



ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC PARISH

February 2nd , 2025

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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

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THE PURIFICATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



The feast of Candlemas, which derives its origin from the local observance of Jerusalem, marks the end of the Feasts included in the Christmas cycle of the Liturgy. It is perhaps the most ancient festival of Our Lady. It commemorates not only the obedience of the Blessed Virgin to the Mosaic Law in going to Jerusalem forty days after the birth of her Child and making the accustomed offerings, but also the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, and the meeting of the Infant Jesus with the old man Simeon — the Occursus Dómini, as the Feast was anciently termed.

New Day Dawns : Reflection on The Presentation of the Lord

Today's feast marks the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the Temple, forty days after he was born. As the firstborn, he belonged to God. According to the Law, Mary and Joseph were required to take him to the Temple and "redeem" him by paying five shekels. At the same time, the Law required the child's mother to offer sacrifice in order to overcome the ritual impurity brought about by childbirth.

So the feast we celebrate shows a curious turn of events. The Redeemer seems to be redeemed. She who is all-pure presents herself to be purified. Such is the humility of our God. Such is the humility of the Blessed Virgin. They submit to the law even though they are not bound by it.

However, the Gospel story nowhere mentions Jesus' "redemption," but seems to describe instead a religious consecration—such as a priest might undergo. Saint Luke tells us that Jesus is "presented" in the Temple, using the same verb that Saint Paul uses to describe the offering of a sacrifice (see Romans 12:1). Another parallel is the Old Testament dedication of Samuel (1 Sam 1:24-27) to the Temple as a priest.

The drama surrounding Jesus' conception and birth began in the Temple—when the Archangel visited Mary's kinsman, Zechariah the priest. And now the story of Jesus' infancy comes to a fitting conclusion, again in the Temple.

All the readings today concern Jerusalem, the Temple, and the sacrificial rites. The first reading comes from the Prophet Malachi, who called the priests to return to faithful service—and foretold a day when a Messiah would arrive with definitive purification of the priesthood.

Likewise, the Psalm announces to Jerusalem that Jerusalem is about to receive a great visitor. The Psalmist identifies him as "The LORD of hosts . . . the king of glory."

Christ now arrives as the long-awaited priest and redeemer. He is also the sacrifice. Indeed, as his life will show, He is the Temple itself (see John 2:19-21).

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, 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**)

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

Our Mailing Address is:
P.O. Box 7179, Spokane, WA, 99207

SFX DIRECTORY

Office Telephone: (509) 487-6363

Sacramental Emergencies: (509) 866-6098

Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

Office Email: office@sfxspokane.org

Office Hours.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

5:30pm, Mass *Georgia Schrempp*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

8:00am, Mass *Gillermana Guardado*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

4:30 pm, Confessions

5:30 pm, Requiem Mass *Patrick Linebarger*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH

8:00am, Mass *Forgotten Souls*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

5:30pm, First Friday Mass

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH

3:00pm, Confessions

4:00pm, Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

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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FIRST CONFESSION APRIL 5
CONFIRMATION- APRIL 28
FIRST COMMUNION MAY 4

Register by January 31 ~ \$35/ student or \$100/Family

St. Joseph of Leonessa, Priest February 4th

Eufranio Desideri was born in 1556 at Leonessa, in Umbria, Italy, and pursued higher studies at Viterbo. At eighteen he rejected an offer of a noble and lucrative marriage.

Instead, Eufranio joined the Capuchin Franciscans at Viterbo. Taking the name of Joseph, he became a humble, and obedient religious, mortified to a heroic degree. He believed deeply and preached constantly that every Christian must be a living book in which others can read the teaching of the Gospel.

In 1587, Joseph was sent to Turkey as a missionary among the Christians at Pera, a suburb of Constantinople. He served the Christian galley slaves of the Turks and preached the Faith to the Moslems, making himself liable for imprisonment under Turkish law.

Joseph was imprisoned twice and ultimately sentenced to a cruel death. His right hand and foot were pierced with hooks and hung over a weak fire for three days. On the fourth day, he was miraculously released and his sentence commuted to banishment.

The Saint returned to Leonessa and continued to labor with great success in apostolic endeavors, being favored with God's gifts. Worn out by his labors, Joseph died at Amatrice, Italy, on February 4, 1612, and was canonized in 1745 by Pope Benedict XIV.

PRAYER: O God, You made St. Joseph an illustrious preacher of the Gospel. Through his intercession, enkindle us with love and with his zeal for souls that we may serve You alone. **Amen.**



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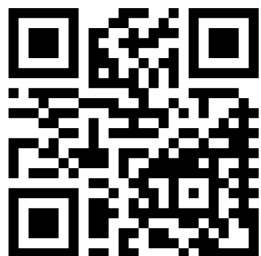
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