



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

December 22nd , 2024

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### **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)



We have now entered into the week which immediately precedes the birth of the Messiah. That long-desired coming might be even to-morrow; and at furthest, that is, when Advent is as long as it can be, the beautiful feast is only seven days from us. So that the Church now counts the hours; she watches day and night, and since December 17 her Offices have assumed an unusual solemnity. At Lauds, she varies the antiphons each day; and at Vespers, in order to express the impatience of her desires for her Jesus, she makes use of the most vehement exclamations to the Messiah, in which she each day gives Him a magnificent title, borrowed from the language of the prophets.

Today, she makes a last effort to stir up the devotion of her children. She leads them to the desert; she shows them John the Baptist, upon whose mission she instructed them on the third Sunday. The voice of the austere Precursor resounds through the wilderness, and penetrates even into the cities. It preaches penance, and the obligation men are under of preparing by self-purification for the coming of Christ. Let us retire from the world during these next few days; or if that may not be by reason of our external duties, let us retire into the quiet of our own hearts and confess our iniquities, as did those true Israelites, who came, full of compunction and of faith in the Messiah, to the Baptist, there to make perfect their preparation for worthily receiving the Redeemer on the day of His appearing to the world.

See, then, with what redoubled earnestness the Church, before opening the book of her great prophet, repeats her invitatory:

Prope est jam Dominus; venite, adoremus. - The Lord is now nigh; come, let us adore.

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## A Mother's Greeting: Reflection for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer:

He is, as today's First Reading says, the "ruler . . . whose origin is from . . . ancient times." He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse the Ephrathite and anointed king (see Ruth 4:11–17; 1 Samuel 16:1–13; 17:1; Matthew 2:6).

God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever (see 2 Samuel 7:12–13; Psalm 89; Psalm 132:11–12).

Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom (see Isaiah 9:5–6; Ezekiel 34:23–25, 30; 37:35). He is "the shepherd of Israel" sung of in today's Psalm. From His throne in heaven, He has "come to save us."

Today's Epistle tells us that He is both the Son of David and the only "begotten" Son of God, come "in the flesh" (see also Psalm 2:7). He is also our "high priest," from the mold of the mysterious Melchizedek, "priest of God Most High," who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Psalm 110:4; Genesis 14:18–20).

All this is recognized by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognizes that in Mary "the mother of my Lord" has come to her. We hear in her words another echo of the Psalm quoted in today's Epistle (see Psalm 2:7). Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her.

Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they await in today's First Reading—"she who is to give birth." She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy—she is the mother of our Lord.

*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

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Office Hours.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

## THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

DECORATING THE CHURCH 3:30PM

5:30pm Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00pm English Mass (St Patricks)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

8:00am English Mass (St Francis Xavier)

10:00 am, Latin Mass (St Francis Xavier)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

NO MASS

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

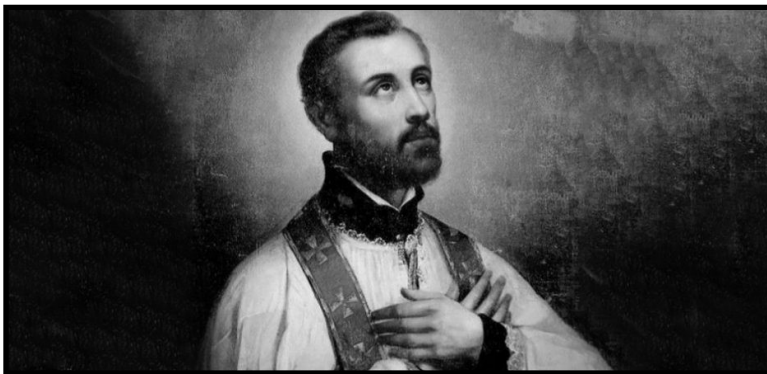
11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



## 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) 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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Thank you

We would like to Thank everyone who participated in the giving tree this year.

Because of your generosity we fulfilled all of the gifts., and have dropped them off at the boys and girls club. They were overjoyed at the sight of all the beautifully wrapped presents!!





Oh, the joy of Thy coming, dear Jesus! how great it must needs be, when the prophecy says it shall be like an everlasting crown upon our heads. And could it be otherwise? The very desert is to flourish as a lily, and living waters are to gush forth out of the parched land, because their God is coming. Come, O Jesus, come quickly, and give us of that water, which flows from Thy sacred Heart, and which the Samaritan woman, the type of us sinners, asked of Thee with such earnest entreaty. This water is Thy grace; let it rain upon our parched souls, and they too will flourish; let it quench our thirst, and we will run in the way of Thy precepts and examples. Thou, O Jesus, art our way, our path, to God; and Thou art Thyself God; Thou art, therefore, both our way and the term to which our way leads us. We had lost our way; we had gone astray as lost sheep: how great Thy love to come thus in search of us! To teach us the way to heaven, Thou hast deigned to come down from heaven, and then tread with us the road which leads to it. No! there shall be no more weak hands, nor feeble knees, nor faint hearts; for we know that it is in love that Thou art coming to us. There is but one thing which makes us sad: our preparation is not complete. We have some ties still to break; help us to do it, O Saviour of mankind! We desire to obey the voice of Thy Precursor, and make plain those rugged paths, which would prevent Thy coming into our hearts, O divine Infant! Give us to be baptized in the Baptism of the waters of penance; Thou wilt soon follow, baptizing us in the Holy Ghost and love.

#### St. John of Kanty, Priest December 23rd

St. John was born in 1403 in a village, the name of which he bears, situated in the diocese of Krakow, Poland. His childhood was passed in innocence under the care of his virtuous parents. After finishing his studies he became professor in the University of Krakow, a position he occupied several years, endeavoring not only to train his pupils in science but also to instill into their hearts the sentiments of piety with which he was himself animated.

Having been ordained to the priesthood, John distinguished himself by still greater zeal for the glory of God and his own perfection. The carelessness and indifference of so many Christians were for him a great source of affliction. As parish priest, he became a true pastor of souls, severe toward himself and indulgent to others, showing himself the father of his people and their friend when they were in need. After some years he resumed his duties of professor, practicing at the same time prayer, love for the poor, and all Christians virtues.

Consumed by the desire of suffering martyrdom, John made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and preached "Jesus Crucified" to the Turks. Four times he made a journey to Rome on foot. His sleep was short and taken on the floor; his food barely sufficed to keep him alive. By means of fasting and severe discipline he preserved his purity intact. During the last thirty years of his life he abstained entirely from meat. Finally, after distributing to the poor all he had in his house, he died in 1473. He was canonized in 1767 by Pope Clement XIII.

**PRAYER:** Almighty God, help us to follow the example of Your Priest, St. John, in advancing in the science of the Saints. May we show compassion to all who are in need so that we ourselves may obtain Your mercy. **Amen.**



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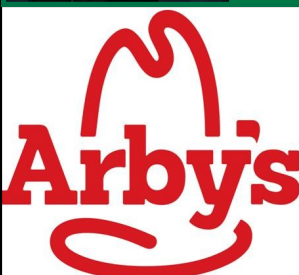
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