

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

6th Sunday
In Ordinary Time
17 February 2019

P. Gauguin - 81

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(February 16th - February 24th)

Sat.	Feb 16	6th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) 4:00pm <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Feb 17	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr) 8:00am Donny, Helen & Jean Guenette 10:30am George Bevilacqua
Mon.	Feb 18	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Albertina & Eliseu Correia
Tues.	Feb 19	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Albert & Florence Thomasett
Wed.	Feb 20	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Daniel & Eleanor De Bassio
Thurs.	Feb 21	St. Peter Damian; Bishop (Wh) 9:00am Angelina & Louis Talbot
Fri.	Feb 22	The Chair of St. Peter (Wh) 9:00am Robert Goebel
Sat.	Feb 23	St. Polycarp; Bishop & Martyr (Rd) 9:00am Lucy Green
Sat.	Feb 23	7th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) 4:00pm Ceasar Fernandes & Mr. & Mrs. Jose De Sousa
Sun.	Feb 24	7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr) 8:00am Rose Engel 10:30am <i>Pro Populo</i>

Financial Report

Income:

5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	\$4,050.02
Parish Building Fund	\$2,985.38

Recent Expenses:

Parish Door Repairs	\$225.00
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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:* **The Carvalho Family**

CONFESSIONS

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

FROM FR. WILLIAMS

THE PUSH TO RADICALLY EXPAND ABORTION COMES TO MASSACHUSETTS

In the wake of the bill recently passed in New York to radically expand the practice of abortion even to the last moments before birth, a similar bill has been defeated in Virginia, while others are being discussed in Rhode Island, Vermont, and New Mexico. Sad to say, a bill like these is also being considered in our own Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

On 9 January, “An Act to remove obstacles and expand abortion access” was filed in the Massachusetts State Senate as SD. 109. As with similar bills in other states, it would allow abortion at any point up to the moment of birth, affirming that “the Commonwealth shall not interfere with a person’s personal decision and ability to prevent, commence, terminate, or continue their own pregnancy.” It also provides for an expansion of public funds to pay for abortions for those who couldn’t otherwise afford them, redefining abortion as “medically necessary care,” as well as allowing minors to consent to an abortion – something that, as of now, the law does not allow.

Thus far the bill has gained 50 cosponsors. Thankfully, our own state senator, Mark Montigny, is not one of them. Every bit of encouragement we can provide for him to vote against this bill, SD. 109, matters. His email address is: Mark.Montigny@masenate.gov; his local office is 888 Purchase Street, Room 305, New Bedford, MA 02740, phone: (508) 984-1474; his Boston office is 24 Beacon St. Room 312-C, Boston, MA, 02133, phone: 617-722-1440.

Some reading this might wonder whether I am crossing a line here – whether this is an example of religion becoming too involved with politics. To allay your fears, here is a quote from the IRS website defining what is acceptable: “The ban by Congress is on political campaign activity regarding a candidate; churches and other 501(c)(3) organizations can engage in a limited amount of lobbying (including ballot measures) and advocate for or against issues that are in the political arena.”

I think that the separation between Church and state is in the best interests of both. I also think it is erroneous to confuse this principle with another that implies that Churches should not speak on public issues – in other words, that freedom of religion only begins when you walk through the church doors. Our faith requires us to raise our voices for the poor and marginalized in the public square – and certainly no one fits this category better than the unborn.

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

Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream (Jer 17:7-8).

There is no faith without grace. In chronological order, the process of human redemption goes this way: grace, faith and good works. One may certainly perform good works from one's own human will, yet such natural works gain no merit before God unless they flow from the confluence of supernatural charity. One can also have natural faith: he or she can for example have faith in their neighbor, trust in their sports team, in their hairdresser, in their firemen, and in their military; but no one can come to trust in God unless he drinks first "from the stream by the wayside and therefore lifts up his head" (Ps 110:7). In fact, no one can even say "Jesus Christ is Lord" unless he sips from the abundant waters of grace (1 Jn 4:2-3 & 1 Cor 12:3).

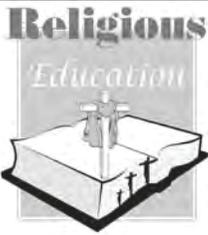
In our first reading today, the prophet Jeremiah is making reference to the first psalm of David which contrasts the way of the wicked man with that of the good man, or rather with that of the graceful man. The graceful man is "blessed" as "he is like a tree planted by streams of water" (Ps 1:3). The leaves of this tree "never wither" while it is always prosperous and fruitful. The transpiration of its roots draws water from the fountain of life. The blessedness of this tree commences and remains through it having faith and hope in the Lord God.

In the second psalm (in the Book of Psalms) we are instructed as to what this tree symbolizes. It is Jesus, the "anointed one" (Ps 2:2), the Christ. It is he who comes into the world to stand in the streams of the Jordan, not so he can drain the physical "energy" of that river as some demigod or superhero, but so that he may plant himself upon the earth as the renewed Tree of Life which drinks eternally from the Holy Spirit. It is from this tree that we (as branches) are fed and prosper unto everlasting salvation (Jn 15:4-6).

Just as the psalmist creates a symbol of grace with tree and stream, so do we on our bulletin cover for this 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The image we have chosen for this purpose is by the French Post-Impressionist Paul Gauguin, entitled *By the Stream, Autumn* (1885). Gauguin still paints here in the Impressionist style, but one can see in this earlier period in Paris how he already begins to experiment with the flattening of bright, bordered, and compartmentalized color. We still have light and the reflection of light as in Impressionism, but now it is a soaked up light so that even the reflection in the stream has become the color of the trees and field, synthesized as it were in the post-impressionist method.

Yet, we do not want to take our comparison of tree-and-stream with Christ-and-grace too far urging some Zen-like moment, and so be absorbed into a meditation upon nature itself. Our goal as Christians is not nature, but supernatural; always the movement of grace. This comes to us as a free gift of God to all who repent and believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Mk 1:15).

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 17, 2019



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On all Monday evenings 7:30-8:30pm. Every grade level will have a scheduled hour of Adoration from October-May. **February is Level 4.** 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. *March is Level 3.*

First Holy Communion Parent Meeting: Sunday March 3rd at 9:15am in the Hospitality Room in the Parish Center. At least one parent must attend.

All First Communion Students will be attending the 10:30am Mass together in reserved pews from March 10th – April 7th. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time in May.

Level 8 Conf. 1 Retreat: Saturday March 9th 11-5pm at SFX School conclude with 4pm Holy Mass at SFX Church. All 8th grade students that are registered parishioners from our Catholic School that will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation in 2020 are expected to take part in this retreat.

CONFIRMATION MASS

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday May 11, 2019 @ 6pm at St. Anthony of Padua New Bedford. **Rehearsal** will be Wednesday May 8th 6pm @ St. Anthony of Padua.

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



Martyrdom of St. Philip
Jusepe de Ribera (1639)

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.” (Lk 6:22, 23b)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

The month of February has certainly had its share of fun, as we concluded CSW 2019, presented our annual Science Fair, celebrated the Feast Day of St. Valentine, and now enjoy a rest and reprieve. Our Catholic Schools Week conclusion is the always entertaining Faculty/Parents vs. Students basketball game. This year was no exception, as parents and teachers raced up and down the court demonstrating that age is nothing but a number. As is the tradition (and usual outcome of the game), the number of baskets scored were not quite enough to defeat the youth of our school! This week, our 7th and 8th graders demonstrated their scientific knowledge and ability demonstrating their projects to judges and parents at our annual Science Fair. These students spend hours conducting experiments, compiling results and evidence of their hypotheses, and executing presentations to be proud of. To end our week, we celebrated St. Valentine with small class parties and a *much loved* dress down day. A little more than half way through the month and we already need a rest! Happy February Vacation!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

SFX PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	February 17	
No Religious Ed		
Monday	February 18	Office Closed
<i>Eucharistic Adoration:</i>		
<i>Rel. Ed Level 4</i>	7:30-8:30pm	Church
Tuesday	February 19	
Vespers	6:30pm-7pm	Church
Wednesday	February 20	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7:00pm	Church

READINGS FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 17, 2019

Sunday: Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 4, 6 [40:5a]/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26
 Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 [14a]/Mk 8:11-13
 Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10 [11b]/Mk 8:14-21
 Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [17a]/Mk 8:22-26
 Thursday: Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23 [20b]/Mk 8:27-33
 Friday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19
 Saturday: Heb 11:1-7/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11 [cf. 1]/Mk 9:2-13

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

February 24th - Diocesan Assessment
March 3rd - Parish Building Fund
March 6th - Ash Wednesday



Women of Grace

Let us begin anew by being rooted in a belief that calls us to a greater degree of perfection; Jesus Christ. 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 Mrs. Janine Hammarquist by email jlh@sfxparish.com to reserve a book @ \$14.50 (if you act quick Amazon.com is offering them for \$12). Allison Gingras will be making an appearance during this study.

SFX ADULT EDUCATION SERIES: We are now in the beginning of the winter session of our parish Adult Education program. It is very important that we offer continuing study about the faith to Catholic adults. As our theme for this year is "I Seek Your Face O Lord" we began our program in the Fall of 2018 with 4 sessions covering belief in God as he reveals himself in the Most Holy Trinity. Beginning in late February we will hold three consecutive sessions that examine the **four New Testament Gospels** which are our best indicators about the face of the Lord: the four Gospels of Jesus Christ are where we best come to see and know the face and life of Our Lord.

We begin on **February 28th** with an instruction entitled *Jesus According to Mark: The Gospel in Action* presented by Director of Pastoral Services, Steven Guilloffe. In our opening presentation we will briefly discuss what a "gospel" is. We will also consider the opinion of many bible historians that St. Peter the Apostle is the main source of information for Mark's gospel. Finally, we expect to distinguish Mark's gospel from the others by discovering its method and its intended audience, all focusing on the spiritual purpose of Mark and the main teaching about Christ that he wished to impart.

This class and the other two classes to follow (March 7th and 14th) will take place both in the morning from 10 am to 11 am and repeated in the evening on the same day from 7pm to 8pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and please pray for good weather!



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.

SFX PRAYER LINE

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

Coming soon... Lent...



...THE TRUE MARCH SADNESS!



...what Catholic Education can achieve in the community and in the world and join us at the Century House on March 2nd, 2019 at 6:30 pm. Call 508 995-4313 for tickets (\$45 each)

PARISH MISSION PREACHING: We are very fortunate to have the Father of Mercy mission priest to preach at the weekend Masses before the mission begins in our parish on March 16th. **Father Louis Guardiola** will be the priest missionary and will give the homilies at all the Masses on the weekend of March 15th and 16th to jumpstart our mission experience. Please plan on attending one, some, or all the days of Sunday through Thursday for the talks at 7 pm in the parish church. Bring a friend and help evangelize!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSING: The office will be closed this Monday, 18 February for **President's Day**. On this day we will have Holy Mass at 9 am with Confession following. Adoration will continue as normal, however there will be no evening Confession and no Vespers (Evening Prayer).

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

BY DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER

People will tell us that they do not have time to think. Not for a waking minute do they in fact stop thinking. For a large part of the day they not only think but double-think. Some even treble-think. What the no-time-to-think people want you to believe is that they do not take time off from their work to indulge their taste for serious thinking. They like to think of themselves as the toilers while the rest of men are sitting in armchairs daydreaming.

So long as you can think you can pray. You do not have to take time off for either exercise. If when you are with people you are thinking what to say next, why cannot you pray about what to say next? You can always mingle your praying with your thinking. You do not have to stop thinking in order to act—any more than you have to stop acting in order to think—so why should you have to stop praying in order to act or think.

It would be extravagant to claim that, without a very special grace, the mind can be trained upon the thought of God throughout the day. Clearly there are undertakings which demand undivided attention, and which would suffer if the mind were to hold on to the presence of God as a deliberate exercise, but though such activities may not elicit very profound prayer there is no reason why it should not elicit prayer of some sort—inspiratory prayer, for instance.

THANK YOU: To all who bought raffle tickets to support the parish trip to Acadia National Park. The sale of tickets was very successful thanks to the effort of those going on the trip and the generous support of parishioners and others who purchased tickets. **The winner of the raffle is Connie Frias. The ticket was sold by Jack and Jen Vaz.** We congratulate Connie and hope she has an excellent time redeeming the certificate to the White Mountain Inn.

THE 2019 DIOCESAN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: is once again being held at Stonehill College in the Ames Sports Complex in Easton, MA. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, 9 March. Doors open at 9 am. The cost for the day long event is \$50.00. The day includes conference speakers, interactive panel discussions, prayer, music, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, lunch and vendor tables. You can even register on-line at www.fallriverdiocese.org.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: Our parish is sponsoring another day of prayerful vigil at the last abortion clinic located in diocesan territory (in Attleboro). We will gather there starting at 6 am on **Saturday, 13 April**, the Saturday just before Palm/Passion Sunday, thus making it particularly palpable. Please set some time aside to join us in prayer to sustain life in the womb in this very challenging time.

A NOT-SO CATHOLIC LEGISLATOR: As most of us know by now, Governor Cuomo signed legislation known as the Reproductive Health Act which legalizes abortion-on-demand in the state of New York and which, if it had been the law in Pennsylvania in 2011, would probably not have found guilty and punished the abortion “doctor” Kermit Gosnell.

Cuomo, who is Catholic, has been criticized severely by many Catholics for his signature approval of this act. In response, Cuomo stated recently, “... *I am not here to legislate religion.*” By saying “here” we take him to mean “in government”. His statement has truth, but is elusive. In the U.S. we do not elect officials to make laws establishing any particular religion. However, while Governor Cuomo is not in office to legislate religion, he is certainly in office to legislate justice. Now, *humaneness* is that part of justice that guides a person to cause the least amount of harm to another person (or even to an animal)! This is why all just law has humaneness built into it at every level, for instance, in the prescribed treatment of criminals being arrested by law enforcement officials, and in our conduct toward the imprisoned and even toward captured terrorists. Every Catholic executive or legislator in government should know this and should practice humaneness always and everywhere in the making of the law.

However, the Governor refuses to do this in the case of the child in the womb as he and those who follow him show a patent disregard for the grave, physical suffering of the child *in utero* (and now *ex utero* in the case of child surviving an abortion) even after 24 weeks of development. (Some, including a Utah Senator, have suggested fetal anesthetization for abortion procedures to prevent the harm to the baby in the womb while many oppose even this!) Yet, however you look at this, there is no greater harm that you can do to a human being than to take his or her life, as *all* abortions do.

Still, Cuomo and his entourage seem to care little about the subject of humaneness in their specific promulgation of the law. Therefore it must be considered that if Governor Cuomo (and all those pushing the case of abortion) cannot legislate with even a fundamental humaneness, then he (and they) have no business legislating at all.

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.