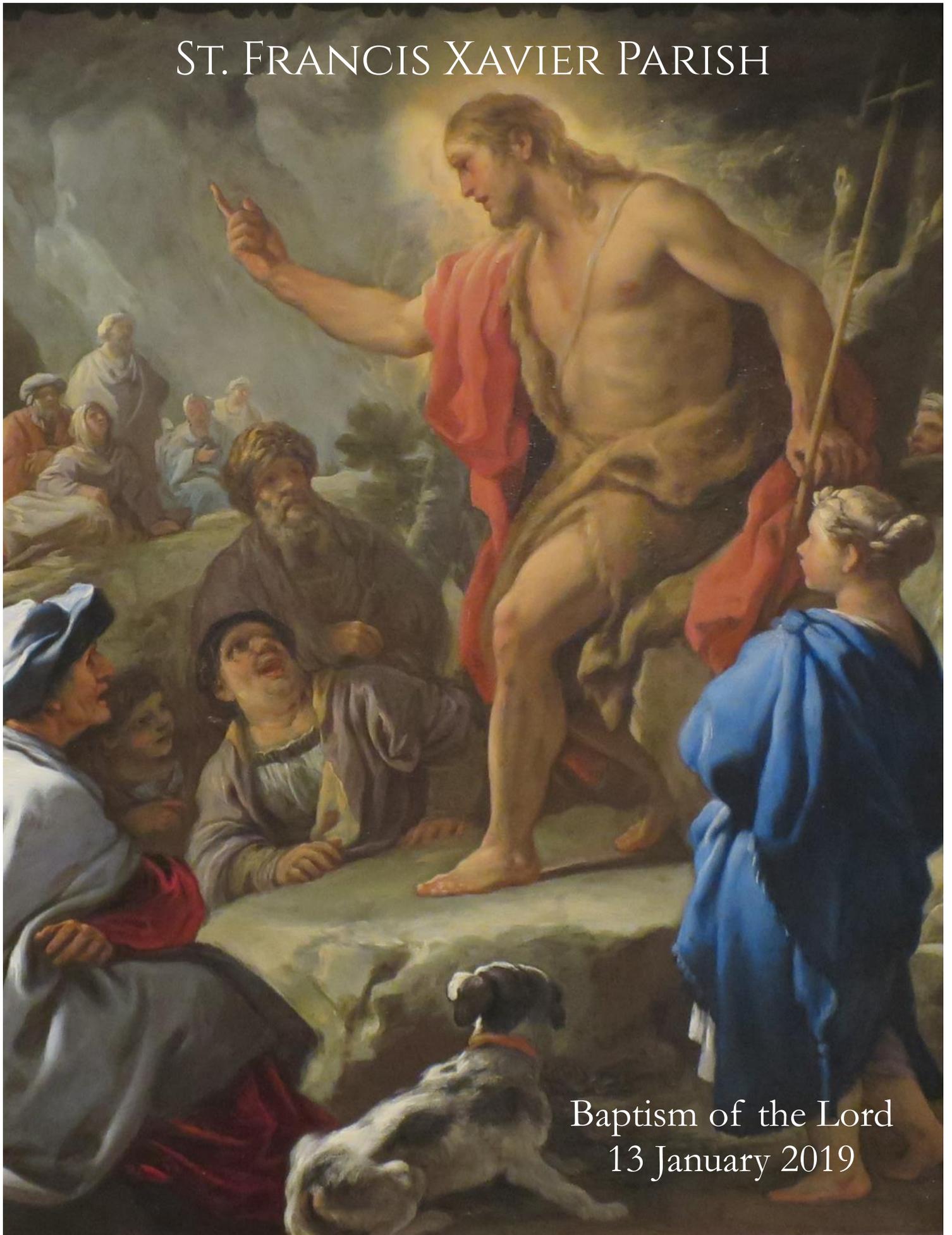


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



Baptism of the Lord
13 January 2019

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(January 12th - January 20th)

Sat.	Jan 12	Baptism of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh) 4:00pm Anne Medeiros
Sun.	Jan 13	Baptism of the Lord (Wh) 8:00am Theresa Nientimp 10:30am <i>Month's Mind Mass</i>
Mon.	Jan 14	Feria (Gr) 9:00am George Bevilacqua
Tues.	Jan 15	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Intentions of Delima Genard
Wed.	Jan 16	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Peter Marchese
Thurs.	Jan 17	St. Anthony; Abbot (Wh) 9:00am Michael Tremblay
Fri.	Jan 18	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Intentions of Gloria Fernandes & daughters Doris & Arielle
Sat.	Jan 19	Blessed Virgin Mary (Wh) 9:00am Normand Pepin
Sat.	Jan 19	2nd Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) 4:00pm Louise Tetreault
Sun.	Jan 20	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr) 8:00am <i>Pro Populo</i> 10:30am Leonel & Lourdes Resendes & Parents

Financial Report

Income:

Epiphany Sunday	\$3,803.92
Parish Building Fund.....	\$3,542.73

Prayers Please

... for all the sick of our parish: those homebound, in the hospital, and nursing facilities; and for all the souls in purgatory. Please also pray for infant **Mya Grace Frysinger** who was baptized into Christ's kingdom through our parish on **Sunday, 6 January, 2019**.

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:* **Theresa Nientimp**

CONFESSIONS

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

FROM FR. WILLIAMS

PRAYING WITH MARY TO JESUS



By now you have probably seen the new addition to our Sacred Hearts Shrine: a circular relief in the style of the porcelain work of Andrea della Robbia, a famous Italian artist of the Renaissance. An original work of his on which our image is based is depicted at the top of this column. It has been given in memory of Anne Medeiros, whose devotion to Jesus and Mary remains an inspiration for us.

The art is not only beautiful in itself, but also has a deep theological significance. Showing the Blessed Virgin Mary praying to her Son, Jesus, it reminds us that when we pray, our prayers are ultimately directed towards God. This is also true when we pray to the saints, since we are simply asking for them to pray for us to God. Thus, when we pray to the Sacred Heart of Jesus we worship God; when we pray before the image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we ask her to do exactly what the image above depicts: to pray to her Son for us.

There are three modes of prayer which have traditionally been given Greek names:

Latria is praise offered to God alone. It could also be called worship, and refers to any prayer or adoration offered to the Godhead in itself.

Hyperdulia is the attitude that we adopt when we pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a higher form of the *dulia* which is offered to the saints (see below), in light of the Blessed Virgin's great holiness of life and fact of being the Mother of God, but is at the same time of a different kind of prayer than that offered to God alone.

Dulia is the honor and veneration offered to the saints in light of their holiness of life and intercessory power. Any praise offered them in light of their holiness is ultimately referred to God, and any prayers to them are, at base, a request for their intercession for us and our intentions.

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

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "... one mightier than I is coming... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Lk 3:15-16)

Just a few weeks ago we wrote in this column that the essence of the Advent season is "expectation". The Church (that is, the Holy Spirit) instructs us today that the substance of the Christmas season is also one of glorious anticipation.

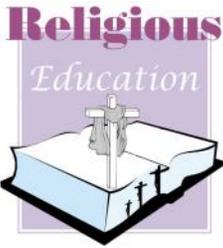
Christmas concludes with the **Feast of the Baptism of Jesus**, and as our quotation above from today's gospel reading testifies (although we depart the liturgical Christmas season for another "ordinary time") our religious practice is meant to be anything but ordinary. It is meant to be full of expectation.

Sunday is always focused on Jesus Christ, especially this Sunday. However, in order to sharpen this focus, the Church presents us today with St. John the Baptist. It was on John that the expectation of the Judean people of the 1st century A.D was initially focused in their hope of salvation. This is not the first expectation surrounding the person of John. At the birth and naming of John, Luke tells us in his first gospel chapter that, "*All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him*" (Lk 1:66). Remember that the Blessed Virgin Mary's cousin Elizabeth conceived John in her old age and that John's father Zechariah had an angelic vision whence he was struck mute, and that he regained his speech only at the naming of John. Even Jesus calls John the Baptist the greatest man born of woman (Lk 7:28) meaning that his natural capacity and constitution must have been great indeed! In this way he was easily a magnet to the people. In the Spirit, he was certainly a magnet for God.

For this Sunday's feast we place on our bulletin cover a work by the late Italian Baroque painter, **Luca Giordano**, entitled *St. John the Baptist Preaching* (1695). Giordano painted this work later in life during his residency in Spain. However, his early training was completed by a Spaniard residing in Italy – Jusepe de Ribera. This work is thoroughly Baroque. John is presented in strong physical stature and his listeners are filled with expectation as to what he will say and do. (Even the small dog has a posture of excitement). But here we see John refocusing the crowd's expectation by pointing upward indicating that there is another coming after him; someone who comes from heaven bearing the full Godhead. John's testimony is depicted solidly as he stands on God shown as a "rock of refuge" (Ps 18:2 & 71:3).

John tells his followers, "*One mightier than me is coming*". In fact, this mightier one had arrived many years earlier in a manger in Bethlehem. He did as John had foretold and sent His Holy Spirit to enliven the faithful with grace. Jesus will come one last time, as we say in our creed, "in glory to judge the living and the dead". If we approach His coming with expectation and joy, rather than with apathy or dread, then we show ourselves to be true disciples of hope in God.

The Baptism of the Lord - January 13, 2019



No classes on Sunday January 20 in observance of MLK Jr.

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. If school is canceled due to snow then there will be no adoration.

For cancellations please watch channel 7 news, go to www.whdh.com for free mobile app or check parish master calendar for updates

CONFIRMATION MASS

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday May 11, 2019 @ 6pm at St. Anthony of Padua New Bedford. More information to follow in the coming months.

To keep informed of important dates please visit our Parish Master Calendar on our website at www.sfxparish.com. you have any questions please email Mrs. Hammarquist at jlh@sfxparish.com



Baptism of Jesus
Corregio (1643)

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. (Lk 3:21-22a)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8  ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

The three day reentry week (after holiday break) was simply a "warm up" to the first full week back that our faculty and students just experienced! Full days, packed schedules, solid instruction, and MAP Growth testing for our middle school students certainly justifies some needed rest this weekend! This upcoming week will be Grade 3 through 5 students' chance to demonstrate their academic progress through our new testing platform. As mentioned last weekend, *Catholic Schools Week 2019* will arrive before we know it, and our students will be rewarded for their hard work and perseverance. Dress down days, special assemblies, and unexpected treats will be just a few of the ways that we celebrate the beauty and value of a Catholic education. Please continue to pray for and support our parish school by spreading the news of the gift that we have just a quarter of a mile down Main Street from the parish church. Thank you and God bless.

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January 20th - Catholic Communications
January 27th - Diocesan Assessment
February 3rd - Home Missions

SFX PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	January 13	
Rel. Ed Levels 1-6	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
Rel. Ed Levels 7-9	11:40-12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
Monday	January 14	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30pm	Church
<i>Eucharistic Adoration:</i>		
<i>Rel. Ed Level 5</i>	7:30-8:30pm	Church
Tuesday	January 15	
Vespers	6:30pm	Church
Wednesday	January 16	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7:00pm	Church

 **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.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH 2018 CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERINGS

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED.
THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF THOSE REMEMBERED BY THESE GIFTS:

Olivia & Elias Lindo	The Farland Family	Albert, Jeannette & Claudia Pepin
Ron Pimental & Catherine White	Al & Bella Nerbonne	Nathan Rayner
Irene Arsenault	Robert Tisdelle	Pauline Venancio
The Brunette Family	The Tisdelle Family	Clara & Eugene Bonville
Walter J. Robillard	Pedro Camara	Robert Krouzek
Antonio & Deolinda Xavier	Odelia & Jose Alexander	John & Carol Graz
Manuel da Cosmo	Cecelia & John Tavares	Resendes & Vieira Families
Antonia & Manuel Furtado	Jack Villa	Mildred & Michael Charros
Lorraine & Mederic Vigeant	Caldeira & Freitas Families	Rose Engel
The Mello Family	Beaulieu Family	The Castelo Family
Joseph & Americo Brites	William Ferreira	John Lucinda
Adelaide & Jose Fernandes	Arminda Botelho	Roland Ouimet
Stacey Gwozdz	John Gwozdz Jr.	Josephine Gwozdz
Vito Lapolla	Violette Rose	Joseph & Gloria Castelejo
Bridget & Edward Kowalczyk	AJ DeCosta & John Gracia	The Fahey Family
Jeffery & Joseph Newett	John Kane	Norman Alley
Ed Roberge	Edmund & Louise Tetreault	Eddie Tetreault
Al Hebert	Ovila Hebert	Joao Gomes
Rosa & Antonio Afonso	George U. & Mafalda Cournoyer	Heroux & Vincelette Families
Bowden, Bousquet & Gaudreau Families	Roger Leblanc & Joseph Mullin	Doris & Jules Avila
Russell L. & Elaine Tetreault	José Aurora Cardoza	The Lacey Family
Martin & Wienzek Families	Kathleen & Joseph Mc Grath	Angelina & Silva Davignon
Manuel da Costa	Anna P. Marshall	Manuel & Virginia Cambra
Antonio & Deolinda Xavier	Wynne & Olivier Families	George Bevilacqua
Moraux & Bastarache Families	William D Perry Sr.	Theresa Nientimp
Philip Des Roches	Pauline Croteau	Bowden & Bousquet Families
Mr. Ronald W. Paterson	Stanley & Helena Rusczyk	Albert & Florence Thomasset
Harold & Ruth Holmes	Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Lefevre	James Knox
Carolyn Lawrence	Jennifer Lawrence	Walter M. Bohn
Walter H. Bohn	Terry & Jim Bohn	Gomes Family
Rita & Dick Barry	Matt & Marg O'Malley	

The Baptism of the Lord - January 13, 2019

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

BY DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER

It is significant that St. Benedict ranks as one of the most important duties of the monk the reading of sacred scripture. He writes of the *medicamina* or *medicamenta scripturarum*, suggesting that the inspired verses of the bible have a healing property all their own, and that the prayerful search after their meaning not only discovers hidden truth but also brings health to sick minds.

We do not have to know Hebrew or make a study of the commentators in order to read the bible prayerfully. If we can pray the Mass without knowing its history or being able to catch up on liturgical vagaries, we can certainly pray the scriptures without knowing the geography of Palestine or the order in which the kings of Israel and Judah followed one another upon their respective thrones.

Scripture is the word of God before it becomes the word of man, and we cannot expect to know all that is to be known about God's written word any more than we can expect to know all that is to be known about the Word made flesh. Though not the whole of divine revelation is contained in the scriptures there is enough of it to make the reading of the Old and New Testaments the nearest thing to the direct praise of his name who inspires them.

PARISH ACADIA TRIP FUNDRAISER: The parish trip to *Acadia National Park*, southwest of Bar Harbor, Maine, is set for 2019 and the list of parishioners going is also now finalized. As part of the original plan, and to defer the cost of the adventurous weekend for all who are going, the participants will be selling raffle tickets after the Masses on the weekends of January 26th and 27th and February 2nd and 3rd. The tickets are \$20 each and the single prize for the raffle is a \$500 gift certificate to lovely White Mountain Hotel and Resort in North Conway, New Hampshire. If you would like to check out this beautiful venue as a possible future vacation site, please visit their website at www.whitemountainhotel.com.

Please consider purchasing a ticket from one of your fellow parishioners going on the trip. While this is not a fundraiser for the poor, we cannot underrate the value of such parish events which combine fun with Christian fellowship, with spiritual unity. The people going will be experiencing the beauty of God's creation, getting to know each other better, and they will also be praying together and visiting a local church for Holy Mass. Some parishioners may not have been able to afford the trip without the fundraising component, so we thank you on their behalf for your support in buying a raffle ticket.

MASS INTENTIONS: Our Mass Book opened again for the period of **July 1st to December 31st, 2019**. Please stop in or call the parish to schedule a Mass intention for a loved one.

2018 TAX REPORTS: If you would like a printout of a report of your annual offerings to the parish for your 2018 tax filing, please call the parish office. When you call please specify if you would like us to email you the form or if you will pick it up.

READINGS FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 13, 2019

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 [cf. 7c]/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 7]/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 [8]/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 [cf. 7b]/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17

TOTAL GIVING FOR SHOES FOR RWANDA: Thank you to all who made donations for the purchase of shoes for children in a Rwandan village. We raised \$3,570 for shoes for the children and this amount will be forwarded to Father Leonard to be delivered to Rwanda. Thanks to the parish *Women of Grace* for collecting the funds.

THANK YOU - FROM THE MISSIONARY OF CHARITY SISTERS: Each year the parish sends a financial gift to support the work of Saint Mother Teresa's sisters in New Bedford. The sisters run a homeless shelter for women and assist in other care for the poor while acting as teachers in a local CCD program. The sisters just sent us a "thank you" for our annual parish support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES - On the **28th of February 2019** we resume our St. Francis Xavier Parish, *Adult Education Series*. These last three instructions (of our 7 part series) which make up our Spring Session will cover the four Gospels of Jesus Christ as we continue with our annual theme of seeking the Face of Christ. There will be a morning instruction from 10:00 to 11:00 am and an evening instruction on the same day from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. This series will be held in our parish center. Parishioners and all others are welcome to attend.