

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



3rd Sunday
In Ordinary Time
26 January 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(January 25th - February 2nd)

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|--|
| Sat. | Jan 25 | 3rd Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) |
| | 4:00pm | Louise Tetreault |
| Sun. | Jan 26 | 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr) |
| | 8:00am | <i>Pro Populo</i> |
| | 10:30am | Edite Gomes |
| Mon. | Jan 27 | St. Angela Merici; Virgin (Wh) |
| | 9:00am | Sr. Mary Angela |
| Tues. | Jan 28 | St. Thomas Aquinas; Priest (Wh) |
| | 9:00am | Rita Chapdelaine |
| Wed. | Jan 29 | Feria (Gr) |
| | 8:00am | Peter Marchese |
| Thurs. | Jan 30 | Feria (Gr) |
| | 9:00am | Robert Krouzek |
| Fri. | Jan 31 | St. John Bosco; Priest (Wh) |
| | 9:00am | Albertina Correia |
| Sat. | Feb 01 | Blessed Virgin Mary (Wh) |
| | 9:00am | Maria Conceição-Cabral |
| Sat. | Feb 01 | Presentation of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh) |
| | 4:00pm | <i>Pro Populo</i> |
| Sun. | Feb 02 | Presentation of the Lord (Wh) |
| | 8:00am | Mary Pepin |
| | 10:30am | Walter Wienzek |

Financial Report

Income:

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time\$4,595.75
Catholic Communications\$1,397.00

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: Mr. & Mrs. Joao Lourenco & Family

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 "REAL" END OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

As Catholics we know the significance of a 40 day period. Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai before receiving the Ten Commandments. Elijah went 40 days into the desert fleeing the murderous intents of Queen Jezebel. Our Lord spent 40 days in the wilderness after His Baptism, praying and fasting before beginning His ministry.

Each year we have 40 days of Lent to prepare for Easter. This isn't the only 40-day period in the liturgical year, however. Next Sunday the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This recalls how, 40 days after His birth, He was presented by His parents in the Temple in Jerusalem according to Jewish custom.

In the Temple the Holy Family encountered two aged and faithful Jews: Simeon and Anna. Anna "gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem." (Lk. 2:38), while Simeon embraced the child in his arms and spoke the following inspired words in praise to God:

*Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace,
according to Thy word;
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation
which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to Thy people Israel.*

Falling 40 days after Christmas, the Feast of the Presentation can be seen as marking the true end of our celebration of our Savior's birth. This connection is made clearer with the use of its older name, Candlemas.

This title refers to one of the traditional customs which mark this feast: the blessing of candles. No doubt originating from the line in Simeon's praises that the newborn Christ is the "light for revelation to the Gentiles," the candles blessed on this day symbolically represent the light of Christ shining in our lives.

Next week we will begin Mass with the blessing of candles. You will notice that it parallels the ritual for the blessing of palms on Palm Sunday. If anyone has candles you would like blessed for use at home, please clearly write your name on their box and leave them on the table by the front door. They will be blessed at the beginning of the Mass, and can be retrieved on your way out the door at the end of Mass. The homebound among your family and friends might also appreciate a gift of blessed candles for use in their homes.

As the days slowly get brighter, may we always give thanks for the light of Christ we have in our lives through faith!

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

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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

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mt 4:18-19)

The word *fish* is most often used as a noun, however its meaning varies greatly as a verb. In the card game "Go Fish" the player who asks incorrectly for a card from his opponent is sent back to the stack to choose a blind card. "To fish" in this case means grabbing at what one cannot see. Fishing can also mean "searching" such as when investigators cast a broad net to gain information and are sometimes accused of going on a "fishing expedition".

Commercial fishermen today search with more precision using new technology and in fishing grounds where they expect to find fish. Even the rod fisherman seeks reliability by staking out his favorite spot to cast his line.

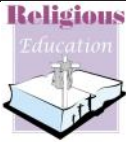
In the search for His twelve Apostles, Jesus acted with far greater precision and planning. His selection of fishermen was providential in that God formed these men in the wombs of the wives of fishermen just so that the phrase "fishers of men" might reverberate through salvation history. God's determination to inject fishermen into the divine narrative set the stage for Jesus to perform miracles as vigorous metaphors for the vastness of His kingdom (Lk 5:6), to compare His kingdom to a great net (Mt 13:47) and to teach his disciples to move beyond the shallow out into the deep (Lk 5:4). It is also not coincidental that Our Lord chose to tell this story by lake and by sea (e.g. Mt 13:1 & Lk 5:1).

For this **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** we place on our parish bulletin cover a fragment of a work by the Sieneese medieval master **Duccio** entitled *Appearance of Christ to the Apostles* (1311). Duccio was one of those artists who bridged the gap between the Gothic and Renaissance periods. He is historical proof that the rebirth of art in Europe began during the Middle Ages.

This work is an allegory of Christ's call since only four of the Apostles were known in the Bible to be fishermen. Unseen in the image are Christ who stands on shore and Peter who walks on water toward him. For our purpose we will say that from left to right stand John, Andrew, Matthew and James (we have chosen Matthew as third in this order for his hand over his chest indicating the traditional "who, me?" posture). In any case those standing have lost interest in fishing and are drawn wholly to the Lord who is calling them. For us Thomas is the bent apostle to the far right with only a single grip on the net, but the apostle dressed in red (for the Sacred Blood he will cause to spill) is Judas. He has both hands engaged in his earthly task, inattentive, back turned to Jesus; more engrossed with the price that this great catch will bring.

This image is presented here to remind us that Jesus searches for us; He calls us. Have we listened for the call or have we been inattentive, doubtful or indifferent; or have we been like Peter stepping boldly out into the deep?

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 26, 2020



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION EVENT
 Sunday February 2nd 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 @ 9:15am.**

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. February is Level 4 ***For cancellations please watch channel 7 news, go to 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 23rd – April 5th (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. If you have any questions please email Mrs. Hammarquist



The Calling of Saints Peter and Andrew
 James Tissot (Brooklyn Museum)

As [Jesus] was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mt 4:18-19)

PARISH CALENDAR

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Sunday | January 26 | |
| Rel. Ed Levels 1-6 | 9:15-10:15am | Parish Ctr. |
| Rel. Ed Levels 7-9 | 11:40-12:40pm | Parish Ctr. |
| Monday | January 27 | |
| Vespers & Benediction | 6:30-7:00pm | Church |
| Eucharistic Adoration: | | |
| Rel. Ed. Level 5 | 7:30-8:30pm | Church |
| Tuesday | January 28 | |
| Parish Book Study: | | |
| "The Sacraments" | 12:00-1:00pm | Parish Ctr. |
| Vespers | 6:30pm | Church |
| Wednesday | January 29 | |
| Vespers & Benediction | 6:30-7:00pm | Church |
| Thursday | January 30 | |
| Parish Wide Book Study: "The Sacraments" | 9:45-10:45am or 7:00-8:00pm | Parish Ctr. |

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26, 2020

Sunday: Is 8:23—9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17
 Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26 [25a]/Mk 3:22-30
 Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7-10 [8]/Mk 3:31-35
 Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89: 4-5, 27-28, 29-30 [29a]/Mk 4:1-20
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14 [Lk 1:32b]/Mk 4:21-25
 Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11 [cf. 3a]/Mk 4:26-34
 Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12a]/Mk 4:35-41

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
 PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

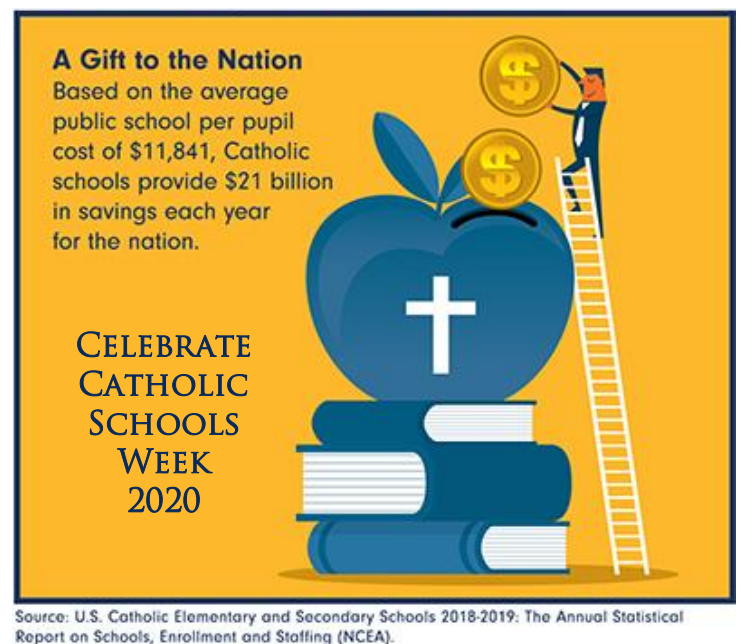
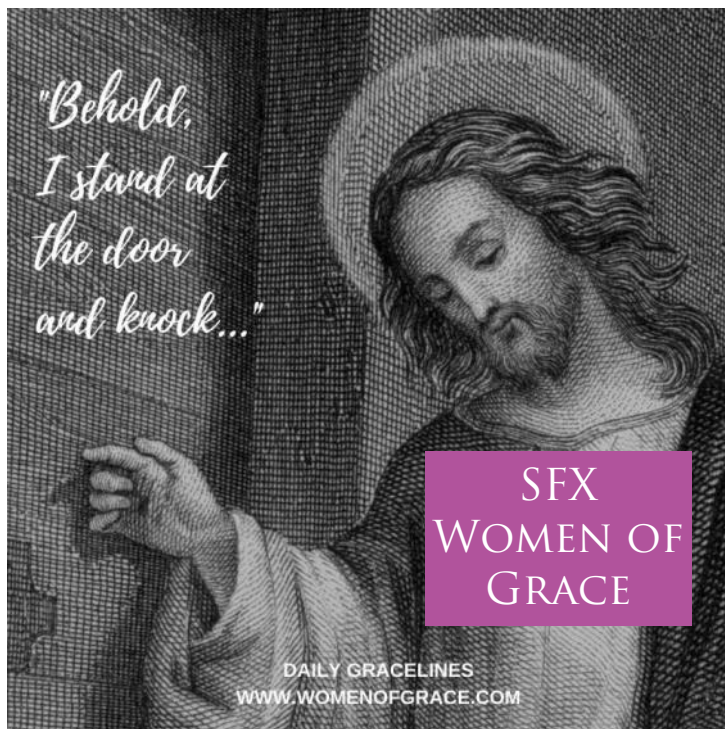
As we kick off Catholic Schools Week 2020 this weekend, you should expect to see many students wearing their school uniforms at Holy Mass. Seeing our uniformed students in worship should increase our appreciation for Catholic education and most especially our parish school. We are so blessed to have such a wonderfully supportive church and school community and we are ever so grateful for your continued prayers!

Additionally, on **Sunday from Noon-2pm**, we will OPEN wide our school doors to new prospective families, as well as any guests who would like to tour our parish school. Please stop by and encourage many others to meet our teachers, talk to our students, and see what makes our school so special. We look forward to celebrating our Catholic school during CSW 2020 and welcoming new "sheep into the fold" for the 2020-2021 school year.

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January 26th - Diocesan Assessment
February 2nd - Home Missions
February 9th - Building Fund



IDEAS FOR PRAYER

BY DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER

Christians all too often lay themselves open to the charge of contempt of truth and contempt of love. It is only to be expected that the silence of witnesses is taken as testimony if not to untruth at least to lack of truth. Again if charity is inarticulate, what is to show that it is there? For fear of being labelled a tiresome evangelist, the Christian is in danger of canonizing dumbness.

The whole idea of faith is that it takes risks. If the act of faith were not a jump in the dark, it would not be what it claims. The whole idea of charity is that it takes risks. If it could count on an inevitable return, it would be nothing more than a bargain. But because faith and love can be misinterpreted, can be thrown back in one's face, the effort to communicate them is infinitely worthwhile. Christ is never so surely reproduced as when truth and love are proffered by his followers and then brutally rejected.

As followers of Christ, bearing his name, it is sometimes revealing to ask ourselves what we are really hoping to get out of this present existence which God has given us. Ease and security? High standing in the eyes of others? The will of God? Three questions only, and a single answer required. Ashamed to choose the first, and wanting to qualify the second, most of us would answer that the will of God is the object of our desire. This said, we begin to make difficulties. Yet as Christians we must believe that nothing matters more in life than choosing the way which pleases God.

THE VERY LAST ENTRY : As noted last weekend we have finally come today to the **200th and last reflection** in the book by Dom Hubert van Zeller entitled *Ideas for Prayers*. 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 this Sunday 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. We hope that you continue on your pilgrimage of prayer. There are many other good books on prayer to peruse in our Adoration chapel.



PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING UPDATE TO OUR SVDP 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:** soup, canned

fruit, rice, canned ravioli, *spaghettios*, and other such premade foods. 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.

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 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.