

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



2nd Sunday
In Ordinary Time
19 January 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(January 18th - January 26th)

Sat.	Jan 18	2nd Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) Andre Gaudette
Sun.	Jan 19	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr) Dorothy Mello & Cynthia Rebello <i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon.	Jan 20	St. Sebastian; Martyr (Rd) Maria Belo & Jose Alves
Tues.	Jan 21	St. Agnes; Virgin & Martyr (Rd) Jeanne Guillotte
Wed.	Jan 22	Day of Prayer for the Unborn (Vi) Alice V. Forcier
Thurs.	Jan 23	St. Marianne Cope; Virgin (Wh) Anibal V. Tavares
Fri.	Jan 24	St. Francis de Sales; Bishop (Wh) Cesar Fernandes and Mr. & Mrs. Jose DeSousa
Sat.	Jan 25	Conversion of St. Paul (Wh) Mr. & Mrs. Joao Lourenco & Family
Sat.	Jan 25	3rd Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) Louise Tetreault
Sun.	Jan 26	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr) <i>Pro Populo</i> Edite Gomes

Financial Report

Income:

Baptism of the Lord.....\$5,108.00

Recent Expenses:

December Snow Removal\$700.00

Prayers Please

... for all the sick of our parish: those homebound, in the hospital, and nursing facilities; and for all the souls in purgatory.

Sanctuary Lamp

During Eucharistic Adoration please pray for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle burns this week: Alice C. Forcier

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

THE GREATEST MORAL ISSUE OF OUR TIME

This Thursday I and many others from our parish will be going to Washington D.C. for the March for Life. Every year I am amazed at how many people come to the March. Listening to the media you would think that being pro-life is a fringe opinion: if you've ever been to the March or caught it on T.V. (a difficult task, since most news organizations ignore it), you see people from all backgrounds, faiths, and ages marching together for the greatest moral issue of our time: the legal recognition and protection of the lives of the unborn.

In our own Commonwealth there is a drive in the opposite direction, to increase access to abortion through troubling means. Two new bills – House Bill 3220 and Senate Bill 1209, propose to do the following:

- Expand abortion access, including late-term abortions, during the nine months of pregnancy for virtually any reason.
- Eliminate the requirement that provides medical care to a child who survives an attempted abortion.
- Eliminate the requirement that a minor under the age of 18 have the consent of a parent, guardian, or the courts.
- Eliminate the requirement that late-term abortions be performed in a hospital.
- Expand state funding for women who cannot afford the procedure.

It cannot be said enough: being Pro-Life does not mean ignoring the problems that drive women (and men) to seek abortions! We are hypocrites if we ignore the very real challenges that face people who see abortion as the only solution. Ending legalized abortion is simply one part of a much larger task that lies before us in creating a culture of life; nevertheless, it is a key one. Just as urgent is making sure that the barbaric practice of abortion is not expanded. Other solutions must be sought.

I hope you will take the time to contact our local representatives asking them to vote **no** on **House Bill 3220** and **Senate Bill 1209**: please refer to the proper bill number for the elected official being contacted. A phone call is the best way to make your voice heard.

Representative Christopher Hendricks (**House**)

24 Beacon St. Room 237

Boston, MA, 02133

Phone: 617.722.2305

Senator Mark C. Montigny (**Senate**)

888 Purchase Street Room 305

New Bedford, MA 02740

Phone: 508.984.1474

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

The LORD said to me: You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory. Now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb... (Is 49:3)

The womb is a blessed place. Any place ought to be held blessed which is the fundamental and foremost cradle of all human life. Without the womb there would be no human life. Even those modern vices of fetal surrogacy and fashioning children in laboratories would fail utterly without the womb as their anchor and agent.

The womb is the nursery endorsed by nature for the original nourishment of children. It should be highly honored. The womb and its fertility should be respected and venerated as the vessel of life chosen by God. It should not be violated for personal goals. The womb is not just good for something; as the kernel of femininity it is *good-in-itself*. Thus no person should ever take it upon himself (or herself) to use the womb for their own profit nor ever cause it violence. The womb is *inviolable*; direct abortion being directly abhorrent to it. Any man who would traffic or purge the womb is a brigand and a home invader; any woman who would freely offer it violence is as a priest who would desecrate his own tabernacle.

During this week many of our parishioners will march for life in Washington D.C.! They hope as best they can to form a circle of protection around the womb from all its violators. But just as much as this, they hope to shine a light on the beauty of God's creation in the womb and the special dignity due to each and every individual knitted in the womb, intentionally or not, as the image of God.

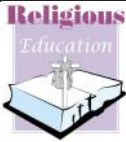
For this 2nd Sunday in Ordinary time, just as we depart the Christmas season, we place on our bulletin cover for this month dedicated to the cause of life, a work by the 20th century Danish painter L.A. Ring entitled, *At the French Windows; an Artist's Wife* (1897). Ring is considered both a realist and a symbolist, painting works that range between realism and symbolism. His scenes vary from pastoral landscapes to the genre of laborers to dark spiritual images.

In the scene adorning our bulletin cover some experts have surmised that Ring, an atheist, was contrasting ordered humanity with untamed nature by the contrast of the pregnant woman with a gnarled nearby tree. However, we think this is applying the symbolist interpretation too radically toward a work based solidly in realism.

If there is any symbolism here it appears to be a celebration of life through a flower motif. The bending posture of the tree is in fact realism; realistic for instance to a Hawthorn as are its white blossoms which express here the fruitfulness of the artist's wife. Ring paints his wife as a long-stem flower leaning in the opposite direction of the small tree near to her. The gold ribbon around her waist emphasizes her "blossoming" child. Blooms decorate her dress as even her neckline appears as white petals. Taken as a whole, the artist's wife is depicted as a Brown-eyed-Susan expressing the burgeoning landscape of life.

As noted, it is said that Ring was an atheist. Yet, even a sincere atheist expecting a child cannot fail to see the wonder and loveliness of the womb in full bloom; nor can a sincere artist refrain from painting its blessedness.

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 19, 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.



Baptism of Christ
Pietro Perugino (1550)

John testified further, saying, "... I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." (Jn 1:32)

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	January 19	
No Religious Ed Classes for the Holiday Weekend		
Rosary Party	6:00pm	School
Monday	January 20	Office Closed
<i>Eucharistic Adoration:</i>		
<i>Rel. Ed. Level 5</i>	7:30-8:30pm	Church
Tuesday	January 21	
Vespers	6:30pm	Church
Wednesday	January 22	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 19, 2020

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28 [21a]/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 [1]/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13 [5b]/Mk 3:7-12
Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11 [2a]/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Mk 16:15-18

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

I am certain that by now everyone has noticed the demolition of the former convent on our school property. Change always comes with challenges and we realize that the tear-down is bittersweet for many who recall the beauty of the building and the religious sisters who resided there. Unfortunately, after the sisters moved out, the building became dilapidated and was falling apart in front of our eyes, being not only unsightly but also unsafe for our children. We are excited to have this chance to redevelop our street frontage and create a space that will beautify both our campus and our community. We look forward to presenting plans for the new space at our annual Auction & Gala, **Embrace Grace**, which is set to take place on **Saturday, March 21st, 2020**. Please plan on attending our event, supporting our school, and learning more about this beautiful transformation. God bless and have a nice long weekend.

Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January 19th - Catholic Communication Campaign
January 26th - Diocesan Assessment
February 2nd - Home Missions

SFX WOMEN OF GRACE

Acts of devotion

"Devotion to Mary is much like the love of a child for its mother, since after all, every devotion to Mary is love for our heavenly mother." -Emil Neubert, SM,

Visit...

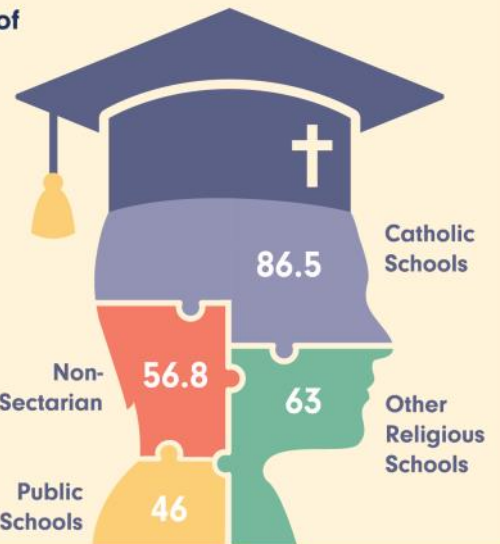
DAILY GRACELINES
WWW.WOMENOFGRACE.COM

SFX PRAYER LINE

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

Percentage of
high school
graduates
who attend
a four-year
college

CELEBRATE
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS
WEEK
2020



Source: Broughman, S.P. and Swaim, N.L. (2013). Synder, T.D., and Dillow, S.A. (2017).

SFX ROSARY PARTY

This 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 of 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.

SFX PARISH OF ACUSHNET
WILL BE THERE!

**MARCH FOR
LIFE
2020**

Friday, January 24th

Washington, D.C.


MARCH FOR LIFE
#WhyWeMarch | MarchForLife.org

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

BY DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER

It is not difficult to see why the saints are the most tolerant people in the world. In the light of their own shortcomings they can never blame others for failing to respond to grace. They know that God reckons success and failure in terms of response to grace, and that since this cannot be assessed by the human mind a harsh judgment is a rash judgment.

So it is that charity and the life of faith advance hand in hand. Compassion is not now so much a duty as a sharing of infirmity. Charity is God, and God is more than a duty. Few facts are more shaming than the way in which professedly religious souls betray this cardinal tenet of their faith, but on the other hand few facts are more encouraging than the way in which souls who are in the way of faith go straight to the heart of charity.

We should be on our guard against thinking that the sum of charity is contained in 'never saying an unkind word'. If God is charity it must mean a lot more than this. God within us must express himself or leave. If he is to remain, he will show what he is. Love bears witness to love. You would not praise a witness in court for never uttering a perjured word. Indeed, if a witness in the witness-box so much as keeps silence he is charged with contempt of court.

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY: that we began the publication (directly above) of *Ideas for Prayers*, a book by Dom Hubert van Zeller. This work has within it exactly 200 reflections on prayer. This week we are printing van Zeller's 199th. This means that this wonderful parish bulletin project of meditation on prayer that began on these pages in January 2016 will come to a conclusion next weekend with the 200th entry! Over the past five years we have received many positive comments by our parishioners and other readers concerning this project. We thank you for your attention to this program of prayer and hope that it has offered you many blessings.

FACE WINTER BRUNCH: FACE is the fundraising vehicle for the diocesan school system of Fall River. It provides crucial scholarship support to children in need of financial assistance to attend one of the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fall River. FACE presents on Sunday, 9 February a Winter Brunch. This event, hosted by Bishop Edgar da Cunha, is being held at The Coonamessett Inn at 311 Gifford Street in Falmouth, MA. Please visit their website at www.face-dfr.org/15th-annual-face-winter-brunch for information about table sponsorship. As to individual tickets, it is \$35 for an adult, \$15 for children under the age of 13 and \$5 for a child under 6. The registration deadline for this event is 1 February. This is a classic Sunday brunch with raffle prizes. Please contact Jane Robin at 508-380-7521. (Sponsored by the MA Knights of Columbus).

NEXT BEREAVEMENT MEETING: Our parish group will meet again on **Monday, 27 January at 7:00 pm** in the parish center. Anyone who has lost a loved one at any time in the past and is struggling with grief is welcome. Join us and know that you are not alone struggle with sorrow and sadness. We meet in the parish center hospitality room.

This meeting we will discuss *Remembrance* as a post-holiday subject. We will have the opportunity to speak about our holidays and to discuss how and what we do to remember our loved ones.

Even if you don't want to talk, you can come just to listen and know that you are not alone in grief.

We serve coffee/water and snacks. Come join us for a spiritual exercise in hopefulness and for friendly fellowship.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING: On Monday, 20 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.