

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
in Lent  
7 April 2019

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

### Mass Schedule

(April 6<sup>th</sup> - April 14<sup>th</sup>)

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Apr 06</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent (Vigil) (Vi)</b> Clara & Eugene Bonville
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Apr 07</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent (Vi)</b> <i>Pro Populo</i> Antonio & Ana Resendes & Daughter
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Apr 08</b>	<b>Lenten Weekday (Vi)</b> Carol Desrosiers-Graf
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Apr 09</b>	<b>Lenten Weekday (Vi)</b> Jaime da Fonseca
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Apr 10</b>	<b>Lenten Weekday (Vi)</b> Don & Helen Watts
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Apr 11</b>	<b>St. Stanislaus; Bishop &amp; Martyr (Vi)</b> Ceasar Fernandes and Mr. & Mrs. Jose De Sousa
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Apr 12</b>	<b>Lenten Weekday (Vi)</b> Marc Bouchard
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Apr 13</b>	<b>St. Martin I; Pope &amp; Martyr (Vi)</b> Claudette Siler
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Apr 13</b>	<b>Palm Sunday (Vigil) (Rd)</b> <i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Apr 14</b>	<b>Palm Sunday (Rd)</b> Rose & Manny Medeiros Month's Mind

### Financial Report

**Income:**

4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent .....	\$4,633.76
Catholic Relief Services .....	\$1,479.66

### 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: Ann Bennett*

### CONFESSIONS

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

### FROM FR. WILLIAMS

#### BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE IS THE JOB OF US ALL

With the flood of legislative proposals to strengthen legal and tax-based support of abortion, we can feel powerless in the face of a drive for abortion among the political class. I have heard your calls for the Church to do more – and have read many others saying the same thing. In response I have a question for you: who is the Church?

Oftentimes when it is said that the Church needs to take action on something, it means that the bishops and priests need to speak up and act up more. It goes without saying that the ordained ministers of the Church need to lead on moral issues. I hope you will join with me this Saturday at the abortion clinic in Attleboro for a prayer vigil of which our parish is a part – sign ups and directions are on the table by the door. You have certainly heard both Deacon Pepin and myself speak out on moral issues in our homilies. But the job of bringing our Christian values into our culture is not our job alone – it's yours too!

The Second Vatican Council, meeting in the early 1960's, taught that *the laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God...They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven. They are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven. In this way they may make Christ known to others, especially by the testimony of a life resplendent in faith, hope and charity (Lumen Gentium, n. 31).*

We know the words of Christ: "You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world." Perhaps it would be good to reflect more on how these are directed to each of us in a personal manner, both to inspire and to challenge. It must be acknowledged that the power of the Church hierarchy to influence social matters is weakened because of the abuse scandal. This is the time for you – the lay faithful – who are just as much members of the Church as the clergy – to educate yourselves on the issues and organize responses to the needs of our times.

Many of you are already responding to needs in our area: through your public advocacy on issues of life and marriage; through your concern for helping the needy in our local community, especially by members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and those who serve at Damian's Pantry; and through the many other ways in which you serve others in the Spirit of Christ.

So next time you find yourself thinking, "The Church needs to do something..." – remember, *you too* are a member of the Church – and ask, "What will *I* do?"

# 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

*Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." (Jn: 8:6-7)*

The biblical narrative of the adulteress who was brought by the scribes and Pharisees before Jesus for judgment is (in the gospel of John) a brief but profound story. St. John related this story not only to instruct his readers about how Jesus was tested and pursued by the Jewish leadership, but also as a lesson about divine absolution. It is true that the Pharisees had earlier sent some officials to arrest Jesus (Jn 7:32). It is also true that the Pharisees even imputed one of their own, Nicodemus, for listening to Jesus (Jn 7:52). These are important points as John prepares to relate the Passion of Christ. However, this story is not only about the growing conspiracy against Jesus; it is also about the developing science of sacramental forgiveness.

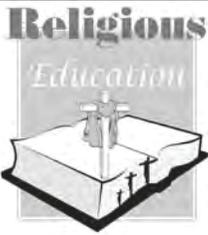
Notice that the story does not follow the normal sacramental order of Confession: examination of conscience, firm purpose of amendment, confession, penance, and absolution. Yet, all parts of the confessional experience are present. First, the woman was *caught in adultery* and so the confession comes rather as an accusation. This is how we should all approach confession – as if caught in the act and exposed to accusation before God. Next comes the demanded penance which Jesus forgoes for now in place of the examination of conscience - not only for the adulteress, but also for her accusers (the practice of which thankfully curtails their own sin of murder). Finally, Jesus forgives the adulteress by way of His divine omniscience; for he graciously perceives her sorrow and her intent to amend her life. Lastly, underlying this science of reconciliation is its unspoken vital principle for all absolution: that in order to be forgiven, one must be willing to forgive others (Mt 18:33-34).

To recall this wonderful narrative of divine forgiveness on this **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**, we place on our bulletin cover a work by the Venetian Rococo painter **Giovanni Battista Tiepolo** entitled, *Woman Taken in Adultery* (courtesy of the Smithsonian American Art Museum). Rococo was a highly decorative style expanded from the Baroque, and Tiepolo was one of its masters who painted ceilings and other frescos with ornate religious, classical, and allegorical themes.

We are only able to show the central portion of the painting. We see a Pharisee standing behind the woman with his hand up as if to hail Jesus' authority when in truth he has come to undermine it. Tiepolo creates an invisible diagonal, an interlocking "look" between Jesus and the Pharisee which visually goes *through* the woman. Absent is the force of any stone throwers while Jesus Himself is presented forward-kneeling on left leg as one able and ready to pounce forward in defense of the lady. This may also be why the Pharisee appears with docile bow, hiding behind the woman from the strong justice of Our Lord.

Now our adulteress may not be the guiltless Susanna protected by Daniel (Dn 13:48), however she has, as every repentant sinner does, the merciful protection of Jesus Christ.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent - April 7, 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\*\***

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

**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 9:15am in the church.

**PARISH PROPERTY CLEAN-UP:** All Confirmation Students, Men of St. Joseph and Women of Grace are invited to help in cleaning up around the church and rectory. This is our once per year outdoor spring cleaning when we prepare our property before First Communion & Mother's Day and this year a special Diaconate Ordination for Steve Booth. We will meet on the grounds **after the 9:00am Mass on Sat., April 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Reminder:** Stations of the Cross  
7pm every Friday during Lent  
**\*\*Living Stations Friday April 12th\*\***

**No Classes on Sun. April 14th** (Palm Sunday start of School Vacation) or **Sunday April 21st** (Easter Sunday)  
**Classes Resume on Sun. April 28th.**



*Christ & the Adulteress*  
Lorenzo Lotto (1528)

*"Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." (Jn 8:6b-7)*

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

Our National Junior Honor Society "knocked our socks off" with their encouragement toward generosity this Lenten season. Over **one thousand** pairs of socks were donated by our school family and delivered by our NJHS. The *Sister Rose Network of Shelters* was thrilled with our outpouring of love! You will notice over the next few weeks that we have begun construction of a new, safe, play-space and recreation area for our students! Thanks to the generosity of MANY to the **Call of the Heart** fundraising, we have begun the first phase of construction! The project includes: moving our playground space away from the school building and onto the field area, the addition of new swings & wood chips, and the extension of our basketball area. The space where our existing playground is will be replaced by a blacktop "peaceful playground" where students can run and play, and this will also serve as an overflow parking area for heavily attended events. Please pray for our project to be safe and successful!

**God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal**

**UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

<b>April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	- Parish Building Fund
<b>April 19<sup>th</sup></b>	- Good Friday (Holy Land)
<b>April 21<sup>st</sup></b>	- Easter Sunday - Retired Priests

NEXT SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY

### SFX PARISH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday</b>		
Rel. Ed Levels 1-6	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
Rel. Ed Levels 7-9	11:40am -12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
HS Youth Group	6:30-8:30pm	School
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 8</b>	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
<i>Eucharistic Adoration:</i>		
<i>Rel. Ed Level 2</i>	7:30-8:30pm	Church
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 9</b>	
Vespers	6:30pm-7:00pm	Church
<i>Women of Grace:</i>		
<i>Book Study</i>	7:00 pm	Parish Ctr.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 10</b>	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7:00pm	Church
<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 12</b>	
<i>The Living Stations</i>	7:00-7:45pm	Church



## Women of Grace

A Huge Thank You to Allison Gingras for joining us this past Tuesday during our Lenten Study. Please take time to research

these Faith Journals as they are faith inspiring and a relaxing way to work through scripture.

We will continue each Tuesday evening until April 16th.

*"The Gift of Invitation: 7 ways Jesus invites you to a Life of Grace"* written by Allison Gingras; meeting times at noon and 7pm.

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.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE:** On Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, the day before Palm Sunday, our parishioners will come together in Attleboro to pray across the street from the last abortion clinic in diocesan territory between the hours of 6 am and 2 pm. This is a non-confrontational event focused on keeping prayerful vigil for all the women and their unborn children who enter the clinic on that day and to pray for an end to abortion. We will also pray for the conversion of the abortion doctor and clinic staff. We have placed a sign-up sheet in the church narthex and hope that all our "old faithfuls" along with many new parishioners will join us for this special pro-life event! Sheets with directions to the event are also on the sign-up table.

LIVING STATIONS  
OF THE CROSS  
Friday, 12 April  
7:00 pm



Performed Live by our parish Youth Groups

## THESE GUYS NEED YOUR HELP!



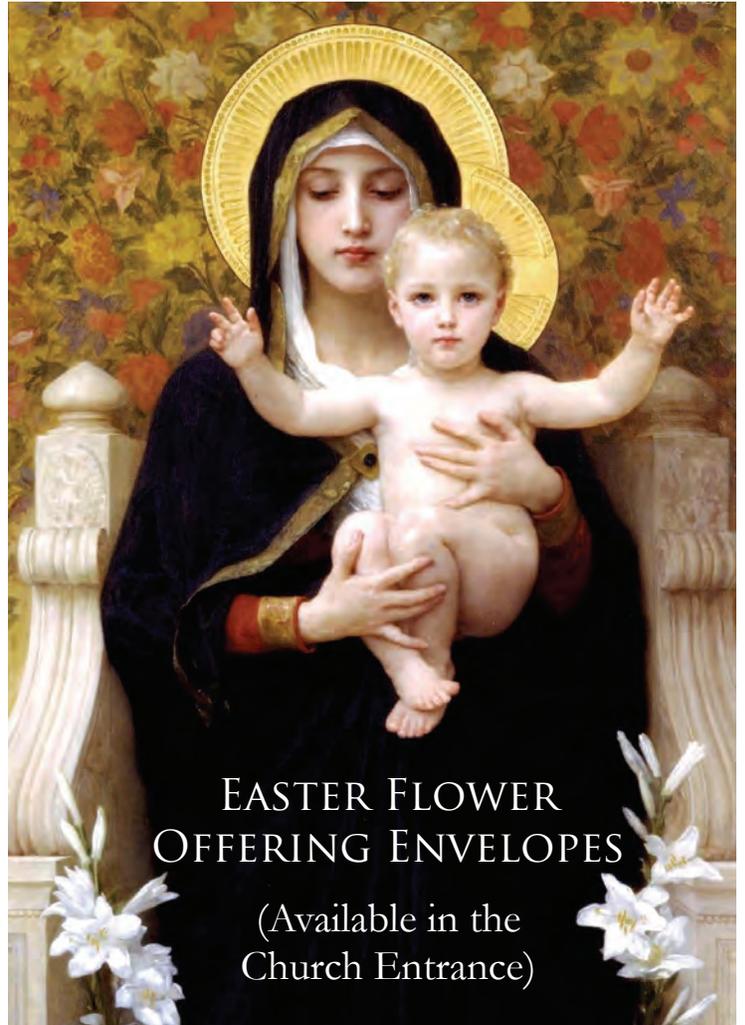
Annual Parish Clean Up - Sat. 27, April @ 9 am

## SFX PRAYER LINE

Please call 508-850-6649 between 8am & 8pm

Or email your prayer request to:

[sfxprayerline@gmail.com](mailto:sfxprayerline@gmail.com)



## EASTER FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES

(Available in the  
Church Entrance)



**FOOD ITEMS NEEDED:** 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.

## READINGS FOR WEEK OF APRIL 7, 2019

Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 3:8-14/  
Jn 8:1-11

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps  
23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:12-20

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-  
30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56  
[52b]/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn  
10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/  
Jn 11:45-56

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent - April 7, 2019

### 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT OFFICE OF READINGS BY ST. ATHANASIUS, BISHOP

The Word who became all things for us is close to us, our Lord Jesus Christ who promises to remain with us always. He cries out, saying: "See, I am with you all the days of this age." He is himself the shepherd, the high priest, the way and the door, and has become all things at once for us. In the same way, he has come among us as our feast and holy day as well. The blessed Apostle says of him who was awaited: "Christ has been sacrificed as our Passover." It was Christ who shed his light on the psalmist as he prayed: "You are my joy, deliver me from those surrounding me." True joy, genuine festival, means the casting out of wickedness. To achieve this one must live a life of perfect goodness and, in the serenity of the fear of God, practice contemplation in one's heart.

This was the way of the saints... Blessed David, for example, not once but seven times rose at night to win God's favor through prayer. The great Moses was full of joy as he sang God's praises in hymns of victory for the defeat of Pharaoh and the oppressors of the Hebrew people. Others had hearts filled always with gladness as they performed their sacred duty of worship, like the great Samuel and the blessed Elijah. Because of their holy lives they gained freedom, and now keep festival in heaven...

When we celebrate the feast in our own day, what path are we to take? As we draw near to this feast, who is to be our guide? Beloved, it must be none other than the one whom you will address with me as our Lord Jesus Christ. He says: "I am the way." As blessed John tells us: it is Christ "who takes away the sin of the world." It is he who purifies our souls, as the prophet Jeremiah says: "Stand upon the ways; look and see which is the good path, and you will find in it the way of amendment for your souls."

In former times the blood of goats and the ashes of a calf were sprinkled on those who were unclean... Now through the grace of God's Word everyone is made abundantly clean. If we follow Christ closely we shall be allowed, even on this earth, to stand as it were on the threshold of the heavenly Jerusalem, and enjoy the contemplation of that everlasting feast, like the blessed apostles, who in following the Savior as their leader, showed, and still show, the way to obtain the same gift from God. They said: "See, we have left all things and followed you." We too follow the Lord, and we keep his feast by deeds rather than by words.

**CATHOLIC NIGHT AT FENWAY PARK:** is being held Monday, **June 24<sup>th</sup>** with game time at 7:10 pm. We are planning to get a bus again to take a parish group to the game against the White Sox. Ticket price is \$40 per person for the outfield grandstand. We will make order forms available soon and you can make your checks payable to *St. Francis Xavier Parish*. **The deadline to sign up is April 25<sup>th</sup>.** (Forms are in the church narthex).

**GOSNELL MOVIE:** St. Anthony of Padua Parish of New Bedford is showing "Gosnell" on **Palm Sunday** to begin at the Hour of Mercy **3:00 pm**. This event is free of charge and everyone is welcome. This movie is rated PG-13 and you can view the official trailer at [www.gosnellmovie.com](http://www.gosnellmovie.com) "Gosnell" presents the dramatic true story of the arrest and trial of abortion doctor, Kermit Gosnell.

**OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS:** **This weekend** after the Masses, Christian Catholic Families of Bethlehem will be selling Crucifixes, religious art work, and Rosaries - all made of olive wood which is native to Israel and Bethlehem. Christian families in the Holy Land have been greatly affected by conflicts and sale of these goods will help them very much. Please browse and consider buying some of these articles from the Holy Land. Thank you.

**RCIA SCRUTINIES:** In the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults* we celebrate "scrutinies" or special liturgical rites which serve as an examination of conscience to those catechumens elected to prepare to receive the holy sacraments and as an intercession to their most hopeful progress in the faith. We are holding these special rites on Monday evening prayer (Vespers). The final celebration will be **this Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>** (Presentation of the Lord's Prayer). Please attend these prayerful rites and accompany Lauren on her approach to Easter vigil.

**PLEASE BE AWARE:** that our Mass Book is **now full** for the period of July thru December 2019. At present we can still offer parishioners and others Masses prayed in Rome, however in-parish Masses for the period of January thru June 2020 will not be taken in the office until early July 2019.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**SFX PARISH DAY WITH MARY** - On the *1<sup>st</sup> Saturday* in May, **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**, we will host our annual participation in the Day With Mary. We will begin at 8 am with a procession of Our Lady of Fatima statue with litany and Rosary. Mass will be held at the usual time of 9 am. There will be breaks throughout the day and time to visit the "bookstore" in the parish center. A meditation on Our Lady, a Fatima video presentation, and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will all be part of the day. Please bring a bag lunch.