

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



Divine Mercy Sunday
28 April 2019

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(April 27th - May 5th)

Sat.	Apr. 27	Divine Mercy (Vigil) (Wh) 4:00pm Louise & Edmund Tetreault & Al Hebert
Sun.	Apr 28	Divine Mercy Sunday (Wh) 8:00am Yvonne & Joseph Pinette 10:30am <i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon.	Apr 29	St. Catherine of Sienna; Virgin (Wh) 9:00am José Alves & Maria Belo
Tues.	Apr 30	St. Pius V; Pope (Wh) 9:00am Paul & Adrienne Boucher
Wed.	May 01	St. Joseph the Worker (Wh) 9:00am Raymond & Carol Lemieux
Thurs.	May 02	St. Athanasius; Bishop (Wh) 9:00am Robert Krouzek
Fri.	May 03	FIRST FRIDAY Ss. Philip & James; Apostles (Rd) 9:00am Rita Chardelaine 6:00pm Bob Vigeant
Sat.	May 04	Easter Weekday (Wh) 9:00am Cunha Family
Sat.	May 04	3rd Sunday of Easter (Vigil) (Wh) 4:00pm Ceasar Fernandes, Mr. & Mrs. Jose De Sousa
Sun.	May 05	3rd Sunday of Easter (Wh) 8:00am Stacey Gwozdz 10:30am <i>Pro Populo</i> 2:00pm First Holy Communion

Financial Report

Income:

Palm Sunday.....\$5,543.85

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

During Eucharistic Adoration please pray for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle burns this week: Yvonne & Joseph Pinette

CONFESSIONS

Divine Mercy Sunday: 2:00 to 3:00 pm
Monday: 5:30 to 6:30 pm
Saturday: 9:30 to 10:00am
Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45pm

FROM FR. WILLIAMS

NOW AS MUCH AS EVER

How greatly today's world needs God's mercy! In every continent, from the depth of human suffering, a cry for mercy seems to rise up. Where hatred and the thirst for revenge dominate, where war brings suffering and death to the innocent, there the grace of mercy is needed in order to settle human minds and hearts and to bring about peace. Wherever respect for life and human dignity are lacking, there is need of God's merciful love, in whose light we see the inexpressible value of every human being. Mercy is needed in order to ensure that every injustice in the world will come to an end in the splendor of truth.

In 2002 St. John Paul II spoke those words as he dedicated the Shrine of Divine Mercy in his home country of Poland. If he could look back on the twentieth century and the evils it contained and reflect on the need to pray for God's mercy for the world, we can already look back on the nearly two decades of our own century – recognizing the wounds in our world of today – and renew our prayers for God's mercy with just as much fervor. Now as much as ever is the need for God's mercy in our world apparent.

On this feast I would like to suggest three ways of celebrating this gift of God's mercy:

1) Our Personal Need for Mercy: During Lent a constant theme was our need for ongoing personal conversion. Though Lent is over, this need remains! Along with our realization of this need to continually turn from sin and resist temptation is our knowing that we have sinned. The message of the Cross and Empty Tomb is the message of salvation, motivated by God's mercy. We should never lose our sense of need for God's mercy in our lives, nor our gratitude that He offers it to us.

2) Showing Mercy to Others: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." The more we recognize our own need for God's mercy, the more we should acknowledge our need to show greater mercy towards others. Easter is the season of new life; what better way to celebrate it than by showing greater mercy towards others and being more ready to forgive old hurts?

3) Praying for God's Mercy on the World: While the above two ways are important, we should also reflect on our need to pray for mercy in situations beyond our own lives and communities. God's love and God's gifts – especially that of human life – are often rejected and spurned in our days. We should fear to imagine what will come of this, but for our part, praying for God's mercy on the sins of our world is one of the best responses we can have. See you this Sunday at 3 p.m. to do just that!

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. Janine Hammarquist, Rel. Ed. Coordinator

[jlh@sfxparish.com]

Mrs. Michelle Russo, Parish School Principal

[mrusso@sfxacushnet.com]

Mrs. Anabela Shaughnessy, Asst. Principal

[ashaughnessy@sfxacushnet.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

Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. (1s 50:6:7)

There are two kinds of shadow. The first gives respite from the hot sun. This is what we simply refer to as “shade” and Jonah, while in Nineveh, was very glad for its presence and angry at its loss (Jon 4:6; 8-9). The other type of shade is metaphorical as in J.R.R Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*, where the preservation of light (goodness) was threatened to be overcome by the shadow of darkness (evil). Hence, trees cast shadows providing relief from the heat; but the devil also casts his shadow upon a world that should quake in fear if not for the redemptive act of Jesus Christ.

The psalmist also presents this dichotomy of shadow. In Psalm 23 he speaks of the “valley of the shadow of death” which the psalmist would rightly fear if God was not with him with his rod and staff of comfort (Ps 23:4). Psalm 23 offered the Israelites a glimpse of hope, a prophetic consolation until the coming of the Christ.

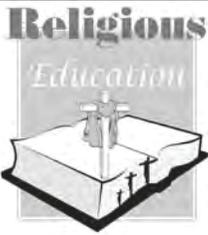
Yet, the psalmist also speaks of a shadow of blessing in Psalm 17. Here God Himself is our pleasing shade, our “refuge from... foes” (Ps17:7). The psalmist is overjoyed for this kind of shade as he asks God to hide him “in the shadow of [his] wings” (Ps 17:8). The psalmist finds in this shade protection from his enemies.

We Christians know that the greatest and last enemy is death (1 Cor 15:26). Fortunately we have the soothing message of St. Paul that Christ comes to destroy the shadow of death. (Still, it is good that we remember that this shadow remains for those who utterly reject God’s divine mercy and show no mercy themselves - Mt 18:30-35).

Thus, on this **Divine Mercy Sunday** we have placed on our bulletin cover a work by the great Quattrocento, Florentine painter **Masaccio** entitled *St. Peter Healing the Sick with His Shadow*. Masaccio ushered in the Early Renaissance and like Giotto is another example of how the medieval gothic style transitioned organically into the renaissance through artistic progression (not through radical reformation as some would claim) especially shown in Masaccio whose early works were Gothic triptychs and sacred icons. Masaccio was one of the first Italian painters to master light and perspective; and emotion through posture and expression.

In our art piece taken from today’s first reading, Peter appears almost cold and uncaring in appearance as he passes the on-looking sick and immobile. But we must recall the transitional art of Masaccio and that he was painting in two styles. If you cut out the image of St. Peter and set it alone it would appear statuesque. This is the sacredness of the Gothic. Next we have attentive figures who await Peter’s healing. This is the naturalism of the Renaissance. These latter figures are active venerators of Peter’s shadow which is cast as God’s grace on the lame man sitting on the ground. No doubt this fresco inspired young artists with hope in the novel style. Yet, it also inspired eager Christians with hope for a glorious healing.

Sunday of Divine Mercy - April 28, 2019



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On all Monday evenings 7:30-8:30pm. Every grade level will have a scheduled hour of Adoration from October-May. All students in that grade level should make every attempt to join us for this hour.

****Level 2 has Eucharistic Adoration every Monday in April** May is Level 1**

First Communion Rehearsal Thursday May 2nd 6:30pm for all First Communion students in the church. Rehearsal for Readers & Gift Bearers only will be on Sunday April 28th at 9:00am in the church. Please keep our First Communion Students in your prayers as they prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time May 5th @ 2pm.

CONFIRMATION MASS & Rehearsal 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 sponsors & candidates.

THANK YOU – to all of our parishioners who helped clean the parish grounds Saturday morning. This annual clean-up was a welcomed event especially as we prepare for First Communion & Mother's Day Masses. Thanks to Sandra Beaulieu & Steve Guillotte for taking point in different areas of our clean-up along with myself and many other committed parish families.

Mrs. Hammarquist jlh@sfxparish.com



The Incredulity of St. Thomas
Mattia Preti (1660)

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." (Jn 20:28-29)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8		ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS
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Christ is risen..... Truly he is risen! Our faculty and students returned to school from their April break with the joy of the Resurrection in their hearts and on their faces! All appeared rested and ready to tackle the final stretch of the 2018-2019 school year. The end-of-year activities are plentiful, and so it is necessary for all parents to keep an eye on our master calendar in order to stay well informed! We have miles to go, and much left to learn before reaching the finish line. For starters, students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will need to demonstrate growth and mastery of grade level concepts as they complete their third round of MAP Growth standardized testing. This testing platform is new to the diocese, and has replaced the historical IOWA Test of Basic Skills. Within the next few weeks, our students will complete this computer-based assessment for the final time this school year; individual growth in knowledge will be determined based on the data provided. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our parish school. *Alleluia...we are truly blessed!*

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
April 28th	- Diocesan Assessment
May 12th	- Parish Building Fund
May 19th	- Diocesan Assessment

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Confessions:
2:00 to 3:00 pm

Chaplet & Holy Hour:
3:00 pm

April
28th

READINGS FOR AND WEEK OF APRIL 28, 2019
Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31
Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21
St. Joseph the Worker: Gn 1:26--2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 16 [cf.17b]/Mt 13:54-58
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36
Friday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/Jn 6:16-21



Women of Grace HAPPY EASTER!

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.

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 **Tues. May 7th.**

SFX PARISH IS SAVING BABIES IN THE WOMB: Thank you to all parishioners and our other supporters for coming out to pray with us in Attleboro at the last abortion clinic in the diocese. **We had two saves on Saturday, 13 April.** What this means is that two women left the clinic area and did not abort their babies as they had planned to that day. These women were not threatened or frightened into changing their minds. They were talked to about the option of "LIFE" by pregnancy resource counselors who were on site that day. One of the women-with-child made an appointment to go to the resource center for help. The other women, Spanish-speaking (and the mother of three children), received translation from a person associated with our parish & accepted information to call the resource counselor. **Interestingly,** we were told by the coordinator of the Attleboro *40 days for Life* that about 50% of all the "saves" they have had at this 40 Days site have been when our parish was in attendance! This a great grace to our parish and its commitment to prayer and the culture of life. We are looking forward to the next campaign.

Please pray for all our 1st Communion Children, as they take the Heart of Christ out into the world...



May 5th - 2:00 pm



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: As we move through the Easter season it is time to replenish our shelves that were reduced after the preparation of our Easter baskets. We are in need again of the following items: breakfast cereal, peanut butter & jellies, soup, canned ravioli & spaghetti (such as Spaghettios), canned tuna & chicken. Once again thank you for all your material support throughout the year and have a wonderful Easter season.

How the Baby Grows in the Womb...



Month 3
Plan a healthy diet and regular exercise.

Weight Height Size
About 7.6 -10 cm (3-4 inches) long and weighs about 28g (1 ounce).

What's Happening
Your baby's arms, hands, fingers, feet, and toes are now fully formed and your baby can open and close his/her fists and mouth. Fingernails and toenails are beginning to develop and the ears are formed. Your baby's reproductive organs also develop, but your baby's gender is still too difficult to distinguish on ultrasound.

What to expect
You can now add feeling faint to the list! As your appetite improves, food cravings may develop. Good news: you will now be able to hear your baby's heartbeat on ultrasound!



By firsttimepregnancy.org

FIRST FRIDAY MASSES



May 3rd - 9 am & 6pm

Followed by Sacred Heart Holy Hour

A Day with
Mary...

... is a Day with
Jesus!



SATURDAY, 4 MAY - 8 AM TO 2:45 PM

Sunday of Divine Mercy - April 28, 2019

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

BY DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER

People say that habits, good or bad, die hard. Unfortunately, the habit of such prayer as we have been considering —namely the overall recollection kept alive by aspirations— is all too easily dropped. No more is needed than a change of environment, a new set of friends, a love affair, an illness, a line of reading which opens up a secular interest, and the structure of prayer which has been so carefully built up is found to collapse.

Prayer does not leave a man overnight never to return. But if helped on by a contrary habit, the process of disintegration can be as swift as it is unnoticed and un-repined. Gruesome as it is to watch the decline in other people, we take little account of it when it happens in our own case. The powers of evil make a point of seeing that this is so.

We shuffle all too lightly out of our earlier endeavor, forgetting what it was which kept us to our purpose in the past. We can become a little scornful of what we now consider to be the devotions of beginners. This is pride, but often it is hard to distinguish—particularly when we have not the light of prayer to go by—between pride and liberty of spirit. We should remember that the habit of recollection is all the harder to revive when once it has been allowed to lapse.

THANK YOU: to parishioner Doug Corrigan for hanging the new crucifix over the altar. Doug also installed the new ceiling fans in the church. Thanks also to Mike and Janine Hammarquist for building and painting the new shrine for the parish crucifix that once hung near the ambo in the sanctuary. Thanks also to John Guillotte for repairing plaster damage in a window in the church narthex.

TICKETS FOR ORDINATION OF STEVEN BOOTH: The long-awaited ordination of parishioner and seminarian Steven Booth is very close upon us. Steven will be ordained a transitional deacon on **Saturday, 11 May** right here in our own parish. We have made up tickets for this occasion and they will be available in the parish office for pick-up beginning this week. Please stop by the parish office from Monday through Friday to get you tickets or call the parish office and we can leave the tickets for you in an envelope in the parish church vestry (the room on the right as you enter the church) in an envelope marked with your name. You will need to pick these up at the weekend Masses. Please note that on the day of the event there will be parking in the church and also at the school. You may walk from the school to the church if you choose or you may catch a shuttle from the school to the parish with one of the Men of St. Joseph volunteers who will be transporting attendees to the parish church. Please continue to keep Steven Booth in your prayers.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	April 28	
1 st Communion Reader & Gift Bearer Rehearsal	9:00am	Church
Rel. Ed Levels 1-6	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
Rel. Ed Levels 7-9	11:40am -12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
Confessions	2:00 - 3:00pm	Church
Divine Mercy Holy Hour	3:00 - 4:00pm	Church
Monday	April 29	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7:00pm	Church
<i>Eucharistic Adoration:</i>		
<i>Rel. Ed Level 2</i>	7:30-8:30pm	Church
Tuesday	April 30	
Vespers	6:30pm-7:00pm	Church
Wednesday	May 1	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7:00pm	Church
Thursday	May 2	
1 st Communion Rehearsal	6:30pm	Church
Friday	May 3	
<i>Men of the Sacred Heart</i>		
<i>Holy Hour</i>	6:30 - 7:30pm	Church
Saturday	May 4	
<i>Day with Mary</i>	8am - 3:15pm	Church
Holy Rosary	3:30pm	Church

UPCOMING ORDINATION CELEBRATIONS

FRIDAY, 10 MAY 2019 - 7:00 PM

- ◇ This is an Ordination Vigil *Holy Hour* for Steven Booth and Tony Pimentel - Come pray for our two candidates before the Blessed Sacrament.

SATURDAY, 11 MAY 2019 -11:00 AM

- ◇ This is the diaconal ordination celebration of Steven Booth in our parish church with a reception to follow immediately at the parish school auditorium. Call the parish office for tickets.

SATURDAY, 18 MAY 2019 - 4:00 PM

- ◇ This is the Mass of Thanksgiving for the diaconal ordination of Tony Pimentel which occurs earlier in the day at the cathedral in Fall River. After the 4:00 pm Mass we will hold a reception for Tony in the parish school auditorium.