



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

October 26th, 2025

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ CHRIST THE KING

The Kingdom of Heaven — Holy Church — is seen bringing forth out of her treasure “things new and old.” Although she can never add new dogmas to the deposit of Faith entrusted to her, as the ages go by she is seen understanding more perfectly and explaining more fully those treasures in her keeping. She is a living body, not a statue, and she can develop, though she can never change her nature. Hence, guided by the Holy Spirit of him who has promised to be with her not merely for a few centuries but unto the end of the world, she defines or emphasizes certain points of doctrine as she sees fit, considering the needs of the times. We have an example in the institution of the feast of the Kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ by the Sovereign Pontiff, Pope Pius XI, in the jubilee year 1925, and explained to the faithful in the Encyclical *Quas Primas*.

Christians have ever hailed our divine Lord as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It was as a King that the representatives of the Eastern world came to adore him in the manger; it was as a King, albeit not knowing what he did, that the official representative of the Western world lifted him up upon the Cross. The patriarchs and prophets of the old dispensation foretold his royalty; he spoke constantly of his kingdom: when asked plainly whether he were in truth a king by the representative of Cæsar, he acknowledged that such indeed he was, though of a kingdom not of this world.

“His Kingship is founded upon the ineffable hypostatic union. It is spiritual, and concerned with spiritual things. It is opposed to none other than to that of Satan, and to the powers of darkness. Christ is King over angels and men; King over men’s hearts and wills; his Kingship demands of its subjects a spirit of detachment from riches and earthly things, and a spirit of gentleness. They must hunger and thirst after justice and, more than this, they must deny themselves and carry the cross.”

Yet though his is a spiritual kingdom, opposed to no just earthly polity, “it would be a grave error to say that Christ has no authority whatever in civil affairs, since by virtue of the absolute empire over all creatures committed to him by the Father, all things are in his power. All men, whether collectively or individually, are under the dominion of Christ. In him is the salvation of the individual, in him is the salvation of society.”

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No Favorites : Reflection on The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus draws a blunt picture in today's Gospel.

The Pharisee's prayer is almost a parody of the thanksgiving psalms (see for example Psalms 30, 118). Instead of praising God for His mighty works, the Pharisee congratulates himself for his own deeds, which he presents to God in some detail.

The tax collector stands at a distance, too ashamed even to raise his eyes to God (see Ezra 9:6). He prays with a humble and contrite heart (see Psalm 51:19). He knows that before God no one is righteous, no one has cause to boast (see Roman 3:10; 4:2).

We see in the Liturgy today one of Scripture's abiding themes: that God "knows no favorites," as today's First Reading tells us (see 2 Chronicles 19:7; Acts 10:34–35; Romans 2:11).

God cannot be bribed (see Deuteronomy 10:17). We cannot curry favor with Him or impress Him—even with our good deeds or our faithful observance of religious duties such as tithing and fasting.

If we try to exalt ourselves before the Lord, as the Pharisee does, we will be brought low (see Luke 1:52).

This should be a warning to us—not to take pride in our piety, not to slip into the self-righteousness of thinking that we're better than others, that we're "not like the rest of sinful humanity."

If we clothe ourselves with humility (see 1 Peter 5:5–6), if we recognize that all of us are sinners in need of His mercy, we will be exalted (see Proverbs 29:33).

The prayer of the lowly, the humble, pierces the clouds. Paul testifies to this in today's Epistle as He thanks the Lord for giving him strength during his imprisonment.

Paul tells us what the Psalmist sings today—that the Lord redeems the lives of His humble servants.

We too must serve Him willingly. And He will hear us in our distress, deliver us from evil, and bring us safely to His heavenly kingdom.

Scott Habn



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)

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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, OCTOBER 27TH

5:30pm Mass *Patricia Grugel*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

8:00am Mass *Mel and Georgia Schrempp*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass *Gerald Smith*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

8:00am Mass *Poor souls in Purgatory*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



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Today we sadly behold “a world undone,” largely paganized in principles and outlook, and, in recent years, in one country even glorying in the name “pagan.” At the best, governments mostly ignore God; and at the worst, openly fight against him, as we of today are witnessing in the Old World and in the New. Even the statesmen’s well-meant efforts to find a remedy for present ills and, above all, to secure world peace, prove futile because, whereas peace is from Christ, and possible only in the Kingdom of Christ, his name is never mentioned throughout their deliberations or their documents. Christ is kept out of the State schools and seats of higher education; and the rising generations seem to be taught anything and everything save to know, love and serve him. Art and literature all too frequently reflect the same tendencies.

And since the spirit of evil reigns inevitably wherever the spirit of Christ has ceased to reign, in public and in private men are flouting the moral laws of God, and some of the worst abominations of ancient paganism are becoming matters of everyday life. Moreover, be it remembered, modern paganism is worse than that of the ancient world, in that the former knows what it does as the latter did not. There is now an intense, positive hatred of Jesus Christ in the militant atheist, which differs in kind from the attitude of the fiercest Roman or Eastern persecutor: “If I had not come and spoken to them ... if I had not done among them the works that no other man hath done, they would not have sin: but now they have both seen and hated both me and my Father” [Jn. 15:22, 24].

Ever as practical as she is supernatural, the Church is not content with merely deploring the evil, nor even with counteracting it by sound teaching. She would also make definite reparation to the divine majesty thus denied and defied; to him whose royalty is slighted and insulted. Something must be done by those who, in a measure, understand and love, in order to atone for those who do not. “To repair the crime of lèse-divinity, which denies God’s rights over the human society whose author he is, we must exalt Jesus Christ as King over all individuals, families, and peoples. If his universal royalty be proclaimed and his reign in society recognized, one of the principal evils of the modern world—the secularizing of public and private life—will be attacked at its roots” [L’Amour de Dieu et de la Croix de Jesus, R. Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P.] Hence we have the special exhortation of the Vicar of Christ, and the institution of the feast of this divine Kingship.

To this end, nothing would serve better than the institution of a special feast in honor of the Kingship of Christ. For people are instructed in the truths of faith, and brought to appreciate the inner joys of religion, far more effectually by the annual celebration of our sacred mysteries than by any pronouncement, however weighty, of the teaching of the Church. Such pronouncements usually reach only a few, and those the more learned among the faithful; feasts reach them all; the former speak but once, the latter speak every year—in fact forever. The Church’s teaching affects the mind primarily; her feasts affect both mind and heart, and have a salutary effect upon the whole of man’s nature.... We have commanded its observance on a Sunday, in order that not only the clergy may perform their duty by saying Mass and reciting the Office, but that the laity too, free from their daily tasks, may in a spirit of holy joy give ample testimony of their obedience and subjection to Christ ... that they may so order their lives as to be worthy, faithful, and obedient subjects of the Divine King” [Encyclical Quas Primas of His Holiness Pope Pius XI, 1925].



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St. Wolfgang, Bishop October 31st

Born in Suabia about 925, St. Wolfgang went on to become one of the outstanding men of his day. He studied at the Abbey of Reichenau in Lake Constance, which was at that time a noted center of learning, and then taught at the cathedral schools of Wurzburg and Trier. In the latter capacity, he joined the monk Ramhold in reforming the dioceses for their mutual friend, Henry the Archbishop.

When Henry died, St. Wolfgang entered the Benedictine monastery of Einsiedeln in Switzerland, where his learning, piety, and overall ability soon came to the fore. Named director of the Abbey school, he made it the finest in the country. He was then ordained a priest and with a group of monks set out evangelize the Magyars in Pannonia. However, their zealous efforts bore little outward fruit, and he was named Archbishop of Ratisbon, despite his honest protestations to the contrary.

Though his heart longed for solitude, this saintly man remained in his post for the rest of his days and brought to his work all his zeal and capabilities. He restored canonical life among his clergy, reformed monasteries, preached tirelessly, and discharged his duties as spiritual shepherd with exemplary fidelity, earning the love of his flock and the esteem of the royal court. He died about 994, and such was his reputation for holiness and the power of the miracles he effected that he was canonized in 1022 by Pope Benedict VIII.

PRAYER: God, Light and Shepherd of souls, You established St. Wolfgang as Bishop in Your Church to feed Your flock by his word and form it by his example. Help us through his intercession to keep the faith he taught by his word and follow the way he showed by his example. **Amen.**

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.

