A painting of a man in a field, holding a scythe and a hat, looking up at a dramatic, cloudy sky. The man is in profile, facing left, wearing a simple, light-colored shirt and dark trousers. He holds a scythe in his right hand and a wide-brimmed hat in his left. The field is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses. In the background, there are dark, silhouetted trees against a sky filled with soft, textured clouds in shades of blue, white, and yellow. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

33rd Sunday
In Ordinary Time
18 November 2018

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(November 17th - November 25th)

Sat.	Nov 17	33rd Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) <i>Pro Populo</i>
	4:00pm	
Sun.	Nov 18	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr)
	8:00am	Manny & Rosalina Medeiros
	10:30am	Bob Vigeant
Mon.	Nov 19	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Jose Alves
Tues.	Nov 20	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Joseph & Rita Pelletier
Wed.	Nov 21	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Wh)
	9:00am	Noah Bailey & Carol Lemieux
Thurs.	Nov 22	Thanksgiving Day: St. Cecilia; Virgin & Martyr (Wh)
	9:00am	Marc Bouchard
Fri.	Nov 23	St. Clement I; Pope & Martyr (Rd)
	9:00am	Cesar Fernandes
Sat.	Nov 24	St. Andrew Dũng - Lac; Priest (Rd)
	9:00am	Carl Siler & Claudette
Sat.	Nov 24	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00pm	Angelo Soares
Sun.	Nov 25	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Wh)
	8:00am	Virginia & Joseph Oliver
	10:30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>

Financial Report

Due to the early bulletin submission deadline, regarding the approaching Thanksgiving holiday, we are not able to provide the most recent collection information.

Prayers Please

... for all the sick of our parish: those homebound, in the hospital, and nursing facilities; and for all the souls in purgatory.

Sanctuary Lamp

If you are interested in this weekly memorial, please contact the parish office. *During Eucharistic Adoration please pray for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle burns this week: Bob Vigeant*

CONFESSIONS

Monday: 5:30 to 6:30pm
Saturday: 9:30 to 10:00am
Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45pm

FROM FR. WILLIAMS

HOW TO RESPOND TO THE MIGRANT CARAVAN?

What the media is describing as a migrant “caravan” is now making its way from Central America through Mexico to our southern border. As we hear these reports, part of our response should be how to evaluate this situation in the light of our faith.

Here there is no easy answer – nor do I intend to try to offer one. Rather, I would like to point out the two factors that should be kept in mind as this situation continues to unfold. One is an understanding of the situation of the migrants, and the other is the need to follow the law.

On the one hand, the situation of the migrants needs to be viewed with compassion. If they are leaving everything they know behind, they obviously feel that there exists a grave reason to do so. The poverty and civil strife in their countries can be crushing, and besides being concerned for their own wellbeing, can’t we imagine what it is like to be a parent trying to raise a child in those circumstances?

However, the precise reason for migration must be asked: is it because of a real and immediate threat to one’s life and family, or rather to seek better economic conditions? While both are valid reasons for migration, for the former case the old axiom “necessity knows no law” comes to mind: preservation of one’s life is the first principle of natural law. To save one’s life, one can even break a civil law if this is the last resort. On the other hand, while migrating for economic reasons is certainly valid – for how many of our ancestors was this the case? – it does not, generally speaking, rise to the level of a necessity on which one’s life depends. Therefore, breaking immigration law for this cause would not be morally acceptable.

While the natural law is above civil laws, it is only in extreme cases – such as proximate danger to one’s life or that of one’s family – that can justify not following the civil law, because of this obedience to a higher law. The government has the right and duty to make laws within the area of its jurisdiction, and those laws are to be followed for the sake of the common good of society. Furthermore, a government has the duty to protect its borders in order to ensure the safety of its citizens.

Our Lord commands compassion for the poor, but this must be balanced with justice, safety, and respect for the law. Sadly, the way in which this situation is being presented makes it seem that one must take one side or the other; our Catholic intellectual tradition reminds us that there are two sides to be considered, and that every situation is unique.

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri: 9:30am – 4:00pm

Please make an appointment to meet with

HELPFUL CONTACTS

Religious Education: 508-998-7445

School: 508-995-4313

School Fax: 508-995-0456

ACCESSIBILITY

- Open for Prayer Every Day
- Wheelchair Lift
- Cry-room

St. Francis Xavier Parish **125 Main Street** **Acushnet, MA 02743**

tel: (508)-995-7600 fax: (508) -995-1794

email: info@sfxparish.com

Fr. Riley J. Williams, Administrator

[rjw@sfxparish.com]

Deacon David Pepin

[dbp@sfxparish.com]

Mr. Steven Guillotte, Director of Pastoral Services

[sng@sfxparish.com]

Mrs. Michelle Russo, Principal

[mrusso@sfxacushnet.com]

Mrs. Anabela Shaughnessy, Asst. Principal

[ashaughnessy@sfxacushnet.com]

Mrs. Janine Hammarquist, Rel. Ed. Coordinator

[jlh@sfxparish.com]

HOLY MASS

Monday-Sat 9:00am

Third Thursday (Latin/Extraordinary Form) 5:30pm

First Friday 9:00am & 6:00pm

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

CONFESSIONS

Monday 5:30-6:30pm

Saturday 9:30-10:00am

Saturday 3:00-3:45pm

First Fridays 6:45-7:15pm

Any Time by Appointment

ADORATION

Mon - Friday 9:30am-9:00pm

Saturday 9:30am-2:45pm

VESPERS

Monday: Vespers with Benediction

Tuesday: Vespers

Wednesday: Vespers with Benediction

(Vespers begins at 6:30 pm)

ON THE COVER

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man' coming in the clouds... then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky. (Mk 13:26-27)

Advent (only two weeks away) is not only a season of preparation for the arrival of Christmas; it is another annual opportunity to receive the kingdom of heaven as a child (Mt 18:3). We say "another" because how many Advents have passed us by without any burst of youthful, animated expectation. To understand Advent one must understand the heart of a child which has less to do with preparation and all to do with expectation.

Adults prepare for things. This is understandable since they are the ones most responsible for final outcomes. In this very busy day and age there are always activities to be started and finished. Even when the expectation of a vacation comes along, it still requires preparation; and it's the adults who do the preparing.

Young children are not much for preparation (their parents are the ones who see to all that stuff). However, children are all about expectation. Their expectation can also be tireless like when they find fun in something their father did and expect it to be done over and over again: "Do it again, Daddy!" To them it's been done and only needs to be done again. No consideration or preparation is necessary.

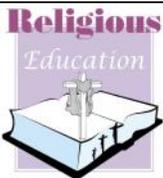
Catholic adults need an injection of expectation into their lives. We are not speaking of earthly expectation which is always bounded. Expectation, as any small child can tell you, must be boundless. What so many adults do not realize is that they will never find happiness in earthly expectations because these always require or get bound up in earthly preparations. Nor can the adult necessarily return to the unsullied expectation of a child. His only chance of reviving expectation is through prayerful contemplation. Advent is a time and place for that revival.

As we begin our march toward Advent, let us meditate on beautiful art. Let us today think on the image we have placed on our bulletin cover for this **33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**. This is a work by the 19th century American master, **Winslow Homer**, entitled *Song of the Lark*. Homer was no mere purveyor of insincere realism. He is the American answer to Jean-Francois Millet, yet thoroughly New England in style. Homer was born in Boston, raised in what was once rural Cambridge, and was the leading landscape and seascape painter of his time.

In our image we do not see the lark; neither does the young farmer who is depicted. He stands there in a posture of honor with sickle at his side and hat off, listening, as in a moment of reverence. For us this image serves as an allegory; for the lark, which in art is emblematic of daybreak, is also symbolic of Christ, the bringer of the new dawn of hope (Lk 1:78-79).

In our farmer we find one who has given up being active so as to be contemplative. He is not preparing. He is anticipating. This is where we need to be this Advent season: looking heavenward in quiet, joyful, interior, expectation, forsaking all preparation, for a time.

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - November 18, 2018



Religious Education 2nd Graders from SFX School receiving the Sacraments here at St. Francis will attend their last class on Sun Nov. 18.

First Reconciliation is Thursday 29th November 6:00pm for those First Communicants names that end A-H and 6:45pm for those ending J-T. Please keep our second graders in your prayers as they prepare to receive their second sacrament the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On all Monday evenings 7:30-8:30pm. Every grade level will have a scheduled hour of Adoration from October-May. **November is Levels 6 & 8 (Conf. 1 class).** All students in that grade level should make every attempt to join us for this hour.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION EVENT Sun. Nov. 18th Our Sunday class will take place as usual in the parish center on this day. All parents will be attending a talk presented by Deacon David Pepin at their child's normal class time also in the parish center. If your child goes to Catholic School and is taking part in our 2 year sacramental programs, you should also attend this event. Levels 1-6 @ 9:15am; Levels 7-9 @ 11:30am. Please remember to sign in.

Service Project: If you are registered in our *Confirmation I (Level 8) & Confirmation II (Level 9) Sacramental Program* then this is for you! **Saturday December 1st** we will be changing the missals in the church for the new Liturgical Year. We will begin with 9am Mass. All candidates for Confirmation are required to complete service hours for their community and church.



Virgin & Child with Angel (detail)
Pietro Perugino (1499)

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky." (Mk 13:26-27)

SFX PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	November 18	
Rel. Ed Levels 1-6	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
Family Faith Formation	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
Rel. Ed Levels 7-9	11:40-12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
Family Faith Formation	11:40-12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
HS Youth Group	6:30-8:00pm	School
Monday	November 19	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
<i>Eucharistic Adoration:</i>		
Rel. Ed Levels 8 & 6	7:30-8:30pm	Church
Tuesday	November 20	
Vespers	6:30pm	Church
WOG Bible Study	12:00pm & 7pm	Parish Ctr.
Wednesday	November 14	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7:00pm	Church
Office is Closed November 22nd & 23rd		

READINGS FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18, 2018

Sunday: Dn 12:1-3/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Heb 10:11-14, 18/Mk 13:24-32
 Monday: Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Rv 2:17]/Lk 18:35-43
 Tuesday: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 [Rv 3:21]/Lk 19:1-10
 Wednesday: Rv 4:1-11/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [1b]/Lk 19:11-28
 Thursday: Rv 5:1-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [Rv 5:10]/Lk 19:41-44
 Friday: Rv 10:8-11/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131 [103a]/Lk 19:45-48
 Saturday: Rv 11:4-12/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 [1b]/Lk 20:27-40

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and student body of our parish school, I wish you all a very blessed and **Happy Thanksgiving!** Our school has so much to be thankful for, especially the faithful support of our parish family. I recently spoke to one of our former teachers, who is now employed by another school. She shared with me her perspective on the true gift of community that accompanies being a part of a parish school. In her opinion, parish community and involvement is irreplaceable, and I concur! Our school is blessed to be affiliated with and supported by such a vibrant and authentic parish which is wholly invested in educating our children in the faith.

May our Good and Gracious God continue to bless you and your families during this season of gratitude!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal



HAPPY THANKSGIVING! On behalf of your parish St. Vincent de Paul Society, Michael Bachstein would like to wish all parishioners and their loved ones a very happy holiday. May you have a day of peace and rest and many blessings!

SFX PRAYER LINE

Please call 508-850-6649 between 8am & 8pm
Or email your prayer request to:
sfxprayerline@gmail.com



** STUDY STARTED NOV. 13th ** **BELOVED: Opening Your Heart**

Six-lesson Bible study in 4 weeks that lays a strong foundation for our true identity as beloved daughters of God; with scripture readings, reflections, intentional prayer time, saint stories, person resolutions, personal goals, prayer intentions, deeper friendships and fruitful truths.

God's love for us is relentless and He calls us to a life of purpose. As we lean on Him, we'll learn that nothing in our lives is wasted. When we discover who we are in Christ, it makes all the difference in the world.

We began on Tues. Nov. 13th with 2 different meeting times: noon and 7pm each week for 4 weeks ending on Tues. Dec. 4th.

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart in the company of the upright"

(Psalm 111:1)

Annual Parish Giving Tree



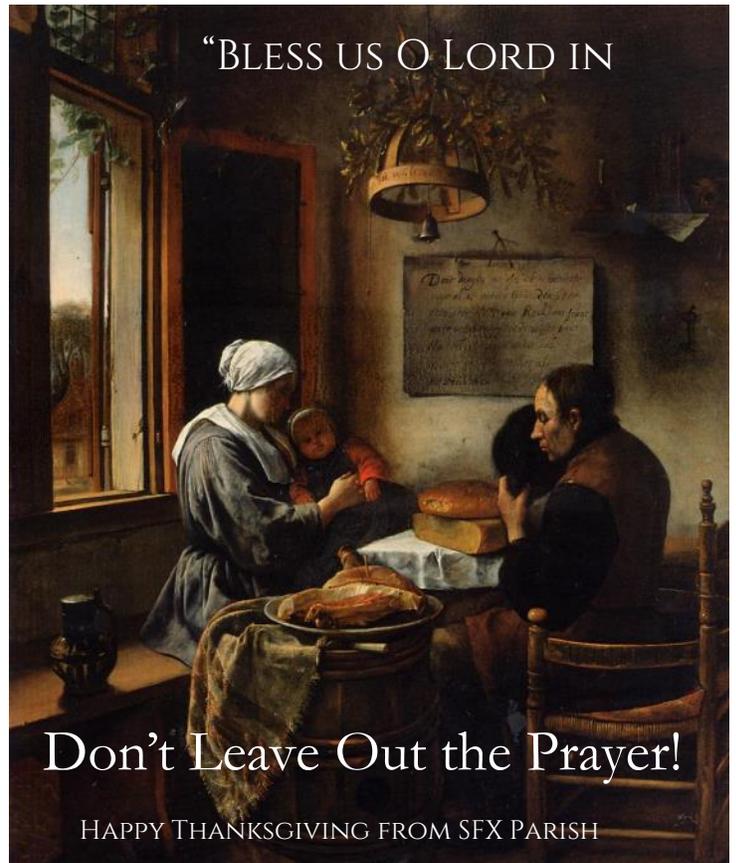
Presented by
The St. Vincent
de Paul Society

MEN OF ST. JOSEPH MEETING



Wed. 28 November - 7pm in Parish Center

"BLESS US O LORD IN



Don't Leave Out the Prayer!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM SFX PARISH

ADVENT PREPARATION: As we approach the season of Advent we ask that each parishioner consider making a sincere retreat of the heart in order to prepare spiritually for the celebration of the arrival of the Christ Child. During Advent please consider coming more often to daily Mass, to Evening Prayer, to pray before the Real Presence in our Adoration Chapel. You might also consider some private devotions at home such as praying the Holy Rosary, or reading the Bible. We will also provide an Advent meditation booklet to parishioners so they may reflect on the word of God throughout the holy season.

RCIA AND ADULT CONFIRMATION: As we approach Advent please think about bringing your family, friends, and coworkers to the practice of the faith. Our program consists of ten instructional sessions which explain the faith in depth for sacramental preparation. **Classes are held between January and March 2019.** We are also glad to take "inquirers", those individuals not yet ready to commit but who would like to receive instruction in the Catholic faith. Please see Father Williams or Steven Guillotte if you know of someone who would like to become a catechumen or candidate.

And please remember that *every* baptized person has a solemn duty to seek out the lost and bring them to the love, mercy and truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- November 18th - Campaign for Human Development
- November 25th - Diocesan Assessment
- December 2nd - Building Fund

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - November 18, 2018

NEW PEW MISSALS: On Saturday, December 1st, just in time for Advent, we will replace the “misallete” and music issue from OCP (Oregon Catholic Press) with *one* pew missal from **Ignatius Press** which contains all the readings, prayers, and hymns for the Holy Mass along with a large selection of prayers for your personal devotions. Now all Mass parts and music will be in *one book* so that the announcement of hymn numbers will not require a search between two books (as we do now). Also, the annual cost of this one book is less expensive than the combined cost of the present missal and music issue. We have also purchased covers for this one book so that we may keep them in good condition throughout the year. We thank in advance the 8th and 9th grade faith formation classes for removing the old books and replacing them with the new pew missal.

2018 MARIAN MEDAL RECIPIENT: This year our parish recipient is **Anne Medeiros**. Anne is a parish *Woman of Grace*, a prayer shawl participant, a Eucharistic Adorer, and a daily Mass goer. Anne loves the Blessed Mother and prays the Rosary daily. She provides rides to parishioners who do not drive and takes them on errands, she has given much time to visiting the lonely and the homebound, is a Eucharistic Minister, and has even nursed the wounds of those in need. Anne will receive her medal on Sunday, 18 November at St. Mary Cathedral at 3 pm. Come lend your support by attending the ceremony if you are able.

CORI & SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING FOR ALL MINISTRIES: In the letter the Bishop wrote in August he informed everyone of a newly established Office of Safe Environment and changes to our abuse prevention training program and CORI procedures. In light of these changes this year every person volunteering in a ministry has to complete online Safe Environment Training. This training is done on a one-on-one basis, via the computer at <https://fallriver.cmgconnect.org/> and takes about an hour. If you do not have access to a computer or can not navigate the training on your own please call Janine Hammarquist in the parish office to make arrangements for us to provide you with an opportunity to complete this training using our computers at the parish. At the end of the training you will be prompted to print or download a certificate of completion which is good for 6 years. Once you have printed or emailed Janine the certificate, it will be sent to the diocese along with a completed CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) Acknowledgement Form, Code of Conduct Form and a copy of a valid driver's license which you will need to come into the parish office to complete yearly. If you volunteer at more than one entity within the Diocese of Fall River only one training and CORI request is needed.

All Safe Environment Training Sessions and CORI forms need to be completed as soon as possible to be able to continue in a ministry within the parish.

Please contact Mrs. Hammarquist if you have any questions.

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

BY DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER

Notice that the text quoted above does not tell us to be still and love, or to be still and hope. It is seeing and knowing that must first come out of our stillness. So, since we do not see God with our eyes nor know him as the result of scientific proof, we are back again at faith. The being still and the looking for God is nothing else but the prayer of faith which we have been considering here at such length.

Significant in this connection is St Augustine's description of contemplation as 'the stretching out of the soul towards that which supremely matters'. It is not the conscious apprehension but the yearning for. It is more a waiting upon God than an awareness of possession. If the soul were aware of possessing, what would be the function of faith?

Religion, itself called 'the faith', relates to truths which we can accept with absolute conviction but which are not meant to bring to us the impact of a mathematical formula. Religion does not have to be mysterious but it does have to have its mysteries or there would be nothing to believe. Nor should these mysteries of our faith be thought of as areas into which human reason may not enter ('It is a mystery so I had better not think about it or I may be tempted to doubt... it is a mystery so I do not have to know any more about it... it is a mystery so I can trust to luck') but rather as revealed truths which ask for all the clarification they can get from reason but which ultimately rest upon the theological virtue of faith. 'Be still' does not mean that the faithful must be mentally sterile. It is not 'Be stagnant and you shall know and see God,' but 'Be calm and trusting, and he will reveal to you as much of himself as you need to know and see.'

A PRAYER BEFORE YOUR THANKSGIVING MEAL:
Bless Us O Lord and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen

UPCOMING EVENTS

GENTLY-USED CLOTHING DRIVE: On the weekend of **December 1st and 2nd** our *St. Vincent de Paul Society* in cooperation with **Gifts to Give** will have a mobile donation trailer placed in our parking lot to collect “gently used” clothes, sneakers, shoes, books, toys, puzzles and games. If you have such items you are looking to donate, please set them aside for this holiday season drive.

THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER: is celebrated each year on December 3rd. Please come to 9 am daily Mass if you are able and celebrate our beloved patron.