoot,” a righteous offspring of David, who will rule Israel in justice (see 2 Samuel 7:16; Jeremiah 33:17; Psalm 89:4–5; 27–38).

Today's Psalm, too, sounds the theme of Israel's ancient expectation: “Guide me in your truth and teach me. For you are God my savior and for you I will wait all day.”

We look back on Israel's desire and anticipation knowing that God has already made good on those promises by sending His only Son into the world. Jesus is the “just shoot,” the God and Savior for Whom Israel was waiting.

Knowing that He is a God who keeps His promises lends grave urgency to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel.

Urging us to keep watch for His return in glory, He draws on Old Testament images of chaos and instability—turmoil in the heavens (see Isaiah 13:11, 13; Ezekiel 32:7–8; Joel 2:10); roaring seas (see Isaiah 5:30; 17:12); distress among the nations (see Isaiah 8:22; 14:25) and terrified people (see Isaiah 13:6–11).

He evokes the prophet Daniel's image of the Son of Man coming on a cloud of glory to describe His return as a “theophany,” a manifestation of God (see Daniel 7:13–14).

Many will cower and be literally scared to death. But Jesus says we should greet the end-times with heads raised high, confident that God keeps His promises, that our “redemption is at hand,” that “the kingdom of God is near” (see Luke 21:31).



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
facebook.com/sfxspokane

Our Mailing Address is:
P.O. Box 7179, Spokane, WA, 99207

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Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

Office Email: office@sfxspokane.org

Office Hours.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

5:30pm Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

8:00am Mass *Nicholas Genna*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30 pm, Mass *Religious*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

5:30pm , First Friday Devotion

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

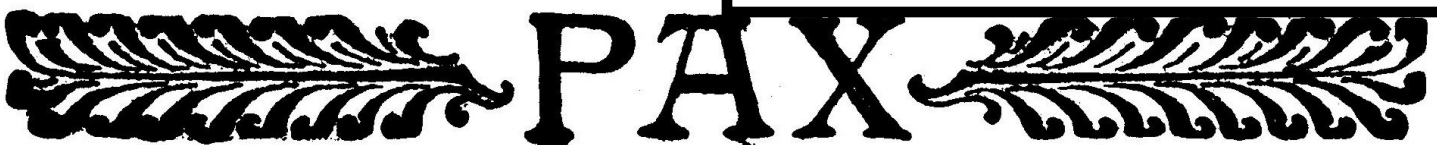
3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

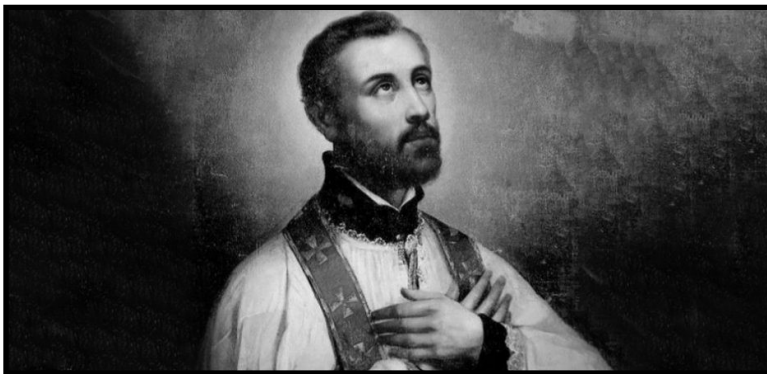
11:00 am, High Mass *Pro Populo*



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



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".

If you are interested in taking an active role in creating a vibrant parish community, please email women.of.st.x@gmail.com.



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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



“From St Patricks”

The Missionaries of Charity wish to extend an invitation to an Advent morning of Recollection.

Please join us on December **14th** beginning with **8:00 a.m.** Mass celebrated by Father Barnett.

The morning will include time for reflecting on the season in preparation of our Lord's birth, Adoration, and Confession.

Our morning will conclude at noon. Please feel free to come when you can, as long as you can. Bring your family and friends.

We hope to see you all there!

St. Francis Xavier December 3rd

The Apostle of the Indies was born at the castle of Xavier in Navarre, Spain, in 1506. He was of noble descent. At the age of eighteen he went to Paris to study Philosophy. About four years later, St. Ignatius Loyola came to the same city and took up his abode in the College of St. Barbara, to which St. Francis belonged. At that time St. Francis was full of the world ambition, but the company of St. Ignatius exercised such a beneficent influence upon him that he grew to be a changed man and became one of the first disciples of the Saint.

In 1536, Francis went to Venice with the first companions of St. Ignatius. After visiting Rome he was ordained a priest at Venice in 1537, and the first Jesuits made their vows before the Pope's nuncio. Shortly after the Society had been established, St. Francis was sent to Portugal. In 1541, he set sail for India, which was to be the field of his labor for the rest of his life, and landed at Goa the following year. From that city, which completely reformed, his apostolic labors extended to the coast of Malabar, to Travancor, Malacca, the Moluccas, and Ceylon, and in all these places he converted large numbers to Christianity.

In 1549, Francis carried the light of Faith to Japan, of which he became the first missionary, and where a flourishing Christian community soon arose. He remained in Japan two years and four months, and returned to India in 1551.

The Saint then returned his eyes to China. After visiting Goa, he set sail, in 1552, to carry out his resolve, but God was satisfied with his will. On the twenty-third day after his departure from Malacca he arrived at Sancian. On November 20, a fever seized him, and, alone upon a foreign shore, he died on Friday, December 3, 1552, at the age of forty-six. He was canonized in 1622 by Pope Gregory XV.

PRAYER: Lord, You won many peoples for Your Church through the preaching of St. Francis. Inspire the faithful today with the same zeal for spreading the Faith, so that everywhere the Church may rejoice in her many children. **Amen.**



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