



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

December 15th , 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### **Christmas Schedule**

#### **Decorating Monday December 23rd**

3:30pm

#### **Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th**

4:00pm English Mass (St Patricks)

#### **Christmas Day Wednesday 25th**

8:00 am English Mass (Saint Francis Xavier )

10:00am Latin Mass (St Francis Xavier)



The Introit for today's Mass reminds us that, while the season of Advent is one of penance and anticipation, we must also pause and rejoice at the nearness of Our Lord.

“Today, again, the Church is full of joy, and the joy is greater than it was. It is true that her Lord has not come; but she feels that He is nearer than before, and therefore she thinks it just to lessen somewhat the austerity of this penitential season by the innocent cheerfulness of her sacred rites. And first, this Sunday has had the name of Gaudete given to it, from the first word of the Introit; it also is honoured with those impressive exceptions which belong to the fourth Sunday of Lent, called Laetare. The organ is played at the Mass; the vestments are rose-colour; the deacon resumes the dalmatic, and the subdeacon the tunic; and in cathedral churches the bishop assists with the precious mitre. How touching are all these usages, and how admirable this condescension of the Church, wherewith she so beautifully blends together the unalterable strictness of the dogmas of faith and the graceful poetry of the formulae of her liturgy.

*The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger*



## What Do We Do: Reflection for the Third Sunday in Advent

The people in today's Gospel are "filled with expectation." They believe John the Baptist might be the messiah they've been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: "What then should we do?"

The messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose—to "repent" or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too (see Luke 3:3; 5:32; 24:47).

"Repentance" translates a Greek word, *metanoia* (literally, "change of mind"). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a twofold "turning"—away from sin (see Ezekiel 3:19; 18:30) and toward God (see Sirach 17:20–21; Hosea 6:1).

This "turning" is more than attitude adjustment. It means a radical life change. It requires "good fruits as evidence of your repentance" (see Luke 3:8). That's why John tells the crowds, soldiers, and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty, and social justice.

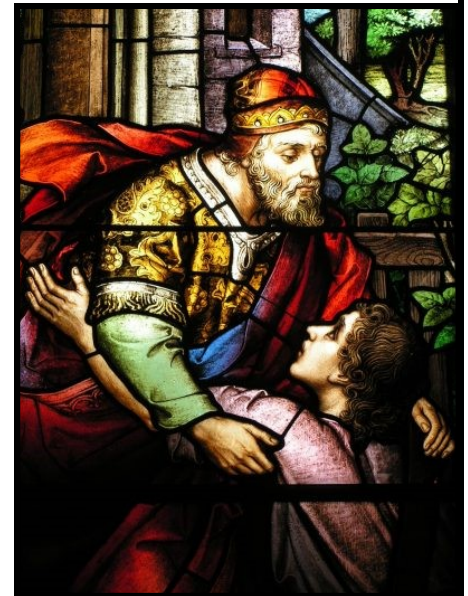
In today's Liturgy, each of us is being called to stand in that crowd and hear the "good news" of John's call to repentance. We should examine our lives, asking from our hearts as they did: "What should we do?" Our repentance should spring not from our fear of coming wrath (see Luke 3:7–9) but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.

This theme resounds through today's readings: "Rejoice! . . . The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all," we hear in today's Epistle. In today's Responsorial, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us.

In today's First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting (compare Luke 1:28–31). Mary is the Daughter Zion—the favored one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, "a mighty Savior."

She is the cause of our joy. For in her draws near the Messiah, as John had promised: "One mightier than I is coming."

*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

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

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**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

### 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, DECEMBER 16TH

5:30pm Mass *Priests*

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

8:00am Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

4:30pm Confessions

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

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

8:00am , Mass *John Hart*

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

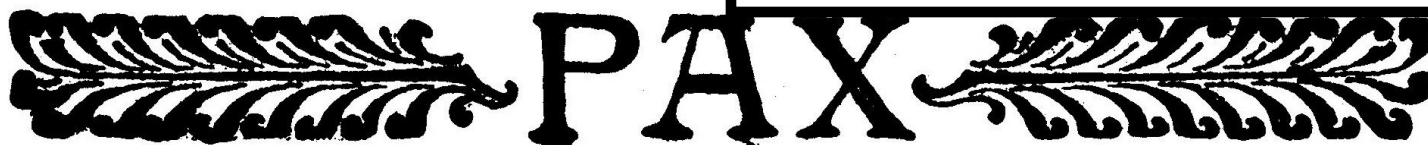
3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

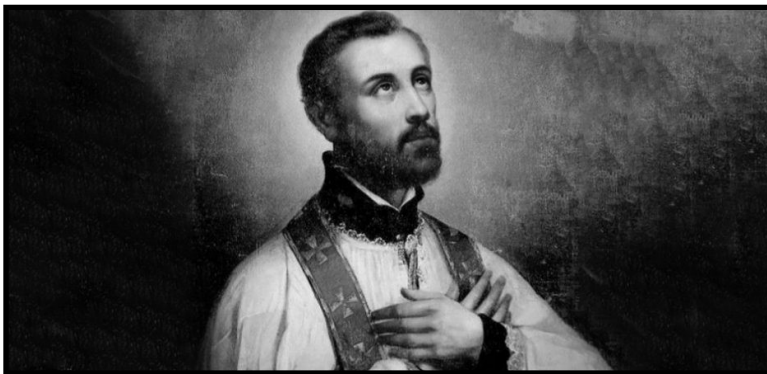
11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



## 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



## 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](mailto:women.of.st.x@gmail.com).



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## Find a Time - Catechesis St X/St Pats

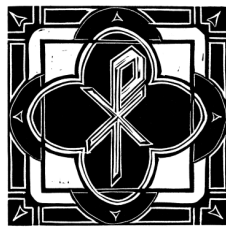
We are looking to have a meeting to get things organized for a catechetical program at St X/St Pats and possibly Mary Queen. Those who are interested in helping with catechesis either on the front end to get the curriculum set up and/or those willing to teach please mark all times that would work for 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](mailto:women.of.st.x@gmail.com)





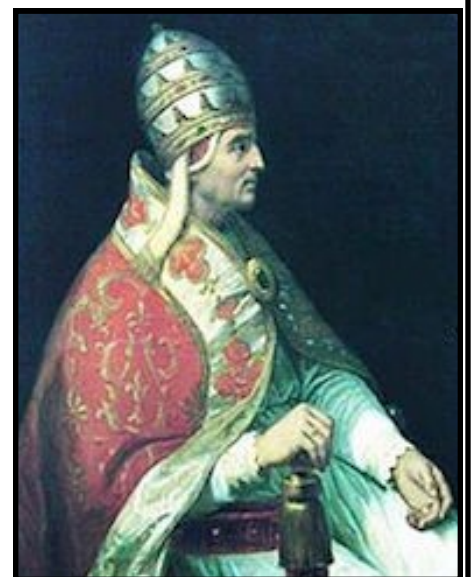
### Blessed Urban V, Pope December 19th

Urban V is regarded as the best of the so-called Avignon Popes who ruled the Church for some one hundred and seventy years from Avignon in the 13th and 14th centuries. Born in Grisac, France, in 1310, William of Grimoard became a noted Benedictine canonist and served as papal legate to Milan and Naples before being elected Pope in 1362.

The most important event of his reign was his abortive attempt to return the papacy to Rome, which occurred in 1367. He restored the papal buildings and reconciled the Eastern Emperor John V Palaeologus to the Church. He also concluded an alliance with Emperor Charles IV, founded the Universities of Krakow and Vienna, and aided the universities of Avignon, Toulouse, Orange, and Orleans.

However, political conflicts obliged the Pope to return to Avignon in 1370. In June of that year he informed the Romans that he was leaving them for the good of the Church, and on September 5 he sailed for France with a heavy heart. On December 19, he was dead, called by a contemporary "a light of the world and a way of truth; a lover of righteousness, fleeing from wickedness and fearing God." His cult was approved in 1870 by Pope Pius IX.


**PRAYER:** Almighty and eternal God, You willed to set Blessed Urban over your entire people and to go before them in word and example. By his intercession keep the pastors of Your Church together with their flocks and guide that in the way of eternal salvation. **Amen.**





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