



September 27th, 2026

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

~ St. Bernadette

SAINT BERNADETTE PARISH

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ THE 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

St. Bernadette Parish welcomes

Noah Maffett,

a seminarian at Bishop White Seminary here in Spokane. Noah is in his fourth year of seminary (third year of the Discipleship Stage), discerning his vocation and studying for the Archdiocese of Portland. He will be serving at Mass on Sunday mornings throughout the academic year and occasionally assisting with catechesis.

Welcome, Noah, and thank you for being here!



The Delegation of the Power to Absolve Sins

Today's Gospel shows us how, in a concrete case, our Lord established His claim to divine character and power by the performance of a miracle. Many miracles like those which our Lord performed were wrought at various times by holy servants of God, so that the miracles, in themselves, would not prove more than that Jesus was a very special instrument of divine power. But when He wrought visible and undeniable miracles as a proof of His claim to the possession of divine power, such miracles actually established the claim. No one but a friend of God could work miracles, and if a friend of God made a claim that was not true, he could not substantiate it by a miracle. Over and over again in His preaching our Lord appealed to the evidence of His works for the truth of His claims and His teaching (cf. Jn. 10:25-32, 38; 14:11; 15:24).

Continued on the middle page...

The Humble Path: Reflection on the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Echoing the complaint heard in last week's readings, today's First Reading again presents protests that God isn't fair. Why does He punish with death one who begins in virtue but falls into iniquity, while granting life to the wicked one who turns from sin?

This is the question that Jesus takes up in the parable in today's Gospel.

The first son represents the most heinous sinners of Jesus' day tax collectors and prostitutes who by their sin at first refused to serve in the Lord's vineyard, the kingdom. At the preaching of John the Baptist, they repented and did what was right and just. The second son represents Israel's leaders who said they would serve God in the vineyard but refused to believe John when he told them they must produce good fruits as evidence of their repentance (see Matthew 3:8).

Once again, this week's readings invite us to ponder the unfathomable ways of God's justice and mercy. He teaches His ways only to the humble, as we sing in today's Psalm. And in the Epistle today, Paul presents Jesus as the model of that humility by which we come to know life's true path.

Paul sings a beautiful hymn to the Incarnation. Unlike Adam, the first man, who in his pride grasped at being God, the New Adam, Jesus, Humbled himself to become a slave, obedient even unto death on the Cross (see Romans 5:12–17). In this He has shown sinners each one of us the way back to the Father. We can only come to God to serve in His vineyard, the Church, by having that same attitude as Christ.

This is what Israel's leaders lacked. In their vainglory, they presumed their superiority that they had no further need to hear God's Word or listen to God's servants. But this is the way to death, as God tells Ezekiel today. We are always to be emptying ourselves, seeking forgiveness for our sins and frailties, confessing on bended knee that He is Lord, to the glory of the Father.

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, 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.

DIRECTORY

Office Telephone: (509) 487-6363

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Office Hours:

Weekdays

9:00am – 12:00am

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 28TH

5:30pm Mass *Edwin Wallace Morgan (R.I.P)*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

8:00am Mass *Gerson Avila*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass *Eva Rose Gustafson*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

8:00am Mass *George Baertlein (R.I.P)*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

5:30pm Mass **First Friday**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Vigil Mass *Pro populo*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

7:30am Latin Mass *Pro Populo*

9:00am English Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00am Latin Mass *Pro Populo*

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Continued from the Cover..

Today's Gospel gives us the clearest of all the examples of such appeals to the evidential value of Christ's miracles. Jesus proves, then, that in Himself, as the Messiah, He possesses immediately the power of forgiving sin, and from the Gospels it is certain that He imparted that power to His representatives in the Church. To St. Peter, He promised the power of the Keys at Cæsarea Philippi (Mt. 16:19). To the whole Apostolic College, He later promised the power of binding and loosing (Mt. 18:18), and on the evening of Resurrection Day He actually conferred on the Apostles the power of remitting sin (Jn. 20:21ff).

This wondrous power of remitting sin—a power surpassing every earthly power—belongs to every Catholic priest, however simple and obscure he may be. That Catholic priests have this power is certain with all the certainty of faith, so that in the confessional the work of Jesus at Capharnaum is surely continued.

Apart from the gift of Himself in the Holy Eucharist, this gift of absolving power is the most gracious and beneficent of all the gifts that God has given to His Church. The peace and serenity which the absolution of the priest can give the troubled soul is surely one of the greatest of all the myriad comforts which Jesus has provided for His own.

The people at Capharnaum glorified God because He had given to one, Who seemed to them to be a mere man, power to work a miracle of bodily healing. How greatly, then, should we glorify God and thank Him for the power of absolving which He has given to Catholic priests! And if we rightly rejoice in this gracious gift of God to men, why do we not, at the same time, resolve to make use of that gift as frequently as we can?





On Thursday, October 8, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Classical School will host our annual Fund Run! Every student, Montessori through 8th grade, will run and walk laps in support of this year's theme: Shout joyfully to the Lord (Psalm 100:1), and our mission: To form young men and women in the intellectual, moral, and spiritual traditions of Holy Mother Church. [Your gift](#) directly supports our school's budget and mission. Please consider a [recurring gift](#); steady support fuels growth. With humble gratitude, thank you for helping our students run toward their future in faith!



Announcements

October 3rd at St Francis of Assisi Parish

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 Parish

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

40's-50's-60's Singles Group starting up

It's not a matchmaking group; it's not group therapy; it's not a place to argue politics. It's a place for Lectio Divina (prayerful reading of Scripture) and faith sharing for single adults in their 40's, 50's, and 60's.

The group will meet at St. Aloysius Parish, time and room to be determined.

For information, contact Matthew at 509-541-5574 or tarantos74@hotmail.com.



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A retreat for high school girls ages 14-18

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Mass at 8:30 (optional)

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