



September 13th, 2026

Watch over me, Father, so
that everything I do may
be with the intention of
pleasing Jesus.

~ St. Bernadette

SAINT BERNADETTE PARISH

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ THE 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

At the sight of the sick man who stands before him, Jesus is filled with compassion. He cures the affliction even though He knows that there are those who will criticize him for curing on the Sabbath. Jesus acts in a forthright manner. He pays no heed to human respect, to what others will say. His critics consider themselves to be the authentic interpreters of the Law. Later on, the Lord will show them that mercy should be exercised even on the Sabbath.

He provides an example gleaned from the common sense of the countryside. We may find obstacles to our faith in the environment around us, such as envy, prejudice and misunderstandings due to ignorance. Our response should be the same as that of Jesus. We should not be afraid to give clear testimony to our beliefs. This type of behavior can be of great apostolic value. On the other hand, “it is terrible how much harm we can do if we allow ourselves to be carried away by the fear or the shame of being seen as Christians in ordinary life” [St. Josemaría Escrivá, *Furrow*, 36].

Let us not fail to make manifest our Christian faith, always with humility and naturalness, whenever the situation requires it. We will never regret having acted in a manner so consistent with our deepest beliefs. The Lord will be filled with joy at such evidence of our fidelity.



Commentary from In Conversation With God by Fr. Francis Fernandez-Carvajal

The Debt we Owe: Reflection on the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life.

Yet, as today's First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, and refuse mercy to those who have done us wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in today's Gospel with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant who won't forgive a fellow servant's debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their master.

It can't be this way in the kingdom, the Church. In the Old Testament, seven is frequently a number associated with mercy and the forgiveness of sins. The just man sins seven times daily; there is a sevenfold sprinkling of blood for atonement of sins (see Proverbs 24:6; Leviticus 16). But Jesus tells Peter today that we must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times. That means: every time.

We are to be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful (see Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:48). But why? Why does Jesus repeatedly warn that we can't expect forgiveness for our trespasses unless we're willing to forgive others their trespasses against us?

Because, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle, we are the Lord's. Each of us has been purchased by the blood of Christ shed for us on the Cross (see Revelation 5:9). As we sing in today's Psalm, though we deserved to die for our sins, He doesn't deal with us according to our crimes. The mercy and

forgiveness we show to others should be the heartfelt expression of our gratitude for the mercy and forgiveness shown to us.

This is why we should remember our last days, set our enmities aside, and stop judging others. We know that one day we will stand before the judgment seat and give account for what we've done with the new life given to us by Christ (see Romans 14:10, 12).

So we forgive each other from the heart, overlook each

other's faults,
and await the
crown of His
kindness and
compassion.

Scott Hahn

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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, Susan Fisher, Gerri Allen, Kathy McCarthy, Ken Keyes, and the residents of Franklin Hills Care Center and Cherrywood Place.

Prayers for the infirm and homebound are a work of mercy.

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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. Bernadette can be found online at

sfxspokane.org or at

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Our Mailing Address is:

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

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THIS WEEK AT ST.
BERNADETTE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

5:30pm Mass *Alicia Hayward*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

8:00am Mass *Bill Kilgore*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass *The Prekker Family*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

8:00am Mass *Claire Maire Smith*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Vigil Mass *Pro populo*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

7:30am Latin Mass *Pro Populo*

9:00am English Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00am Latin 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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St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest and Martyr August 14th

Maximilian was born in 1894 in Poland and became a Franciscan. He contracted tuberculosis and, though he recovered, he remained frail all his life. Before his ordination as a priest, Maximilian founded the Immaculata Movement devoted to our Lady.

After receiving a Doctorate in Theology, he spread the Movement through a magazine entitled “The Knight of the Immaculata” and helped form a community of 800 men, the largest in the world.

Maximilian went to Japan where he built a comparable monastery and then on to India where he furthered the Movement. In 1936, he returned home because of ill health. After the Nazi invasion in 1939, he was imprisoned and released for a time. But in 1941 he was arrested again and sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz.

On July 31, 1941, in reprisal for one prisoner’s escape, the men were chosen to die, father Kolbe offered himself in place of a young husband and father. And he was the last to die, enduring two weeks of starvation, thirst, and neglect. He was canonized in 1981 by Pope John Paul II. Present at the canonization was Francis Gajowniczec, the man whose life Father Kolbe had saved.

PRAYER: Lord, You inflamed St. Maximilian with love for the Immaculate Virgin and filled him with zeal for souls and love for neighbor. Through his prayer, grant that we may work strenuously for Your glory in the service of others and so be made conformable to Your Son until death. **Amen.**

Announcements.

October 3rd at St Francis of Assisi

2:00pm Blessing of the Pets

3:00pm-4:30pm Confessions

5:00pm Vigil Mass

7:00pm Transitus of St. Francis (Remembering the passing of St. Francis from this life to eternal life.

October 4th at St. Francis of Assisi

10am Mass for the Feast of St. Francis with Bishop Daly



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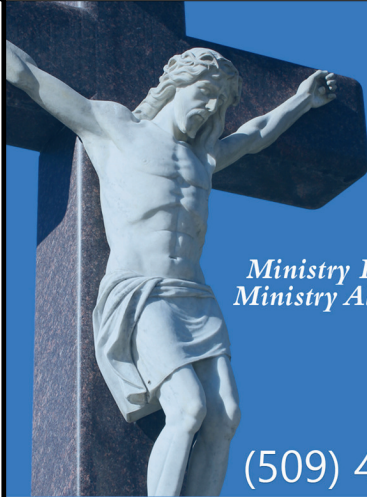


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