

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



23rd Sunday
In Ordinary Time
8 September 2019

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(September 7th - September 15th)

Sat.	Sept 07	23rd Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)
	4:00pm	Anne Medeiros
Sun.	Sept 08	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr)
	8:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:30am	<i>Month's Mind</i>
Mon.	Sept 09	St. Peter Claver; Priest (Wh)
	9:00am	Bill Duggan & Jon-Joseph Laflamme
Tues.	Sept 10	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Domingos Lima
Wed.	Sept 11	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Margaret Bevilacqua
	5:15pm	9/11 Memorial Mass
Thurs.	Sept 12	The Most Holy Name of Mary (Wh)
	9:00am	Jose Alves & Maria Belo
Fri.	Sept 13	St. John Chrysostom; Bishop (Wh)
	9:00am	Paulino, Anna Vieira & Daughter
Sat.	Sept 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Rd)
	9:00am	Donald Cardoza
Sat.	Sept 14	24th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)
	4:00pm	Intentions of Michelle Poirier & Scott Silverstein
Sun.	Sept 15	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr)
	8:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:30am	Abel & Ernestina Rego

Financial Report

Income:

Due to the early bulletin submission deadline before Labor Day, we have no income information for September 1st.

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 **Christian Fonseca** who was baptized in the parish church on Sunday, 1 September.

Sanctuary Lamp

*During Eucharistic Adoration please pray for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle burns this week: **Robert Tisdelle***

CONFESSIONS

Monday: 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Saturday: 9:30 to 10:00am

Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45pm

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

AN OLD MAXIM PROVES ITS WORTH

Lex orandi, lex credendi: loosely translated, it means *how you pray shows what you believe*. First formulated by the fifth century theologian St. Prosper of Aquitaine, it shows the link between our prayer and our belief.

I was thinking of this recently in the light of a recent poll about the faith of Catholics in the Holy Eucharist. The poll asked whether they believe that bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ in the Mass. The results were both startling and depressing. One headline simply stated, "Just one-third of U.S. Catholics agree with their church that Eucharist is body, blood of Christ."

The truth is somewhat more complicated. When the net results are taken into account, that number is true: 31% believe what the Church believes, that the bread and wine are transformed, while 69% of Catholics think that they are only symbols of Jesus Christ but remain only bread and wine. When the results are broken down, a different picture emerges: of Catholics who go to Mass weekly or more, 63% believe that the bread and wine are transformed at Mass, while of those who go seldom or never, only 13% believe this.

How you pray shows what you believe: if we make the time to come to Mass, it makes sense that we know why we come: not just for a symbolic commemoration, but for Communion with the Body and Blood, Soul & Divinity of Jesus Christ. The Mass makes present the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and foreshadows the Wedding Feast of the Lamb in Heaven at the end of time. But does how we worship at Mass reflect our belief that this is true?

Need I wonder if a casual approach to Mass – including on the part of priests – has contributed to the decline of faith in the Eucharist? The survey showed that, while 38% of all those (attending and not) over age 60 shared in the faith of the Church, only 26% of those under age 40 did. While I am grateful for the many faithful and holy priests who served as models for me, I can also remember times when Mass seemed like more of a show or social occasion than worship of God. If this is the case, can't it be understood that people wouldn't believe that such an awesome reality would be handled so casually?

This is why, here at St. Francis Xavier, we take special care to celebrate the Mass with reverence and in a way that marks it as being apart from our normal lives. Simple things like the use of incense and Communion patens invite us to reflect on why they are used: simply, because it is a way for us to show in our actions what we know is happening at Mass. *How you pray shows what you believe.*

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, Pastor

[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]

[ministry@sfxacushnet.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

'... After laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.' (Lk 14:29-30)

Our present age has increasingly little interest or regard for the resources of the past. Modern eras tend to be that way. We care about the next smart phone, the next e-book, the next technological breakthrough more than we seem to care about an in-person conversation, a classic tale, or knitting. Secularism, materialism and consumerism all contribute to this departure from the past and tradition.

Even the Church has had a hand in this. For instance, the recent LCWR Conference of women religious spoke much about “making meaning” but little to nothing of “making it” with the stuff of our rich ecclesial past. Many others in the Church today can't say the word “tradition” without wincing. To still others the Latin Mass for example is the “old Mass”; old, of course, being a bad thing. What these individuals have yet come to understand is that without a high regard for the ancient and historical Mass, there comes about eventually little interest in the Mass itself. A family, a country, a Church without its past is as St. James says – like a man who sees his own face in the mirror and after walking away *promptly* forgets what he looks like (Ja 1:23).

Here at St. Francis Xavier Parish we try very hard not to forget. The use of relics makes us remember the saints, incense makes us remember the Holy of Holies, male altar servers makes us remember the Last Supper; Eucharistic Adoration makes us remember the Real Presence of Jesus. We believe that we have a duty to remember; a *piety* for fully living out our belief or else what is this Gift of Holy Spirit for? If we don't recall our heritage day after day, who else will encourage us to do so?

Hence we have deposited on our bulletin cover for this **23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time** a work by the Dutch master, **Rembrandt**, entitled *Aristotle with a Bust of Homer* (1653). The Dutch Baroque was subdued compared to its Italian and the Spanish expression, but its magnificent use of light emerging from darkness offers a wonderful contemplative experience.

Here is the great Greek philosopher Aristotle presented as a Dutch noble with his hand resting on the head of the Greek epic poet Homer. Aristotle looks back at least three centuries into his past and recalls the literary heritage which raised and educated him. He honors it with his entire posture in quiet reflection. If we can imagine Aristotle just a moment before, with *both* hands on his hips before he reaches out to touch the bust, it would bespeak a bearing of surprise such as “Well, what do we have here!” Homer was blind, but Aristotle gives him sight; for the past is blind without those in the present to give it vision.

What we see in this image is a discovery of the past. So then, what of us? Was not the rediscovery of our most vital resources the best, intended purpose of Vatican II – a rediscovery of the Church Fathers and the original meaning of our faith and liturgy? Why then do we insist today on looking past our blessed past?

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 8, 2019



Religious Education Registrations: If your family are parishioners and you have a child that is in public school Grades 1-8 (9th grade Public or Catholic school) and would like him/her to attend our program for the 2019/2020 year please call the office to set up an appt. with Mrs. Hammarquist. Classes begin on Sunday September 22nd.

If you are a parishioner here at St. Francis and your child is attending a Catholic School other than St. Francis and will be entering the 1st/2nd grade (First Communion Program) or 8th grade this school year please contact Mrs. Hammarquist at jlh@sfxparish.com. St. Francis Xavier School should have received their registration forms by mail this week. If you did not please contact the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAMILIES: At the beginning of classes this year we will gather our summer travelers to share photos and stories and to see who traveled farthest, or who attended Mass in the most unique locales. If you had a “staycation” did you take a day trip to a historic church, basilica or humble chapel? We can’t wait to hear all about the Catholic sights or activities that you took part in. If you happened to hold on to a bulletin from a place you visited we would love for you to bring it in and share your experience.

Religious Education Office hours are Mon, Tues, & Fri 9:30-Noon until Sept. 10th. Office will be closed Friday Sept. 13th Mrs. Hammarquist will be on her yearly retreat and praying for all of the Religious Education Families. If you need to contact Mrs. Hammarquist please email her at jlh@sfxparish.com.



Consolator
Carl Bloch (XIX Century)

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. (Jn 3:13, 17)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

This past week, we welcomed the youngest members of our school family back into the fold! Our preschoolers had their first day of school on Tuesday, with some smiles and some tears! We also held our annual Welcome Back Parents Night, which provides the opportunity to introduce our faculty, review our accomplishments, and set new goals for a successful year. This year, two separate evenings allowed us the opportunity to spend quality time with our middle school parents, explaining the uniqueness of our program and the commitment to academic excellence for our students. Parents were able to see their children’s classrooms where the hard work will ensue during this school year. Our students will grow academically, emotionally, socially, and most importantly spiritually over the course of the school year. Please continue to pray for the success of our parish school!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

September 8th	- St. Francis Xavier School
September 15th	- Diocesan Assessment
September 22nd	- Building Fund

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday	September 9	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
Tuesday	September 10	
Vespers	6:30pm-7:00pm	Church
Wednesday	September 11	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7:00pm	Church

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 [1]/ Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33
 Monday: Col 1:24--2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9 [8]/Lk 6:6-11
 Tuesday: Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11 [9]/Lk 6:12-19
 Wednesday: Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab [9]/Lk 6:20-26
 Thursday: Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [6]/Lk 6:27-38
 Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11 [cf. 5]/Lk 6:39-42
 Saturday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 [cf. 7b]/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17



To All the Women of the Parish: Consider preparing for the Fall by joining fellow Parishioners at the **RI Catholic Women's Conference on Saturday, September 21st**. The Diocese of Providence is sponsoring this conference at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul. Check-in begins at 7:00 am with Holy Mass at 8:00 am; includes engaging talks by Angela Franks and Kelly Wahlquist. Vendors, swag bags and live music ministry will round out the day. Tickets are \$40 and include coffee and lunch. Tickets must be purchased in advance and will not be sold at the door. For more information go to www.discovercatholicfaith.org/womens-conference. If you have difficulty purchasing your ticket on-line please call 401-278-4646.

Crated to Relate by Kelly Wahlquist will be the Women of Grace book study later this year. This is a great opportunity to meet the author. Car-pooling can be arranged. Please contact **Carol Eccleston** at green68nova@yahoo.com with any questions.

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



9/11 Memorial Mass
This Wednesday
5:15 pm

With 6 pm Memorial at Acushnet Fire Station

MONTH'S MIND MASS
We remember the following individuals that were deceased or memorialized in the past month at our Sunday, 8 Sept. - 10:30 am Mass:
Yvonne Adams
Sarah-Jane Kirby

ANNUAL APPEAL: Our 2019-2020 Parish Annual Appeal began last weekend on September 1st. Parishioners should have received a letter from Father Williams, along with an annual report for FY 2019 and a donation/pledge card. **If you did not receive a mailing please call the parish office.**

This appeal raises funds that are exclusively for parish expenses and which remain in the parish either for parish operations or savings. The Annual Appeal is a very important revenue line item without which we would not be able to meet our annual operations budget.

The pledge card enables you to make a one time donation or a pledge that may be paid "semi-annually" (in two installments) or monthly. Your credit card can be processed in installments as you choose or the parish office is glad to send you a monthly invoice (over ten months) for the payment amount determined by you. The appeal ends on June 30, 2020.

As noted above, your participation in this appeal is essential to us meeting our regular bills, but **most importantly** to maintaining an authentic Catholic presence in Acushnet and the surrounding area so that the life and words of Jesus Christ will be kept current for all to see and hear.

How the Baby Grows in the Womb...



Month 7
Time to start thinking about maternity leave and your birth plan.

Weight Height Size
Between 30 to 35 cm (12 to 14 inches) long and weighs between 1 to 1.8 kg (2 and 4 pounds).

What's Happening
He or she changes position frequently and responds to stimuli, including sound, pain, and light. Your baby's skin is still wrinkled, red and translucent. The taste buds have developed.



What to expect
Many women start experiencing Braxton Hicks contractions. Stretch marks may appear as your skin continues to stretch.

By firsttimepregnancy.org



OUR PARISH ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: would like to thank all parishioners and others for their offerings at the Masses of the Solemnity of the Assumption. Though your generosity we received over \$1,800 towards our work with the local poor and those in need. We thank both pastor and parish for passing on to us the collection money from all the Church's annual Holy Days. We are able to accomplish so much more because of these helpful funds!

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

BY DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER

This new argument which is brought to bear—an argument which withholds its conclusion until the human intellect enters upon the next life—is of the very essence of religion. Without the argument of faith which gives it meaning, the cross is a scandal and a folly. To the Greeks who sought after wisdom, there was no sense in the crucifixion.

To rely solely on the wisdom of the syllogism is to stop short at the threshold of true wisdom. No wonder the wisdom of the world fails to find God: its search is lacking in the first ingredient. If those who are fools in the eyes of the world possess faith, they are putting to shame the wisdom of the world. To the ignorant who believe in Christ there is no contradiction in the idea of one who was both God and man dying upon a cross.

By a curious paradox those who want to see God contained within the terms of a definition before they believe are just those who will not see God contained within the figure on the cross. The believer may be a fool to believe, but the unbeliever narrows the field of his wisdom. 'While it is possible for the Christian to be mistaken,' writes Abbot Christopher Butler, 'it is not possible for the agnostic to possess the truth.'

SEPTEMBER MOVIE SHOWING: On Sunday 28 September in the school gym/auditorium we will present a showing of the movie *Paul Apostle of Christ*. The movie will begin at 6:30 pm and its presentation is the kick-off of our annual Adult Education Series which this Fall will focus on the writings and life of St. Paul.

We bought this movie with all its permissions in order to show it to a large audience so please come and consider bringing a friend or family member. This is an opportunity for you play some part in evangelization by perhaps bringing someone along who is not yet ready to come or return to Holy Mass.

We don't have the recliners and the cup holders of today's semi-luxurious movie theatres but we do have lots of fellowship and hospitality - hope to see you all there!

FALL ADULT EDUCATION: We are ramping up for a scriptural study of St. Paul's work (or rather the spirit of Paul's life and message) to be presented on **October 3, 7, 10 & 17**. Father Williams, Deacon David Pepin, and Director of Pastoral Services, Steven Guillotte will be the presenters. The theme running throughout the talks will be "grace": salvation through grace, renewal in grace, the essence of grace and the power of God's grace. There will be two, one-hour sessions on the dates noted above: after 9 am Mass (9:45 am) and at 7:00pm.

A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: will be celebrated with a special Mass of Thanksgiving for couples observing significant wedding anniversaries during 2019 (including 1st Year). This celebration will take place on **Sunday, 6 October 2019 at 3:00 pm** at St. Mary Cathedral in Fall River. If you would like to receive an invitation, please contact Father Williams as soon as possible.

SCHOOL COLLECTION: The second collection for **this Sunday, 8 September** goes directly to support our parish school. This is our once per year collection which gives everyone in the parish (visitors included) the opportunity to give directly to local Catholic education, in particular to our parish school which takes specific pride in its Catholic identity. Every penny of the collection is directed to the school. Thank you for your assistance.

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: If you know of any person at home who cannot get out to attend Holy Mass and that person would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please speak with Father Williams, Deacon David Pepin or call the parish office. We would be glad to get the person on the schedule to have the Holy Eucharist brought to their home.

THANK YOU: to all volunteers and all others who participated in our August 29th presentation of the first class relics of St. Anthony of Padua. We were blessed to be one of the parishes in the Fall River Diocese to host these travelling relics from Padua, Italy.

Father Alessandro, the Conventual Franciscan Friar who accompanies these relics, preached at the 9:00 am Mass about St. Anthony of Padua and gave a special talk in front of the relics to our parish school students in the parish church.

This was a special event that brought by many visitors; so once again, thank you for your participation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PRO-LIFE OCTOBER AT SFX PARISH: We are gearing up for another month dedicated to human life. In October we hold our traditional **Baby Bottle Campaign** in which you fill baby bottles with coin (or bills) to donate to a local pregnancy resource center which offers alternatives to abortion and faithful support through and beyond pregnancy. Next we will hold a parish **blood drive** on **Sunday 20 October** with the usual mobile clinic in our parking lot. Lastly, we will once again join in prayerful vigil in Attleboro across from the single remaining abortion clinic in our diocese. Our *40 Days for Life* sponsorship day will be **Saturday 26 October**. October has a few other surprises, so stay tuned!