



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

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

FOURTH 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)

We have now entered into the week which immediately precedes the birth of the Messiah. That long-desired coming might be even to-morrow; and at furthest, that is, when Advent is as long as it can be, the beautiful feast is only seven days from us. So that the Church now counts the hours; she watches day and night, and since December 17 her Offices have assumed an unusual solemnity. At Lauds, she varies the antiphons each day; and at Vespers, in order to express the impatience of her desires for her Jesus, she makes use of the most vehement exclamations to the Messiah, in which she each day gives Him a magnificent title, borrowed from the language of the prophets.

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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.

“God Is with Us” : Reflection on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

The mystery kept secret for long ages, promised through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, is today revealed (see Romans 16:25–26).

This is the “Gospel of God” that Paul celebrates in today’s Epistle—the good news that “God is with us” in Jesus Christ. The sign promised to the House of David in today’s First Reading is given in today’s Gospel. In the virgin found with child, God Himself has brought to Israel a savior from David’s royal line (see Acts 13:22–23).

Son of David according to the flesh, Jesus is the Son of God, born of the Spirit. He will be anointed with the Spirit (see Acts 10:38), and by the power of Spirit will be raised from the dead and established at God’s right hand in the heavens (see Acts 2:33–34; Ephesians 1:20–21).

He is the “King of Glory” we sing of in today’s Psalm. The earth in its fullness has been given to Him. And as God swore long ago to David, His Kingdom will have no end (see Psalm 89:4–5).

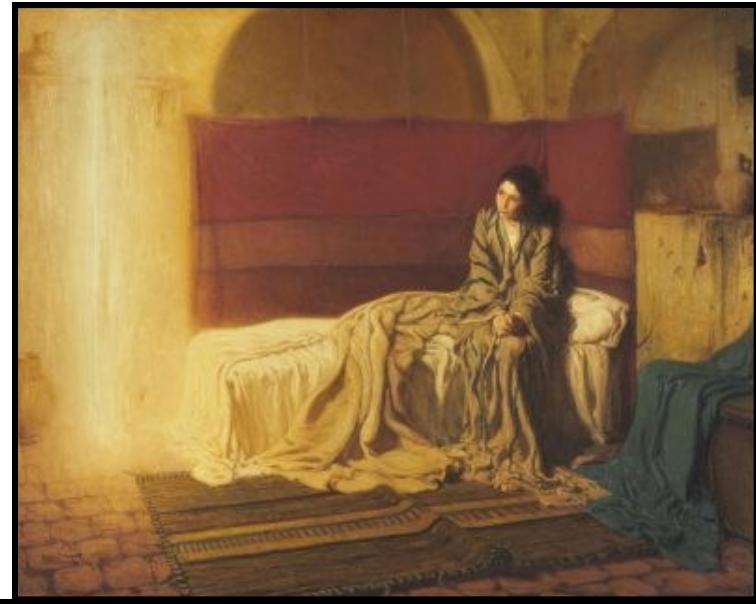
In Jesus Christ we have a new creation. Like the creation of the world, it is a work of the Spirit, a blessing from the Lord (see Genesis 1:2). In Him, we are saved from our sins, are called now “the beloved of God.”

All nations now are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to enter into the House of David and kingdom of God, the Church. Together, through the obedience of faith, we have been made a new race—a royal people that seeks for the face of the God of Jacob.

He has made our hearts clean; He has made us worthy to enter His holy place, to stand in His presence and serve Him.

In the Eucharist, the everlasting covenant is renewed, the Advent promise of virgin with child—God with us—continues until the end of the age (see Matthew 28:20; Ezekiel 37:24–28).

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
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Office Hours.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

3:00pm Decorating the Church

5:30pm Mass *Fr Gustavo's Mother, Juanita*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

8:00am Mass *Fr Gustavo's Mother, Juanita*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Christmas Eve

4:30pm English Mass St Patrick Parish

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

Christmas Day

8:00am English Mass St Francis Xavier

10:00am Latin Mass St Francis Xavier

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

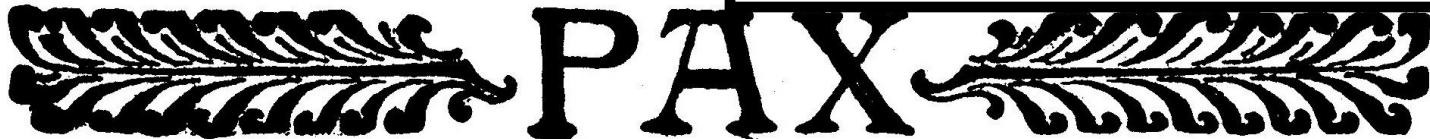
3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, Mass *Pro Populo*



St. John of Kanty, December 23rd

St. John was born in 1403 in a village, the name of which he bears, situated in the diocese of Krakow, Poland. His childhood was passed in innocence under the care of his virtuous parents. After finishing his studies he became professor in the University of Krakow, a position he occupied several years, endeavoring not only to train his pupils in science but also to instill into their hearts the sentiments of piety with which he was himself animated.

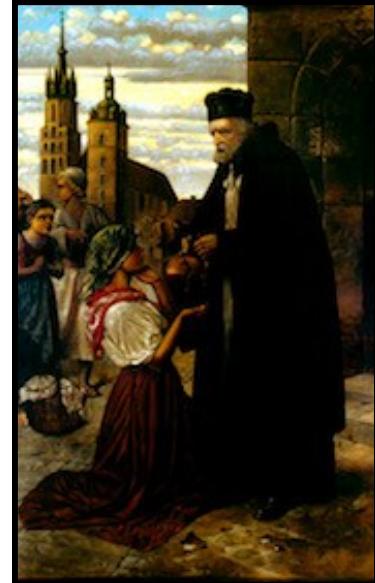
Having been ordained to the priesthood, John distinguished himself by still greater zeal for the glory of God and his own perfection. The carelessness and indifference of so many Christians were for him a great source of affliction. As parish priest, he became a true pastor of souls, severe toward himself and indulgent to others, showing himself the father of his people and their friend when they were in need. After some years he resumed his duties of professor, practicing at the same time prayer, love for the poor, and all Christians virtues.

Consumed by the desire of suffering martyrdom, John made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and preached "Jesus Crucified" to the Turks. Four times he made a journey to Rome on foot. His sleep was short and taken on the floor; his food barely sufficed to keep him alive. By means of fasting and severe discipline he preserved his purity intact. During the last thirty years of his life he abstained entirely from meat. Finally, after distributing to the poor all he had in his house, he died in 1473. He was canonized in 1767 by Pope Clement XIII.

PRAYER: Almighty God, help us to follow the example of Your Priest, St. John, in advancing in the science of the Saints. May we show compassion to all who are in need so that we ourselves may obtain Your mercy. **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.



Continued from Cover...

Today, she makes a last effort to stir up the devotion of her children. She leads them to the desert; she shows them John the Baptist, upon whose mission she instructed them on the third Sunday. The voice of the austere Precursor resounds through the wilderness, and penetrates even into the cities. It preaches penance, and the obligation men are under of preparing by self-purification for the coming of Christ. Let us retire from the world during these next few days; or if that may not be by reason of our external duties, let us retire into the quiet of our own hearts and confess our iniquities, as did those true Israelites, who came, full of compunction and of faith in the Messiah, to the Baptist, there to make perfect their preparation for worthily receiving the Redeemer on the day of His appearing to the world.

See, then, with what redoubled earnestness the Church, before opening the book of her great prophet, repeats her invocatory:

Prope est jam Dominus; venite, adoremus. - The Lord is now nigh; come, let us adore.

Oh, the joy of Thy coming, dear Jesus! how great it must needs be, when the prophecy says it shall be like an everlasting crown upon our heads. And could it be otherwise? The very desert is to flourish as a lily, and living waters are to gush forth out of the parched land, because their God is coming. Come, O Jesus, come quickly, and give us of that water, which flows from Thy sacred Heart, and which the Samaritan woman, the type of us sinners, asked of Thee with such earnest entreaty. This water is Thy grace; let it rain upon our parched souls, and they too will flourish; let it quench our thirst, and we will run in the way of Thy precepts and examples.

Thou, O Jesus, art our way, our path, to God; and Thou art Thyself God; Thou art, therefore, both our way and the term to which our way leads us. We had lost our way; we had gone astray as lost sheep: how great Thy love to come thus in search of us! To teach us the way to heaven, Thou hast deigned to come down from heaven, and then tread with us the road which leads to it. No! there shall be no more weak hands, nor feeble knees, nor faint hearts; for we know that it is in love that Thou art coming to us. There is but one thing which makes us sad: our preparation is not complete. We have some ties still to break; help us to do it, O Saviour of mankind! We desire to obey the voice of Thy Precursor, and make plain those rugged paths, which would prevent Thy coming into our hearts, O divine Infant! Give us to be baptized in the Baptism of the waters of penance; Thou wilt soon follow, baptizing us in the Holy Ghost and love.

*Commentary from the Liturgical year by
Dom Gueranger*





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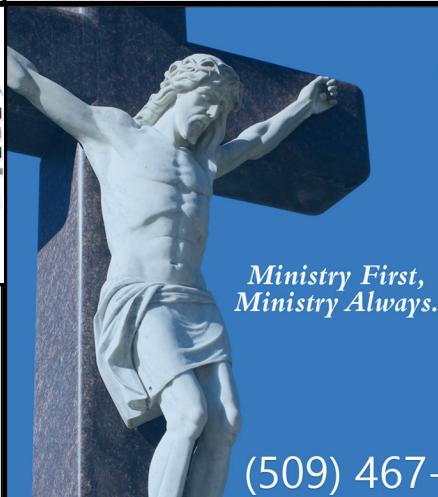


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