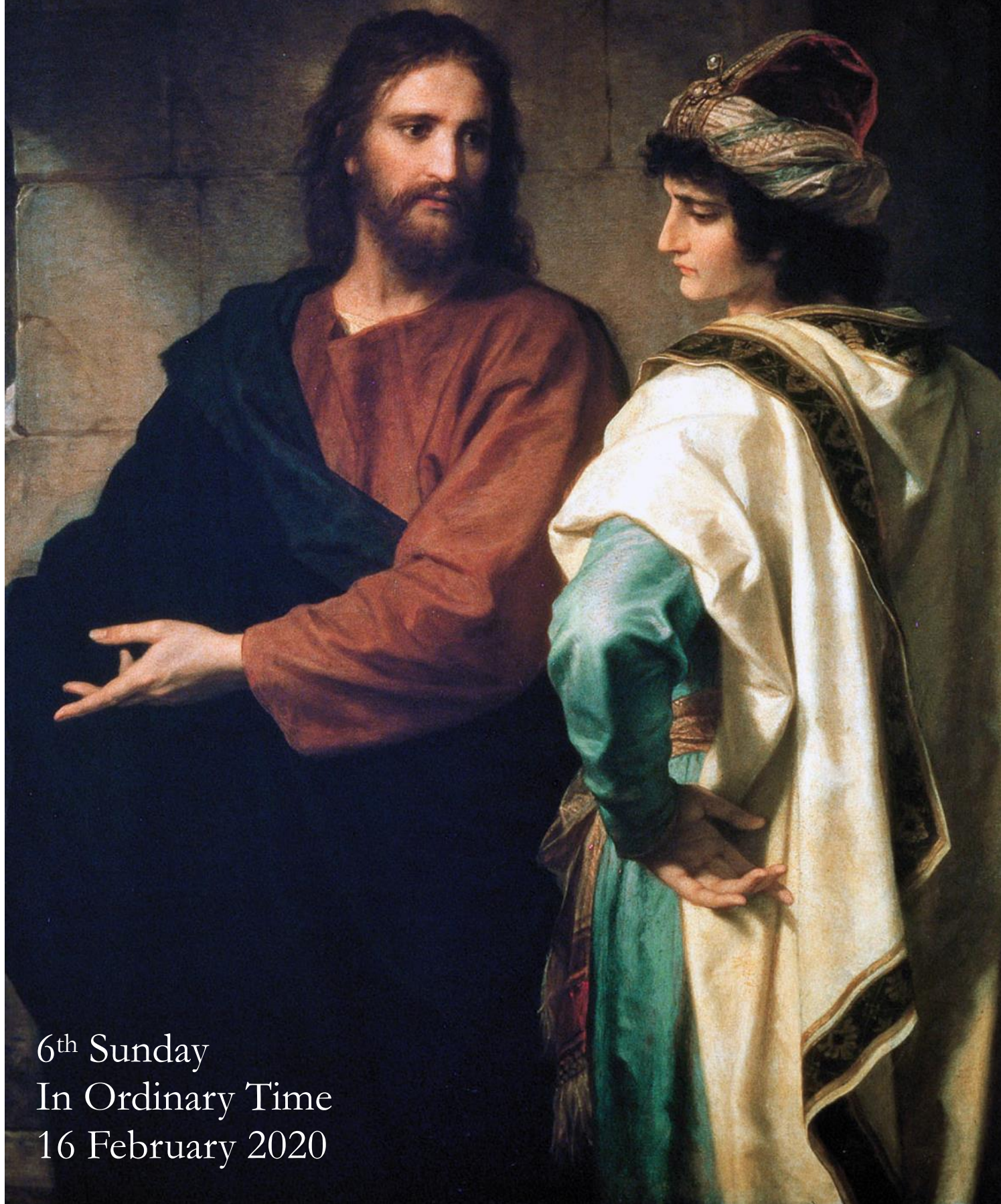


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



6th Sunday
In Ordinary Time
16 February 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(February 15th - February 23rd)

Sat.	Feb 15	6th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Feb 16	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr) Nicholas Urbanek Robert Vigeant
Mon.	Feb 17	Seven Founders of the Servites (Wh) Helen, Jean & Donny Guenette
Tues.	Feb 18	Feria (Gr) Beverly Da Silva
Wed.	Feb 19	Feria (Gr) Ron Pimental & Catherine White
Thurs.	Feb 20	Feria (Gr) Carolyn & Stephen Lawrence
Fri.	Feb 21	St. Peter Damien; Bishop (Wh) Nathan Rayner
Sat.	Feb 22	The Chair of St. Peter (Wh) Alfred Coray
Sat.	Feb 22	7th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Feb 23	7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr) Anibal V. Tavares Rose Engel

Financial Report

Income:

5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	\$4,590.25
Building Fund	\$2,976.00

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 pray for infant **Olivia Coumoyer** who will be baptized after the 10:30 am Mass this Sunday, February 16th.

Sanctuary Lamp

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

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A GODPARENT?

I will guess that many of you have seen the movie *The Godfather*. Coppola's 1972 classic ends with the main character, Michael Corleone, serving as godfather to his nephew while a series of violent acts are taking place at his command. While the contrast is meant to show his entrance into a life of crime – a complete subversion of what his role in the Baptism signifies – it also shows a man who has tragically allowed the cultural and (his) personal meaning of being a godparent to snuff out the religious meaning – which should always be primary.

The joining of the religious and cultural meanings of being a godparent once worked because in large part (excepting the scene from the movie) those asked to be godparents were practicing their faith. As fewer and fewer people in the general population are now practicing their faith, we need to separate the religious and cultural significations of what it means to be a godparent.

“Sponsor,” the Latin word used for this role, helps us to understand what is required for it. A sponsor is someone who is already practicing what a newcomer is beginning. For example, a sponsor for a driving test must have a license and a year of driving experience to fulfill that role. This only makes sense: how can someone lead another in what they don't already practice themselves? If this makes sense for a sponsor for a driving test, how much more should it for a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation?

Church law (Canon 874 §1) says that a godparent/ sponsor must be over 16; not be the parent of the one receiving the sacrament; have already received Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation; and otherwise be one “who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on,” which includes being married in the church, if one is married. In practical terms, this means weekly participation at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, a regular practice of prayer and the sacrament of Confession, and living a moral life in accord with the guidance of our Christian faith. A baptized non-Catholic can serve as a Christian witness to the Baptism, but only if there is a Catholic godparent who fulfills the expectations for the role (Canon 874 §2).

You can't give what you don't have: if this is true for a sponsor for a driving test, shouldn't it be more true for something as serious as entering a life of faith? The godparent is called to be an ongoing witness of faith in Jesus Christ for the one sponsored. A person can have many mentors and guides in life, but the role of godparent must always remain rooted in its religious purpose.

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

If you choose, you can keep the commandments & they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live; ... Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him. (Sir 15:15; 17)

God made man free. This means God gave man the power to act of his own accord. Man has the power to act or not to act - and if he chooses to act - the power to act one way or another. Man can choose his own way and he can do so deliberately taking into consideration what is good or bad and what is right or wrong. Thus God gave man not only the power of freedom but the proclivity for prudence which allows man to seek after what is beneficial and honorable and to avoid what is detrimental and dishonorable.

Freedom does not happen without responsibility. The misuse of freedom results in injury to one's self or injury to others (often resulting in punishment to one's self). This is the rule of life and the rule of law. It is also the law of God. Being made in the image of God we understand the cooperating principles of freedom and responsibility: that overreaches in freedom result in pain and in penalty. Or do we understand this any longer?

So many people today appear to be frustrated and angry because they cannot grasp that their errant moral behavior is the cause of their frustration and anger. They suffer personally and spiritually because they cannot distinguish between what is actually good and what only appears to be good (yet is actually bad). A person who is unable to discern between the good and the bad has little chance of knowing the right from the wrong. His corrupted conscience will continue to stray from the path of happiness.

It is for this reason that knowledge and practice of God's commandments are so needed today. Our quotation above from the Book of Sirach reveals an ancient wisdom: each person chooses the good or evil he or she ends up with. God lures no one to Hell; God lays out before man life and death. Man chooses his own way. God wants to lead man to Heaven, but each man can refuse God's truth and grace in his own unrepentant free will.

For this 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time we have placed on our bulletin cover a work by **Heinrich Hofmann** entitled *Christ and the Rich Young Ruler* (1889). Hofmann was a German Academic painter heavily influenced by the Italian masters of antiquity. Hofmann dedicated himself to images portraying the life and activities of Jesus.

Here we see Jesus offering the young man a choice: to continue his rich worldly lifestyle or to follow Him to the riches of God's kingdom. Unseen on our bulletin cover (due to the width of the painting) is a frail, ill man cared for by a woman who resembles the Blessed Mother. Hofmann paints Jesus asking the young man to use his riches to serve others rather than only himself. The young man looks away in obstinacy. We know he goes away sad (Mt 19:22).

The young man need not gone away. He could have stayed with Jesus selling all he had for the "pearl of great price" (Mt 13:45-46). He could have prudently chosen, at that moment, everlasting happiness.

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 16, 2020

Religious Education



All First Communion Students will be attending the 10:30am Mass together in reserved pews from February 23rd – 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.

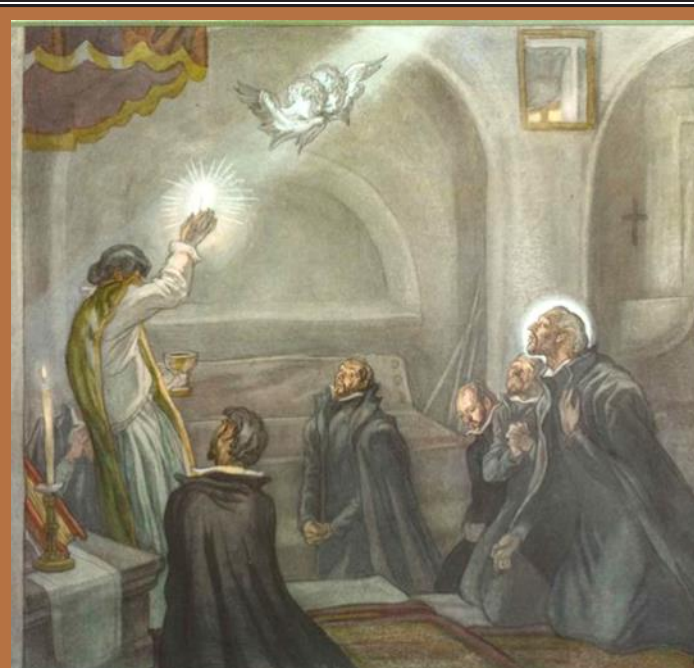
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On all Monday evenings (holidays included) 6:30-7:30pm. We will begin with Evening Prayer and Benediction and recite the Rosary. It is part of our program and all students are expected to make at least 2 out of 4 or 3 out of 5 Holy Hours each month that their class is assigned.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

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.

No classes for all levels on Sun. Feb. 16th due to school vacation. Classes resume for all levels on Sun. Feb. 23rd.

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



Ignatius and First Companions Taking Vows
Carlos Saenz de Tejada (20th Century)

“Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, ‘Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all. Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’” (Mt 5:33-34a, 37)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

February has had its fair share of challenges and celebrations at the school! We have experienced quite a bit of student illness this month, making for some high absenteeism days and substantial make-up work for students! Prior to our trial with the winter cold season, our 7th & 8th graders shined at our annual Science Fair giving their academic best! Student projects were very well executed and it was evident that hours had been spent conducting experiments, compiling results, and preparing presentations. A tremendous amount of gratitude goes to Mrs. Shaughnessy who clearly prepared her students and provided guidance and encouragement for student hypotheses, exploration, and experimentation. Now just a few weeks into the month, it is time to rest and rejuvenate our brains, as well as our bodies... *Happy February Vacation!*

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

February 23rd - Diocesan Assessment

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	February 16	
No Religious Ed		
Monday	February 17	Office Closed
Eucharistic Adoration:		
Rel. Ed. Level 4	6:30-7:30pm	Church
Tuesday	February 18	
Parish Book Study:		
“The Sacraments”	12:00-1:00pm	Parish Ctr.
Vespers	6:30pm	Church
Wednesday	February 19	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
Thursday	February 20	
Parish Wide Book Study: “The Sacraments”	9:45-10:45am or 7:00-8:00pm	Parish Ctr.



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 pre-made foods. Thank you for your generous assistance in feeding our local poor.

SFX
WOMEN OF
GRACE

The Lenten season is quickly coming upon us. We will soon be fasting, praying and giving alms as we purify ourselves in preparation for Easter. Let's also consider parish opportunities to enhance our Lenten journey. The book/video series on the Sacraments continues to be a blessing for those in attendance. Our *Women of Grace* has an hour of Adoration the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm and all are welcome. Friday's in Lent we will have The Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm with a special presentation from the Youth Ministry on March 20th. Married couples of all ages are encouraged to attend the Marriage Bootcamp on March 29th: take an afternoon to unplug from the world and re-connect with your spouse. Families continue to enjoy the Rosary Parties held once a month at 6:00 in the school. I look forward to seeing you soon and always remember, you can invite a friend to join you!



PARISH
VIDEO
SERIES

THE
SACRAMENTS

DISCOVERING THE TREASURES OF DIVINE LIFE

Tues. 25 February
Noon

Thurs. 27 February
9:45 am & 7 pm

WEEK 4
HOLY EUCHARIST

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



NEXT ROSARY PARTY

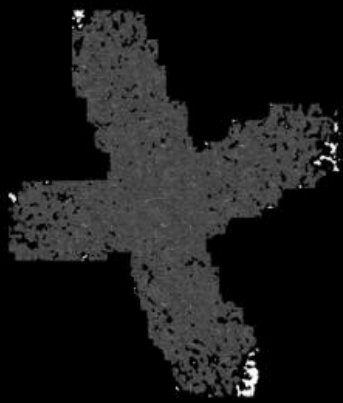
Sunday 23 Feb
6:00 pm @ the
Parish School

*Remember You are Dust
and to Dust You Shall Return*

Liturgy of the Word & Ashes
6:30 AM

Holy Mass & Ashes
9 AM & 7 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY - 26 FEBRUARY



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 16, 2020

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 [1b]/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37
Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 [77a]/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 [1b]/Mk 8:22-26
Thursday: Jas 2:1-9/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [7a]/Mk 8:27-33
Friday: Jas 2:14-24, 26/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 1b]/Mk 8:34—9:1
Saturday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSING: This Monday, February 17th (President's 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.

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE: 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.

ROMEIROS OF NEW ENGLAND: Beginning on Saturday 28 March a local, Portuguese, Lenten pilgrimage group will start out on its 8 day, 20 mile per day trek with visitations to over 50 churches. They enter these churches in solemn prayer for the church, diocese, and for personal intentions which they receive along their journey.

The Romeiros will once again visit our parish church this year. They expect to be here between 3:15 and 3:30 pm on Saturday 28 March. They generally visit the main body of the church where they stay and pray for some time before departing. You are welcome to come to the church that day and wait prayerfully in the church for their arrival. It would be a blessing to have some parishioners here in our church just so to greet them with our presence. Perhaps if you are attending the 4 pm Mass that day you can come early and pray in the church and await their visit.

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.

NEXT BEREAVEMENT MEETING: Our parish group will meet again on **Monday, 24 February 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 struggling with sorrow and sadness. We meet in the parish center hospitality room.

- Even if you don't wish 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.

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.

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 25th and 27th respectively.** Various parish staff will facilitate the video and be available to answer questions after the video. There is no cost to participate.