

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

The Holy Family
30 December 2018



St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(December 29th - January 6th)

Sat.	Dec 29	The Holy Family (Vigil) (Wh) <i>Pro Populo</i>
	4:00pm	
Sun.	Dec 30	The Holy Family (Wh)
	8:00am	Raymond Lemieux
	10:30am	Antonio, Ana Resendes & Children
Mon.	Dec 31	7th Day within the Octave (Wh)
	9:00am	Jose Reis
Mon.	Dec 31	Mary, Mother of God (Vigil) (Wh)
	5:30pm	Margaret Belliveau & Pauline Boardman
Tues.	Jan 01	Mary, Mother of God (Wh)
	9:00am	Joseph Olivier
	7:00pm	Helen Luiz
Wed.	Jan 02	Ss. Basil & Gregory; Bishops (Wh)
	9:00am	Alfred H. Bonville
Thurs.	Jan 03	Most Holy Name of Jesus (Wh)
	9:00am	Rosa & Antonio Afonso
Fri.	Jan 04	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Wh) FIRST FRIDAY
	9:00am	Jean, Helen & Donny Guenette
	6:00pm	Robert Tisdelle
Sat.	Jan 05	St. John Neumann; Bishop (Wh)
	9:00am	George Bevilacqua
Sat.	Jan 05	Epiphany of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00pm	Wilfred Martin
Sun.	Jan 06	Epiphany of the Lord (Wh)
	8:00am	Mary A. Sellers
	10:30am	Bob Vigeant

Financial Report

Income:

3 rd Sunday In Advent	\$4,781.93
Diocesan Assessment	\$2,084.25

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:* **Dana Landers**

CONFESSIONS

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

FROM FR. WILLIAMS

THE CELEBRATION HAS JUST BEGUN!

We are currently in a time of great – and overlapping – celebration. Today is the Sunday in the Octave of Christmas. An octave is an eight day period following a great feast; only Christmas and Easter have them. This week of celebration allows the mystery of the feast to “echo,” giving us time to deeply reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation of the Lord, Whose human face we first saw on Christmas. The octave concludes with the celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, on 1 January.

Those of you who attended the fall adult education session know that the title **Mother of God** is an affirmation of Jesus’ humanity. It was formally defined at the Council of Ephesus in 431. To say that Mary is the Mother of God is to profess that, in Jesus Christ, God has fully entered into our human reality – that He was born, lived, suffered, and died, before rising to new life on Easter. This only reaches us on the level of our humanity because He has been truly born. This is why we celebrate.

Likewise do we celebrate His manifestation as the God-man to the nations. This is marked by the Feast of the Epiphany, traditionally kept on 6 January but now celebrated on the second Sunday after Christmas. Happily, this year Sunday is on the traditional date. This means that we have the full period of another time of celebration: the Twelve Days of Christmas, beginning with Christmas and ending on the Epiphany (and not, as I heard one radio station claim, beginning on 14 Dec. and ending on Christmas). The Twelve Days focus on the mystery of how God has revealed Himself through Jesus Christ, beginning with the shepherds on the night of Christmas and ending with the visit of the Magi on the Epiphany.

But even here, the celebration doesn’t end! The Christmas season continues until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on the third Sunday after Christmas – this year, 13 January. So leave some decorations (even if not the tree) up until then as a reminder that Christmas is simply the beginning of the celebration of Christ’s birth, and not its end. Note to the wise: this longer season of celebration can also give you more time to spread out eating all those Christmas cookies.

Even here, it doesn’t end! Traditionally, Nativity scenes are kept up in homes until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple on 2 February – forty days after Christmas.

So celebrate Christmas – and remember, it doesn’t end on December 25th!

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

Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm

Monday-Saturday 9:00am

First Friday 9:00am & 6:00pm

Latin/Extraordinary Form: As Announced

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

“Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. (Lk 2:48-50)

There are solid families, broken families, dysfunctional families, and caring families, and some families that have been over time all of the above. Yet, how many families do you know that are *holy* families. Rather, how many families do you know that make it their daily effort to be holy. In point of fact you may know some families right in this parish which pursue holiness; you may live in such a family. Further, you may be aware that a family is made holy in the same way a church is made holy: not by the imperfect people who fashion it, but by Jesus Christ who instills it.

Such is the story of the Holy Family of Nazareth. No doubt, Joseph was a holy and righteous man (Mt 1:19); no doubt, Mary was a holy and blessed virgin; but without Jesus Christ we would not have *the* Holy Family. It is the same with churches: without Jesus Christ we would have no “Holy (Apostolic) Church” as we declare in our Nicene Creed at Holy Mass (which by the way is made “holy” by the Eucharistic sacrifice of Jesus Christ).

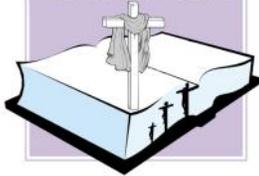
Holiness does not always require complete understanding, as our quotation above from today’s Gospel reading indicates. What the Blessed Virgin Mary did not fully comprehend she would always contemplate in her heart (Lk 2:51) thus perfecting her holiness. We might call the Holy Family the *Wondrous* Family because as we see in our quotation from Sacred Scripture, even anxious and fearful moments conclude in wonderful revelations; for in the Finding of the Temple, that mysterious narrative about Jesus when he was only twelve years old, the world receives the first installment of the unveiling of the Holy Trinity as Jesus relates to his parents that God is Father *and* Son (with the disclosure of the Holy Spirit still to come)!

To celebrate this Sunday’s feast of **The Holy Family** we display on our bulletin cover a work by the Venetian master, **Paulo Veronese**, entitled *Christ among the Doctors* (1560). This painting is in panorama and so we are able to show you only a portion of it. Veronese places Jesus “on high” to show that He is the Word-descending to the earth. This is a classical High Renaissance work which depicts the Jewish temple court as a Greek “agora” with columns and colonnades (not seen here) - a place of assembly and debate. The figure of Jesus is seen pointing toward heaven with his right hand, while gesturing outward with his left, thus indicating His visitation from His Father. In the background we see Mary and Joseph inquiring about their missing son.

Veronese himself makes a clever artistic gesture by positioning Mary so as to point in the direction of her divine Son. It is as if we have fast forwarded from the Temple in Jerusalem to the wedding at Cana where she tells the wine servants, “*listen to Him*” (Jn 2:5). Even today she speaks this to us: to each and every one our parish families.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - December 30, 2018

Religious Education



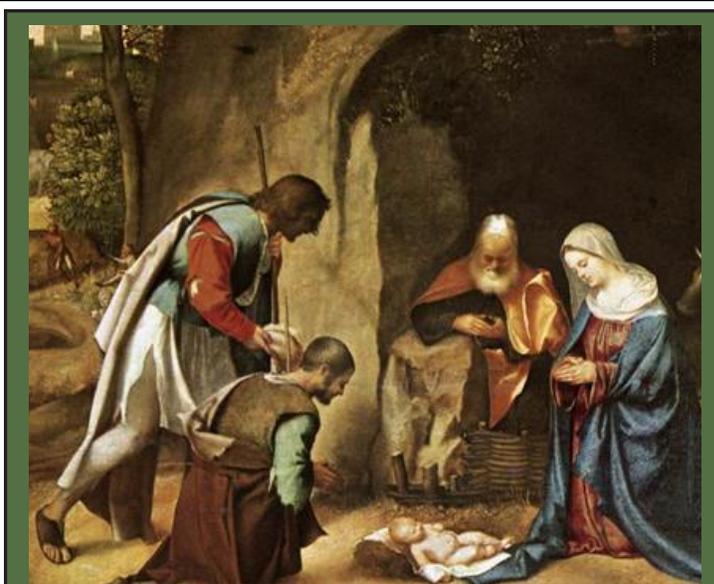
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
On all Monday evenings 7:30-8:30pm. Every grade level will have a scheduled hour of Adoration from October-May. **January is Level 5.** All students in that grade level should make every attempt to join us for this hour. *There will be no adoration on December 31st due*

to the Vigil Mass @ 5:30pm of the Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God. There are also 9am & 7pm masses on Jan. 1st for this special feast day.

No classes Sunday December 30 Have a Blessed and Happy New Year.

Classes resume on Sunday January 6, 2019

To keep informed of important dates please visit our Parish Master Calendar on our website at www.sfxparish.com.



Adoration of the Shepherds
 Giorgione (1510)

When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Lk 2:17-19)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
 PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Our students and staff are in the midst of enjoying a holiday vacation week of rest and relaxation. The vacation is nearly over and I anticipate an enthusiastic return to study and school activities! This weekend as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, we are reminded of the shining example of family life demonstrated by Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. One cannot help but spend time pondering over our own families and the dynamics that exist in each one of our homes. With strength, prayer and patience, may we strive to imitate the virtues and charity of the Holy Family! This time of year lends itself beautifully to finding great joy in the family as intended by God. Let us use the New Year to recommit ourselves to happy and healthy homes and households! *Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!*

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

MARCH FOR LIFE 2019

PLEASE PRAY for all our parish pro-life pilgrims that will confront the cold of Washington D.C for the annual *March for Life* on **Friday, 18 January**. They leave on the Thursday before by charter bus and return on Saturday led by Father Williams. I am sure they will all be praying for us who are not attending, so please remember them especially at daily Mass and during your Eucharistic Adoration. *Pray for Life!*

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- January 6th** - Building Fund
- January 20th** - Catholic Communications
- January 27th** - Diocesan Assessment

SFX PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	December 30	
No Religious Ed		
Monday	December 31	
Office Closed		
Tuesday	January 1	
Office Closed		
Wednesday	January 2	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7:00pm	Church
Friday	January 4	
<i>Men of the Sacred Heart Holy Hour</i>	6:30-7:30pm	Church

READINGS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 30, 2018

Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
 Monday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96: 1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
 Tuesday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34
 Friday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42
 Saturday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2a]/Jn 1:43-51

SFX PRAYER LINE

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



Women of Grace

A New Year brings on a new beginning, so let this year's New Year's Resolutions be rooted in a belief that calls us to a greater degree of perfection; Jesus Christ, then we may be more *resolved to see them through*. Extending our invitation to all women at different stages in your spiritual journey, to deepen your relationship with Jesus through the beauty of self-reflection and fellowship with others in this simple, engaging, scripture-rich opportunity with "*The Gift of Invitation: 7 ways Jesus invites you to a Life of Grace*" written by Allison Gingras; begins on Tuesday March 26th with meeting times at noon and 7pm. If interested contact Janine Hammarquist by email jlh@sfxparish.com to reserve a book @ \$14.50.

There is **no Adoration on Jan. 1st** due to the **Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mass is celebrated at 9am & 7pm**. See you for our monthly Adoration hour the 1st Tues. in February.

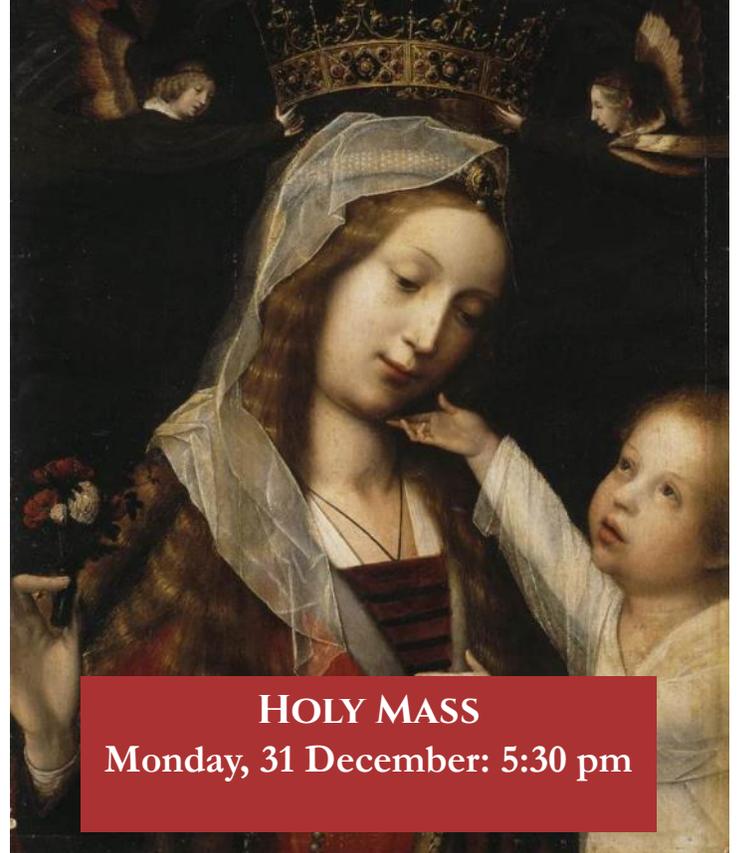
"Blow the horn in Zion, sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming!"
(Joel 2:1)

FIRST FRIDAY MASS



January 4
9:00 am &
6:00 pm

THE SOLEMNITY OF



HOLY MASS

Monday, 31 December: 5:30 pm



HAPPY NEW YEAR: Your St. Vincent de Paul Society wishes all parishioners a very Happy New Year! They extend their many thanks for donations reporting that it was a particularly stellar year for donations from the parish and the parish school. Our SVDP Society serves as our primary apostolate to the poor supporting both corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Our parish society looks forward to another successful collaborative year with all of you. **God Bless!**

Each year, Americans put forward resolutions for the New Year. Most often, these are personal pledges to live healthier. Perhaps at times the pledge is a moral one, but most new year resolutions are not what they should be: tenacious self-promises to be more virtuous. Catholics should not be too cavalier in their proposed resolutions. Any promise we make to be more virtuous, we make before God; and God is watching. Before setting out on any declaration of goals for the new year we must remember that a resolution is no resolution at all unless the heart is resolute. "*My Heart is Ready, O God; My Heart is Ready*" (Ps 108:2)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - December 30, 2018

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

BY DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER

The hunger, becoming keener as the interest in psychology spreads, for understanding and sympathy calls for unceasing vigilance. It weakens the spirit and taxes other people's charity. The fact that we belong to the human family, and that members of a family do well to confide in one another and give mutual support, does not justify the amount of leaning that goes on among religious people.

To look always for human consolation is to curtail the consolation which comes from God. As in finding favor with men, 'they have received their reward,' and there is no guarantee that more will be forthcoming. Admittedly there are times when a person feels at the end of endurance, and that only by opening up to a friend can relief be expected, but even here there must be a certain restraint or mawkish self-pity will be found to take over.

There can be nothing wrong in expecting compassion from those we love—our Lord expected it from his friends—but compassion is one of those things that is better to give than to receive. When we think more of receiving it than of giving it we discover to our dismay that our troubles do not move others as much as we thought they would. We find, on looking round during our agony, that our friends have gone to sleep.

NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSINGS: This year New Years Day falls on a Tuesday. The parish office will be closed on the Monday (the day before New Years) and will not reopen until Wednesday, 2 January. We ask that you please complete any parish business with the office before or after these dates.

This time of the year is a very holy and reflective time and so it is important that our pastor and parish staff, which works hard all year putting in many extra hours even outside the office, is allowed the time to refresh and spend time in prayer and with their families and friends.

We thank you for your understanding and wish you all a very blessed New Year!

UPDATE FOR SHOES FOR RWANDA: Thank you to all who made donations for the purchase of shoes for children in a Rwandan village. By press time (for this bulletin) we did not yet have the total tally of donations. However, we will be sure to print the total collection of this fundraiser in a subsequent bulletin.

INFORMATION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE: can be obtained on January 17th from 7 to 9 pm at Holy Name of the Sacred Heart Church in New Bedford. At that time qualified men are invited to submit a preliminary application. Please call 508 990 0341 for more information.

AN INVITATION TO ALL MEN: Our parish *Men of St. Joseph* invites all men of the parish to join them on Monday mornings from **6:00 to 6:45 am** for a weekly time of prayer and fellowship (25 and 20 minutes respectively). Their first meeting will be on January 7th. This is a great opportunity for those men who have no problem getting up early but who otherwise work late or who, after work, are busy with their family and other commitments. The men will meet in the parish center hospitality room. Coffee and donuts will be served during the fellowship time.

MASS INTENTIONS: Our Mass Book will open again on **Wednesday, 9 January** after the 9am Mass. At that time we will be taking intentions for the period of **July 1st to December 31st, 2019**. If you are unable to come to the parish that morning, please call the parish office on or after January 9th and we can assist you over the telephone; *we will not be taking intentions for this second half of 2019 prior to the 9th*. (Please note that we can also accommodate Masses offered in Rome for your loved ones during the year of 2019).

As in the past, there will be on January 9th the usual procedure of standing in line to reserve 3 Mass Intentions and returning to the back of the line (if one desires) for no more than 2 more, bringing the maximum to 5 Masses that can be scheduled that day. This allows us to keep the line moving and provides fairness to all those seeking Mass intentions. Thank you for your cooperation.

DISCERNMENT RETREAT WEEKEND: The diocesan Office of Vocations is hosting a discernment weekend for men ages 18 to 45 at the Betania II Spiritual Life and Marian Center in Medway, MA from Friday, 22 February through Sunday, 24 February 2019. This retreat will include spiritual talks, guidance in prayer, testimony from seminarians, Eucharistic exposition, confessions, morning and evening prayer and benediction, and of course time for personal prayer and discernment. They will also feed all participants. If you are interested please contact Father Jack Schrader at frschrader@fallrivervocations.org or call him at 508-695-6161. Let us continue our support for all vocations by prayer, and if you know of any man in this age group who has hinted at a vocation to the priesthood, please pass this on to him. **Parents especially** - encourage your faithful sons!

FIRST FRIDAY MASS REMINDER: January 4th is a First Friday and we will celebrate our customary Holy Mass in commemoration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus both **at 9 am and 6 pm**. It also happens to fall on the memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a wonderful American saint whose remains are interred in Maryland. You are also invited to stay and pray with the *Men of the Sacred Heart* for a Holy Hour from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.