

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

CATHOLIC PARISH

SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

*Feast of the Exaltation
of the Cross*

WEEKENDS: SATURDAY VIGIL: 5 PM | SUNDAY: 8 AM & 10:30 AM | CONFESSION: SATURDAY AT 4:15 PM

WEEKDAYS: 9 AM MASS (T-F) | 8:30 AM CONFESSION (TUES/THURS) | ROSARY BEFORE EACH MASS



The Power of Incense in Catholic Liturgy

By Fr. John Kibombo, Parochial Vicar

In the Catholic liturgy, every element, from the gestures to the objects used, is designed to draw us closer to God. Among these, incense plays a particularly rich and ancient role. Its use is not just a ceremonial tradition; it is a profound symbolic act that helps us engage with the sacred.

A Historical and Personal Connection

The use of incense has been a part of worship and daily life for centuries. One of the earliest personal connections to its power can be seen in the story of "Kawumpuli," a plague that was said to have been stopped in my

childhood remote village with burning incense, salt, and holy water. While this may sound like a folk remedy, it highlights a deep-seated belief that certain elements have the power to cleanse and protect, a concept that is also central to the liturgical use of incense. In the present, families still burn incense to drive out unknown diseases and spirits. This idea is like the anecdote of using smoke to drive away snakes, suggesting that just as smoke can clear a physical threat, incense can help purify our spiritual space.

The very first appearance of incense in the Bible is linked to God's presence. When Moses was on Mount Sinai, God's glory was seen as a "devouring fire" shrouded in a cloud. This imagery is mirrored in the liturgical command for Aaron to burn incense daily, creating a cloud of smoke that serves as a tangible reminder of God's majestic presence (*Exodus 24:15-48*).

In the book of Numbers (16:46-48), Moses instructs Aaron to use incense to make "atonement" for the people, stopping a deadly plague. The cloud of incense is seen as a "sweet-smelling cloak" that covers the "foul-smelling sins" of the people, protecting them from God's just punishment. This act beautifully symbolizes how incense can intercede for us, much like a fragrant prayer rising to God.

The use of incense connects our earthly liturgy to the heavenly one. The prophet Isaiah saw God's surroundings "filled with smoke," and Psalm 97:2 describes God as being surrounded by clouds. The ultimate connection is in the book of Revelation 5:8, where "golden bowls full of incense" are identified as the "prayers of the saints." This powerful image shows that our prayers, like the fragrant smoke of incense, rise to God and are received by Him.

The practice of using incense serves to:

- Veil our vision of God: The smoke helps to create a sense of mystery and awe.
- Increase our respect: The act of censuring elevates the sacred objects and people.
- Memorialize His past actions: It reminds us of God's historical use of incense.
- Atonement: It symbolizes the covering of our sins.
- Remind us of our eternal home: It links our earthly worship to the heavenly liturgy.

Let us utilize all possible means to get us closer to love and serve the Lord. Liturgy helps us to get closer to the Lord as we are helped with a number of activities that help us to meditate more about the mystery and the richness of our faith.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH OFFICE:

Hours: M-TH 9 am - 1 pm | Phone: 509-747-7213 | Fax: 509-747-7217 | Web: www.fatimaspokane.org

Mailing Address: 1517 E 33rd Avenue | Church Address: 3327 S Perry | Spokane, WA 99203

Email: ourladyoffatimaspokane@gmail.com

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL:

Middle Building: 1428 E. 33rd; 509-624-5712 | Primary Building: 3406 E. 18th; 509-534-1098

Shepherd's Table Night begins Sept. 24, 6 pm

Fatima Shepherd's Table Night begins Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 6 pm and everyone is welcome to begin our new program focused on fellowship and faith formation for all ages. Shepherd's Table Night is inspired by the powerful apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima to the three shepherd children: Lúcia, Francisco, and Jacinta. Just as the children were called to prayer, sacrifice, and a deeper relationship with God, we invite all members of our parish family to gather at our own table, a place to nourish our entire being—spiritually, physically, and socially. Each Wednesday evening, our parish will become a home where we share meals, study the words of God, and engage in activities designed to help us grow as a community of faith. This holistic approach ensures we're feeding every part of ourselves and each other, just as a good shepherd tends to their flock.

Please contact Fr. John in the parish office or email jkibombo@dioceseofspokane.org for more information. Fr. John would like to thank the catechists who joined a training recently and wants to give a reminder that there will be another catechist meeting this Monday at 3 pm in the parish office.



MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, SEPT 15

NO MASS

TUESDAY, SEPT 16

(8:30 am Confession)
9 am, Fr. Vincent

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 17

9 am, Fr. Hartin

THURSDAY, SEPT 18

(8:30 am Confession)
9 am, Fr. John

FRIDAY, SEPT 19

9 am, Fr. John

SATURDAY, SEPT 20

(4:15 PM Confession)
5 PM, Fr. John

SUNDAY, SEPT 21

8 am, Fr. John
10:30 am, Fr. Hartin

A note on Food & Fellowship in our Church Spaces

As our parish family grows, we want to share an update about our church's narthex (gathering space). Moving forward, food and drink will no longer be served in the narthex. The narthex is more than an entryway—it is a threshold where we leave behind the ordinary and prepare our hearts for worship. Historically, it was set apart for catechumens and penitents, a place of reflection and reverence, not of eating or drinking. This tradition reminds us that our true nourishment in church comes from God's Word and the Eucharist. As St. Paul reminded the Corinthians, meals and social gatherings have their place, but the liturgy is where our souls are fed. Fellowship, however, remains central to parish life. Sharing food, coffee, and conversation strengthens us as a community, and these gatherings will continue in our parish hall and other spaces designed for hospitality. Thank you for your understanding as we honor the sacred role of the narthex while making space for joyful parish life together.

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[fatimaspokane.
flocknote.com](http://fatimaspokane.flocknote.com)**



Novena for the Feast of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots concludes with Adoration & Rosary on Sept. 28, 3 pm

Our Lady of Fatima parishioners are invited to pray a 9-day novena in honor of the Feast of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots. A novena is a centuries old tradition of daily prayer offered with a particular intention in mind. The novena begins on Saturday, September 20. It will conclude with a Holy Hour on Sunday, September 28 at 3 pm at Our Lady of Fatima with adoration, rosary, and choral meditations. During the Holy Hour, we will hear sacred choral music and lift up our parish community in prayer, asking Our Lady to pour mercy and grace over parishioners and their families. Please invite a friend to pray for the knots in our lives.

PARISH STAFF

Priest Administrator: Fr. Vincent Gilmore; **Senior Priest:** Fr. Patrick Hartin;

Parochial Vicar/Director of Faith Formation: Fr. John Kibombo; **Deacon:** Patrick Cheung;

Assistant Parish Administrator: Rachael Lentes; **Music Director:** Joel Cummings;

Bookkeeper: Carolyn Berry; **Maintenance Director:** Emily Chapman;

Knights of Columbus: John Faerber (509) 990-3161; **All Saints School Principal:** Jen Lewis

WEEKLY DONATIONS

Sept 1 - Sept. 7:

Tithe: \$4,718

Poor: \$0

Guatamala Ministry: \$0



Changes to note in our Music Leadership

Farewell & Thank You to Connie McCullough

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Connie McCullough, who has faithfully served as the Music Director at Our Lady of Fatima Parish since 2017. Through her dedication, talent, and love for sacred music, Connie has enriched our liturgies and brought joy to our parish community. We thank her for sharing her gifts so generously with us over these many years. Connie will be deeply missed, and we keep her in our prayers as she begins this next chapter of her journey.

Welcome Joel Cummings as New Music Director

Joel Cummings is thrilled to be joining Our Lady of Fatima as the new Music Director. Joel grew up in a family of musicians, watching his father serve as music director in various churches throughout the Pacific Northwest. Joel is in his 15th year of leadership in Catholic music ministry, having served at St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Everett, Washington from 2010-2021, and most recently at St. Patrick Parish, here in Spokane. Joel holds degrees in music from Pacific Lutheran University and New England Conservatory of Music, and is an active solo performer in the Spokane Coeur d'Alene region. He has a love for the rich musical tradition of the Church as well as a deep respect for the Novus Ordo mass given to us through the Second Vatican council. Joel gratefully serves alongside his wife Jaci, who currently serves as Director of Choirs at the Chesterton Academy of Notre Dame in Spokane, as well as the Artistic Director of the Spokane Area Youth Choirs, and their two daughters Camryn (currently attending University of Mary as a freshman) and Darcy (currently attending Chesterton Academy of Notre Dame as a freshman). The Cummings family looks forward to sharing meaningful and beautiful liturgy with the parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima, and prays for the grace of God to pour out on this beautiful community.



Annual Catholic Appeal
DIOCESE OF SPOKANE 2025

ACA Commitment Sunday: Sept. 20-21

Thank you to everyone who has thus far contributed to this year's Annual Catholic Appeal. Your gift is deeply appreciated and is used to further the mission of the Diocese of Spokane. Next Weekend is Commitment Weekend. Please prayerfully consider a pledge to the ACA.

† IN MEMORIAM

Funeral Mass:
Gerald Leahy
Friday, Sept 19, 11 am

Join Us for Adoration

Spend time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to come for prayer, reflection, and peace. Every Thursday Evening:
5:00-7:00 PM

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, September 16

Harley Slocum

Req. by (anonymous)

Wednesday, September 17

Terry and Payton Bray

Req. by Kay Morh Family

Thursday, September 18

Karen

Req. by Kay Morh Family

Friday, September 19

Terry and Payton Bray

Req. by Kay Morh Family

To request a mass intention, please contact the parish office.

(Suggested donation \$10)

DAILY READINGS

2025 SEPTEMBER 15 MONDAY

Hebrews 5:7-9; Psalms 31:2-3, 3-4, 5-6, 15-16, 20; Gospel, John 19:25-27

2025 SEPTEMBER 16 TUESDAY

First Timothy 3:1-13; Psalms 101:1-2, 2-3, 5, 6; Gospel, Luke 7:11-17

2025 SEPTEMBER 17 WEDNESDAY

First Timothy 3:14-16; Psalms 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Gospel, Luke 7:31-35

2025 SEPTEMBER 18 THURSDAY

First Timothy 4:12-16; Psalms 111:7-8, 9, 10; Gospel, Luke 7:36-50

2025 SEPTEMBER 19 FRIDAY

First Timothy 6:2-12; Psalms 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20; Gospel, Luke 8:1-3

2025 SEPTEMBER 20 SATURDAY

Wisdom 3:1-9; Psalms 125:1-5; Gospel, Luke 9:23-26

2025 SEPTEMBER 21 SUNDAY

Amos 8:4-7; Psalms 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8; First Timothy 2:1-8; Gospel, Luke 16:1-13

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Are You Prepared?

End of Life Workshop
Planning for Your Spiritual & Corporal Needs

Saturday September 20th - 9 a.m. - Noon

Mass at 8:30 a.m. (optional)

St. John Vianney Parish

503 N. Walnut Rd Spokane Valley 99206

NO CHARGE

Join us for this informative workshop and learn
how to preplan for the end of life.

• light refreshments provided.

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