

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



Baptism of
The Lord
12 January 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(January 11th - January 19th)

Sat.	Jan 11	Baptism of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh) 4:00pm Bob & Rachel Tisdelle
Sun.	Jan 12	Baptism of the Lord (Wh) 8:00am <i>Pro Populo</i> 10:30am <i>Month's Mind</i>
Mon.	Jan 13	St. Hilary; Bishop (Wh) 9:00am Carl & Rita Toussaint
Tues.	Jan 14	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Sam & Jeanne Flint
Wed.	Jan 15	Feria (Gr) 8:00am The Sequin Family
Thurs.	Jan 16	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Bill Duggan & Jon-Joseph LaFlamme
Fri.	Jan 17	St. Anthony; Abbot (Wh) 9:00am Joe & Seloma Cunha
Sat.	Jan 18	Blessed Virgin Mary (Wh) 9:00am Carlos Almeida
Sat.	Jan 18	2nd Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) 4:00pm Andre Gaudette
Sun.	Jan 19	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr) 8:00am Dorothy Mello & Cynthia Rebello 10:30am <i>Pro Populo</i>

Financial Report

Income:

Feast of the Holy Family.....	\$4,876.25
Mary, Mother of God	\$2,736.33
Feast of Epiphany	\$3,702.55
Parish Building Fund	\$2,997.00

Prayers Please

... for all the sick of our parish: those homebound, in the hospital, and nursing facilities; and for all the souls in purgatory. **Also**, please keep in your prayers infant **Lucas M. Pacheco** who will be baptized this Sunday

Sanctuary Lamp

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

CONFESSION

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

WHAT DO WE DO

WHEN MEDICINE CAN DO NO MORE?

A priest friend from down South recently shared with me an article about a heartbreaking situation in Fort Worth, Texas. There, Tinslee Lewis, a newborn girl with severe health defects, has been receiving extensive care since her birth. Doctors at the hospital have determined that her conditions are so severe as to be terminal, and have recommended that she be removed from life support; her parents are fighting this ruling.

While this is a unique – and uniquely difficult case – the question of whether or not to continue medical care in the case of extreme or terminal illness is one that any one of us can face. I can recall a time, a few years ago, when I was called into an ethics meeting with a family facing just such a situation. In this case, my counsel was that, while they could continue care if they chose, it was not morally necessary to do so.

What sort of tools does our Catholic tradition give us to figure out what to do in these situations? First, it describes medical care in terms of being either **ordinary** or **extraordinary**. Ordinary means of care have a hope of bringing about a cure, are able to be done, and do not involve a disproportionate difficulty in being given. Extraordinary means can include those that have no hope of bringing about a lasting cure or improvement, or involve disproportionate cost, effort, or pain on the part of the patient. It can also involve overtreatment: carrying out medical interventions with no reasonable expectation of ultimate success. **Reasonableness** is the key concept to keep in mind: if there is real hope that a treatment will work, it is reasonable.

Realizing that a loved one can no longer be helped by medical care is crushing, but is a reality that can happen. In these cases, palliative or therapeutic treatment can be the best care for a loved one. We can never forget that all care, whether in hope of healing or to comfort the dying, is carried out in the hope of eternal life: we care for life as one of God's greatest gifts, but know at the same time that the maintenance of biological life is not the only good to be sought in an extreme situation. As St. John Paul II wrote in *Evangelium Vitae* (#65), "To forego extraordinary or disproportionate means is not the equivalent of suicide or euthanasia; it rather expresses acceptance of the human condition in the face of death."

Not knowing the full details of little Tinslee's case, I will withhold from issuing a judgement here; let's simply keep her, her family and her doctors in our prayers.

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 6:30am-9:00pm

Saturday 6:30am-2:45pm

VESPERS

Monday: Vespers with Benediction

Tuesday: Vespers

Wednesday: Vespers with Benediction

(Vespers begins at 6:30 pm)

ON THE COVER

After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him... And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Mt 3:16-17)

How many of you will contend that if God spoke about you to others that he would declare how well-pleased he is? How many of us could say with certainty that everything we think, say, and do in the course of an average week is well-pleasing to the Lord. Would we not admit at least a few things wanting in ourselves; perhaps more than a few things that God would find displeasing?

How many of us wake up in the morning with the distinct purpose of pleasing God? Are the first words that pass our lips, "Lord Father, help me to spend this entire day pleasing you"? Perhaps we should consider starting our day like this to be in the correct disposition of love toward God.

Many of us who try to do what is right and just in the eyes of God do so because we want to avoid God's punishment. This is not a bad thing, but it could and should be better. Better for us if we were to do what is right and just in order to please God.

"Father" is the name Jesus revealed to us concerning the One Lord who sent Him to earth. This Holy Name is itself instructive because it implies that we are to become like little children (Mt 18:3) in order to know and love God as an ever-loving Father. That is, we are to put off our worldly "maturity" so as to please God as ever-loving children.

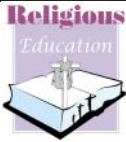
For this year's celebration of the feast of the **Baptism of the Lord**, we have placed on our bulletin cover a work by **Adam Elsheimer** entitled *Baptism of Christ* (1599). Elsheimer was a German Baroque painter who made his way to Rome absorbing its methods and adapting these to his German training. He eventually converted from Lutheranism to Catholicism. His style was influential on the Germanic (Dutch) traditions of Rembrandt and Rubens, the latter with whom he became friends.

Baptism of Christ is a complex work using diagonals. The first traverses from God the Father who sends the Holy Spirit (dove and rays) through a ring of cherubs to descend upon Jesus. The second begins from a large angelic being and two cherubs carrying a kingly robe in which to enwrap Jesus after his baptism.

This painting is also a symbolic piece. The right hand of John (pouring water) and the two outstretched arms of Jesus form the Sign of the Cross used in Baptism. Further, Jesus peers at a man taking off his shoe as if to bathe his feet in the blessed water. This man represents one who is oblivious or even disdainful to the water of grace – one with whom God is not pleased. In contrast to this man, the people in the background appear to symbolize various nations that will eagerly come to be baptized in Christ.

Ours is not a difficult choice between following the law of God (in fear of punishment) *or* pleasing God (out of love). Just as Elsheimer integrates his German training into the Roman style, so are we called to incorporate God's laws into the practice of love, so as to fulfill the glorious, divine pleasure.

Baptism of the Lord - January 12, 2020



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On all Monday evenings 7:30-8:30pm. Every grade level will have a scheduled hour of Adoration from October-May. **January is Level 5.** All students in those grade levels are expected to make every attempt to join us for this hour each Monday in January. If school is canceled due to snow then there will be no adoration.

For cancellations please watch channel 7 news, go to www.whdh.com for free mobile app or check parish master calendar for updates

We will continue to collect items for the **Sister Rose Shelter** through January. There will be a collection basket downstairs near the Religious Ed. Office. Travel sized toiletries, in great need of **winter boots** men size 9-12 and women size 8-10, clothing items such as socks, hats, gloves, hand and feet warmers, vitamin c drops. Your donations truly make a difference.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Mass will be celebrated on Sunday May 31, 2020 @ 6pm at St. Mary Cathedral in Fall River. More information to follow in the coming months.

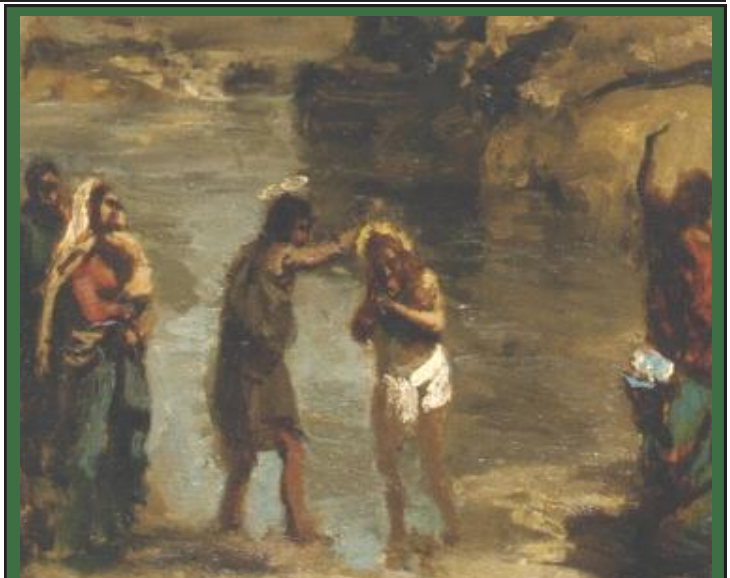
To keep informed of important dates please visit our Parish Master Calendar on our website at www.sfxparish.com. you have any questions please email Mrs. Hammarquist at jlh@sfxparish.com

No class for all levels on Sunday January 19, 2020 in observance of Martin Luther King.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8		ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS
With one week of school under our belts, vacation is a distant memory. Full days, packed schedules, MAP testing and reentry to the normal school and homework routine are just a few of our "welcome back to school" gifts! As mentioned, we are gearing up for an amazing Catholic Schools Week by month's end that will include plenty of fun... <i>and open registration!</i> Our families are being strongly encouraged to re-register their child(ren) for the 2020-2021 school year. The practice is recommended for our current students in order to lock in a spot in their class, <i>prior</i> to open enrollment. We are praying for a pre-school rush of registrants so that we are able to continue to build a strong foundation at the early grade levels. Our 3 and 4 year old preschool programs are second to none! Please share information about our school with friends and family and invite them to our Open House on January 26th from 12-2pm.		

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January 5th - Parish Building Fund
January 19th - Catholic Communication Campaign
January 26th - Diocesan Assessment



The Baptism of Christ
Camille Corot (1845)

After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and ... a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Mt 3:16-17)

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	January 12	
Rel. Ed Levels 1-6	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
Rel. Ed Levels 7-9	11:40-12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
Monday	January 13	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
<i>Eucharistic Adoration:</i>		
<i>Rel. Ed. Level 5</i>	7:30-8:30pm	
Tuesday	January 14	
Vespers	6:30pm	Church
Wednesday	January 15	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2020

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17
 Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19 [17a]/Mk 1:14-20
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Mk 1:21-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [8a and 9a]/Mk 1:29-39
 Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 [27b]/Mk 1:40-45
 Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19 [2]/Mk 2:1-12
 Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [2a]/Mk 2:13-17



Women of Grace, our parish women's group, is a Catholic apostolate which began in 2003 as an outreach of *Living His Life Abundantly* founded by EWTN host Johnnette Benkovic. The mission of Women of Grace is to transform the world one woman at a time by affirming women in their dignity and vocation as daughters of God. Exploring all aspects of the "feminine genius," Women of Grace promotes the gift of true womanhood and woman's fundamental call in the world. It presents the Blessed Virgin Mary as the exemplar of all women. Women of Grace informs, instructs, and inspires women in achieving its mission by encouraging every woman to discover how her feminine nature holds the key to real fulfillment and lasting peace.

In an effort to further explore what WOG international has to offer each of us, I will be posting excerpts from their blog entitled "Gracelines." They usually have a quote and then a question or two for reflection. Please check back next week for our first Graceline post (reprinted by permission of womenofgrace.org). Maybe even try to take some time this week to explore their website and see for yourself all of the riches stored there.

Carol Eccleston

SFX PRAYER LINE

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

SFX PARISH BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Mon. 27 Jan
7:00 PM
Parish Center



REMEMBRANCE

MARCH FOR LIFE - STILL ROOM ON THE BUS!

Our parish is once again organizing a charter bus trip to the *March for Life* in Washington, D.C. The bus will depart from our parish parking lot on Thursday, 23 January. It will return late in the day on Saturday, 25 January. The rally itself begins on the morning of January 24th. There will be time in between to visit some of the memorials/monuments and to pray at some of the important local shrines, including Mass attendance before the March. The group will be staying at the Peralynna Inn. The cost for the ticket to the rally, the charter bus and two overnights at the inn (including any inn amenities) is \$345 for an adult and \$220 for youth (i.e. those youth which are not members of our parish youth groups). Interested persons should speak with Jay Hamel or Mary Hadley or call Steve in the parish office.

SFX ROSARY PARTY

Sunday
19 January
6:00 pm
at the
parish school

Let us pray especially
for our parish
group going to
March for Life 2020



WE NEED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO KEEP UP OUR PANTRY NEEDS: Your St. Vincent de Paul Society is restocking for the needs our clients in the local community. We require the following items for our pantry shelves: soup, coffee, tea, cocoa, canned fruit, canned tuna & chicken, and rice. Also, in order to assist the Sister Rose overflow shelter we will continue to collect items through the month of January as this will help the shelter to remain stocked through the winter.

MONTH'S MIND MASS

We remember the following individuals
that were deceased or memorialized
in the past month
at our Sunday, Jan. 12th - 10:30 am Mass:
Rose Mullin
Lillian Magnant
Amelia Leconte

Baptism of the Lord - January 12, 2020

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

BY DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER

What are the things which ordinarily eat away at the foundations of our confidence? Whether honestly acknowledged or covered up by one of a hundred subterfuges, the influences which threaten our peace of mind are roughly the same in most of us. Fear of not being able to keep it up, fear of being exposed as a fraud, fear of going deeper and deeper into illusion and dying in a state of mortal sin, fear of hell.

Then there is the recognition of tendencies within ourselves which we know we shall never be able to master. Bitterness, resentment at the way in which our life has deviated from the course originally set, envy of the success of others, the inability to keep resolutions, the lying, the uncharity, the moodiness, the craving for affection and understanding, the longing to get back to the day when generosity meant everything and when nothing was held back.

If these states of mind are never altogether eliminated, at least they are, in the developing life of trust, rendered more or less harmless. The soul is, whatever else, alerted against the first sign of cynicism. Bewildered and unsure of himself, the man who places all of his trust in God knows well enough, even if he knows nothing else, that the spirit of God is not in cynicism.

EXPANDED ABORTION IN MA: The public policy arm of the Catholic Church in Massachusetts, entitled the **Massachusetts Catholic Conference**, is issuing another information update on their website at www.macatholic.org. You can go to their site and find on their home page under *News and Statements* an article which begins as "Important Update: Let Your Voice Be Heard Again...". This page will provide you with an update on the two proposed bills (one for the Massachusetts Senate and one for the House) that would expand abortion access to abortions up to the ninth month while eliminating many requirements such as parental information and consent and the provision of medical care to children who have survived abortion! The laws would also increase state spending for abortion. Please log on MA Catholic Conference website to learn how your voice can be heard again.

MASS INTENTIONS: Our Mass Book opened last week on **Wednesday, 8 January**. At that time we took *many* intentions for the period of **July 1st to December 31st, 2020**. If you were unable to come to the parish that morning, please call the parish office with your requests and we can assist you over the telephone; *by this time many of the Mass dates will be taken but we will help you to find a suitable date*. (Please note that we can also accommodate Masses offered in Rome for your loved ones during the year of 2020).

WINTER CANCELLATIONS: As a rule we do not cancel Holy Mass for stormy weather, however we ask that you do not risk driving to the parish church in dangerous weather conditions.

Further, if you are a regularly scheduled Eucharistic adorer you should receive a telephone message from the parish for any cancellations. The telephone number showing up on your Caller-I.D. will be "**508-995-7600**". Please answer all calls from this phone number since the schedule of cancellation will be in the message. There is often a slight pause in the message system so please do not hang up if you do not hear a voice immediately. The system is set up to leave voice mail in the event of a no-answer.

If you are a regularly scheduled adorer, and do not receive a call in the event of a storm, please contact Steve in the parish center so he can check and update your contact information for future calls. Thank you.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING: On Monday, 19 January, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the parish office will be closed. However, we will still have morning Mass at 9 am and our full Eucharistic Adoration program. Vespers and Confession are cancelled for that evening, but there will be Confession *after* the 9 am Mass on Monday morning. **Please note** that this is our usual liturgical schedule for federal holidays.

2019 TAX REPORTS: If you would like a printout of a report of your annual offerings to the parish for your 2019 tax filing, please call the parish office. When you call please specify if you would like us to email you the form or if you will pick it up.

PARISH WIDE BOOK STUDY: As part of our continuing parish Adult Education program we will be offering an **8 week video series** based in the book "THE SACRAMENTS" written by Fr. Matthew Kauth and which all parishioners will receive as a Christmas Gift from the parish. The subtitle of this book is "Discovering the Treasures of Divine Life" which fits in nicely with our parish Year of Grace. Father Matthew illuminates not only the scriptural foundation and profound spiritual realities of each sacrament but also the necessity of each sacrament as a means to living a happy and fulfilled life leading to heaven. We are offering different days and times for you to view this video series with us in the parish center hospitality room. We will present on **Tuesdays** at Noon and **Thursdays** at 9:45 am and 7:00 pm for 8 weeks. **The first showings will be on Jan 28th and 30th respectively**. Various parish staff will facilitate the video and be available to answer questions after the video. There is no cost to participate.