

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



7th Sunday
In Ordinary Time
24 February 2019

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(February 23rd - March 3rd)

Sat.	Feb 23	7th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)
	4:00pm	Ceasar Fernandes & M/M Jose De Sousa
Sun.	Feb 24	7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr)
	8:00am	Rose Engel
	10:30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon.	Feb 25	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Franklin Whitehead
Tues.	Feb 26	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Bob Vigeant
Wed.	Feb 27	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Intentions of Delima Genard
Thurs.	Feb 28	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Russel Tetreault
Fri.	Mar 01	Feria (Gr)
		First Friday
	9:00am	Frank Coady
	6:00pm	Hazel & Harold Sequin
Sat.	Mar 02	Blessed Virgin Mary (Wh)
	9:00am	Manuel da Costa
Sat.	Mar 02	8th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)
	4:00pm	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Mar 03	8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr)
	8:00am	Rose Cunha Moniz
	10:30am	Bob Vigeant

Financial Report

Due to the early bulletin submission deadline, regarding the Presidents' Day 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

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE ABUSE CRISIS?

This Sunday marks the conclusion of the long-awaited, and even more long-needed, worldwide summit at the Vatican to discuss the Church's response to the sickening crisis of abuse of the young and vulnerable at the hands of clergy.

Even as I write that, I realize the inadequacy of my words. "Response" is far too weak a word to describe what the Church needs to do to provide healing to the victims, punishment to the perpetrators, and restore the credibility of the leaders of the Church, whose task and calling is to carry on the mission for which Jesus Christ came. The credibility lost because of the scandal will take a generation and more to restore; the lives affected by abuse will never be the same. That so many in the Church could either commit these sinful actions or participate in their cover-up shows how much they have forgotten what a vocation to the priesthood really means, and the life and witness to which it calls them.

With this background, the frustration of many in the Church at the seemingly glacial pace of reform can certainly be understood. Even in the run-up to the summit there were steps taken to temper our expectations for what will result from this meeting. Last week the bishops of the Commonwealth put out a letter advising that "the goal of the Summit Meeting... will seek to create a strong consensus throughout the universal Church of zero tolerance of sexual abuse, to develop the programs which will implement this mandate and to put in place the programs of education and prevention needed to keep children safe throughout the world, even and perhaps most especially in countries where government and law enforcement may not be reliable partners in protecting children."

Two views can be taken of this goal. One would ask why, after so many years of the revelations of clergy abuse, are we only now seeking to get a *consensus*? Is the perception of the response that is needed really that modest? Another view is presented by the bishops a little later in their letter, which asks – with some fairness, it must be granted – for our "appreciation that a three-day meeting will not produce a finished and final plan for a global Church of 1.2 billion people." Taking into account the many cultures around the world in which the Church is present, the validity of this request must be granted.

Yes, we must pray – but, more than that, demand accountability from those who participate in this summit, that they may see through to the end this journey of reform which they now begin.

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

Abishai whispered to David: "God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day... But David said to Abishai, "Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the LORD's anointed and remain unpunished?" (1 Sam: 26:8-9)

In this Sunday's gospel reading Jesus attaches a greater demand of love onto the commandment to love. He tells his disciples "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" (Lk 6:27). From there he counsels that when struck by another we should "turn the other cheek" and when another takes what is ours we should not demand it back.

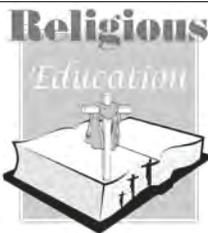
Respectively, each of these instructions goes counter to our human impulse to defend ourselves and our property. However it must be pointed out that these teachings of Jesus are not about pacifism or communism; Jesus is not concerned here with negating the natural human rights to self-protection and property. What Jesus *is* always concerned with is living life in imitation of His Father in heaven. This is why the conclusion of today's lesson is that we, as His disciples, behave as "children of the Most High" who is "kind to the ungrateful and the wicked" (Lk 6:35). Jesus is asking us to forgo the human for the divine, because it is for the divine that we have been created (1 Jn 3:2).

To understand this we must recall that we were once enemies of God. Since Adam, man has abused the gifts of God; and if we have not cursed him, we have certainly forgotten him. We would still be enemies of God if not for the redemptive act of Jesus Christ, who ransomed himself for our salvation through the forgiveness of our sins (Lk 1:77). God offered us his love even when we set ourselves against him (Ps 2:2). Without overcomplicating today's gospel reading, let us say that God is asking that we his children become like Him and offer our love to those who set themselves against us.

Reaching back into the Old Testament for an early example of clemency (and even love) toward an imposing enemy, we have placed on our bulletin cover for this 7th **Sunday in Ordinary Time** a painting by the Victorian era artist, **Richard Dadd**, entitled *David Spareth Saul's Life* (1854). Dadd, a British Romantic painter, moved back and forth between genre and fantasy. The latter was sadly also Dadd's reality, as much of his painting was produced in a London psychiatric hospital. Some of Dadd's works may be compared to Hieronymus Bosch (d. 1516) for these scenes were filled with many strange figures in minutia, except perhaps in less awkward poses than in Bosch.

In our bulletin image we see King Saul sleeping on the foreground in his battle camp while David and his companion Abishai stand over Saul. Neither spear, nor shield, nor guard, nor even mountainside can protect Saul from being delivered into David's hand as was the will of God. Yet we also see David putting out his right hand to prevent the lance thrust that would have pinned Saul's corpse to the ground. David spares his enemy because his first duty is to God - to *not* destroy God's anointed one. David would rather risk his enemy's wrathful pursuit than pursue a course forbidden by God. He would rather suffer the pain of his enemy than the pain of *becoming like* his enemy.

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 24, 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.

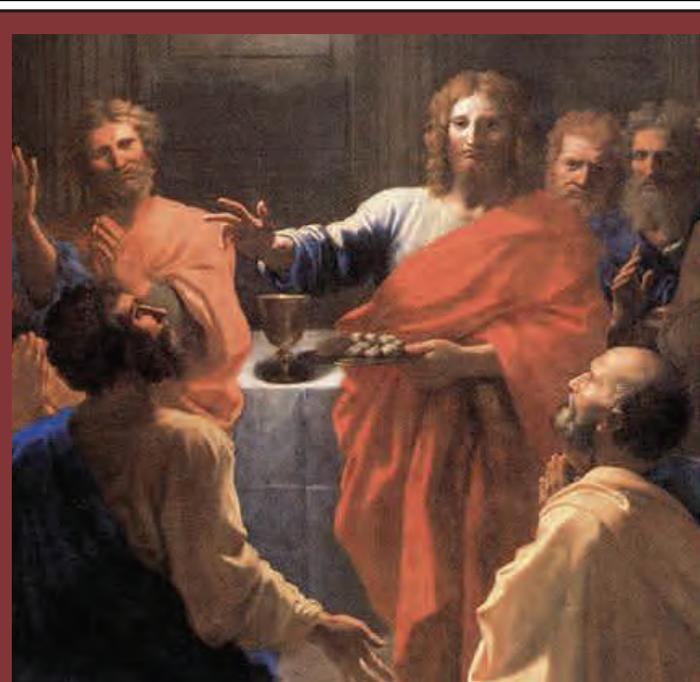
All First Communion Students will be attending the 10:30am Mass together in reserved pews from March 10th – April 7th. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time in May.

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



*Institution of the Eucharist (detail)
Nicholas Poussin (1640)*

"Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." (Lk 6:38)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

This past week, with not a child in sight, we planned our largest fundraiser, all through the night! Well, not exactly, but final details were ironed out for our March 2nd event which will include a few surprises. First we will institute the presentation of the "Cornerstone Award". This award will be given annually to a person, family, or organization that has contributed in a significant way to the mission of the parish school. The recipient of this honor will be someone who perseveres in faith and strengthens the 'cornerstone' of our school's foundation. This year's award will be presented by alumni and friend of St. Francis, Father Tom Washburn, Class of '82. Fr. Tom will give this award to his former kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Therese Ledoux! We are also glad to introduce our new "event emcee"? The very enthusiastic Mr. Tony Pimentel (our parish deacon candidate) has graciously accepted our invitation to be master of ceremonies at this year's auction. Please join us next Saturday evening, March 2nd at 6pm at the Century House, as we IMAGINE the blessed future of our school!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

THANK YOU: to all who have answered the call to begin coming to Vespers. We still need more people/families to participate in this great moment of prayer so we hope to see you there. Even if you cannot come each week, please make a commitment to once per month!

SFX PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	February 24	
Rel. Ed Levels 1-6	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
Rel. Ed Levels 7-9	11:40am -12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
Monday	February 25	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7:00pm	Church
<i>Eucharistic Adoration:</i>		
<i>Rel. Ed Level 4</i>	7:30-8:30pm	Church
Tuesday	February 26	
Vespers	6:30pm-7pm	Church
Wednesday	February 27	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7:00pm	Church
Thursday	February 28	
Adult Catholic Ed	9:45-10:45am	Parish Ctr.
Adult Catholic Ed	7:00-8:00pm	Parish Ctr.
Friday	March 1	
Men of the Sacred Heart		
Holy Hour	6:30-7:30pm	Church
Saturday	March 2	
School Gala	6:30-11pm	Century House

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 (you may purchase the book yourself @ Amazon.com for \$12). Allison Gingras will be making an appearance during this study.



Please support our parish school at its big fundraiser of the year at the Century House on 2 March @ 6:30pm

Sit Down Dinner, Auction, Lots of Fun and Fellowship. Call 508 995-4313 for tickets or to donate!

SFX PRAYER LINE

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

GOSPEL OF MARK PRESENTATION: We open our 3 part winter series of Catholic Adult Education with a presentation on the Gospel of St. Mark **this Thursday, 28 February** from 9:45 am (after the 9 am Mass) to 10:45 am. This class will be repeated in the evening (for those who work during the day) from 7 pm to 8 pm. Steven Guillotte, our parish Director of Pastoral Services will be the presenter. Everyone is welcome to come and bring a friend. Refreshments will be served at both the morning and evening sessions.

We hope many parishioners will join us for this special series on the Gospels, which will help those who attend to gain a greater appreciation of Sacred Scripture and thereby bring greater joy to their life of faith. **Jump start your Lenten celebration** with a better understanding of the Word of God.

FIRST
FRIDAY
MASS

1 MARCH
9 AM &
6 PM



SFX Parish,
Acushnet

READINGS FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24, 2019

Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38
Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40 [cf. 5]/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175 [165a]/Mk 9:38-40
Thursday: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/Mk 9:41-50
Friday: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35/Mk 10:1-12
Saturday: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18 [cf. 17]/Mk 10:13-16



Month 1

Take a pregnancy test, calculate your due date and start taking prenatal supplements.

Weight Height Size

About 6-7mm (¼ inch) long - about the size of a grain of rice!

What's Happening

During the first month, your baby's head, brain, spinal cord, lungs and heart begin to form and the placenta begins to develop. By the end of the first month, your baby's heart begins to beat.

What to expect

Signs of pregnancy such as bloating, mood swings, mild cramping, tender or sore breasts, sensitivity to food and smells.

Sources:

<http://www.healthpromotion.ie/hp-files/docs/HPM00341.pdf>
<http://www.hunterdonhealthcare.org/pregnancymonthbymonth>
<http://www.babies.sutterhealth.org/babygrowth/fetaldev/>
http://my.clevelandclinic.org/healthy_living/pregnancy/hic-fetal-development-stages-of-growth.aspx

By firsttimepregnancy.org

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

BY DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER

Affections and aspirations tend, as the soul gets used to pouring them out, to grow calmer: they give place to peaceful and sometimes wholly wordless attention. The soul finds distractions as tiresome as ever, and seems to be incapable of doing anything about them, but in fact they do the prayer no harm. In that they occasion, by way of reaction, further affections and aspirations they do the prayer good. Aspirations and distractions alike are what the stirrup is to mounting a tall horse: in silent attention the soul rides.

Thus prayer becomes so flexible as to ring the changes without effort from vocal to mental prayer, from forced acts to free aspirations, from prayer while kneeling to prayer while working. Prayer becomes the spontaneous reaction to the arrival of the mail, to the setting of the sun, to the choosing of a book, to the breaking of a storm. Instead of the split-consciousness which keeps the praying mind apart from the daily-living mind there is now a unified mind which is at once religious, recreative, attentive to outward and inward things at the same time.

This is the kind of prayer which, to revert to the metaphor used above, places the reins in God's hands and lets him direct the horse. The soul remains in the saddle but the course is God's. The soul's care now is not to go to sleep and fall off. Enough warnings have already been given about not using spurs or the whip.

A DAY WITH MARY: is coming to *Our Lady of Perpetual Help* parish at 235 N. Front Street, New Bedford on March 2nd. The day begins with procession of Our Lady of Fatima statue at 8 am. Holy Mass will be at 9 am. The event will finish at 3:15 pm. There will also be the roving bookstore, a meditation on Our Lady, the Most Holy Rosary, and Eucharistic Adoration. At 2 pm they will hold the enrollment into the Brown Scapular and the Miraculous Medal.

OVERNIGHT ADORATION: is a commitment but it is also an abundant grace in one's life. We presently have an Adoration hour of 12:30 am to 1:30 am on Wednesday. If you are able and interested please give a call over to the parish office or see our parish Adoration coordinator Mary Cardoza. This wonderful private prayer may have you losing a few hours of sleep one night per week, but your dedication to this hour will pay off in spiritual peace. Thank you to all adorers, for your wonderful commitment.

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 BABY'S DEVELOPMENT: Beginning this Sunday, and continuing on the last Sunday of each month, we will be pictorially chronicling the growth of the child in the womb along with describing what is physiologically happening to the mother during her months of pregnancy. On page five of this bulletin you will see a poster from firsttimepregnancy.org, detailing the first month of pregnancy and thus the first month of the child's life. These "info graphics" are helpful for informing the mother (and all others concerned) about the process of development for the simple purposes of education and preparation for a first child. Of course, as good parents can tell you, every child in the womb is as a first child. As the Church can tell you, every child in the womb is new because every child is a human person unlike any other before him or her - from the very moment of conception.

In this day of constant and instant information it is sometimes possible to miss the obvious. We argue back and forth about abortion without ever checking in on the child in the womb. We are now once per month going to complete this "check-in" through our parish bulletin to ensure that the baby's development is known to all our bulletin readers.

So please view these small postings each month and consider profoundly the growth of the child in the womb. "Growth" is one of the three criteria of life as once deliberated by Aristotle and which are still the criteria for our modern biology course books. Of the other two criteria - "assimilation" and "reproduction" - you may be assured that the first is in full effect in the womb, because the child cannot grow without the nutrition and sustenance it receives in the womb; while the latter is a potential power still to be realized, yet fully burgeoning in the child's gender. Therefore, we can see that even the ancient Greek philosophers included a "potential" capacity as an actual determinant of what life *is*. They reasoned this as civilization advanced, while we in the full blossom of our advanced civilization can't seem to sort out even basic truths about life and human nature.

Please take the time to peruse these "info graphics" and re-learn the truth and wonder of human life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PARISH BLOOD DRIVE - We are setting the tentative date of our next Blood Drive as Sunday, 7 April. It is tentative until we hear back from the blood bank which offered us the date pending final approval on their end. As soon as we know for sure we will let you know. These drives are part of our commitment to the "culture of life" and we are very glad for all parishioner support that we receive. Give blood to sustain life!