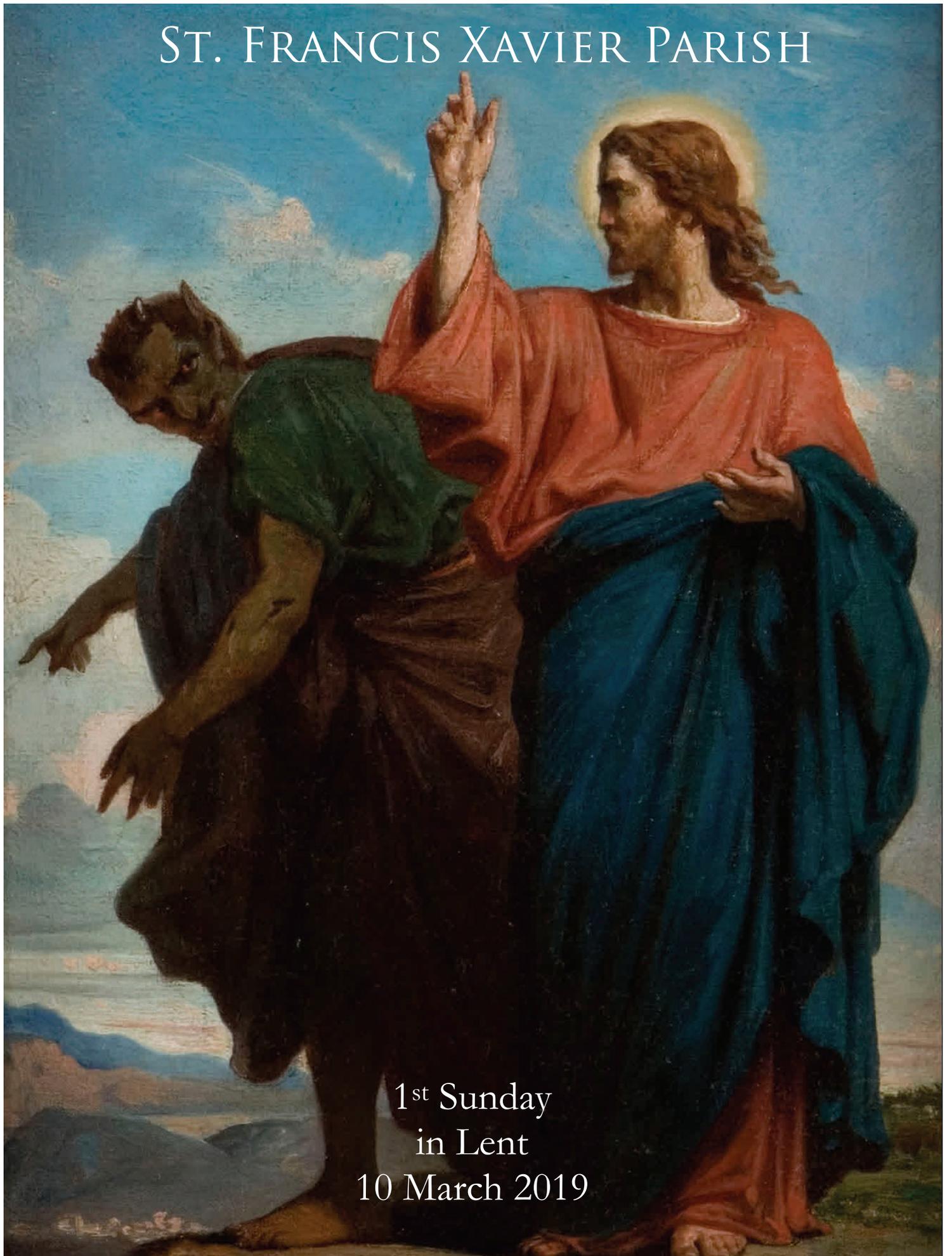


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



1st Sunday
in Lent
10 March 2019

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(March 9th - March 17th)

Sat.	Mar 9	1st Sunday in Lent (Vigil) (Vi) 4:00pm <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Mar 10	1st Sunday in Lent (Vi) 8:00am John Engel 10:30am <i>Month's Mind</i>
Mon.	Mar 11	Lenten Weekday (Vi) 9:00am George Bevilacqua
Tues.	Mar 12	Lenten Weekday (Vi) 9:00am Domingos Lima
Wed.	Mar 13	Lenten Weekday (Vi) 9:00am Wilfred Tremblay
Thurs.	Mar 14	Lenten Weekday (Vi) 9:00am Domingos & Maria Gomes
Fri.	Mar 15	Lenten Weekday (Vi) 9:00am Paulino & Ana Vieira & Daughter
Sat.	Mar 16	Lenten Weekday (Vi) 9:00am Maria dos Santos
Sat.	Mar 16	2nd Sunday in Lent (Vigil) (Vi) 4:00pm Ceasar Fernandes & Mr. & Mrs. Jose De Sousa
Sun.	Mar 17	2nd Sunday in Lent (Vi) 8:00am Jeffrey & Joseph Newett 10:30am <i>Pro Populo</i>

Financial Report

Income:

8 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	\$3,938.50
Parish Building Fund	\$3,470.35

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 **Joseph Michael Charbonneau** who will be baptized on Sunday, 10 March.

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: A.J. De Costa*

CONFESSIONS

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

FROM FR. WILLIAMS

THIS YEAR, GIVE UP MORE THAN JUST CHOCOLATE

The hallmarks of Lent are the actions of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Many of us would define fasting as “giving something up”: chocolate, wine, beer, or some other (legitimate!) pleasure that we give up for Lent as a sign of our taking personal responsibility for our sins and showing our sorrow for them.

At present all Fridays in Lent are kept as days of abstinence on which neither meat nor meat products (e.g. chicken soup) are consumed by those over the age of 14. For those between the ages of 18-59, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast as well as abstinence. On these days, Catholics are enjoined to eat only one full meal and two snacks that together do not equal a meal, with no meat.

It should be noted that these are the minimum – we should all try to go further. In the past I’ve heard comments to the effect that fasting doesn’t matter – “*just do some more nice deeds for others.*” This attitude is simply wrong – yes, we should do more charitable deeds during Lent, but true conversion involves not only increasing the good we do but also confronting the sins of which we are guilty and expressing signs of amendment of life. There is no better way to do this other than fasting.

So, how can we go further than the bare minimum of fasting? It might help to look to the past for inspiration. A century ago, the following were the practices of Catholics; this Lent, let’s all try to incorporate some of these into our own practices:

- Every day of Lent, except Sunday, was a fast day.
- Meat was only eaten at the main meal of the day.
- Fridays through Saturday afternoons were times of complete abstinence – no meat at all.

The reason that the Church lightened the expectations on fasting & abstinence was so that Catholics could better adapt fasting to their own needs and state of life. Even if you are unable to follow the full regimen listed above, I encourage you to reflect on whether you can make different elements of it part of your Lenten experience.

The more we enter into the spirit of the Lenten fast, the more we shall experience its fruits. Pope St. Leo the Great helps us to realize what these will be:

For our fast does not consist chiefly of mere abstinence from food, nor are delicacies withdrawn from our bodily appetites with profit, unless the mind is recalled from wrong-doing and the tongue restrained from slandering. This is a time of gentleness and long-suffering, of peace and tranquility: when all the pollutions of vice are to be eradicated and continuance of virtue is to be attained by us.

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

"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here... Jesus said to him in reply, "It also says, You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." (Lk: 4:9;12)

If you are a parent, then it is very likely you have had recourse to the phrase, "You are testing my patience". It is very unlikely though that you ever said, either as a parent or otherwise, "You are testing my humanity". This is unfortunate because our human nature is tested regularly by our present culture to become less human. We are tested over life in the womb, gender in the body, sex outside of marriage, and the practice of religion in society. We are asked to "choose" about intrinsic values which in nature invite little or no choice. In effect, our humanity is tested by a rebellious power each and every time we are challenged to give up our inherent human freedom for a licentious inhuman freedom.

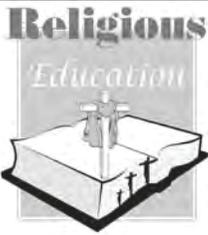
No doubt God could be heard (if we listen close enough in prayer) saying often to us, "You are testing my patience". We are most fortunate that God is patient; patient with a purpose. For as St. Peter tells us: "*The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance*" (2 Pt 3:9). God knows that we will test his patience, and he is forbearing so that we will come to be sorry for our sins – sorry that we have tested his patience.

The devil is another matter altogether. Long ago God's patience ran out with the devil (Is 14:12) who being of the angelic order has a will most deliberate and fixed. Lucifer was never satisfied just to test God's patience. He set out to test God's divinity. We see this in today's gospel reading where he challenges Jesus to throw himself from the parapet of the Temple so that God the Father might have to act to save Him. He wanted Jesus to test God as God, and thus to tear at the very fabric of divine trust within the Holy Trinity. However, Jesus would not test the Lord God, His beloved Father.

In order to encapsulate this event, we have placed on our bulletin cover for this 1st Sunday in Lent a painting by the French Academicist, **Felix Joseph Barrias** entitled, *The Temptation of Christ by the Devil* (1860). Barrias was a historical classicist who also painted ancient religious scenes in the classical style. In this oil on canvas Jesus is actually on the mountain top in the moment of being tempted by the devil to take rule over the world (Lk 4:6). Yet we can also surmise here Satan inviting Christ to throw himself downward so that His Father's angelic host would lift him up and carry him to safety (Lk 4:10-11). Jesus instead points upward indicating that He is always obedient to his Father's will and that the rule of His kingdom is in heaven.

Barrias paints the devil in all his disfigurement; for when the devil challenged God's divinity he forfeited the angelic beauty graced to him by the Lord (Gn 3:1). In defying the mastery of God, the devil sought self-mastery. All he gained was self-defacement, as do his followers today.

1st Sunday in Lent - March 10, 2019



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

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.

Day of Reflection for First Communicants is Saturday 6th April from 12:30 - 3:30pm in the parish center. Students must be accompanied by at least one parent/guardian.

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

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



The Temptation of Christ
Ary Scheffer (1854)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. (Lk 4:1-2)

READINGS FOR WEEK OF MARCH 10, 2019

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 [cf. 15b]/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [Jn 6:63b]/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48

SFX PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	March 10	
Rel. Ed Levels 1-6	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
Level 2 w/School	9:15-11:30am	
Rel. Ed Levels 7-9	11:40am -12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
Senior Youth Group	6:30-8:30pm	Parish School
Monday	March 11	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
Eucharistic Adoration:		
Rel. Ed Level 3	7:30-8:30pm	Church
Tuesday	March 12	
Vespers	6:30pm-7pm	Church
Wednesday	March 13	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7:00pm	Church
Thursday	March 14	
Adult Catholic Ed	9:45-10:45am	Parish Ctr.
Adult Catholic Ed	7:00-8:00pm	Parish Ctr.
Friday	March 15	
Stations of the Cross	7:00-7:30pm	Church

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

On behalf of our parish school, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all who helped us to "imagine" and celebrate great possibilities! Our annual gala auction was a tremendous success and we are filled with joy and appreciation. We have an incredibly supportive parish and Our Good Lord continues to bless us! We celebrate the parishioner attendance at the event, the outpouring of donations from parishioners for the event, and the continued prayers of parishioners devoted to the success of our school. We are blessed to possess great talent within our parish community that we can tap into! Thank you, Laura Guenette, for the great leadership and organization necessary for executing such a colossal event. Thank you, Tony Pimentel, for your gracious acceptance of the invitation to *emcee*, and for keeping us entertained and laughing. *Imagine* was a night of fun & fundraising, and your support is appreciated beyond mere words.

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

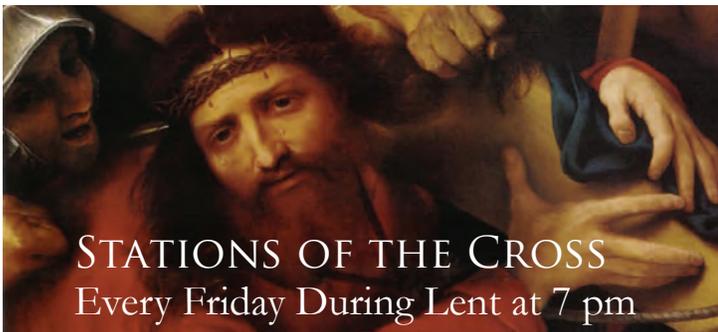
March 10th - Catholic University
March 24th - Diocesan Assessment
March 31st - Catholic Relief Services



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 books are \$14.50; books will not be available from Janine after 3/17 (you may purchase the book yourself online @ Amazon.com for \$12). Allison Gingras will be making an appearance during this study.

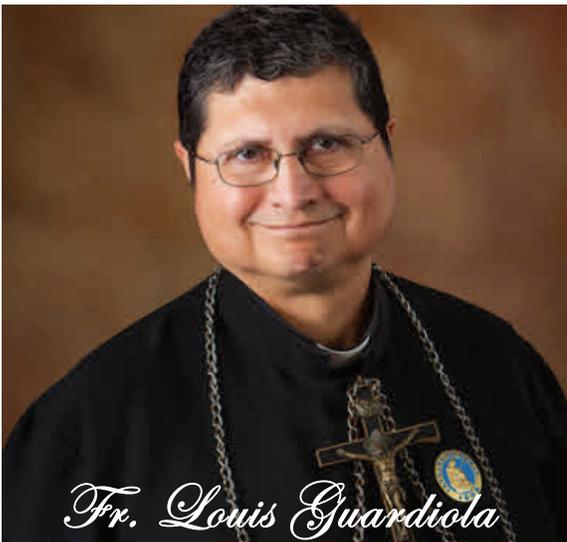


STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Every Friday During Lent at 7 pm

MONTH'S MIND MASS

We remember the following individuals that were deceased in the past month at our 10 March, 10:30 am Mass:

Maria Silva
Maribeth White
Beverly Da Silva



Fr. Louis Guardiola

SFX PRAYER LINE

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

GOSPEL OF JOHN: In Part 3 of our winter series of Catholic Adult Education we conclude with a presentation on the Gospel of St. John **this Thursday, 14 March** at 9:45 am (after the 9 am Mass). This class will be repeated in the evening (for those who work during the day) from 7 pm to 8 pm. Father Riley Williams will be the presenter. Everyone is welcome to come and bring a friend. Refreshments will be served at both the morning and evening sessions.

In this presentation Father Williams will explain how the "beloved Apostle" John reveals a unique title of the Lord Jesus as the "Eternal Word". John begins his gospel in deep theology and ends it with breakfast on a beach. In the journey, from beginning to end, we meet Christ in a way we do nowhere else in the Holy Bible.

This talk will be presented in our parish hospitality room in our parish center. Come deepen your knowledge and friendship with the Lord Jesus.



FOR LENT FOR LIFE

WHAT YOU GIVE
UP FOR LENT
CHANGES LIVES.

Parish Lenten Mission

Sunday, 16 March
through
Thursday, 21 March
7:00 pm each evening

PREACHED BY THE FATHERS OF MERCY
PRESENTED BY SFX PARISH

1st Sunday in Lent - March 10, 2019

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT OFFICE OF READINGS BY ST. AUGUSTINE

In Christ we suffered temptation, and in him we overcame the devil. Hear, O God, my petition, listen to my prayer. Who is speaking? An individual, it seems. See if it is an individual: *I cried out to you from the ends of the earth while my heart was in anguish.* Now it is no longer one person; rather, it is one in the sense that Christ is one, and we are all his members. What single individual can cry from the ends of the earth? The one who cries from the ends of the earth is none other than the Son's inheritance. It was said to him: *Ask of me, and I shall give you the nations as your inheritance, and the ends of the earth as your possession.* This possession of Christ, this inheritance of Christ, this body of Christ, this one Church of Christ, this unity that we are, cries from the ends of the earth. What does it cry? What I said before: *Hear, O God, my petition, listen to my prayer; I cried out to you from the ends of the earth.* That is, I made this cry to you *from the ends of the earth*; that is, on all sides.

Why did I make this cry? *While my heart was in anguish.* The speaker shows that he is present among all the nations of the earth in a condition, not of exalted glory but of severe trial. Our pilgrimage on earth cannot be exempt from trial. We progress by means of trial. No one knows himself except through trial, or receives a crown except after victory, or strives except against an enemy or temptations.

The one who cries from the ends of the earth is in anguish, but is not left on his own. Christ chose to foreshadow us, who are his body, by means of his body, in which he has died, risen and ascended into heaven, so that the members of his body may hope to follow where their head has gone before...

If in Christ we have been tempted, in him we overcome the devil. Do you think only of Christ's temptations and fail to think of his victory? See yourself as tempted in him, and see yourself as victorious in him. He could have kept the devil from himself; but if he were not tempted he could not teach you how to triumph over temptation.

SVDP EASTER BASKETS: Our St. Vincent de Paul Society is collecting the following food items for its Easter Baskets that it delivers at the holiday: *canned hams & yams (or canned sweet potatoes), boxed mash potatoes, canned pineapples, jar cherries.* Thank you for your support in this annual endeavor.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION: We are very happy to announce a 2019 Lenten Mission at our parish (presented by the *Fathers of Mercy*) which is **to begin on Sunday, 17 March 2019.** Here is a list of the expected talks which all begin at 7:00 pm:

SUNDAY - THE FOUR LAST THINGS

MONDAY - CONFESSION: THE SACRAMENT OF THE PRODIGAL SON

TUESDAY - THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION & REAL PRESENCE: THE HOLY EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAY: THE CULTURE OF LIFE VS. THE CULTURE OF DEATH: THE EUCHARISTIC SOLUTION

THURSDAY - OUR LADY, MOTHER OF GOD AND MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

There will be Confession before and after the parish mission and Father of Mercy books, videos, etc. for sale.

NEW YOUNG ADULT GROUP: If you are a young adult looking for a place to grow your faith this Lent (and to make new friends) please join *Living Proof*, a newly-forming, young adult Catholic group for those whose ages are 18 to 28 and who are living throughout Southeastern Massachusetts. Our focus is to create a vibrant community of friends and to grow together in authentic faith and devotion so we may challenge the culture which is moving away from the Christian spirit. We are meeting on **Friday, 15 March at 7:00 PM** at Saint Francis Xavier Church in Acushnet, MA. Bring a friend for Stations of the Cross and a potluck dinner afterwards (meatless). This is our own homegrown parish apostolate developed by us, your fellow young adult parishioners, who are eager to fill the spiritual gap between the teen years and full adulthood; and *we can't wait to see you there!*

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE - We are holding our annual Parish Picnic this year on the last Sunday of July rather than the first week of August as we had done in the past. Please mark **Sunday, 28 July** on your calendar as the date for the 2019 parish picnic at Cathedral Camp in East Free-town. As usual we will have a wonderful cookout, games, music, and the use of the pond. The event will run from Noon to 4 pm.