

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



7th Sunday
In Ordinary Time
23 February 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(February 22nd - March 1st)

Sat.	Feb 22	7 th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Feb 23	7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr) Anibal V. Tavares Rose Engel
Mon.	Feb 24	Feria (Gr) Francisco & Ana Fernandes
Tues.	Feb 25	Feria (Gr) Albert & Florence Thomasset
Wed.	Feb 26	Ash Wednesday (Vi) <i>Liturgy of the Word & Ashes Only</i> Annette Poitras Eliseu Correia
Thurs.	Feb 27	Thursday after Ash Wednesday (Vi) Manuel Tavares
Fri.	Feb 28	Friday after Ash Wednesday (Vi) Michael & Joanne Olivier
Sat.	Feb 29	Saturday after Ash Wednesday (Vi) Antonio Germana & Pedro Camara
Sat.	Feb 29	1 st Sunday of Lent (Vigil) (Vi) Russell Tetreault
Sun.	Mar 01	1 st Sunday of Lent (Vi) <i>Pro Populo</i> Joao & Edite Gomes

Financial Report

Due to an early submission of this bulletin because of President's Day we have no income information to report this week. We will catch you up next week!

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

FOR THOSE WISHING TO HAVE THEIR MARRIAGES BLESSED IN THE CHURCH

What is the difference between being married in church and being married in a civil ceremony? If you can recall our theme this year, you can probably guess the answer – *grace!*

The Catechism – the official book of teaching of the Church – explains that the “grace proper to the sacrament of Matrimony is intended to perfect the couple's love and to strengthen their indissoluble unity. By this grace they help one another to attain holiness in their married life and in welcoming and educating their children” (para. 1641). While every marriage is based on the love of the spouses for one another, the grace of marriage builds on that natural union by giving it supernatural strength. Marriage is not always easy, and the *sacrament* of Marriage offers the couple the needed grace to build on their good will and intentions to help their union in remaining strong and durable.

For various reasons, not all Catholic married couples have received the Sacrament of Marriage (as it is usually said, “married in church”). There are various reasons for that, but the chief drawback is that they are now living in a relationship that has neither been blessed nor recognized by the community of faith that is the Church. As a result, a couple with only a civil marriage, but not a sacramental marriage, is not able to receive the other sacraments, principally Holy Communion and Confession.

That said, we are here to help! Part of our *Year of Grace* is helping people to come to a deeper appreciation of the sacraments, and one goal we have is to assist couples who would like to have their civil marriage blessed by the Church to do so. For this, we are offering a very simple process:

- 1) Please contact me to set up a short meeting so that I can fill out a brief intake form; the best way to arrange this is through my email, rjw@sfxparish.com.
 - 2) The couple will be asked to attend the *Day of Reflection for Married Couples* on Sunday, 29 March. This day is focused on the Sacrament of Marriage, and will prepare the couple for their reception of the sacrament.
 - 3) After the Day of Reflection we will arrange a date for the sacrament. This can be as simple or elaborate as the couple wishes – I have often performed ceremonies at which there is simply an intimate group of 5-10 people.
- Any couples wishing to receive the Sacrament of Marriage are encouraged to contact me!

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

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you... if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Mt 5:44, 46, 47-48)

One of the most disconcerting instructions given to us by Jesus is to love our enemies. It is difficult just to begin to understand this command because the words “enemies” and “love” are terms which need unpacking. Let us begin with “love”.

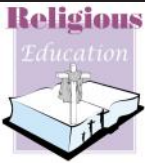
When we think of love we may immediately think of the emotion of love or of someone that we love and so we cannot envision loving our enemies in this way. However, love in its spiritual context means “to will the good of another.” To love someone does not mean simply to feel good about another person or to “wish” another person well. To will someone’s good means that we are *willing* to actually do something for that person’s welfare. Because we are Christians, the good we want for *everyone* is heaven; therefore it is not so far-fetched for us to love an enemy, since as Christians we are *already* working for *everyone’s* eternal salvation.

Further, Jesus told us to love our enemies. He did not tell us to become friends with our enemies (or they would no longer be enemies). Jesus does not require us to trust our enemies, that is, to trust those who are untrustworthy; nor does He ask us to align with those who would have us compromise our belief. This is important because an enemy is someone who is not only hostile to your plans but to God’s plans too, so that befriending an enemy is perilous to you and to the Church. Jesus told us “to pray for” our enemies; prayer is the very first thing we should do if we are ever to begin willing their good. Further, we are asked to “turn the other cheek” not as a sign of friendship with a person of evil intent, but as a witness to God’s goodness.

For this 7th **Sunday in Ordinary Time** we place on our bulletin cover a work by the Venetian master **Jacopo Bassano** entitled *The Good Samaritan* (1563). Bassano’s career began with the use of bright colors in imitation of Titian but he turned to Mannerism through his observation of the likes of Raphael and Tintoretto. Bassano also moved away from the classical backdrops of his Renaissance contemporaries to deep, dark landscapes with an ambiance of twilight or the impending storm. This is one significant way that his depiction of the Parable of the Good Samaritan differed from, say, that of Rembrandt.

In our image, we see the Samaritan hoisting the injured man onto his horse. In the forefront is the flask from which he poured the wine over the poor man’s wounds. We see the head and right leg of the man already bandaged by the Samaritan. In the middle-left of the scene are the priest and a Levite who walk past their fellow Jew without providing care. It was the Samaritan, accounted an enemy or non-friend of Jews, who acted to save the beaten man. Thus, Bassano’s foreboding sky foretells a time when the follower of Christ would serve all mankind, even his enemies.

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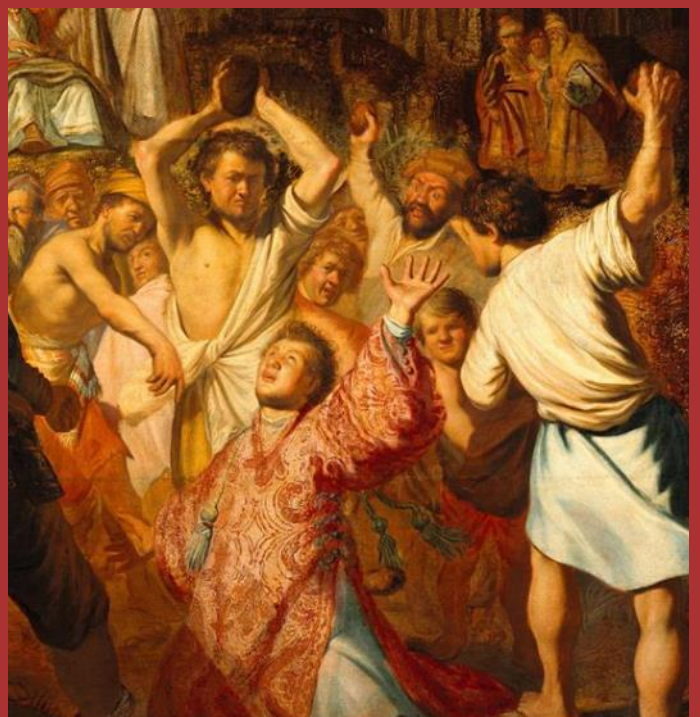


Religious Education **All First Communion Students** will be attending the 10:30am Mass together in reserved pews from February 23rd – April 5th (Excludes March 22 FFF event). Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time in May.

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).**

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



The Stoning of St. Stephen
Rembrandt (1625)

“You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father.” - (Mt 5:43-45)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

The school was rather quiet this past week, as faculty and students enjoyed a much needed rest. Hopefully winter vacation also provided time for students and faculty to be restored to full health. We reopen our doors Monday and begin preparing for Lent. Students and faculty will enjoy a bit of Fat Tuesday fun and a dress down day prior to burying the Alleluia and entering into this solemn liturgical season. During Lent, our school family will focus on the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as together we walk the 40 day journey. In addition to this spiritual renewal, students will also continue to excel in their studies. This weekend after all of the Masses, please visit the school representatives who will be sharing information/taking reservations for our annual auction and gala. Please consider attending; donations are also graciously accepted.

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

February 23rd - Diocesan Assessment

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	February 23	
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.
Rosary Party	6:00pm	School
Monday	February 24	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
Eucharistic Adoration:		
Rel. Ed. Level 4	6:30-7:30pm	Church
Tuesday	February 25	
Parish Book Study:		
“The Sacraments”	12:00-1:00pm	Parish Ctr.
Vespers	6:30pm	Church
Ash Wednesday	February 26	
Liturgy of the Word		
And Ashes	6:30am	Church
Holy Mass & Ashes	9am & 7 pm	Church
Vespers & Benediction	6:30- 7:00pm	Church
Thursday	February 27	
Parish Wide Book Study: “The Sacraments”		
	9:45-10:45am or 7:00-8:00pm	Parish Ctr.
Friday	February 27	
Stations of the Cross	7:00pm	Church

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 6:00pm in the school. I look forward to seeing you soon and always remember, you can invite a friend to join you!

MARRIAGE BOOT CAMP:

GETTING BACK TO THE BASICS

The Registration Forms for our special Day of Reflection to be held on **Sunday 29 March** from 11:30 am until 5 pm are in the church narthex (entrance) and we strongly encourage you to take one, fill out the information at the bottom and return this as soon as possible to reserve your spot at the event.

The fee is only \$20.00 to cover both meal and materials. Additional lunches can be purchased at a very reasonable cost for any children - *free child care will be provided.*

This is a day of inspiring talks, prayer, and fellowship so we hope to see you all there!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Mass and Ashes: 9 am & 7 pm

Liturgy of the Word & Ashes
6:30 am

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7 pm - Every Friday Evening in Lent

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Death & Dying:
A Lenten
Reflection

MON. 24 FEB
7:00 PM
PARISH CENTER

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23, 2020

Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48
Monday: Jas 3:13-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [9a]/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10/Ps 55:7-8, 9-10a, 10b-11a, 23 [23a]/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 [cf. 3a]/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Ps 40:5a]/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/Lk 5:27-32



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. Thank you for your generous assistance in feeding our local poor.

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.

LAW OF FAST & ABSTINENCE: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

THE ROMEIROS ARE COMING: They will be here between 3:15 and 3:30 pm on **Saturday 28 March**. 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 give them a good reception with our presence!

ROSARY PARTY - THIS SUNDAY: Join your fellow parishioners at the parish school **this Sunday 23 February at 6:00 pm** for our wonderful parish Rosary Party. This is an excellent way to prepare for the Lenten season which begins only three days later on Ash Wednesday. This is a great event for all especially families who can sit near each other and hold one of the large rosary beads in hand while praying one of the prayers during the glorious mysteries. There is of course plenty of refreshments afterward and time for fellowship with other parishioners and your pastor.

LENTEN WORKSHEET

During Lent three spiritual practices are encouraged : **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**. This worksheet will help you keep track of your resolutions in this holy season.

We perform these things not to “earn” grace, but to redirect our lives to what matters most: loving God and serving Him in others. Prayer consciously directs of our mind and soul to God; fasting sacrifices legitimate pleasure as a way of refocusing our lives on Who matters most – God, and also as a sign of sorrow for our sins; almsgiving is giving some of our money, time, or ability to help those in need.

The following is a guide to help organize your thoughts; don't feel a need to fill out everything (unless you wish to), but please use it to reflect on how you'll respond to the call to conversion of life we receive in Lent. These actions may be done daily, weekly, or just once during Lent; you may also multiple things for each (something small for each day, then larger for once during Lent). Whatever extra acts you take on, or whatever sacrifices you make, remember – the Lord will not be outdone in generosity!

PRAYER

DAILY:

WEEKLY:

ONCE:

FASTING

DAILY:

WEEKLY:

ONCE:

ALMSGIVING

DAILY:

WEEKLY:

ONCE: