

Where are You Dwelling?

Hope, Peace, and God's Presence Among Us

Novena of Grace

March 4 - 12, 2026



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
MISSOULA'S JESUIT PARISH



Welcome, and thank you for joining us for the Novena of Grace 2026
at St. Francis Xavier Parish!

This year's theme, "*Where Are You Dwelling? Hope, Peace, and God's Presence Among Us*," invites us to reflect on a simple but profound question. In the midst of busy lives, uncertainty, and a world that often feels unsettled, where do we notice God choosing to dwell? The Novena of Grace offers us these days as a sacred pause to listen more closely and rediscover the quiet ways God remains present among us.

We are blessed this year to have John Neuman serve as our presenter. John is a lifelong member of the Missoula Catholic community, Director of Spirituality at St. Francis Xavier, and a Diaconate Candidate for the Diocese of Helena and our parish community. His reflections are shaped by years of formation, prayer, and lived ministry, particularly his work accompanying others in faith and spiritual growth. John brings a grounded, attentive approach that invites us to notice God's presence not only in extraordinary moments, but in the ordinary patterns of daily life.

May this Novena of Grace be a time of renewal for each of us, strengthening our hope, deepening our peace, and drawing us closer to the God who chooses to dwell among His people.

Saint Francis Xavier, pray for us.



C. Hightower, S.J.
Pastor



Our Presenter

John Neuman



John Neuman is a lifelong member of the Missoula Catholic community and a graduate of Loyola Sacred Heart High School. He is currently in his fourth year of Diaconate Formation for the Diocese of Helena, with ordination anticipated in 2027. John serves as Director of Spirituality at St. Francis Xavier Parish, where he supports spiritual formation and accompanies others in prayer, reflection, and everyday faith.

Before returning to Missoula, John and his family spent many years in Little Rock, AR, where he helped found and lead several men's faith initiatives, including Men of Faith and the Arkansas Catholic Men's Conference. These ministries emphasized Scripture, accountability, and authentic Christian community, experiences that continue to shape his approach to faith and service today.

St. Francis Xavier has been John and Missy's parish home at several points in their lives, including their marriage and the baptism of their children, and again since 2017. John's spirituality is grounded in attentiveness to where God is already present, especially in ordinary life. John and Missy are the parents of four children: Brendan, Joshua, Megan, and Morgan.

Weekday and Weekend Novena Mass celebrated at Noon Only with Livestream.

Order of Worship

Gathering



Welcome and Wanted

Zack Stachowski

Verses 3 & 5



1.-5. We gath-er to-geth-er from all ways of life:



the young and their el-ders, u-nit-ed in Christ.

our church u-ni-ver-sal, u-nit-ed in Christ.



The new-borns and chil-dren, a-dults and the old

Re-flec-tions of Je-sus in each hu-man face,



are wel-come and want-ed in this sa-cred home.

we're wel-come and want-ed, we sing out our faith.

Refrain



May this place al-ways be a



house for all gath - ered, a church that is shared; may this



place al - ways be our home.

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First Reading

Liturgy of the Word

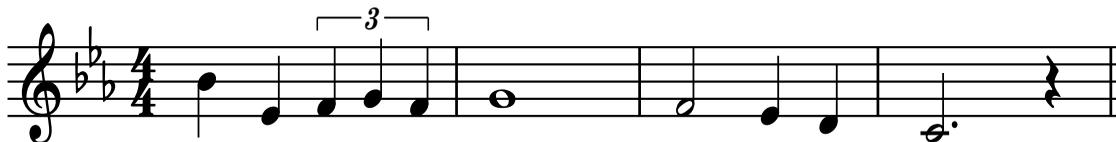
Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 25: To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul, to you, I lift my soul.

Gospel Acclamation



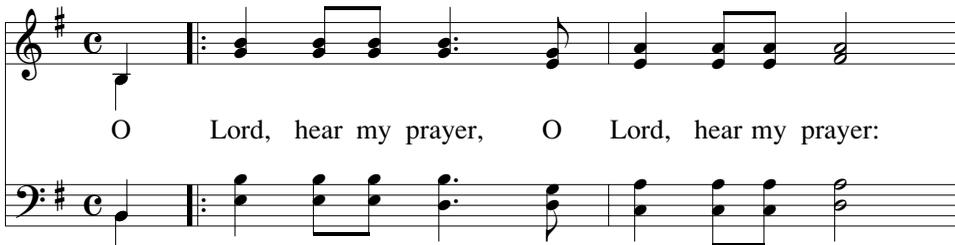
Praise and hon-or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!

Intentions

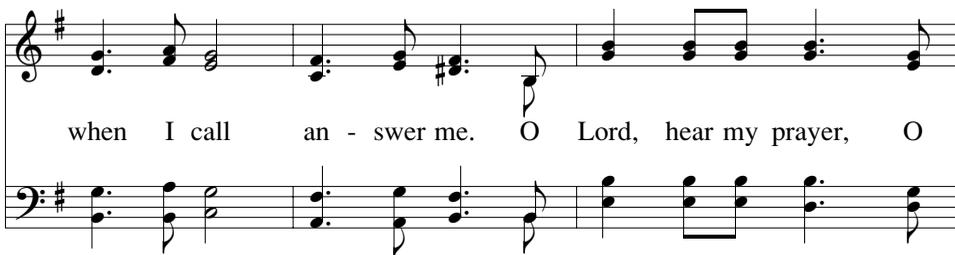
O Lord, Hear My Prayer



Ostinato Chorale



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:



when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me. O

The image shows a musical score for a prayer. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed between the two staves. The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text: Psalm 102; Taizé Community, 1982
 Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
 © 1982, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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.



O God, You Search Me

Bernadette Farrell



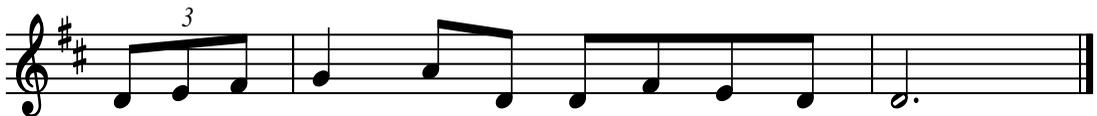
1. O God, you search me and you know me.
2. You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.
3. Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord,
4. Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,
5. For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,



1. All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.
2. You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,
3. You have known its mean - ing through and through.
4. Still I search for shel - ter from your light.
5. Gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.



1. When I walk or lie down you are be - fore me:
2. And with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:
3. You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:
4. There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:
5. For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:



1. Ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.
2. In ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.
3. God of my pres - ent, my past and fu - ture, too.
4. E - ven the dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.
5. Safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Sign of Peace

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

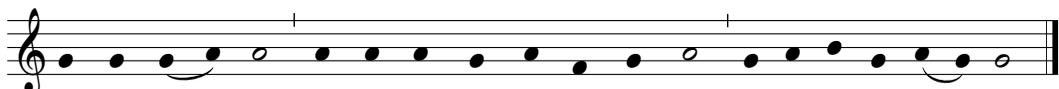
Assembly: ***And with your spirit.***

Agnus Dei

Cantor (first time only): | *All:*



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



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

Music: *Agnus Dei XVIII, Vatican Edition*; acc. by Robert J. Batastini



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.

Communion Song

Take And Eat This Bread



Take and eat this bread. Take and drink this cup.



This is my bod - y and my blood.



When you eat this bread, when you drink this cup,



you live in me and I in you.

Verses



1. This is the bread come down from heav - en;
2. Gath - ered as one a - round one ta - ble,
3. With - in our hands we hold the mys - t'ry,
4. Come all who thirst for life e - ter - nal,



this is the cup of our sal - va - tion.
sent forth to wit - ness to sal - va - tion.
dy - ing and ris - ing to sal - va - tion.
come to the ta - ble of sal - va - tion.

Text: Francis Patrick O'Brien, b.1958
Tune: Francis Patrick O'Brien, b.1958
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Concluding Rites & Final Blessing:

VERSES



1. If you would fol - low me, _____ fol - low where life will lead:
2. If you would hon - or me, _____ hon - or the least of these:
3. If you would speak of me, _____ live all your life in me:
4. If you would rise with me, _____ rise through your des - ti - ny:



1. _____ do not look for me a - mong the dead, _____ for I am
2. you will not find me dressed in fin - er - y. _____ My Word cries
3. my ways are not the ways that you would choose; _____ my thoughts are
4. do not re - fuse the death which brings you life, _____ for as the



1. hid - den in pain, _____ ris - en in love; _____ there is no
2. out to be heard; _____ breaks through the world: _____ my Word is
3. far be - yond yours, _____ as heav - en from earth: _____ if you be -
4. grain in the earth _____ must die for re - birth, _____ so I have

REFRAIN *More Vigorous*



1. har - vest with - out sow - ing of grain. _____
2. on your lips and lives in your heart. _____
3. lieve in me my voice will be heard. _____ All that is hid - den _____
4. plant - ed your life deep with - in mine. _____



will be made clear. All that is dark now _____ will be re - vealed.



What you have heard in the dark _____ pro - claim in the light; _____ what you



hear in whis - pers _____ pro - claim from the house - tops.



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.



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 goodwill 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 at our website sfxmissoula.org under Donate, use our QR Code to the right or mail directly to 420 West Pine Street, Missoula, MT 59802-4199.



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