

# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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## Catholic Parish—Spokane

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1104 W Heroy Ave, Spokane Wa 99205 509-3251321

### October 31st, 2021



### 31<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The scribe said to him, “Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, ‘He is One and there is no other than he.’” And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

- Mk 12:32, 34ab

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#### Pastoral Staff

Pastor: Fr. Michael Blackburn, OFM

Deacon: Dave Dudinsky

#### Parish Staff

Office Manager: Anitra Turney

Youth Ministry: Tammie Fabien

Maintenance: Brian Sandner

#### Choir Directors

Sun.: Betty Ross

Sat: Mary Lou Bentley

#### Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5pm

Sunday: 10am

Daily: 8am

Holy Days: 8am and 7pm

#### Parish Committees & Organizations

Pastoral Council: Frank Taylor

Finance Council: Wendy Sandner

Women's Club: Renee Lewis & Geri Wasson

#### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Thurs. 8:30-4pm

#### Sacraments:

##### Anointing of the Sick:

Masses with anointing 2 or 3 times a year

##### Baptism:

Parental preparation is required

##### Marriage:

contact the parish at least 6 months in advance

##### Reconciliation:

Saturdays 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Centuries of God's devoted people have found this prayer on their lips: "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!" The fundamental prayer has been laid as the cornerstone of many spiritual lives. Where did you learn how to pray or did you? Maybe there is a wisdom figure in your life who inspired and guided you by the genuine, holy simplicity of their lives. His or her example may have led you to God and taught you how to pray. Or perhaps you discovered this art on your own after stumbling over yourself enough times and finally realizing it was time to reach out to Someone greater than yourself. There is a timeless truth that we not only tend to forget, but may have never learned. There is only one God, the Lord alone! As a result, we often worship other gods rather than the One true God. Everything in our life gets distorted and we find ourselves lost and off center.

If we haven't learned it yet, there is a life lesson at the top of all of the possible lessons to be learned. There is One True and Eternal God who alone has a solitary claim on us and must be loved with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Until we learn this primary lesson, we run the risk of getting distracted and sidetracked. We will also never



really figure out what is at the heart of the relationships we share with the other human beings on this planet with whom we share life. That one primary lesson will teach us the second most valuable lesson: that we must love our neighbor as ourselves. You cannot have one without the other. The presence of God in the core soul of each one of us requires that all of our relationships work together. This truth is at the heart of the Gospel.

If every human being, each in their own way, could stumble upon and genuinely embrace this truth, look how different life would be! Our priorities will immediately

shift from "I and me" to "us and we" and we will develop a more inclusive vision for our brothers and sisters. Concerned not only about my own wellbeing and happiness but also that of our brothers and sisters, humanity stands a chance at succeeding in the struggle with injustice, abuse, inequity, violence, war, entitlement, and privilege. It seems that getting to this point has been at the heart of the Gospel and the kingdom of God from the moment Jesus first started to preach. It's a wonder why, then, why so many centuries later, we have still failed to achieve his vision. Maybe we just haven't learned our primary lessons yet.

*The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.'" And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." - Mk 12:32, 34ab*

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# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 31, 2021

- Sunday:** Dt 6:2-6/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 [2]/Heb 7:23-28/Mk 12:28b-34
- Monday:** Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 6]/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a
- Tuesday:** Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1 or 4ab]/Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40a
- Wednesday:** Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9 [5a]/Lk 14:25-33
- Thursday:** Rom 14:7-12/Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14 [13]/Lk 15:1-10
- Friday:** Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Lk 16:1-8
- Saturday:** Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11 [1b]/Lk 16:9-15
- Next Sunday:** 1 Kgs 17:10-16/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/Heb 9:24-28/Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

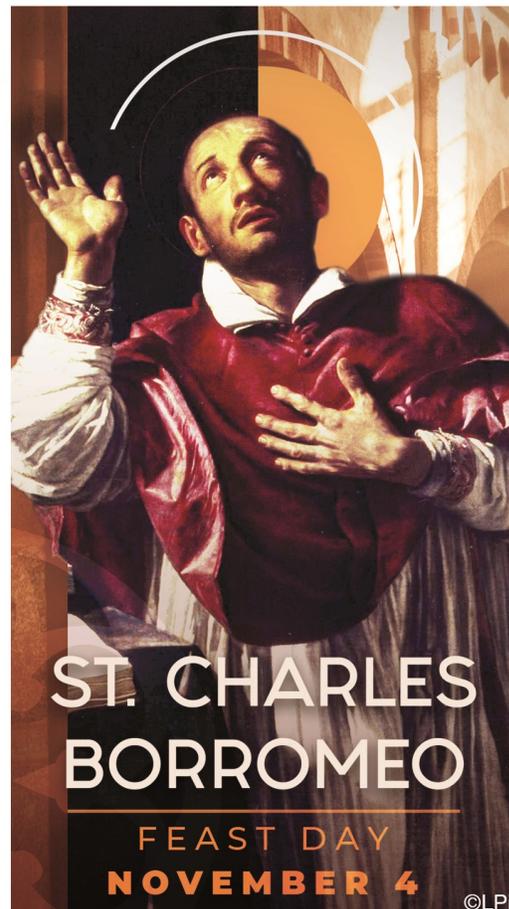
## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 31, 2021

- Sunday:** 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday; All Hallow's Eve
- Monday:** All Saints
- Tuesday:** Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed; All Souls' Day; Election Day
- Wednesday:** St. Martin de Porres, Religious
- Thursday:** St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
- Saturday:** BVM
- Next Sunday:** 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time; National Vocation Awareness Week; Daylight Saving Time Ends

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration for the week

"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!" This ancient prayer has been found on the lips of many of God's devoted servants throughout history. In its simplicity it reminds us of a timeless truth we often forget. We often worship other gods rather than the One true God and find all of our relationships distorted as a result. This One True and Eternal God who alone has a solitary claim on us and must be loved with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. It is important that we remind ourselves often of God's primary place in our lives, lest we get distracted and sidetracked. But there is one more important piece that Jesus insists belongs with this. We must love our neighbor as ourselves. You cannot have one without the other. God's presence within each one of us requires that all of our relationships work together. This is at the heart of God's kingdom.



## ST. CHARLES BORROMEO

FEAST DAY  
NOVEMBER 4

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### SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Charles Borromeo (1538 - 1584) is most known for living during the time of the Protestant Reformation and helped influence reform of the whole Church during the final years of the Council of Trent.

Although St. Charles Borromeo belonged to nobility, he greatly desired to serve the Church. In 1559, his uncle was elected Pope Pius IV. He made Charles cardinal-deacon and administrator of the Archdiocese of Milan. At the time, Charles was a simple student, but because of his intellectual qualities, he was assigned several important offices connected with the Vatican. After the death of his brother, he decided to become a priest and was ordained at age 25. Soon after he became bishop of Milan.

Quietly working behind the scenes, St. Charles Borromeo is credited with keeping the Council of Trent in session and encouraging the pope to renew the Council in 1562, after its 10-year suspension. Afterwards, he devoted his time to serving in the Archdiocese of Milan.

Among his most important actions during his life, St. Charles Borromeo established seminaries, colleges, and communities for the education of candidates for holy orders. His emphasis on Catholic learning greatly increased the preparation of men for the priesthood and benefited their congregations. He died at the age of 46.

## ALL SAINTS' DAY: REMEMBERING THE FAITHFUL WHO HAVE DIED

*The great crowd of witnesses in the Bible—and today*

By Christina Miller

### BIBLE ENGAGER'S BLOG

A week after my close friend unexpectedly passed away, I found myself sitting on the hard wood pews of my church. Los Angeles was suffering through a hot spell in early November. Steamy haze rose from the pavement when I walked across the parking lot, making the air smell of diesel fumes. My movements felt stilted, a slow climb through thick air.

Inside was cool. I took in a long breath and felt the air sharp against my lungs. People moved with ease as they collected their bulletins and took their seats. I pressed my palms against the pew's hard angles and felt its definition—somehow bringing definition to the grief inside me.

My friend had been admitted into the hospital one morning and died the following day. The brevity of the process was jarring. I realized how quickly we can slip from this life to the next. How brief our sojourn on earth really is.

Now just a week later, on All Saints' Day, I gathered with members of my church to remember those who have gone before us. During the liturgy—sensitively placed between songs, prayers, and Scripture readings—we named the saints in our community who had died that year.

I listened as each name was read out. Behind each name was substance—a birth story, a life, family members who were present. In the last year each person had lived and breathed among us. They contributed to our church, our collective body.

When I heard my friend's name read aloud it sounded out of place. I was still waiting for her phone call to make weekend plans—not to begin the process of saying goodbye. Yet in the initial confusion of loss, I also found comfort in hearing her name listed alongside others, as if she was not alone and neither was I.

### All Saints' Day

In the beginning of November, Christians from many traditions come together to remember the faithful who have passed away. We think of God's faithful people recorded in Scripture, named throughout history, and part of our churches today. Some churches divide these focuses over two days; some integrate them into one service. Whatever the method, the purpose is the same: to remember and honor all God's saints.

Throughout the New Testament, the word "saint" (from a word meaning "holy" or "set apart") refers to those who have devoted themselves to worship and serve God and follow Jesus' teachings. The apostle Paul addresses six of his letters to the saints (Romans, 1 and 2

Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians). Matthew speaks of the saints rising from the dead (Matthew 27:52 NRSV), Jesus' early followers are called saints (Acts 9:13, 26:10 NRSV), and the author of Revelation calls the saints to faithful endurance (Revelation 14:12 NRSV).

Perhaps the best image we are given of the saints is Paul's description of the church as Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12). It is made up of many parts yet is a unified whole. We each serve God through our unique functions, supporting one another to carry out a shared purpose. With Christ as our head, we are not simply individuals, but part of something bigger than ourselves. We are what some traditions call "a communion of saints." Today this communion spans across centuries, geographies, and cultures.

This image of interconnection continues in Hebrews: "As for us, we have this large crowd of witnesses around us" (Hebrews 12:1 GNT). Immediately before this, the author gives a long list of God's faithful followers, beginning with Abel all the way through Abraham, Moses, the prophets, and unnamed women (Hebrews 11). Remembering the faithful who have gone before us gives us endurance to follow in their example, to finish the race! We are joined by those past and present, and soon our names will be spoken alongside theirs.

### Faithful Endurance

As I joined others in my church to look back and remember the faithful, I took courage from their biblical witness. They too faced losses—they said goodbye to friends and buried loved ones. Many no doubt died prematurely. But their names have endured in the pages of Scripture and in the memory of God's people. Their lives keep speaking. And so do ours. No matter how brief the journey, we join a great crowd of witnesses to proclaim, "We are faithful because God was faithful to us first."

In honor of

**THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS (November 1st)**  
Today, we will read the names of our parish family who have died this past year.

### **ANOINTING** **OF THE SICK**

We will have the anointing after the

**10am Mass on November 7th.**

One may celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick many times if needed for strength and healing in mind, body and spirit. In this sacrament of anointing, Christ strengthens our faith and bestows God's grace in a time of anxiety and pain.





## Stewards of Time and Talent This year our ACA Goal is \$24,915.00

As of October 29th, 27 households have pledged/donated \$.13,400  
That is **53.8%** of our goal.



**RELIGIOUS ED** Learning Liturgical Colors, Vestments, and Seasons

## St. Francis of Assisi Women's Club Christmas Brunch and Tablescape Event **Cancelled**

With the current amount of Covid cases on the rise and in consideration for the health and welfare of all in the parish of St. Francis of Assisi, the Women's Club has decided to cancel all social gatherings for the rest of 2020. If you had items for the craft fair and would like us to store them, please bring them to church, or call Renee Lewis (509) 995-3898.

We will be having the raffle. Tickets will be sent out in early November.  
Thank you all for your generosity.



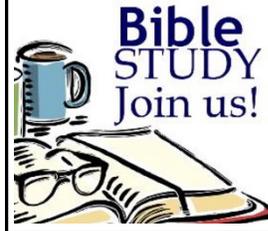
## FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

November 1st

This year the Feast is not a Holy Day of Obligation. We will have the daily 8am Mass if you would like to attend.

## Parish Council

The council meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm via Zoom.



Every Tuesday  
2pm  
In the Conference room

## It's Not a Vacation, Vacation Time

I (Anitra) will be taking 2 weeks off from Nov 1st- 12th. We will hopefully be finishing up our new home and moving in, so it will not be a vacation. Shawn and I hope to be able to have our family celebrate the holidays in our new home!



**PRAY FOR SOMEONE NEW EVERY DAY!**



Frank Rose, Don & Mary DeLuca, Florence Himelspach, Kathy Bromley, Rita Loft, Ramona Jones, Marylin Connolly-

Overbey, Kathy White, Ellen Turnbull, Mike Arcondizy, MaryAnn Forcier, Gary Turnbull, Brian Chandler, Marlene Weller, Joyce Johnson, Helen Arnzen, Tom Bienemann, Jan Martin, Manny Baumbauer, Lindsey Fry, Sharon Stillwell, Stan Mundell, Mike Wojohowski, Fran Hattenburg, & Anita Smith



Renee Lewis  
Jim McMichael  
Don Schmitt

Don & Sandra Schmitt—55 years

