

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



1st Sunday
of Lent
1 March 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(February 29th - March 7th)

Sat.	Feb 29	1st Sunday of Lent (Vigil) (Vi) Russell Tetreault
Sun.	Mar 01	1st Sunday of Lent (Vi) <i>Pro Populo</i> Joao & Edite Gomes
Mon.	Mar 02	Lenten Weekday (Vi) Manuel da Costa
Tues.	Mar 03	Lenten Weekday (Vi) Domingos & Rosa Lima
Wed.	Mar 04	Lenten Weekday (Vi) Maria N. Silva
Thurs.	Mar 05	Lenten Weekday (Vi) Annette Poitras
Fri.	Mar 06	FIRST FRIDAY (Vi) Ceasar Fernandes; M/M Jose De Sousa Rene Pepin
Sat.	Mar 07	Lenten Weekday (Vi) Lucy Green
Sat.	Mar 07	2nd Sunday of Lent (Vigil) (Vi) <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Mar 08	2nd Sunday of Lent (Vi) John Engel Month's Mind Mass

Financial Report

Income:

6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	\$4,813.50
7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	\$4,644.25
Diocesan Assessment	\$1,948.00

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: Eric, Stephen & Christopher Gracia

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

REMEMBERING THE SISTERS WHO SERVED OUR SCHOOL

A week ago last Friday I had visited the last living sisters who taught at our parish school. They are all living in New York, a little up the Hudson River from the City. At present six sisters are still with us: Sisters Annette, Simone, Mary Martin, Linda, Janine, and Louise.

It was so powerful for me to see how excited they were to hear about our school. Although it has been years, even decades, since they were last in Acushnet, their love for this community is still strong. I had with me blankets with the school logo; these had been given out to the school faculty as Christmas gifts, and so we thought it only appropriate that these honored faculty emerita also receive them.



With Sisters Mary Martin, Simone, Janine, and Annette; Sister Louise Place was recovering from a recent surgery.



With Sister Linda

Talking with these sisters made me reflect on how much our church owes to the women who served in religious life as sisters and nuns. Up until about fifty years ago, these women were the foundation of so much of the church's work: as teachers; in hospitals; carrying out social work and acts of mercy to the forgotten. As the number of sisters declines, it is all the more important that we honor all that they accomplished. I hope you can join me at our school gala this year as we celebrate their witness and legacy.

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]

Mrs. Janine Hammarquist, Rel. Ed. Coordinator

[jlh@sfxparish.com]

[ministry@sfxacushnet.com]

Mr. Steven Guillotte, Director of Pastoral Services

[sng@sfxparish.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 the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! (Mt 4:8-10)

Every mountain high or low, every valley shallow or deep, every water narrow or broad belongs to the Lord God who created them all and keeps them. Nations encompass mountains and valleys, hills and flatlands, lakes and rivers and in their sovereignty claim these as their own. This is not a bad thing as national sovereignty maintains the diversity and unity of peoples and provides security against evil tyrants (unless such tyrants claim their own unjust sovereignty).

The devil is an unjust tyrant. In the myth behind *The Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien proposes that the leading angel who rebelled against God wanted to make his own creations and to be called "Lord". Melkor, meaning "mighty-rising", was the name of this preternatural spirit. He might have also been called "pride-rising" for as majestic as Melkor was he could not temper his desire for power; a power that wished to contend with and overthrow the One and only Lord God.

As we begin the season of Lent we enter into a season of anti-pride, a season of humility and contrition. We strip away all our self-given titles of honor especially those that set our will against what is good and graceful in the Lord. We examine our consciences, the evil things we have done in the past, and strive to enter the future with humility, temperance, gentleness and charity. We pray, we repent, and we give; all with the express purpose to put off the pride that brought us to death and to put on the faith and hope that brings us to new life.

As we celebrate our 1st Sunday in Lent we place on our bulletin cover an illustrated work by the **Limbourg Brothers** entitled *The Temptation of Christ* (late 14th Century). The Limbourg Brothers painted in a style known as "International Gothic" because it is said to have spread throughout Western Europe; or "Late Gothic" since it flourished before the Early Renaissance. The important thing to note is that it was a transitional style just as the Gothic period was an advancing period. Thus we see in these illuminated manuscripts (and in statuary of that time) the breakout of emotion, postures that step out toward the observer, and expansive landscapes, all features to be carried over to the proto-renaissance.

On our cover we see the beautiful colors of medieval illumination presenting a landscape that will release the deepening perspective of the Renaissance. There stands Jesus atop His creation tempted by Satan who has presumed lordship over the earth. On the weathervane to Jesus' left is a rooster indicating the denial of Christ and the penance needed to overcome this. Swimming in the moat are swans, symbols of God's grace. In the bottom right Jesus is the Lion of Judah chasing the Beast up the Tree of Knowledge.

All temptation is a solicitation to sin. We would have no Lent leading to Easter if the devil had convinced Jesus to sin only once. Jesus triumphed and so the redemption of man was established on earth and still carries on today.

1st Sunday in Lent - March 1, 2020

Religious Education



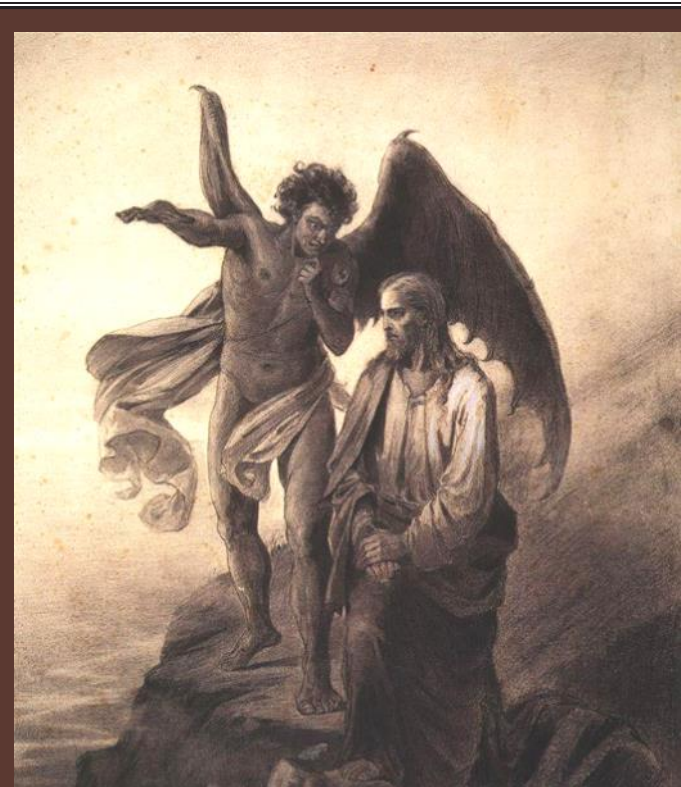
All First Communion Students will be attending the 10:30am Mass together in reserved pews from March 1st – April 5th (Excludes March 22 FFF event). Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time in May.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On all Monday evenings (holidays included) 6:30-7:30pm. We will begin with Evening Prayer and Benediction and recite the Rosary. It is part of our program and all students are expected to make at least 2 out of 4 or 3 out of 5 Holy Hours each month that their class is assigned. **March is Level 3. (Please note NEW time).**

YOUTH TALK & MORE: ON SCIENCE AND THE EXISTENCE OF GOD? Students from middle school through college, parents, grandparents and all parishioners are invited to a presentation at Bishop Connolly High School (373 Elsbree Street, Fall River, MA) for a FREE event with **Father Robert Spitzer** (of EWTN) on Thursday 5 March from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Come to this important event which will enlighten your mind and your faith.

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 at jlh@sfxparish.com



Temptation of Christ
Vasily Surikov (1872)

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan!" (Mt. 4:8-10a)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

It was so wonderful to welcome back our students and staff after a VERY much needed February break. Students returned looking rested, healthy, and ready to resume their academic efforts! With winter-break behind us, we have graciously entered into the Lenten season. Our students have taken the time to reflect upon the three pillars and have committed to making sacrifices in order to encounter Jesus more intimately. On Friday, Father led our teachers and students as we followed Christ's footsteps to Calvary by praying the Stations of the Cross. Please keep our faculty, staff, and students in your prayers as we pray, fast, and give alms as a school community during this holy season. Please also note that representatives will be present after Masses again this weekend, making reservations and/or accepting donations for our annual school fundraiser. This year's auction and gala is entitled *Embrace Grace*, and will be held at the *Century House on Saturday, March 21st at 6pm*. Thank you and...

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 1st - Catholic Education

March 15th - Diocesan Assessment (see last page of bulletin)

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	March 1	
Rel. Ed Levels 1-6		
w/ school 2 nd Graders	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
Rel. Ed Levels 7-9	11:40-12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
Monday	March 2	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
Eucharistic Adoration:		
Rel. Ed. Level 3	6:30-7:30pm	Church
Tuesday	March 3	
Parish Book Study:		
"The Sacraments"	12:00-1:00pm	Parish Ctr.
Prayer Shawl Group	1:00-2:30pm	Parish Ctr.
Vespers	6:30pm	Church
Wednesday	March 4	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30- 7:00pm	Church
Thursday	March 5	
Parish Wide Book Study: "The Sacraments"		
	9:45-10:45am or 7:00-8:00pm	Parish Ctr.
Friday	March 6	
Stations of the Cross	7:00pm	Church

SFX
WOMEN OF
GRACE

Women of Grace International is excited to bring you our *Lenten Journey with the Saints Daily Gracelines*.

Beginning Ash Wednesday and continuing every day until Easter Sunday, our *Lenten Journey with the Saints Gracelines* will feature beautiful reflections from some of our most beloved Catholic saints to help you to prepare for Lent and Easter and to grow closer to Our Lord and His Mother.

As we sojourn together with the saints through the desert of the Lenten season, may these short, daily reflections help us to walk more closely with Our Lord through His passion, death and resurrection.

Please go to womenofgrace.com to sign up to receive this daily in your email.



PARISH VIDEO SERIES

THE SACRAMENTS

DISCOVERING THE TREASURES OF DIVINE LIFE

Tues. 3 March
Noon
Thurs. 5 March
9:45 am & 7 pm

WEEK 5
MARRIAGE

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.

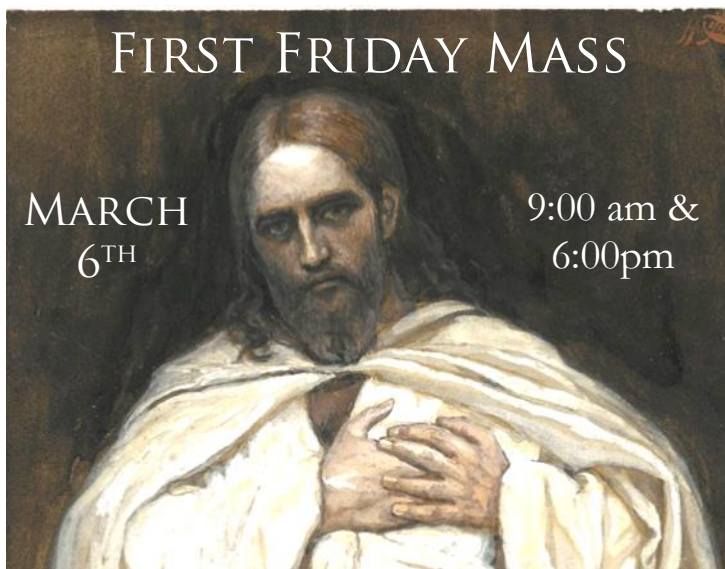
Free Childcare | Lunch Provided
Registration Forms in the Church

PLEASE SIGN UP NOW



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7 pm - Every Friday Evening in Lent



FIRST FRIDAY MASS

MARCH 6TH 9:00 am & 6:00pm

RICE BOWL DELAY: Due to some oversight or error at Catholic Relief Services we did not receive our Rice Bowls as usual this year and we were not able to distribute these as normal for Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. We have ordered some Rice Bowls (something we have never had to do) but there is a one to two week wait period for processing. For those of you unfamiliar with the Rice Bowl program, it is an annual charitable and almsgiving program for Lent in which the money or extra money which you would spend on a meal or larger meal, but which you do not spend because of Lenten fasting and abstinence, is placed in the Rice Bowl (box) for the poor around the world who are cared for by Catholic Relief Services. We suggest that for now you might put your sacrifices in another container which can be transferred to the Rice Bowls when they arrive at the parish. Thank you.

1st Sunday in Lent - March 1, 2020

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 1, 2020

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 [cf. 3a]/
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [Jn 6:63b]/Mt
25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/
Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk
11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c
-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt
5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-

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. For more information and to register for this event please visit the website for the Fall River Diocese and click on the home page advertisement.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY EVENT: Our Lady of Grace Church of 569 Sanford Road, Westport will present on **Tuesday 10 March** from 7-9:30 pm - *Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land*. Christopher West and Mike Mangione will present through teaching, music and art, a vision of the Gospel message through the lens of St. John Paul II's **Theology of the Body** which taps into the desires of the human heart while urging one to live a life of daily virtue. **Tickets** for this event are general admission, are \$25, and are **available now in our parish office**. Please stop by for your tickets or call the office to reserve your tickets for pick up.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: Our parish is sponsoring another day of prayerful vigil at the last abortion clinic located in diocesan territory (in Attleboro). We will gather there starting at 6 am on **Saturday, 4 April**, the Saturday just before Palm/Passion Sunday, thus making it particularly palpable. Please set some time aside to join us in prayer to sustain life in the womb in this very challenging time.

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.

PARISH ENVELOPE CORRECTIONS: We have noticed many irregularities in the parish collection envelopes for March 2020. First, there is only one second collection for March 1st for Catholic Education - please do us the diocesan assessment envelope this weekend.

Second, please disregard the March 4th envelope for Ash Wednesday which was already celebrated on Feb 26th.

You will also notice in your envelope package that there are envelopes for two second collections on March 22nd. One envelope is for *Catholic Relief Services* and the other for the *Diocesan Assessment*. The official national collection on March 22nd is for Catholic Relief Services, so please use only that envelope that day for the second collection. Because of this mix up **we are going to hold the Diocesan Assessment collection one weekend earlier on March 15th**... therefore... Please use the Diocesan Assessment envelope dated March 22 for a second collection to be held on March 15. Thank You!

SVDP EASTER BASKETS: Our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society is starting its annual drive for food items for its Easter Baskets that it delivers to its local clients for the holiday. The items needed to make up these baskets are as follows: canned hams & yams (or canned sweet potatoes), boxed mash potatoes, canned pineapples, jar cherries. In general they are also in need of rice, juice, coffee, tea, crackers, cookies, desserts-cake, brownie & pudding/Jell-O mixes. Gift cards are also welcome as they will attach these to the Easter baskets. Items in addition to food that would be good are paper goods-napkins, paper towels, dish soap, sponges, etc. and personal hygiene items like soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. Also, if you know of anyone who is in need of a basket please call us at the parish office and we will be sure to get the name to our SVDP contacts.

NEW DIOCESAN POSITION: The Diocese of Fall River is seeking a faith-filled person as *Senior Director of Youth, Young Adult & Family Ministries*. The person in this newly created position will work closely with Bishop da Cunha. The position should prove challenging and rewarding to a Catholic individual excited about teaching and engaging others in the life of the faith. For more information please look at the job listing on the diocesan website, www.fallriverdiocese.com and click on "Employment Opportunities".

A DAY WITH MARY: is being held on **Saturday 7 March** at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church of 235 North Front Street, New Bedford. The event begins with a procession at 8 am and Holy Mass at 9 am. At 10:30 am there will be a meditation on Our Lady. Please bring a bag lunch if you are coming for the day. Lunch is at Noon. There will also be Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction and investment in the Brown Scapula in the afternoon. The event concludes at 2:50 pm