

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

The Epiphany
of the Lord 5
January 2020



St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(January 4th - January 12th)

Sat.	Jan 04	Epiphany of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00pm	Wilfred Martin
Sun.	Jan 05	Epiphany of the Lord (Wh)
	8:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:30am	Steven Pepin
Mon.	Jan 06	St. André Bessette; Religious (Wh)
	9:00am	Paulino & Ana Vieira & Daughter
Tues.	Jan 07	St. Raymond of Peñafort; Priest (Wh)
	9:00am	Jose Cunha & Maria
Wed.	Jan 08	Christmas Weekday (Wh)
	8:00am	Harold & Hazel Seguin
Thurs.	Jan 09	Christmas Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Anne Seguin & Ian Walsh
Fri.	Jan 10	Christmas Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Louis & Angelina Talbot
Sat.	Jan 11	Christmas Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Theresa Nientimp
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>

Financial Report

Income:

4 th Sunday in Advent.....	\$5,025.80
Christmas Day	\$7,537.80
Christmas Flowers	\$1,571.00

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 next week, January 12th on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Sanctuary Lamp

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

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

WHEN SHOULD I TAKE DOWN MY CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS?

The short answer: January 12th. If you want the explanation, please read on!

The great thing about celebrating Christmas as a Catholic is that the season just begins on December 25th! While the secular world anticipates the celebration in December, we spend those weeks of Advent with an eye on our spiritual preparation for Christmas. Now that the feast has arrived, our celebration has to last more than a day!

I suppose the abruptness with which the wider world ends Christmas on the 25th is a symptom of commercialization that begins long before the day itself. It's sort of like if we were to open presents on December 10th – by the time the feast came, what would it matter? Just as it is important that we observe Advent as a season of preparation, so should we make extra effort to celebrate whole Christmas season.

In early January there are two important feasts that draw out the meaning of Christmas as the feast of God making Himself visible in our human nature: the Epiphany, which we celebrate today, and the Baptism of the Lord.

The word *epiphany* means “manifestation” or “appearance.” The common image of this feast is of the Magi adoring the Christ Child, Whom they had been seeking by the guidance of the star. In fact, the ancient understanding of the feast reflected three manifestations of Christ in which His identity was revealed: in addition to the Visit of the Magi, also celebrated were His Baptism in the Jordan, when the voice of God the Father acknowledged Jesus as His beloved Son, and the Wedding at Cana, when His power was shown in turning water into wine.

Jesus' Baptism was the beginning of His public ministry, when His hidden life ended and His time of teaching began. It is now celebrated on the third Sunday after Christmas, and marks the end of the Christmas Season. One sign of the importance of this event is the fact that St. Mark's Gospel, thought to be the oldest of the Gospels and focusing just on the basics of Jesus' life, begins with the Baptism.

While your Christmas tree might have gone to its reward by now, it is a good practice to keep the Nativity Scene out until the Feast of the Baptism. Also think of other family Christmas traditions to keep going until then: make Christmas cookies, leave other decorations up – whatever you can do to keep celebrating our Savior's birth!

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

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." (Mt 2:7-8)

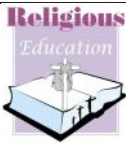
An epiphany is not a private vision; it is a public manifestation. As such it is an event for many or all to see. An epiphany may be distinguished from an *apparition* which, though perhaps for the encouragement of all, is often only seen by the eyes of one or the few. Further, when the Church speaks of an epiphany she means a specific biblical manifestation of Christ such as in the events of the Adoration of the Magi, the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, and the Miracle at Cana when the Blessed Mother introduced Jesus to the world through his first public miracle. These three particular manifestations are what we celebrate this day.

Hence it was a very selfish act of King Herod to try to keep the appearance of the star and the Messiah private. Herod the Great called the Wise Men to him in secret, sent them away in secret, and expected them to send him word in secret. Herod showed himself to not only misunderstand the gospel message - since he wanted to keep its appearance under a bushel basket (Mt 5:15) - but to be an adversary of the good news by keeping what was for all to himself and for his own sinister discretion and strategy. It may be that Herod wanted only at first to fulfill his kingly curiosity, but when he could not keep the Messianic appearance from becoming known and the Messiah had slipped through his grasp, his prideful stealth drove him to madness and any story he may have thought up to convince himself that he intended to honor the Christ was revealed to be diabolical plan in his heart by way of his horrific slaughter of the innocents (Mt 2:16-18).

This desire for a private showing of the good news was not limited to Herod the Great but was carried over to his son, Herod Antipas, who wanted to see Jesus perform some private sign (Lk 23:8). Jesus might have cunningly complied, offering Antipas a befitting private condemnation in the tradition of Daniel to Belshazzar (Dn 5:22-28), but Jesus did not come to the earth for private showings or private miracles or even private vengeance, but for a public ministry and a public sacrifice that would change the world utterly.

For this **Feast of the Epiphany** we acknowledge the public message of Jesus Christ. We place on our bulletin cover a work by the Florentine master **Andrea del Sarto** entitled *The Journey of the Magi* (1511). Del Sarto set the stage for other greats like Michelangelo, Raphael, and Da Vinci as he introduced the Mannerist style into the High Renaissance. Del Sarto retains the classical stances and architecture, yet his figures turn and lean in various directions in non-symmetrical groupings presenting a less balanced effect. This "manneristic" crowding and commotion coincides with... **(Continued on last page)...**

Epiphany of the Lord - January 5, 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 Levels 5.** All students in those grade levels are expected to make every attempt to join us for this hour each Monday in December. If school is cancelled due to inclement weather then adoration will also be cancelled.

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.

**Have a Blessed Christmas and Joyful New Year.
Classes resume on Jan. 5, 2020 Epiphany of the Lord.**

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



Adoration of the Magi
Peter Paul Rubens (1629)

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Mt 2:10-11)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

Happy New Year! Our faculty and students will return to school this Monday after a wonderful and much needed vacation. Following this two week break from school I expect that our students will be returning with many stories of their Christmas holiday! Academically we will be "jumping back in with both feet" as students are expected once again to demonstrate their knowledge of grade level concepts through our second round of MAP Growth standardized testing. Immediately following the testing window, we will open our doors for applications and registration for new families as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2020! Our annual **Open House** will be held on **Sunday, January 26th from 12-2pm.** Please tell your friends and family to visit our school to experience first-hand the faith, joy, and academic excellence of our SFX school community. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January 5th - Parish Building Fund
January 19th - Catholic Communication Campaign
January 26th - Diocesan Assessment
February 2nd - Home Missions

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	January 5	
Rel. Ed Levels 1-6	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
Rel. Ed Levels 7-9	11:40-12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
Monday	January 6	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
<i>Eucharistic Adoration:</i>		
<i>Rel. Ed. Level 5</i>	7:30-8:30pm	Church
Tuesday	January 7	
Prayer Shawl Group	1:00-2:30pm	Parish Ctr.
Vespers	6:30pm	Church
Wednesday	January 8	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5, 2020

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30



We have said goodbye to not only a year but also a decade. Saying “the year 2020” reminds me of two things; hindsight and perfect vision. Hindsight is 20/20 because when looking back we can usually see things more clearly. When seeing the big picture, we rethink some of our decisions and, hopefully, learn not to make the same mistakes in the future.

Over time, someone who once had 20/20 vision can find themselves seeing things not as clearly as before. We can take this metaphor into life and find that as our minds get clouded with all that life throws our way, we may not see as clearly as we had in the past. Do we just accept this decline in vision or is there something we can do about it?

Well, of course there is something we can do about it! One way we can help our minds to see things more clearly is to look at how the Sacraments can enrich our lives. I encourage all women of the parish to read the book that was given out at Christmas entitled *The Sacraments* by Father Matthew Kauth. It will be wonderful to meet as a parish later this month as we further explore the wisdom of this book. I look forward to seeing you there. Here's looking at a happy and healthy New Year!

FINDING Freedom

from Pornography



Includes 7-step recovery plan

IN ORDER TO ASSIST our parishioners to better understand some of the ethical issues which continue to challenge man in the modern world, we have purchased and are displaying in the entrance of the church some instructive pamphlets by Our Sunday Visitor.

To the left of this narrative is the third of three brochures. It explains the way to overcoming the strong influence of pornography that has led so many people to sexual addiction. Please educate yourselves about this danger and take a pamphlet for someone you know in need.

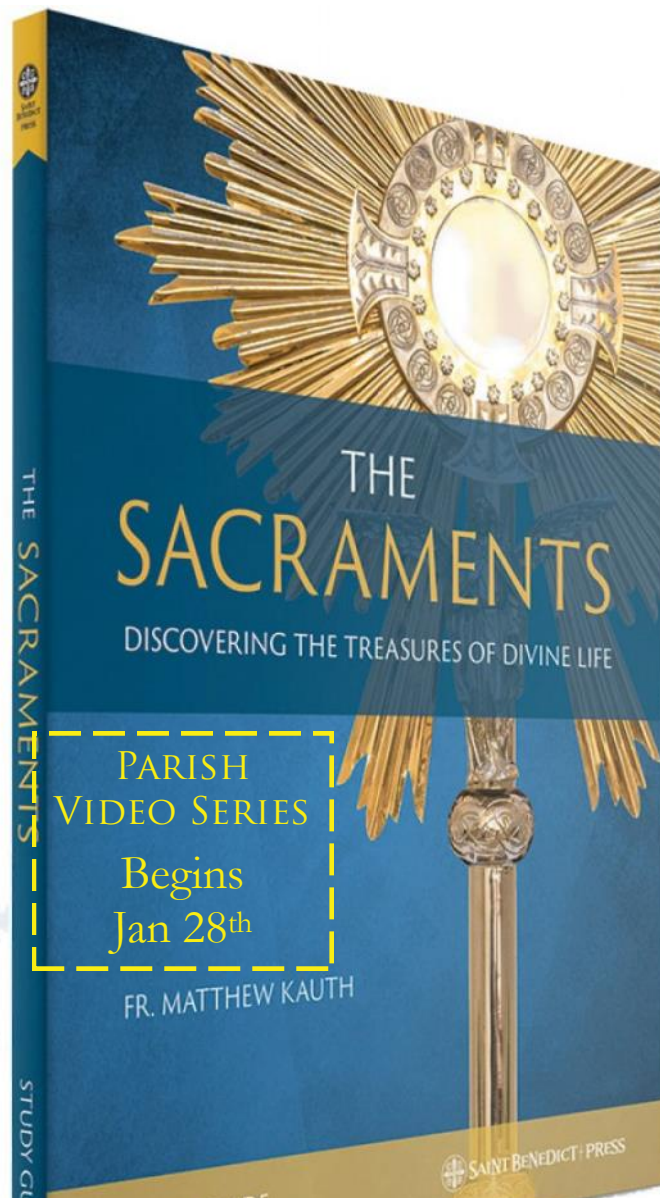
Our St. Anna Schaffer Prayer Shawl Group Meets this Tuesday in the Parish Center



1:00 PM

SFX PRAYER LINE

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



PARISH VIDEO SERIES
Begins
Jan 28th

FR. MATTHEW KAUTH



WE ARE RESTOCKING OUR SHELVES:

Please help us as we begin a new year of daily service to those in need of food locally. We are working on a list of items that we will need to get us going in 2020.

Thanks as always for your most generous support of our parish food pantry.

CHESTERTON CORNER

“The wise man will follow a star, low and large and fierce in the heavens... till he finds it the humble lantern over some little inn or stable.”

Epiphany of the Lord - January 5, 2020

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

BY DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER

The upshot of all that we have been considering is that no personal insufficiency need stand between the soul and God. On the contrary it is the sincere acknowledgment of personal insufficiency that, more than anything else, disposes the soul for grace. And how can it be sincere unless God brings it home to the soul in the way described? For the soul to repeat the phrases of abject nothingness, even though trying to mean them, is not enough. The knowledge has to come at first hand.

Surely this accounts for some of the apparently extravagant statements about themselves which we read in the lives of the saints. Holy people know themselves for what they are, and without affectation say so. They are not exaggerating. Nor are they merely being pious when they talk about trust in God. They genuinely believe that there is nothing which God will not do for them. His mercy is such that he will save them in spite of what they are.

Measured against what they could have been, let alone against the infinite perfection of God, even the holiest write themselves down as failures. But failures with a difference. The haunting anxieties of failure are handed over, together with everything else, to God from whom forgiveness is assured.

PEACE LIGHT: This weekend on the Feast of the Epiphany at all the Masses, parishioner **Kyle Viera** of Troop 333 (St. John Neumann Parish) will once again this year be distributing candles to any parishioner who would like to take home the Peace Light (originally in the grotto at Bethlehem). At the beginning of Mass Kyle will carry the Peace Light near to the sanctuary. After Mass the light (lantern) will be brought to the back of the church where parishioners will be invited to take a candle lit from the Peace Light to their home. May the Peace and Light of Our Lord Jesus Christ rest upon all our homes!

MASS INTENTIONS: Our Mass Book will open again on **Wednesday, 8 January** after the 9am Mass. At that time we will be taking intentions for the period of **July 1st to December 31st, 2020**. If you are unable to come to the parish that morning, please call the parish office on or after January 8th and we can assist you over the telephone; *we will not be taking intentions for this second half of 2019 prior to the 8th.*

As in the past, there will be on January 8th the usual procedure of standing in line to reserve 3 Mass Intentions and returning to the back of the line (if one desires) for no more than 2 more, bringing the maximum to 5 Masses that can be scheduled that day. This allows us to keep the line moving and provides fairness to all those seeking Mass intentions. Thank you for your cooperation.

ON THE COVER (CONTINUED...)

... our Gospel narrative which tells of how the arrival of the Magi made Herod and all Jerusalem "*greatly troubled*" (Mt 2:3).

For centuries now the gospel message has troubled the hearts and minds of many. What is meant to be news of salvation to all, is to some, who rebel against God, a constant frustration. We should never forget that just as with Herod the Great this frustration can turn to persecution on a whim. Yet in all circumstances we must be prepared to be a living epiphany to the world; luminaries of grace to those seeking the truth.

MINISTRY LISTS: are available in the sacristy, in the narthex "ready room" (vestry), and on the parish website. If you are a lector, sacristan, or altar server, please keep up-to-date on your scheduled service times. Thank you.

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.

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.