

# Novena of Grace

March 4th - 12th, 2025



“Blessed are the Poor in Spirit”:  
Embracing the Sacred Paradox of Becoming Human



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
MISSOULA'S JESUIT PARISH

*Welcome, and thank you for joining us for our Novena of Grace 2025!*

*Pope Francis urges us to celebrate Jubilee, this Holy Year, as “Pilgrims of Hope”. In that spirit, it is particularly fitting to come together during these days of reflection and retreat to pray with earnest hope for us, our loved ones, and our world, in union with Francis Xavier, our patron saint.*

*We are blessed to have Katherine A. Greiner, Ph.D., as our presenter for the Novena of Grace. Dr. Greiner is an associate professor of theology at Carroll College. She has chosen “Blessed are the Poor in Spirit”: Embracing the Sacred Paradox of Becoming Human as the theme for her reflections.*

*In his meditation Poverty of Spirit, the great twentieth century German theologian Johann Baptist Metz ponders what Jesus’s full embrace of becoming human means for our journey of faith. Grounded in Metz’s text, Dr. Greiner will guide our own reflection on how the Paschal Mystery calls us to, like Jesus, embrace our innate poverty and say yes to becoming human, in all its precarity and vulnerability.*

*May this Novena and Lent be a time of renewal and transformation as we live into the call to be Pilgrims of Hope.*

*Saint Francis Xavier, pray for us.*



*C. Hightower, S.J.,  
Pastor*

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Weekday Novena Mass ~ Noon & 6:00 pm    Saturday & Sunday Novena at Noon

Pray the Novena prayer on your own on Ash Wednesday

Livestreaming at Noon

## Our Presenter



Katherine A. Greiner, Ph.D

Katherine A. Greiner is Associate Professor of Theology at Carroll College in Helena, Montana. She holds a Ph.D. in Theology and Education from Boston College. Her research interests include Christian spirituality, pastoral responses to grief and loss, and the role and importance of lay ministry in the Catholic Church. She is currently working on a theological memoir about her journey with grief following her sister's illness and death. She has contributed to Catholic Women Preach, Liturgical Press's Loose Leaf Lectionary, and the blog, Daily Theology. Katherine is an active member of St. Mary Catholic Community in Helena. She lives in Helena with her husband Ryan and her stepchildren, Asher and Carys.



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Gathering

### We Are The Light of The World



1. Bless - ed are they who are poor in spir - it,  
2. Bless - ed are they who are meek and hum - ble,  
3. Bless - ed are they who will mourn in sor - row,

3



Theirs is the king - dom of God. Bless us, O Lord, make us  
They will in - her - it the earth. Bless us, O Lord, make us  
They will be com - fort - ed. Bless us, O Lord, when we

6



poor in spir - it; Bless us, O Lord, our God.  
meek and hum - ble;  
share their sor - row;

9

#### REFRAIN



We Are The Light Of The World, May our light shine be - fore all,

13



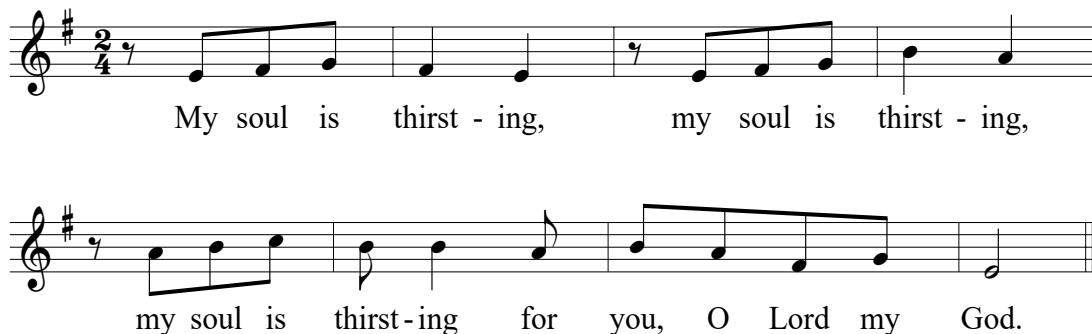
That they may see the good that we do, And give glo - ry to God.

# Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

### Responsorial Psalm:

#### Psalm 63: My Soul Is Thirsting



My soul is thirst - ing, my soul is thirst - ing,  
my soul is thirst - ing for you, O Lord my God.

#### Verses

1. O God, you are my God whom I seek;  
O God, you are my God whom I seek;  
for you my flesh pines, my soul thirsts like the earth,  
parched, lifeless, without water.
2. Thus have I gazed toward you in your holy place  
to see your power and your glory.  
Your kindness is a greater good than life itself;  
my lips will glorify you.
3. Thus will I bless you while I live;  
Lifting up my hands I will call upon your name.  
As with a banquet shall my soul be satisfied;  
with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.
4. For you have been my help, you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.  
My soul clings fast to you; your right hand holds me firm;  
in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.



## Gospel Acclamation

arr. by Nita Smith

Gina Lapka

$\text{♩} = 100$

*Cantor*

*f* Praise and hon-or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!

9 **Refrain** (*Cantor, Assembly*)

Praise and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!

## Intentions

## O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Ostinato Chorale

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:  
\*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:

when I call an - answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O  
all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, O the

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O  
Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life. The

## Novena of Grace Prayer with Saint Francis Xavier

Most amiable and most loving Saint Francis Xavier, in union with thee I reverently adore the Divine Majesty. I rejoice exceedingly on account of the marvelous gifts, which God bestowed upon thee. I thank God for the special graces He gave thee during thy life on earth and for the great glory that came to thee after thy death.

I implore thee to obtain for me, through thy powerful intercession, the greatest of all blessings--that of living and dying in the state of grace. I also beg of thee to secure for me the special favor I ask in this novena.

*(Here you may mention the grace, spiritual or temporal, that you wish to obtain.)*

In asking this favor, I am fully resigned to the Divine Will.

I pray and desire only to obtain that which is most conducive to the greater glory of God and the greater good of my soul.

*V. Pray for us, Saint Francis Xavier.*

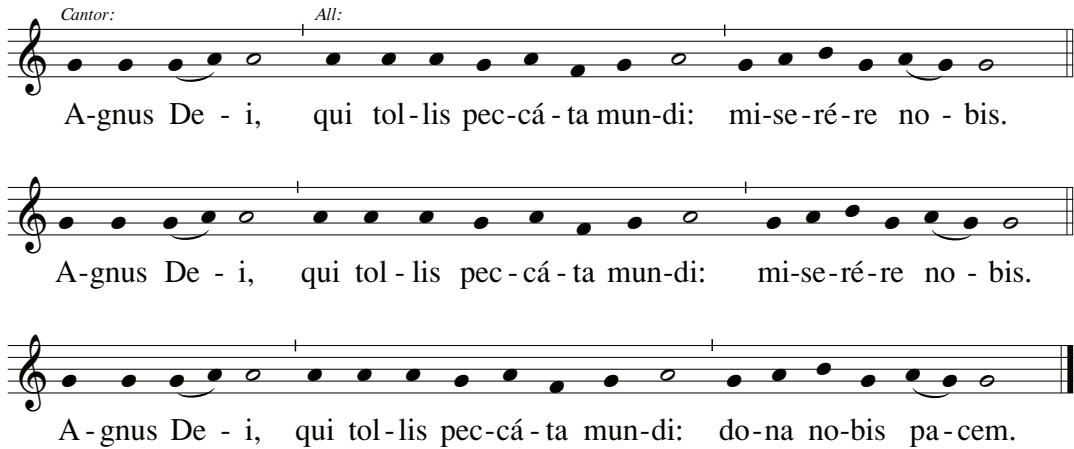
*R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

## Sign of Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Assembly: *And with your spirit.*

## Agnus Dei



*Cantor:* A-gnus De - i, *All:* qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di: mi - se - ré - re no - bis.

A-gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di: mi - se - ré - re no - bis.

A - gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di: do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Music: Vatican Edition XVIII

## Invitation to Communion

Presider: Behold the Lamb of God, ...  
...Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Assembly: ***Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.***

## Communion

*Everyone is invited to come forward today. If you are in a faith practice in communion with the Catholic Church, come forward in the usual way to receive the Eucharist. If you choose not to receive, you are invited to receive a blessing from the minister of the bread. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by placing your hand over your heart.*



## Ps 34: The Lord Hears The Cry Of The Poor

John Foley, S.J.



The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Bless-ed be the Lord.



1. I will bless the Lord at all times, with praise
2. Let the low - ly hear and be glad: the Lord
3. Ev - 'ry spir - it crushed, God will save; will be
4. We pro - claim your great - ness, O God, your praise



1. ev - er in my mouth. Let my soul glo - ry in the
2. lis - tens to their pleas; and to hearts bro - ken, God is
3. ran - som for their lives; will be safe shel - ter for their
4. ev - er in our mouth; ev - 'ry face bright-ened in your



1. Lord, who will hear the cry of the poor.
2. near, who will hear the cry of the poor.
3. fears, and will hear the cry of the poor.
4. light, for you hear the cry of the poor.

Text: Based on Psalm 34:2-3, 18-19a, 19b-20, 4.

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## Concluding Rites & Final Blessing:

### Closing Song

# Lead me, Lord

John D. Becker



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life-times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.



1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

### Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day.

day.

And lead me, Lord, to - day.

*Following the closing song, those who wish may come forward to receive an individual blessing with the relic of St. Francis Xavier. At that time, please mention your prayer intention to those at the altar.*



Please note:

No Novena Mass on March 5th  
*Pray the St. Francis Xavier Novena Prayer at your lesiure.*

Mass for Ash Wednesday at 8:00 am, Noon, & 7:00 pm



## The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

*Francis*

## **GOODWILL OFFERING**

In order to provide this enriching experience, St. Francis Xavier Parish relies on the generosity of all those who have been touched by this Novena of Grace. You are invited to make a good will offering. Please consider a donation reflective of your ability to give and of your gratitude for this special nine day retreat. Donations cover Novena expenses. Envelopes are available at the entrances of the church. We have collection baskets available or you may submit your donation to the parish online - through our QR code at our website [sfxmissoula.org](http://sfxmissoula.org) under Donate or mail directly to **420 West Pine Street, Missoula, MT 59802-4199**



*Thank you for supporting this graced time with your generous offering.*