



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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD~ THE HOLY FAMILY



The special devotion which sets forth the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as the model of virtue for all Christian households began in the seventeenth century. It commenced almost simultaneously in Canada and France: the Association of the Holy Family being founded in Montreal in 1663, and the Daughters of the Holy Family in Paris in 1674.

Numerous other congregations and associations under the Patronage of the Holy Family have been established since that time, and they are spread over the world. The archconfraternity was established by Bl. Pius IX in 1847. In 1893, Leo XIII approved a Feast for Canada, and Pope Benedict XV extended the Feast of the Holy Family to the whole Church and ordered its celebration to take place on the Sunday after the Epiphany.

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



“Anointed Ones” : Reflection on The Baptism of the Lord

Jesus presents himself for baptism in today’s Gospel not because He is a sinner, but to fulfill the word of God proclaimed by His prophets. He must be baptized to reveal that He is the Christ (“anointed one”—the Spirit-endowed Servant promised by Isaiah in today’s First Reading).

His baptism marks the start of a new world, a new creation. As Isaiah prophesied, the Spirit descends upon Jesus like a dove—as the Spirit hovered over the face of the deep in the beginning (see Genesis 1:2).

As it was in the beginning, at the Jordan also the majestic voice of the Lord thunders above the waters. The Father opens the heavens and declares Jesus to be His “beloved son.”

God had long prepared the Israelites for His coming, as Peter preaches in today’s Second Reading. Jesus was anticipated in the “beloved son” given to Abraham (see Genesis 22:2, 12, 26), and in the calling of Israel as His “first-born son” (see Exodus 4:22–23). Jesus is the divine son begotten by God, the everlasting heir promised to King David (see Psalm 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:14).

He is “a covenant of the people [Israel]” and “a light to the nations,” Isaiah says. By the new covenant made in His blood (see 1 Corinthians 11:25), God has gathered the lost sheep of Israel together with whoever fears Him in every nation.

Christ has become the source from which God pours out His Spirit on Israelites and Gentiles alike (see Acts 10:45). In Baptism, all are anointed with that same Spirit, made beloved sons and daughters of God. Indeed, we are Christians—literally “anointed ones.”

We are the “sons of God” in today’s Psalm—called to give glory to His name in His temple. Let us pray that we remain faithful to our calling as His children, that our Father might call us what he calls His Son—“my beloved . . . in whom I am well pleased.”

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:** Bella Mally, Jim Moore, Jane Soars, 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

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

SFX DIRECTORY

Office Telephone: (509) 487-6363

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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, JANUARY 12TH

5:30pm Mass *Prekker Family*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH

8:00am Mass *John Paulsen (Deceased)*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass *Richard Parra (Deceased)*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH

8:00am Mass *Cherie Phillips*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH

3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*





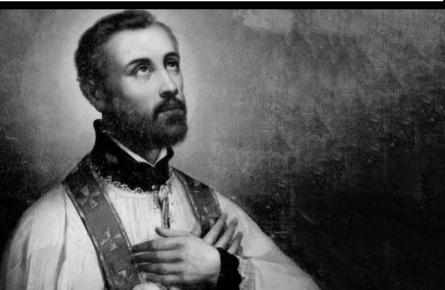
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Seven Sisters Apostolate

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



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!!

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. Benedict Biscop (Bennet), Abbot January 12th

St. Benedict, or Bennet as he is commonly called, was of noble birth and as officer of the court of Oswi, the religious king of Northumberland, England, in the 7th century. At the age of twenty-five he left the world, made a journey of devotion to Rome, and in his return applied himself to the study of Scripture and the practice of pious exercises. After spending two years at the renowned monastery of Lerins and receiving the habit there, he accompanied St. Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, and St. Adrian to England at the request of Pope Vitalian.

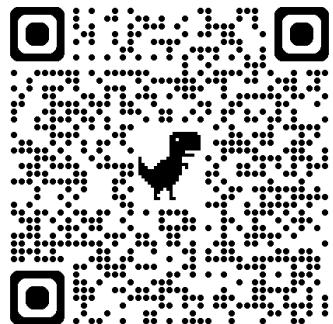
Benedict returned to Rome a few more times to study the various religious disciplines and collect books and pictures of the Saints. After serving under Theodore and Adrian, he was given a grant by the King of Northumberland and built the famous monastery of Weremouth, bringing over from France stonemasons and glaziers to construct it according to the Roman models he had seen. He also built another monastery six miles away at Jarrow, and ruled both since they were regarded as one.

In his zeal to make his monastery as close to the Roman models as possible, Benedict prevailed upon Pope Agatho to let him take back to England the precentor of St. Peter's in Rome to teach the monks Gregorian Chant. After suffering from severe illness for three years, this holy and zealous worker of God died in January, 690.

PRAYER: Lord, amid the things of this world, let us be wholeheartedly committed to heavenly things in imitation of the example of evangelical perfection You have given us in St. Benedict the Abbot. **Amen.**



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Catechism and Sacramental Preparation

We are pleased to announce that catechism and sacrament preparation classes are in the mornings on **Jan 24th, Feb 21st, March 28th, and April 18th**. First Communion and Confirmation will be celebrated in late April or early May.

To make this program successful, we need dedicated volunteers to serve as catechists and assistants. No previous teaching experience is necessary—just a willing heart and love for the faith. Training and materials will be provided.

If you feel called to help form our children in their Catholic faith, please contact the parish office. Your gift of time can make an eternal difference in a child's life.

More details about registration and class schedules will be announced soon. Please keep this important ministry in your prayers.





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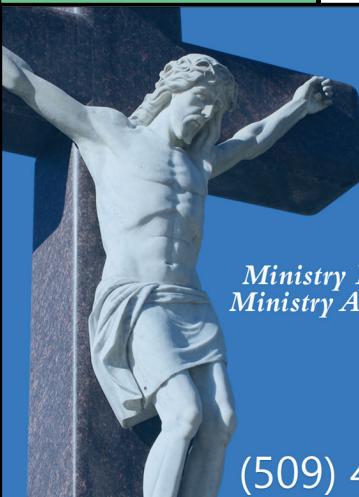
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