



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

June 1st, 2025

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD~ THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION

For forty days more Jesus was upon earth, in repeated though not continuous contact with His followers. He comes and goes with an independence of the restricting power of space, which is not now miracle but part of the consequence of the glorification of His body. He comes to the Apostles through a closed door, He vanishes from their sight. In all His contact with them He is continuing and completing their preparation for the work they must do once He has left the earth. Thus He gives them power to forgive sins or withhold forgiveness (Jn. 20:22-23); He opens their understanding that they may understand the Scriptures (Lk. 24:45); He gives them the commission to carry His doctrine and His sacraments to all nations till the end of time (Mt. 28:19-20). But none of this activity is to begin until the Holy Spirit has come upon them; and the Holy Spirit will not come until Christ our Lord has gone to His Father—"for if I go not," He had told them at the Last Supper, "the Paraclete will not come to you: but if I go I will send him to you." At the end of forty days, He left this earth.

He gave them one more reminder that they should receive the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon them. "And when he had said these things, while they looked on, He was raised up: and a cloud received him out of their sight"—so St. Luke tells us in the first chapter of the Acts. St. Mark's account is as brief: "And the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God."

Notice that the Resurrection was not simply a convenient way for Our Lord to return to His Apostles and give them final instructions, nor His Ascension simply a convenient way of letting them know definitely and beyond question or peradventure that He had left this world. Resurrection and Ascension belong organically to the Sacrifice He offered for us. The Sacrifice, insofar as it is the offering to God of a victim slain, was complete upon Calvary. But in the total conception of sacrifice, it is not sufficient—as Cain found long before—that a victim be offered to God; it is essential that the offering be accepted by God: and given that the nature of man requires that sacrifice be an action externally visible, it belongs to the perfection of sacrifice that God's acceptance should be as externally visible as humanity's offering. It is in this sense that Resurrection and Ascension belong organically to the Sacrifice. By the miracle of the Resurrection, God at once shows His acceptance of the Priest as a true priest of a true sacrifice and perfects the Victim offered to Him, so that whereas it was offered mortal and corruptible, it has gained immortality and incorruptibility. By the Ascension, God accepts the offered Victim by actually taking it to Himself. Humanity, offered to God in Christ the Victim, is now forever at the right hand of the Father.



Commentary from Theology and Sanity by Frank Sheed (1897-1981).

The Good News : Reflection on the Ascension of the Lord

In today's First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus' saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and He has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies.

The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf (see Hebrews 4:14–15).

Indeed, His intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the First Reading for the feast of the Ascension: "in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5). The Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God's children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through Baptism.

The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord" (Psalm 47). The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace.

The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" because of the light that came with God's saving grace (see, for example, Hebrews 10:32). Saint Paul, in his Letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as Ascension leads to Pentecost: "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened," he writes, as he looks to the divinization of the believers. Their "hope" is "his inheritance among the holy ones," the saints who have been adopted into God's family and now rule with Him at the Father's right hand.

This is the "good news" the Apostles are commissioned to spread—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem—at the Ascension. It's the good news we must spread today.

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:** Bella Mally, Gerald R. Smith, 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)

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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 or at
[facebook.com/sfxspokane](https://www.facebook.com/sfxspokane)

Our Mailing Address is:

P.O. Box 7179, Spokane, WA, 99207

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, JUNE 2ND

5:30pm Mass *Colleen Hammon*

TUESDAY, JUNE 3RD

8:00AM Mass *Greater Love for Pope Francis*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4TH

4:00pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass *Forgotten Souls in Purgatory*

THURSDAY, JUNE 5TH

8:00AM Mass *Family Avila*

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH

5:30PM Mass *First Friday*

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH

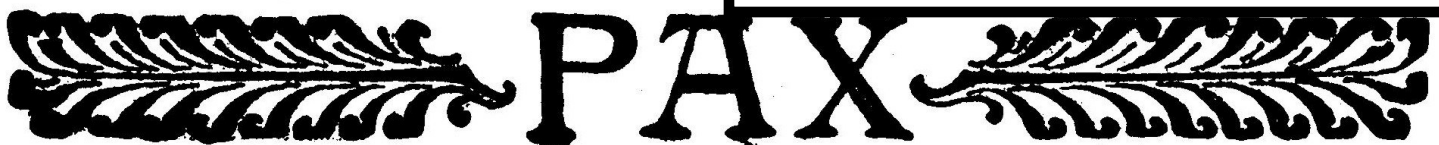
3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH

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”.

All women - retired, widowed, single and married - are invited to join.

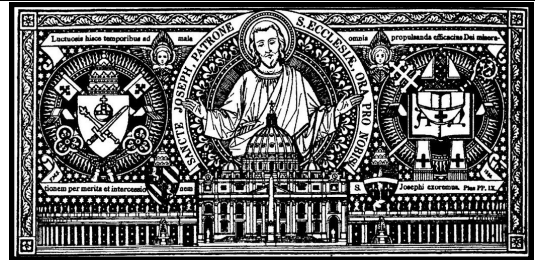
Activities and volunteer possibilities include:

- 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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Under our Organ Fundraiser page you will find descriptions and recordings of all the Ranks in the Organ awaiting adoption.

St. Norbert, Bishop June 6th

St. Norbert was born at Xanten in the Rhineland, about 1080. The early part of his life was devoted to the world and its pleasures. He even entered upon the ecclesiastical state in a worldly spirit. He was ordained subdeacon, but fear of greater restraint prevented him from receiving higher orders.

An accident became the occasion of a wonderful change of heart. A stroke of lightning frightened Norbert's horse, whereupon he was thrown to the ground and knocked senseless; on regaining consciousness, he became a sincere penitent. He left the court and withdrew to Xanten, where he began to lead a retired and penitential life.

A retreat the Saint made in the monastery of St. Sigebert, near Cologne, completed his conversion, and he spent two years preparing himself for the priesthood, which he received at Cologne. Soon after, he resigned his ecclesiastical benefices, sold his property and gave the proceeds to the poor, and traveled to Languedoc, where Pope Gelasius II was at that time.

Norbert went from place to place, preaching penance. Finally, he settled at Premontre, where he established the Order of Premonstratensians, which became very numerous even during the life of the holy founder. He was forced to accept the dignity of Archbishop of Magdeburg, about the year 1125, but in this exalted station he practiced the same austerity that had been familiar to him in the cloister.

Norbert's zeal effected a great reformation in his diocese, though, like other Saints, he had enemies in those to whom his life was a reproach. Together with St. Bernard he labored much to extinguish the disorders caused by the schism of the anti-Pope, Anacletus. Upon his return from a journey to Rome with Emperor Lothaire, he fell ill, and, after four months of sickness, died June 6, 1134. He was canonized in 1582 by Pope Gregory XII.

ST PATRICK & ST FRANCIS XAVIER

Annual Parish Picnic

SUN 1 JUNE

12:30-4:00PM

Join us on the lawn of St. X after our Missa Cantata for a BBQ potluck, horseshoe tournament, lawn games and good company!

Sign up in teams of **two** for horseshoes
Please bring a side dish to share!

Questions or sign ups?
Email: women.of.st.x@gmail.com



PRAYER: God, You made Your Bishop St. Norbert an outstanding minister of Your Church by his prayer and pastoral zeal. Trough his prayers grant that Your faithful flock may always find pastors after Your heart and salutary pastures. **Amen.**

WHO DO YOU TRUST?

Sponsors seen here are good people looking to business with good people like you! They offset the cost of the bulletin to the parish, work and live by the "Golden Rule" Mt 7:12

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Mass at 8:30 (optional)
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