



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

December 14th, 2025

*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



Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th

4:30pm English Mass (St Patrick's)

Christmas Day Thursday 25th

8:00 am English Mass (St Francis Xavier)

10:00am Latin High 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

Decorating For Christmas

**We will decorate the
Church at 3pm on Monday
December 22nd.**

**Please consider lending a
hand to prepare the church
for Christmas.**

“Here is your God” : Reflection on the Third Sunday of Advent

John questions Jesus from prison in today’s Gospel—for his disciples’ sake and for ours.

He knows that Jesus is doing “the works of the Messiah,” foretold in today’s First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us.

The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvelous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor (see Isaiah 29:18–20; 61:1–2).

The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord.

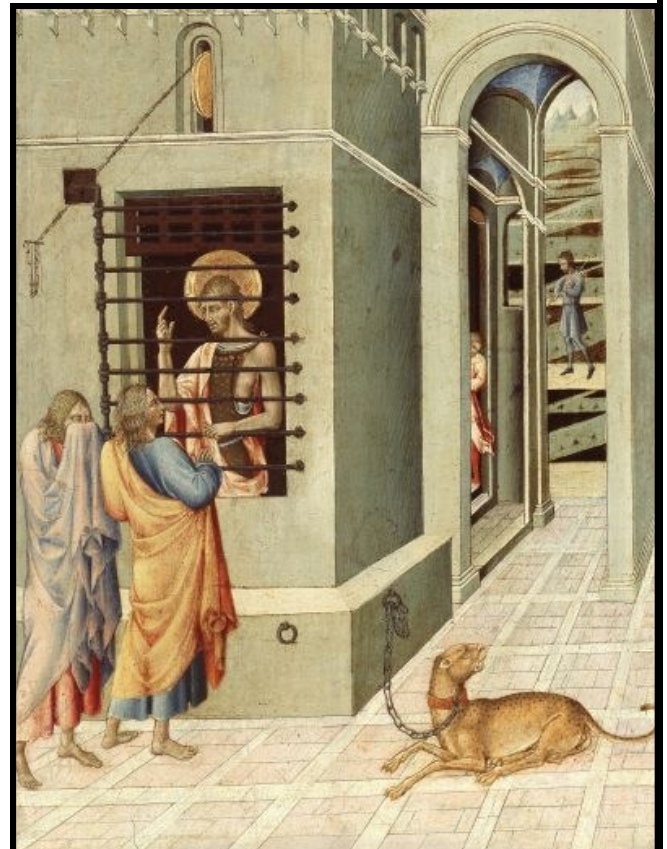
As James advises in today’s Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide (see Matthew 6:25–34). John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Savior.

We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving (see Isaiah 30:18).

Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up, we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: “Here is your God.”

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**)

SFX DIRECTORY

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Sacramental Emergencies: (509) 866-6098

Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

Office Email: office@sfxspokane.org

Office Hours.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

5:30pm Mass *Lost Souls in Purgatory*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

8:00am Mass *Conversion of sinners*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass *Dan and Lydia McLeod*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

8:00am Mass *Poor Souls in Purgatory*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

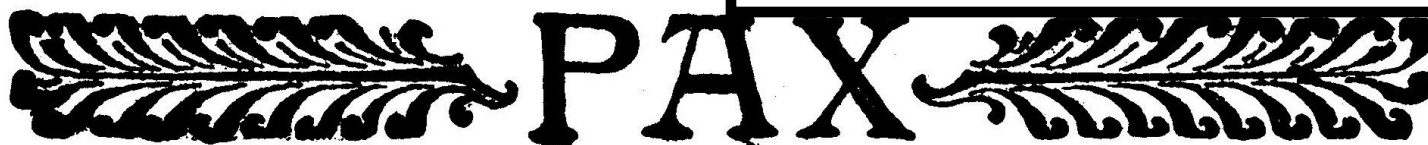
3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



Seven Sisters Apostolate

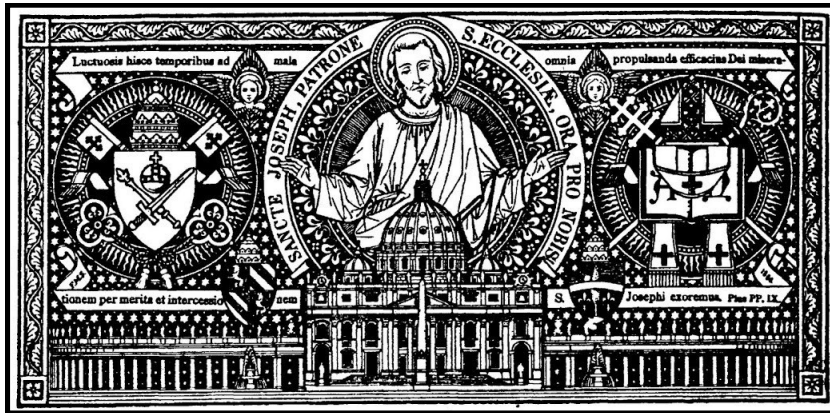
The parish is looking for volunteers who would be interested in participating in the “Seven Sisters Apostolate.” This Apostolate seeks to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed every day for the intention of the parish priest.

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



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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.



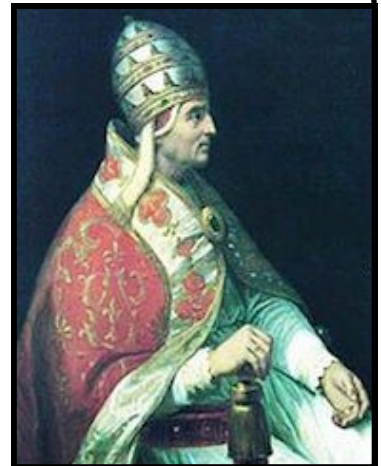
Blessed Urban V, Pope December 19th

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.



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**.



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