

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
In Ordinary Time  
9 February 2020

*St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River*

**Mass Schedule**

**(February 8<sup>th</sup> - February 16<sup>th</sup>)**

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Feb 08</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b> Antonio, Ana & children
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Feb 09</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr)</b> <i>Pro Populo</i>
		10:30am <i>Month's Mind</i>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Feb 10</b>	<b>St. Scholastica; Virgin (Wh)</b> Eileen Vicente Cabral
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Feb 11</b>	<b>Our Lady of Lourdes (Wh)</b> Maria Belo & Jose Alves
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Feb 12</b>	<b>Feria (Gr)</b> Annette Poitras
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Feb 13</b>	<b>Feria (Gr)</b> Maria N. Silva
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Feb 14</b>	<b>Ss. Cyril &amp; Methodius (Wh)</b>  9:00am Dave Harvey
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>Blessed Virgin Mary (Wh)</b> 9:00am Pedro Camara
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b> 4:00pm <i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Feb 16</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr)</b> 8:00am Nicholas Urbanek

**Financial Report**

**Income:**

Presentation of the Lord .....	\$5,075.35
Home Missions .....	\$1,682.22

**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 on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

**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**

**KNOWING ABOUT EMERGENCY BAPTISMS**

A few weeks ago I received a call early in the morning from St. Luke's Hospital about a child born extremely premature and in need of an emergency baptism. I made my way over there as quickly as I could and gave the child the sacrament (to the great relief of the mother).

What should have been done if I couldn't have been reached, or wouldn't make it in time? It is important for every Catholic to know how to perform an emergency Baptism. Like the safety announcements on a plane, you might never need to put it into practice – but it's vitally important that you know it should you ever need it.

**Who can Baptize?** Anyone – Christian or not – can perform an emergency Baptism under specific conditions. The situation must be a true emergency – with proximate danger of death or something similar, such as going into battle. A priest or deacon must be unavailable or unable to reach the person in time. Someone near death at home or in a hospital who requests Baptism can be baptized by anyone who uses the correct material (water) and words (see below) and has the intention of doing what the Church does in this sacrament, which is presumed if they use the formula for Baptism.

**Outside of situations of grave necessity** a priest or deacon is the ordinary minister of Baptism. Hence, a family member shouldn't baptize a relative simply because the parents have not yet done so, nor should someone baptize a friend just because they want to be baptized. Under normal circumstances, there is a time of preparation so that the person to be baptized (and their parents, in the case of children) can be prepared to live the Christian life of which Baptism is the gateway. For infants, it is church law that the child's parents, or at least one of them or a legal guardian, consent to the Baptism (Canon Can. 868 §1 1/.), although in danger of death such a person could be baptized even against the will of the parents (§2).

**How does one Baptize?** Using clean water, pour it over the person's head three times at the naming of the Holy Trinity as you say, "**I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**"

**What about the other ceremonies of Baptism?** If you came to our adult education class this past week you know that the actual action of Baptism is only part of the rite; there are other ceremonies and blessings involved as well. If someone is baptized in an emergency and later recovers, they are brought to church to have the other ceremonies (with the candle, white garment, anointing with Sacred Chrism, etc.) "supplied" by a priest or deacon.

# 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

*“You are the light of the world... Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” (Mt 5:14; 16)*

In our regular reading of Sacred Scripture we will come across some passages which appear to contradict each other. For example, today Jesus tells his disciples to show their good deeds to others, while at another time He commanded them to *“take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them” (Mt 6:1)*. On the surface it appears that Jesus is instructing His disciples to do two opposite things. However Jesus never does anything only on the surface. His meaning always delves deeper.

The teachings of Jesus are not for the superficial or slothful but for those who through grace seek His greater understanding. Surface contradictions in Sacred Scripture should never pose any threat to the believer. In this case the Christian will come to see these passages from Matthew as two pieces clinging together in the same complete puzzle.

The teaching of Our Lord is always spiritual. In this case the two sayings each encourage us to have a proper spiritual intention. Thus, when we perform an act of charity do we intend that people see us or see God? Do we desire, even a little, to be in the spotlight or is our intent to shine the light upon God? Do we seek (even a little) to glorify ourselves or do we seek entirely to glorify God?

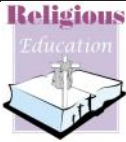
The answers to these questions are very important because what Jesus wants is not that we should hide our good deeds but that we should not perform them with the purpose of making ourselves look good to others. For instance, when a Christian posts a picture of himself on social media performing some charitable act does he do so for the purpose of making himself look good to others or for the exclusive purpose of glorifying God? Because this is a spiritual matter, this is an interior question which each Christian must answer within his own conscience. The answer to this question and the intention of the believer will determine if the Christian is walking on the path of Christ.

For this **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time** we place on our parish bulletin cover a work by the 18<sup>th</sup> century English painter **Thomas Gainsborough** entitled, *Charity Relieving Distress*. Gainsborough painted in the Rococo and Academic styles progressing from portraits to landscape-portraits to far reaching country landscapes. The work we examine today is actually a bit of an oddity for its use of classical features and its classical appearance, uncharacteristic of the artist.

The importance of this work to us is the unassuming appearance of the woman offering charity to the poor. She is wholly engaged in the task, seemingly thinking nothing of herself. Gainsborough has even cornered her in by his architecture so that her charity is blocked from view on most sides. Only the man sitting on the steps who appears not poor (he has both basket and jug) can directly see her good deeds. This man peers at the woman without her knowing it as he is moved to admiration and contemplation over her humble and loving concern.

Let us perform charitable acts inspired by prayer and grace, and let us think only of glorifying God.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 9, 2020



**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 23<sup>rd</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup> (Excludes March 22 FFF event). Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time in May.

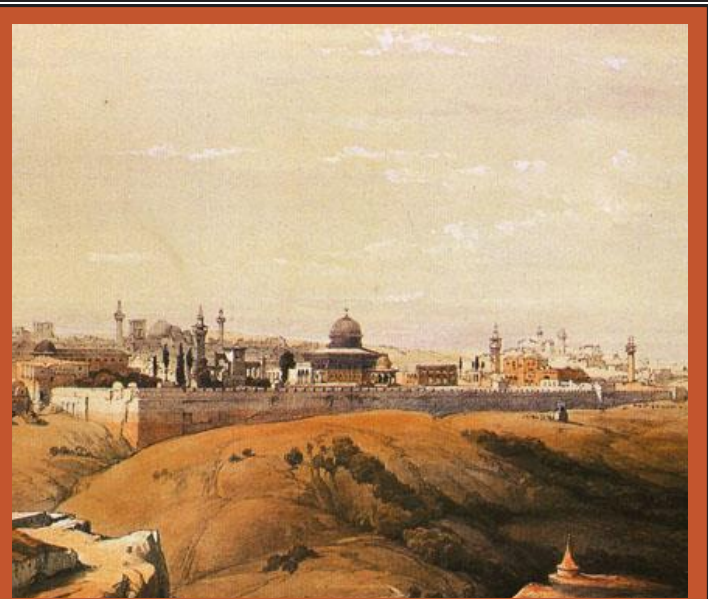
**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** On all Monday evenings 7:30-8:30pm. Every grade level will have a scheduled hour of Adoration from October-May. All students in those grade levels are expected to make every attempt to join us for this hour each Monday in their scheduled month. **February is Level 4**

### 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](http://www.sfxparish.com).  
 If you have any questions please email Mrs. Hammarquist at [jlh@sfxparish.com](mailto:jlh@sfxparish.com)



*Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives*  
 David Roberts (19<sup>th</sup> Century)

*Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden." (Mt 5:13a, 14)*

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

It is that time of year when we begin to work hard and to engage in the conversation needed to successfully execute our annual fundraiser! The "need-to-know" details for your calendars are that the event will be held on **Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 6pm** at the Century House. The event theme, *Embrace Grace*, is an offshoot of both our parish and school focus this year. Our school (and parish) family has so much to be grateful for and it is only with God's grace that we are able to continue to thrive, as well as endure the challenges that come our way! As always, we would appreciate parishioners' presence at our fundraiser. However, we do realize that attendance is not possible for everyone. Donations of any kind are most welcome and we gratefully accept items for our raffles and auction. More information is forthcoming. You will soon see our representatives in the church narthex to answer any questions and/or make your reservations.

**God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal**

**UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**February 9<sup>th</sup>** - Building Fund  
**February 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Diocesan Assessment

## PARISH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 9</b>	
Rel. Ed Levels 1-6	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
1 <sup>st</sup> Communion		
Parent Meeting	9:20am	Parish Ctr.
Rel. Ed Levels 7-9	11:40-12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 10</b>	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
Eucharistic Adoration:		
Rel. Ed. Level 4	7:30-8:30pm	Church
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 11</b>	
Parish Book Study:		
"The Sacraments"	12:00-1:00pm	Parish Ctr.
Vespers	6:30pm	Church
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 12</b>	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 13</b>	
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.

## MARRIAGE BOOT CAMP:

### GETTING BACK TO THE BASICS

After all the Masses this week, married couples will have the opportunity to **sign up** for our special Day of Reflection to be held on **Sunday 29 March** from 11:30 am until 5 pm.

The Registration Forms will be 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



PARISH VIDEO SERIES

# THE SACRAMENTS

DISCOVERING THE TREASURES OF DIVINE LIFE

Tues. 11 February  
Noon

Thurs. 13 February  
9:45 am & 7 pm

**PART III  
CONFIRMATION**

In Parish Hospitality Room



## DAILY MASS WATCH

Our Lady of Lourdes  
Tuesday 11 February  
9:00 AM

## MONTH'S MIND MASS

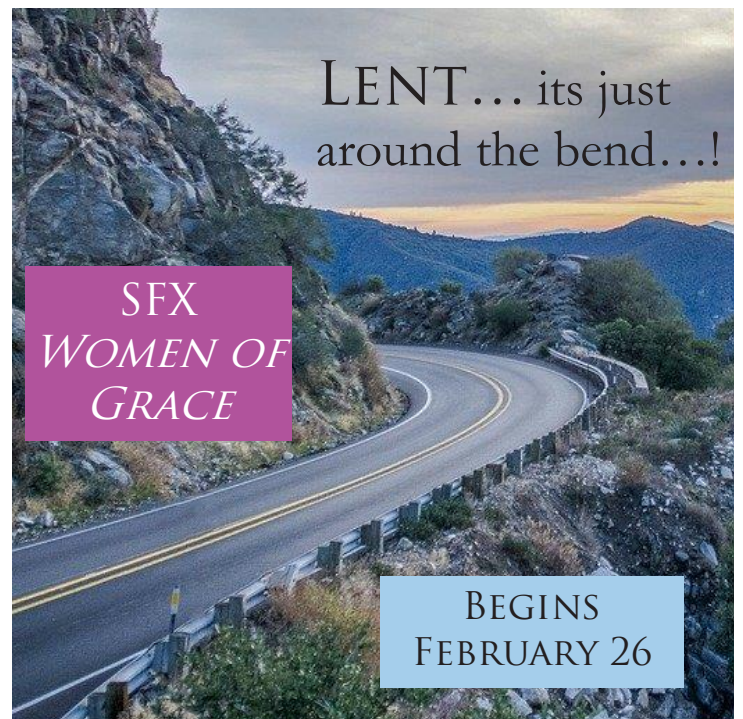
We remember the following individuals that were deceased or memorialized in the past month at our Sunday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 am Mass:

Margaret Hodgson  
Gaston St. Laurent  
Harold Sequin



We raised \$2,344.98  
... for LIFE!

SFX BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN



## LENT... its just around the bend...!

SFX  
WOMEN OF GRACE

BEGINS  
FEBRUARY 26

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 9, 2020

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Cor 2:1-5/  
Mt 5:13-16  
Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10 [8a]/Mk 6:53-  
56  
Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11 [2]/  
Mk 7:1-13  
Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40 [30a]/  
Mk 7:14-23  
Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40  
[4a]/Mk 7:24-30  
Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15  
[11a and 9a]/Mk 7:31-37  
Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20,  
21-22 [4a]/Mk 8:1-10

**PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSING:** On Monday, **February 17<sup>th</sup>** (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.

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ON UPCOMING ABORTION BILLS:** On behalf of Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, the Massachusetts Catholic Conference wishes to thank everyone who participated in the "Let Your Voices Be Heard - Again" campaign. Your voices do matter, and they have been heard. Hundreds of individuals contacted and continue to contact their elected officials expressing opposition to the expanded abortion legislation currently pending at the State House. We are deeply grateful.

If you have not yet contacted your official to encourage them to oppose these bills, we encourage you to do so. Their contact information and the respective bill numbers are as follows:

**House Bill 3320** - An Act removing obstacles and expanding access to women's reproductive health

Representative  
Christopher Hendricks (House)  
24 Beacon St. Room 237  
Boston, MA, 02133  
Phone: 617.722.2305

**Senate Bill 1209** - An Act to remove obstacles and expand abortion access

Senator Mark C. Montigny (Senate)  
888 Purchase Street Room 305  
New Bedford, MA02740  
Phone: 508.984.1474

**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** on Thursday 5 March from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Father Spitzer is a Jesuit priest and world-renowned physicist who has a weekly series on EWTN called *Father Spitzer's Universe*. He will review the scientific evidence of God's existence. He will also address questions by the audience concerning the human soul, and Catholic theology and the relationship between science and religion.

This is an excellent opportunity for parents to assist their children to understand their faith in modern times. Many young Catholics lose their faith because science is presented to them as an option or substitute to religion. They are taught even by some of their teachers in high school and at college that science and religion are incompatible. This is not the case since the designer of everything in the world is also the divine Being that loves us and waits for us. Come to this important event which will enlighten your mind and your faith.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> respectively.** Various parish staff will facilitate the video and be available to answer questions after the video. There is no cost to participate.