

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
In Ordinary Time  
27 January 2019

## St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

### Mass Schedule

(January 26<sup>th</sup> - February 3<sup>rd</sup>)

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Jan 26</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b> 4:00pm <i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Jan 27</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr)</b> 8:00am Freda Tripanier 10:30am Sister Mary Angela
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>St. Thomas Aquinas; Priest (Wh)</b> 9:00am Rita Chapdelaine
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Feria (Gr)</b> 9:00am Roger Caplette
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Jan 30</b>	<b>Feria (Gr)</b> 9:00am Jose Alves & Maria Belo
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Jan 31</b>	<b>St. John Bosco; Priest (Wh)</b> 9:00am Robert Krouzek
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Feb 01</b>	<b>Feria (Gr)</b> 9:00am Domingos & Maria Gomes 6:00pm Robert Tisdelle
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Feb 02</b>	<b>Presentation of the Lord (Wh)</b> 9:00am Maria & Joe Cunha (50 Year Anniversary)
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Feb 02</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b> 4:00pm Mary Pepin
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Feb 03</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr)</b> 8:00am <i>Pro Populo</i> 10:30am Walter Wienzek

### Financial Report

*Due to the early bulletin submission deadline, regarding the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, we are not able to provide the most recent parish collection information. We will catch you up next Sunday.*

### 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: Pereira Family*

### CONFESSIONS

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

### FROM FR. WILLIAMS

#### THE FORTY DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

You read that right – and, no, I'm not referring to how the Christmas season is now anticipated from Halloween onwards. This Saturday, 2 February, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It recalls the Jewish tradition taught in Leviticus, chapter 12, that forty days after the birth of a firstborn son a woman would go to the Temple in Jerusalem to make a sacrifice to symbolically redeem her child, who was specially dedicated to God, and also to mark the conclusion of the time for her ritual purification after childbirth.

Our celebration of this feast hence reminds us of the Holy Family's fidelity to their Jewish faith, and that through their faith God brought to fulfillment the promises He had made to the Jewish nation throughout salvation history. In the wake of recent hate-filled attacks on Jewish people, this feast is an important reminder not only of the special place the Jewish people continue to hold in God's plan of salvation, but also of our debt to them for our faith, and continued spiritual connection as we worship with them the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The Feast of the Presentation, like the Feast of the Epiphany, is even more ancient than the Feast of Christmas. Like the Epiphany, it has several beautiful traditions surrounding it.

- **The Blessing of Candles** takes place before Mass on this feast in a way analogous to the blessing of palms on Palm Sunday. As Simeon says in the Gospel of the feast, Christ is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles," and the candles help us to reflect on this connection. The blessed candles are then used the next day for the blessing of throats on the Feast of St. Blaise.

- **Another "-mas"** The Feast of the Presentation is also known as "Candlemas" because of the blessing of candles. Wish someone a Merry Candlemas next Saturday – see if they get the reference!

- **The Original Groundhog Day** Many eyes will be on Punxsutawney today to see if the groundhog sees his shadow or not. Did you know that this tradition began in Germany with a badger on this feast? The idea of the weather on the Feast of the Presentation predicting the remaining length of winter was also present in England, as an old rhyme makes clear:

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,  
Winter will have another flight;  
But if it be dark with clouds and rain,  
Winter is gone, and will not come again.*

# 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

*He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..." He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." (Lk 4:16-18;21)*

Isaiah was a great 8<sup>th</sup> century prophet who faithfully counseled King Hezekiah against the Assyrians and who foretold the Babylonian Captivity and its liberation by Cyrus the Great. He also prophesied, as noted above in our quotation from today's first reading, about the arrival of the Messiah, the anointed king who would rescue the Jewish nation from their enemies and establish lasting peace. Thus when Jesus read from the scroll in the synagogue at Nazareth and announced that Isaiah's messianic prediction was being fulfilled in Him, He was announcing to a people who knew this passage well, yet were unprepared for it to come true in their own "hearing". Even though they knew of the great works Jesus performed in Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee (Lk 4:23), their ears were dull and their hearts slow to credit Jesus as Isaiah's promised one.

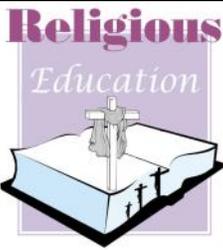
The people of Israel and Judah at the time were hoping for a Messiah, but not one who preached a gospel of repentance and peace. The nation of the Jews waited upon a descendant of David who would cast out by arms and by the power of God all their enemies and reestablish the prosperity of Jerusalem as a glorious city worthy of foreign tribute. Instead, the people should have been more attentive to the prophecy of Isaiah which declared the savior to be God's suffering servant (see for example Is 52:13-53:12). Little did these listeners in Nazareth know that in trying to usher Jesus off a cliff in response to His claim of being the Messiah, they themselves set in motion the public hostility toward Jesus which would eventually lead Him to his salvific Passion.

In order to commemorate Isaiah on this 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, we have placed on our bulletin cover an image entitled, *Prophet Isaiah* (1516), painted by the High Renaissance Italian, **Fra Bartolomeo**. Bartolomeo trained as an artist but became a Dominican Friar around the year 1500. He returned to painting as a religious and formed an artistic friendship with the great Raphael.

Bartolomeo, who forsook painting in the first several years of his religious vocation, later visited Rome where he spent time in the Sistine Chapel. A few years later he painted his version of Isaiah based on his observance of the work of Michelangelo. Fra Bartolomeo painted this work in Florence where, sadly, he died only one year later at the age of 45.

Bartolomeo gives us a very Italian looking Isaiah which would have touched the emotion of his audience. Isaiah is clothed from neck to feet with Bartolomeo's modest approach to art. Bartolomeo wanted his work to generate a religious experience and so Isaiah holds a tablet with the words in Latin: *Behold God, my Salvation*. Isaiah is seen pointing toward the future or perhaps (in its original position in the Billi Altarpiece) toward another nearby image depicting Christ Our Salvation. May our lives and our actions also always point toward Christ the Savior of the world!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 27, 2019



**Religious Confirmation Level 9 Retreat**  
**Saturday Feb. 9th 8:30am-3:30pm**  
**in the Parish Center.** Please keep in your prayers the confirmandi from our parish as well as St. Anthony of Padua that are preparing to receive the final sacrament of initiation in May.

Don't forget our **St. Francis Xavier School Open House** on **Sunday January 27th noon to 2pm**, tours for all that stop by to witness the educational experience of the faith formation and academic excellence that is part of our parish family.

**EUCHARISTIC 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](http://www.whdh.com) for free mobile app or check parish master calendar for updates [www.sfxparish.com](http://www.sfxparish.com)\*\*\*



*Jesus Unrolls the Scroll in the Synagogue*  
 James Tissot (1894)

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." (Lk 4:18a, 19)*

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

St. Francis students will be more visible at Mass this weekend, as they sport their school uniforms to kick off Catholic Schools Week 2019! While the "spirit-wear day-pass" is a motivator it is also an opportunity for our students to show their gratitude for your continued prayers and support. There is no greater way to kick off CSW than attending Holy Mass as a school family! Our doors will open VERY wide on Sunday from Noon – 2:00pm, as we welcome new families, as well as guests who wish to tour our parish school. Please stop by to see the dynamic team of teachers and student ambassadors who will share their experiences (and refreshments) with our guests! Our annual school Auction and Gala is much earlier this year, and therefore our parent and student representatives will be in the narthex over the next few weekends to receive donations, as well as make reservations, for our major fundraising event of the year! This year's event, **Imagine**, will take place on Saturday, 2 March at 6 pm at the Century House. Tickets are \$45 per person. *The event includes dinner this year!* Make your reservations soon! Please join us as we appreciate the past, and **imagine** the future at SFX! Thanks for your continued prayers!

**God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal**

**UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

<b>January 27<sup>th</sup></b>	- Diocesan Assessment
<b>February 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	- Home Missions
<b>February 10<sup>th</sup></b>	- Building Fund

### SFX PARISH CALENDAR

	January 27	
Rel. Ed Levels 1-6	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
Rel. Ed Levels 7-9	11:40-12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 28</b>	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30pm-7pm	Church
<i>Eucharistic Adoration:</i>		
<i>Rel. Ed Level 5</i>	7:30-8:30pm	Church
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 29</b>	
Vespers	6:30pm-7pm	Church
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 30</b>	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7pm	Church
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 1</b>	
Men of Sacred Heart		
Holy Hour	6:30-7:30pm	Church

### READINGS FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 27, 2019

Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21  
 Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 [1a]/Mk 3:22-30  
 Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11 [8a and 9a]/Mk 3:31-35  
 Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 4:1-20  
 Thursday: Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/Mk 4:21-25  
 Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 [39a]/Mk 4:26-34  
 Saturday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 19 [8]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or Luke 2:22-32

## SFX PRAYER LINE

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

## CALLING ALL TO EVENING PRAYER

For many years now we have faithfully provided church prayer in the evening (Vespers) on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 6:30 pm. We do this not only to provide an opportunity for parishioners and others to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, which in itself is quite important. We do so that we might offer at least a few nights per week, common and vocal prayer to God.

For many years now our parish mission has been one of prayer. We hold daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, special seasonal prayer services, daily recitation of the Rosary and Evening Prayer (Vespers).

Evening prayer is particularly important in this mix because we are one of few parishes offering this. We do so because we believe that we should be praying in common as a parish all hours of the day, and we believe that God has rewarded our parish and community for our efforts which always begin in his grace.

Thus, we are asking for you and your families to consider a recommitment to Vespers (evening prayer) at the parish. Lately, we had seen only a few parishioners there and we desire to see more, not so we can boast about numbers, but so we may give more resounding prayer to the Most High!

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.**

## Women of Grace



Every **first Tuesday** of the month **7:30-8:30pm** we make our Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament praying the Rosary, for special intentions and the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Bring your Bible and catch up on Holy Scripture or just sit quietly with the Lord. All parish women are invited to join in this restful hour on **Tuesday February 5th.**

**Please pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe for the protection of all life.** Consider *lighting a candle (\$3)* in the Pro-Life room (near elevator) in front of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe for your intentions, the prayer room is open during the week until 4pm..

## FIRST FRIDAY MASSES:

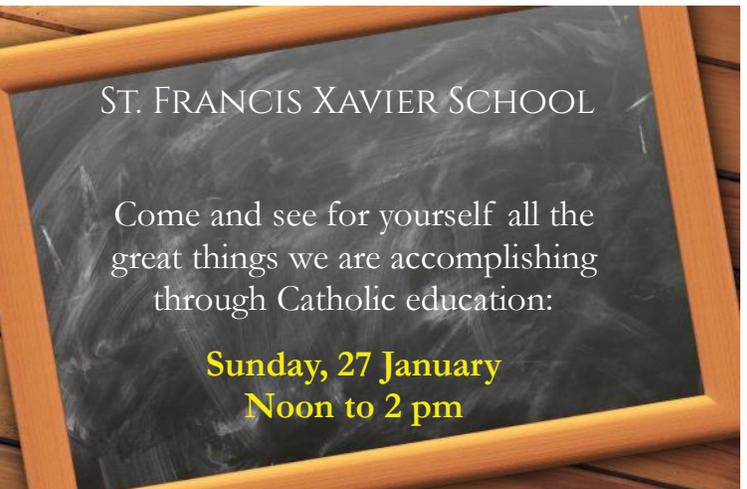
01 February  
9 am & 6 pm



## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL

Come and see for yourself all the great things we are accomplishing through Catholic education:

**Sunday, 27 January**  
**Noon to 2 pm**

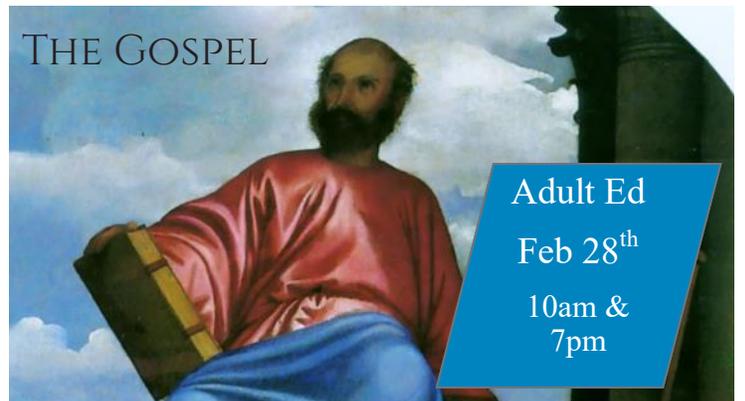


## THE GOSPEL

Adult Ed  
Feb 28<sup>th</sup>  
10am &  
7pm



**FOOD ITEMS NEEDED:** Now that the holiday giving season is over our St. Vincent de Paul Society is busy restocking its shelves with new food items as part of its ongoing service to the local poor. Therefore, at this time they are again requesting the following items to restock and replenish its pantry: rice, canned meats such as ham; juice, coffee, and tea. Thank you for your support. Please call Mike Bachstein at 508 758 4420 if you would like to **join the parish society.**



## IDEAS FOR PRAYER

BY DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER

We all have our favorite passages of scripture, but just because they are favorite and we read them year in and year out the words tend to grow stale. For so long as the passage has the power to move us it should be allowed to move, but when it begins to flag it should be dropped. Scripture reading should not be an aspect of the spiritual life which is approached with dread. Whenever the bible fails to raise our minds and hearts to God as much as other written works we should have both the humility to acknowledge the fact and the courage to make the switch. If we cling on to a planned schedule of bible reading from a sense of obligation, and because at one time it seemed to work wonders, we shall only waste effort and increase the distaste. We should never read the bible because it is the thing to do, because it is the 'set book' in the syllabus. We should read it because it meets our spiritual need. If for us at this moment it does not meet the spiritual need, then it can without scruple be exchanged for something else.

Although we may decide to shelve scriptural reading for a while, we shall probably still see it as the richest quarry for aspiratory prayer—that brief and ardent verbalization of our love. Aspiratory prayer is true prayer (unlike meditation which brings memory, imagination, speculative and reasoning powers to bear upon a scene or mystery, and which, though useful from the point of view of making the soul familiar with the subject, can only sidetrack the intention of the will into doing something quite different). It may not be as still as the prayer of faith, but it is the movement of the will in God's direction. It is a reiterated expression of love.

**PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH YOUTH:** Please keep our parish youth in your prayers this week. The world and culture present them with many challenges and temptations to sin. This week we celebrate a memorial Mass to **St. John Bosco**, patron saint of youth, on Thursday at 9 am. Please come if you are able and ask St. John to continue to gather and guard our young people.

**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 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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](http://www.whitemountainhotel.com).

**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.

**BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN TOTAL:** Thank you to all who gave to *A Woman's Concern*, a pregnancy resource center located locally in Fall River. The grand total of our baby bottle collection was \$2,051.06. A representative of the resource center called in the total and was ever so thankful. She mentioned on the phone that it is one of their larger parish donations. She also informed us of their great success through the use of their ultrasound machine. She estimated that about 70% of young women who see their baby through ultra sound at their facility elect to keep the child. We must pray for the other 30% and be grateful that there is technology out there today that can combat the false information that what is in the womb is not (yet) human. So thank you for your annual support of this campaign which continues to assist *A Woman's Concern* continue their very important work.

**OUR BUILDING COMMITTEE:** has been active meeting with Father Williams to discuss the bell tower roof project. As had been announced, the repointing process of the entire brick bell tower (from church steps to steeple) discovered that we had leaks in the bell tower roof itself. Once discovered we announced that it was imperative to repair the roof (mostly the waterproof underlay below the clay tiles) to maintain the integrity of the extensive work on the bell tower brick. Since then Father Williams and the Building Committee have been investigating and considering options to the clay tile which is a very heavy shingle type and which needs much repair after storms. After much discussion it was decided to repair the roof with single-seam copper roofing. This will provide the bell tower with maximum durability and will offer the parish church a lovely look in the future (to match our present steeple cross) once the copper ages. This roof project is being made possible with many donations from parishioners and others and from your continued generous support to the Building Fund collections.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**ADULT EDUCATION SERIES -** On the 28<sup>th</sup> 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.