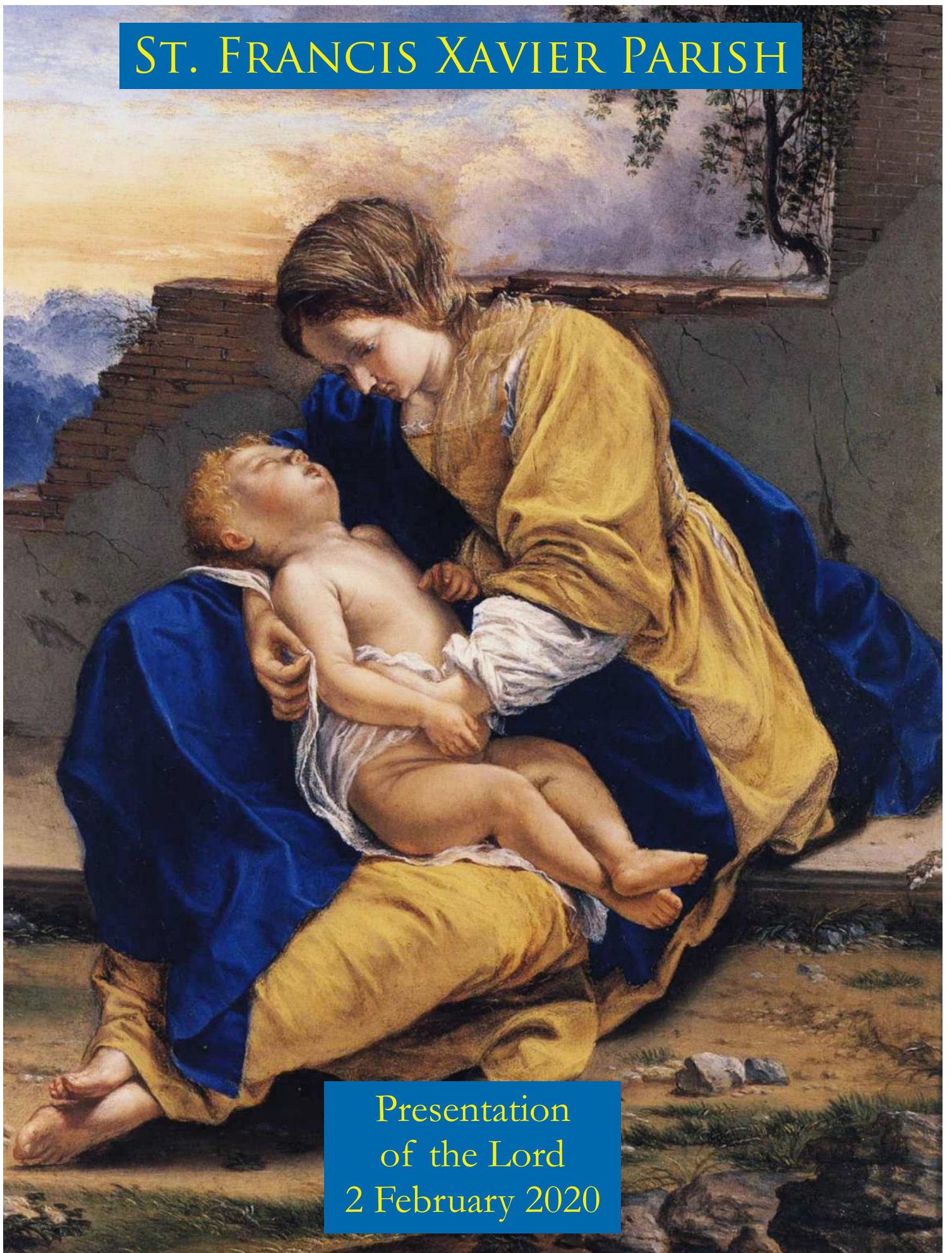


# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



Presentation  
of the Lord  
2 February 2020

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

### Mass Schedule

(February 1<sup>st</sup> - February 9<sup>th</sup>)

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Feb 01</b>	<b>Presentation of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh)</b> <i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Feb 02</b>	<b>Presentation of the Lord (Wh)</b> 8:00am Mary Pepin 10:30am Walter Wienzek
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Feb 03</b>	<b>St. Blaise; Bishop &amp; Martyr (Rd)</b> 9:00am Michael Leist
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Feb 04</b>	<b>Feria (Gr)</b> 9:00am Jose Moniz
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Feb 05</b>	<b>St. Agatha; Virgin &amp; Martyr (Rd)</b> 8:00am Manuel Rodrigues
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Feb 06</b>	<b>St. Paul Miki; Martyr (Rd)</b> 9:00am Roger Allain
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Feb 07</b>	<b>FIRST FRIDAY (Gr)</b> 9:00am Mr. & Mrs. Paulino Fernandes Vieira & daughter Ana 6:00pm Rene Pepin
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Feb 08</b>	<b>St. Jerome Emiliani; Religious (Wh)</b> 9:00am Carlos Almeida & Connie Pacheco
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Feb 08</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b> 4:00pm Antonio, Ana & children
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Feb 09</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr)</b> 8:00am <i>Pro Populo</i> 10:30am <i>Month's Mind</i>

### Financial Report

**Income:**

3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time .....	\$5,286.50
Diocesan Assessment .....	\$2,316.00

### 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: Anibal V. Tavares*

### 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

#### DON'T TAKE MARRIAGE FOR GRANTED!

What is marriage? Living in a time when there is so much debate and disagreement over the institution of marriage, as followers of Jesus Christ it is all the more important that we not only stand fast in our defense of marriage, but also consciously work to strengthen and celebrate it.

Marriage is important not only for the personal happiness of the couple and in the living of faith, but for society as well. One of the reasons that the traditional conception of marriage as one man and one woman raising the children begotten of their union is so important is that, throughout history, this has been the basic unit of society. While this is not the experience of every family – and those who are still faithful in the midst of difficulties or non-traditional situations are true signs of sanctity – this doesn't mean that we cannot at the same time affirm the central place of marriage in society.

Studies have shown that marriage results in a better life for both the spouses and their children. They show that married men, as opposed to single men, exhibit less risky behavior and commit fewer crimes – a clear benefit to society. Marriage results in more stable households, as the husband and wife can together support the work of raising a family. Children being raised by their biological parents also benefit greatly from marriage. A 2012 study by the Heritage Foundation found that “A child's likelihood of living in poverty is reduced by 82 percent if he is raised in a married two-parent family with a mother and father.” Children raised by married parents are also less likely to end up in jail and also show greater academic results.

While all of this goes to show the importance of marriage for society, we can't forget that marriage is also one of the vocations to which God calls His faithful. The Church teaches that “the matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.” (*Catechism* para. 1601).

Marriage is a blessing – but never one that can be taken for granted. Our parish is hosting a **day of reflection for married couples** on **Sunday 29 March**. This afternoon will involve reflection on the vows of marriage and other helpful reflections to strengthen your marriages. More information can be found later in this bulletin: I hope every married couple will make the effort to attend. Your marriage will only benefit as a result!

# 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

*Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted--and you yourself a sword will pierce". (Lk 2:34-35)*

Perhaps some of you have attended a baptism where the infant to be anointed was asleep until the time of the sacramental blessing. This makes one wonder about the baby Jesus at His blessing in the Temple of Jerusalem while He was in the secure and restful care of Mary and Joseph.

Yet there appear to be no artistic representations of the infant Jesus sleeping during His Presentation in the Temple forty days after his birth; in most of these images he appears quite awake and active. There are however, excluding the Presentation theme, some famous paintings of Jesus asleep as an infant. Bellini, Mantegna, and Longhi have all painted lovely works of the baby Jesus sleeping. What all these images show in common is the Blessed Mother adoring and meditating upon her divine son.

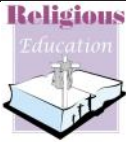
We know that the Blessed Mother meditated upon her infant son. St. Luke tells us so at least twice (Lk 2:19 & Lk 2:51). Furthermore, what mother has not found "sleep time" the best time to adore the wonderment of her child? However, after her meeting with the temple prophet Simeon, Mary's meditations would have been tinged with foreboding for Simeon told her that she, the Mother of God, would also suffer the contradiction of the Son of God, for "you yourself a sword will pierce". It is this prediction at the **Presentation of the Temple**, and the Blessed Mother's consequent reflection upon it, which we examine here on this feast day of the same name.

Thus, we have placed on our bulletin cover a most excellent representation of the sleeping infant Jesus by the Mannerist master **Orazio Gentileschi** entitled *Madonna & Child in a Landscape* (1622). Gentileschi was a Tuscan, who moved to Rome, then to Genoa, to France and finally to England where he died in London, once a court painter. He had a daughter, a masterful Baroque painter, Artemisia, who surpassed her father's imitation of Caravaggio.

In our image, Blessed Mary sits leaning against a broken wall anticipating the fallen Temple (Mk 13:1-2) just as she reflects deeply upon the temple of her son's body (Jn 2:19). Mary cradles Jesus gently as he rests in her arms and upon her legs. We might just begin and end our meditation here if it were not for Gentileschi's insight and our present consideration of the words of Simeon.

Gentileschi has painted for us a subtle *Pieta*; a gentle prevision into the Passion. The head of Jesus is limp and tilted back as in scenes of His Deposition while his feet are crossed as in scenes of His Crucifixion. Jesus is asleep but in a posture depicted when He is taken down from the Cross. This image is tender in beauty, but also in sorrow as Mary feels the first prick of the sword that will penetrate to her Immaculate Heart. She sits after the Presentation in a place of desolation yet wraps her divine son in the gold and lapis colors of her cloth mirrored in the sky above, taking the observer beyond the Passion to the glorious Ascension. This is a sign to us that in only a few weeks we too will be ushered into Christ's paschal mystery.

## The Presentation of the Lord - February 2, 2020



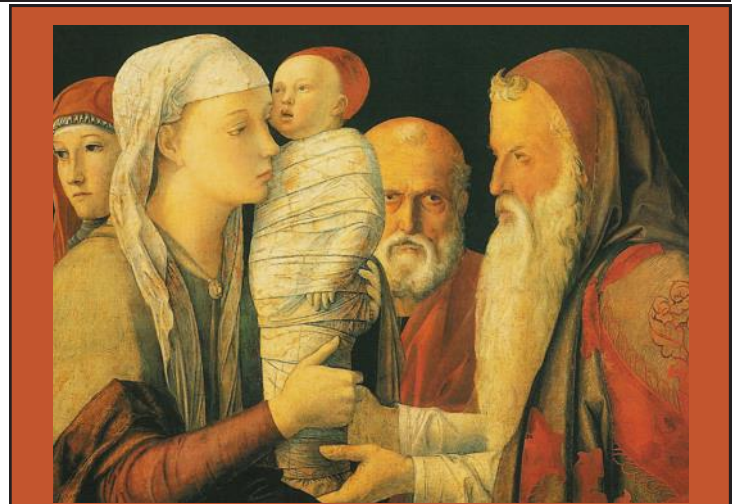
**FAMILY FAITH FORMATION EVENT**  
 Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup> at SFX School. Our Sunday class will take place at the parish school on this day. All students should be accompanied by a parent/guardian. If your child goes to Catholic School and is taking part in our 2 year sacramental programs (Levels 1,2 & 8,9), you should also attend this event. **ALL LEVELS @ 9:00am.**

**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 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. **February is Level 4** \*\*\*For cancellations please watch channel 7 news, go to [www.whdh.com](http://www.whdh.com) for free mobile app or check our parish master calendar. \*\*\*

**First Holy Communion Parent Meeting:** Sunday February 9th at 9:15am in the Hospitality Room in the Parish Center. At least one parent must attend.

**All First Communion Students** will be attending the 10:30am Mass together in reserved pews from February 23<sup>rd</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup> (Excludes March 22). Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time in May.

To keep informed of important dates please visit our Parish Master Calendar on our website at [www.sfxparish.com](http://www.sfxparish.com). If you have any questions please email Mrs. Hammarquist at [jlh@sfxparish.com](mailto:jlh@sfxparish.com)



*Presentation at the Temple*  
 Andrea Mantegna (1453)

*Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Lk 2:34-35)*

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8		ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS
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As we wrap up Catholic Schools Week 2020, we are filled with joy appreciating the true gift of Catholic education. Our week was spent celebrating our faith, our scholarship, our country, our willingness to serve others, and our natural tendency to have fun! From assemblies to team-building activities, and from honoring our servicemen and women to kicking off a food drive, our students have realized that a well-rounded, virtuous life is a worthwhile goal! Our closing assembly and annual ice cream treat (thanks to Acushnet Creamery) are literally the “cherry on top” of our CSW finale. The enrollment process for the 2020-2021 school year is also in full swing, as our doors opened last weekend to potential new families. Please continue to pray for our parish school - its health and vitality.

**God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal**

<b>UPCOMING SECOND &amp; SPECIAL COLLECTIONS</b>
<b>February 9<sup>th</sup></b> - Building Fund <b>February 23<sup>rd</sup></b> - Diocesan Assessment

### PARISH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 2</b>	
Family Faith Formation		
1-9 & SFX 1, 2 & 8	9:00-10:15am	School
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 3</b>	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
Eucharistic Adoration:		
Rel. Ed. Level 4	7:30-8:30pm	Church
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 4</b>	
Parish Book Study:		
“The Sacraments”	12:00-1:00pm	Parish Ctr.
Prayer Shawl Ministry	1:00-2:30 pm	Parish Ctr.
Vespers	6:30pm	Church
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 5</b>	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 6</b>	
Parish Wide Book Study: “The Sacraments”		
	9:45-10:45am or 7:00-8:00pm	Parish Ctr.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 7</b>	
Men of the Sacred Heart		
Adoration Hour	6:30-7:30pm	Church

	<p><b>PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING UPDATE TO OUR SVDP PANTRY NEEDS:</b> Your St. Vincent de Paul Society is restocking for the needs of our clients in the local community. <b>We require the following items for our pantry:</b> soup, canned fruit, rice, canned ravioli, <i>spaghettios</i>, and other such pre-made foods. Thank you for your generous assistance in feeding our local poor.</p>
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"I came that they may have life,  
and have it abundantly."

-John 10:10

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WOMEN OF  
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PARISH  
VIDEO  
SERIES

# THE SACRAMENTS

DISCOVERING THE TREASURES OF DIVINE LIFE

Tues. 4 February

Noon

Thurs. 6 February

9:45 am & 7 pm

PART II  
BAPTISM

In Parish Hospitality Room

## MARRIAGE BOOT CAMP

Day of Reflection for Married Couples  
on the Ideal and Vows of Marriage

March 29 2020 | Noon – 4 p.m.

Free Childcare | Lunch Provided

Sign-ups begin Soon

## FIRST FRIDAY MASS

7 February - 9 am & 6 pm

**BLESSING OF THE THROATS:** On Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> after the 9 am Mass, we will celebrate the memorial of St. Blaise with a special and traditional blessing of the throat. If you or anyone you know has a throat ailment please come to Mass on Monday to celebrate the holy liturgy and to have your throat blessed. This blessing is for everyone who desires it. We pray that all who receive it will also have their vocal cords loosened to speak to others about the truth, mercy, and glory of Jesus Christ.

**OUR PRAYER SHAWL GROUP:** named for St. Anna Schaffer, will meet **this Tuesday** from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the parish center. These parish ladies knit both prayer shawls for the ill and homebound and baptismal blankets and booties for our infants entering the Church. Please bring your needles and work and join in!

SFX PARISH

Ashes... Coming soon  
to a Catholic church  
near you!

PREPARE FOR LENT!

## The Presentation of the Lord - February 2, 2020

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [10b]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [1a]/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [cf. 5c]/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd [12b]/Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51 [cf. 47b]/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 [12b]/Mk 6:30-34

**COFFEE AND DONUTS:** We will once again have our Sunday morning fellowship with coffee and donuts after the 8:00 am and 10:30 am Masses **this weekend**. All individuals and families are welcome to join us in the parish center after those Masses.

**WEBSITE STATISTICS:** An in-house analysis (using Google Analytics) of our parish website usage indicates that in the 2019 calendar year we had **32,286 page views** of our parish website. While the highest percentage of these were general searches (those who visited our home page) the next top three page visits are encouraging for their selections.

First, there were 6,816 visits to the Holy Rosary page. The average use time on this page was nearly 5 minutes indicating that many people are using our website and praying along with the Most Holy Rosary recordings. The next highest page viewing was our parish bulletin which was reached 3,804 in 2019. This means that it received an average of about 10 visits per day for the entire year. This is also encouraging since we email the parish bulletin each week to 209 parishioners who are therefore not included in the number of those visiting the bulletin site each week. Further, the average time on the bulletin page was 2 minutes and 31 seconds which means that those visiting the bulletin page are not just curious but actually reading the bulletin itself.

In third place is our parish calendar with 1,244 page views for 2019. This translate into about 3 people each day looking to see what we are doing in the parish and when we are doing it.

Please encourage your family and friends to take a peek at our website to learn more about the parish and the faith. Of course, there is nothing better that you could do than to bring them to the parish church to experience the Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, but perhaps the parish website may give them a head start!

**ALL MARRIED COUPLES - SAVE THE DATE!** Do you desire a stronger and more fulfilling marriage for you and your spouse? Join other couples on this *Day of Reflection for Married Couples* on **Sunday, 29 March 2020 from 1-5 pm** at the parish school. This event will help you to reflect on the great value of your matrimonial vows and the graces that the sacrament gives you to fully live out this vocation. The day will include talks discussing the following topics: “The Ideal Marriage: What We Want”; “The Promise to Love: Why the Vows Matter”; “Forgiveness: the Will to Love”. There will also be the opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration & Sacrament of Confession. Free child care will be provided. The presenter will be **Father Nicholas Fleming** who has a license in Marriage & Family Studies from the John Paul II Institute in Rome. Please mark the date on your calendar and join with other parish married couples to reflect on the beauty of marriage.

**MEN & WOMEN CONFERENCE:** The Fall River Diocese 2020 Women and Men’s Conference will take place on Saturday, 7 March at Stonehill College in Easton. Response over the past several years has been positive to this one-day Lenten program which features noted speakers, music, Holy Mass, fellowship, and much more. Please mark your 2020 calendars now and watch in the coming months for more details and announcements on this Women and Men’s Conference.

**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 are now 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 next showings will be on Feb 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> respectively.** Various parish staff will facilitate the video and be available to answer questions after the video. There is no cost to participate.