

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



3rd Sunday
of Lent
15 March 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(March 14th - March 22nd)

Sat.	Mar 14	3rd Sunday of Lent (Vigil) (Vi) <i>Pro Populo</i>
	4:00pm	
Sun.	Mar 15	3rd Sunday of Lent (Vi)
	8:00am	Joseph & Jeffery Newett
	10:30am	Robert Vigeant
Mon.	Mar 16	Lenten Weekday (Vi)
	9:00am	A.J. De Costa
Tues.	Mar 17	St. Patrick; Bishop (Vi)
	9:00am	Irene Martin
Wed.	Mar 18	St. Cyril of Jerusalem; Bishop (Vi)
	9:00am	Maria Caldeira
Thurs.	Mar 19	St. Joseph; Spouse of Mary (Wh)
	9:00am	Arthur & Jeanne Guillotte
Fri.	Mar 20	Lenten Weekday (Vi)
	9:00am	Ed Roberge & Parents
Sat.	Mar 21	Lenten Weekday (Vi)
	9:00am	Maria Dos Santos
Sat.	Mar 21	4th Sunday of Lent (Vigil) (Ro)
	4:00pm	Bob Tisdelle
Sun.	Mar 22	4th Sunday of Lent (Ro)
	8:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:30am	Steven Pepin

Financial Report

Income:

2nd Sunday in Lent\$5,610.66

Recent Expense:

Telephone Repair\$142.00

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: Joseph & Jeffrey Newett

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

CELEBRATING ST. JOSEPH

You may have read that public Mass in Italy is suspended until 3 April because of the coronavirus threat. Aside from the major implication that the faithful will not be able to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist during this time, another result is that they will miss commemorating the feast day of St. Joseph, one of the most beloved saints in their country.

Of course, St. Joseph is (or should be) beloved everywhere. The foster father of Jesus Christ and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, he is both a wonderful model for us and a powerful intercessor. Despite this, devotion to him grew slowly in the early Church. Previously, St. John the Baptist had the place in people's devotions that St. Joseph does now. The recognition of St. Joseph's importance is largely thanks to St. Theresa of Avila, who had a great love for him and placed many of the convents she founded under his patronage.

In 1989 St. John Paul II wrote an encyclical letter about St. Joseph named *Redemptoris Custos* (The Guardian of the Redeemer). He describes three ways in which St. Joseph can be a model for us:

- **As a faithful spouse:** St. Joseph's faithfulness to the Blessed Virgin Mary is demonstrated through the dedication and love which he showed her. Even in the midst of challenges, like when he led them in escaping from the evil King Herod, his devotion to her and Jesus never wavers.
- **As a worker:** There is something very profound in how, when God becomes incarnate, He chooses to be part of a carpenter's family. This shows the dignity of humble work, and also how each of us is called to find the dignity in our own work, either in a job or as a parent or caregiver, recognizing the benefits it brings both to ourselves and to others.
- **As a man of prayer:** The Gospels relate to us not a single direct quotation of St. Joseph: he is constantly a man of action. Yet, if we read the Gospels carefully, we find that this action is always reaction – it is St. Joseph responding to how God's will is shown to him as events unfold in his life. Before being a man of action, St. Joseph is a man of prayer, and in this is a model for all of us.

St. Joseph is also the patron of countless groups; among them, he is patron of the Church, for a happy death, and of fathers and workers. **This Thursday, remember to ask St. Joseph to pray for you and, if you can, come to 9 a.m. Mass to honor this great saint.**

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

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar... Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well... A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (Jn 4:5-7)

There are some conversations in the biblical narrative that will strike us as strange or humorous. For instance, in St. John's Gospel presentation of the Multiplication of the Loaves after Jesus inquires quite wittily as to how with little funds and in a remote place they are to buy enough food to feed five thousand people, Andrew responds: "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" (Jn 6:9). First of all, why would one boy have five loaves and two fish and no one else there have even the equivalent of an ancient middle-eastern granola bar? Second, why would Andrew even bring this up as relevant since he clearly believes it provides no solution? More is at play here. We cannot put it past Our Lord to have prompted a boy to show up with loaves and fishes on that day just as on another day he prompts "bystanders" to lend Him a colt for trotting into Jerusalem (Mk 11:4-6).

Today we hear from St. John how the Samaritan woman says to Jesus who has just offered her "living water", "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? (Jn 4:11) Now bible scholars claim that the Samaritan woman interprets the phrase "living water" as "flowing water". Fair enough, but if the cistern offers only stagnant water, i.e. non-flowing water, then why does the Samaritan woman mention the cistern at all? The logical response would have been, "where then can you get this living water because you cannot draw it out of this well!"

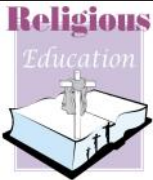
It is fair to say that anyone of us, in the presence of Jesus, would speak like a simpleton. Even that worldly master of men, Pontius Pilate, was stymied by Our Lord's wisdom and divine persona. We cannot blame the Samaritan woman for being confused and tongue-tied when her creator stood before her asking, "Give me a drink".

For this 3rd **Sunday of Lent** we place on our bulletin cover a work by the French Romantic painter Camille Corot entitled *Young Woman at the Well* (1870). Corot was most famous for his pre-impressionist landscapes, yet his female portraits still leave observers wondering about the interior thoughts of these women figures.

Here we see a young woman standing near a well. She waits and looks. Let us say that Jesus is approaching her. Her right arm leaning on the well says that she is casual in her lifestyle; her left hand on her hip says that she is stubborn in her casualness. Her expression is not rude but cautious, after all she has had five husbands and lives now with a man who is not her husband (Jn 4:16-18). However, a few moments in the company of Jesus and she is changed; her soul has found its true love. She runs off to her village proclaiming Him to be the Messiah.

Besides this, this woman of Samaria has done the world another service. For we know now that if Our Lord ever asks us for a drink, we are to say simply, "Lord give us the living water that flows from your side."

3rd Sunday of Lent - March 15, 2020



Religious Education **All First Communion Students** will be attending the 10:30am Mass together in reserved pews from March 15, 29 & 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 unless noted) **6:30pm-7:30pm**. We will begin with Evening Prayer and Benediction and recite the Rosary/Stations of the Cross. 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.**

Conf. 2 (Level 9) Retreat Saturday March 21st 8:30am-3pm. Meet in the Parish Center.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION EVENT Sunday **March 22nd** at SFX School. Our Sunday class will take place at the parish school on this day. All students should be accompanied by a parent/guardian. If your child goes to Catholic School and is taking part in our 2 year sacramental programs (Levels 1,2 & 8,9), you should also attend this event. **ALL LEVELS @ 9:00am.**

Conf. 1 (Level 8) Retreat Saturday March 28th 11am-5pm (includes Mass) Meet at St. Francis Xavier School.

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



Moses Drawing Water from the Rock
Tintoretto (1577)

In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses... "Go over there in front of the people, Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink"... The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD in our midst or not?" (Ex 17:3,5,7)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

With our major school fundraiser just two short weeks away, we are gaining momentum as we once again raise monies which are needed to keep our parish school moving forward! Live, silent, and Chinese auction items have been secured, the door prize is beautiful and the much sought after scratch tickets have been donated! A special word of thanks to "key players" Laura Guenette and Barbara Pereira who have taken this year's auction "by the reins" and are steering the final details. If you have not already made your reservation, this weekend will be your last chance! Please consider attending **Embrace Grace**, or participating by making a donation if you are unable to attend. Prayers for our school and the success of this year's auction are also greatly appreciated. Thank you, thank you, thank you...

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	March 15	
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 16	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30-7:00pm	Church
Eucharistic Adoration:		
Rel. Ed. Level 3	6:30-7:30pm	Church
Tuesday	March 17	
Parish Book Study:		
"The Sacraments"	12:00-1:00pm	Parish Ctr.
Vespers	6:30pm	Church
Wednesday	March 18	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30- 7:00pm	Church
Thursday	March 19	
Parish Wide Book Study: "The Sacraments"		
	9:45-10:45am or 7:00-8:00pm	Parish Ctr.
Friday	March 20	
Living Stations of the Cross	7:00pm	Church
Saturday	March 21	
Conf.2 (Level 9)Retreat	8:30am-3:00pm	Parish Ctr.
Parish School Gala	6:00pm	Century House

SFX
WOMEN OF
GRACE

Please mark your calendar for this Friday night, March 20th, for the *Living Stations of the Cross*. The youth group and adult volunteers work tirelessly to produce a truly moving rendition of The Stations of the Cross.

Also next week are the school's annual Gala on Saturday night and the Rosary Party on Sunday. These are all wonderful opportunities to gather with friends and family, as together we unite as one church family.

Finally, I hope to see many of you this week at the Sacraments Book Study!

Please go to womenofgrace.com to sign up to receive your daily emails.



PARISH VIDEO SERIES

THE SACRAMENTS

DISCOVERING THE TREASURES OF DIVINE LIFE

Tues. 17 March
Noon
Thurs. 19 March
9:45 am & 7 pm

WEEK 7
ANOINTING OF
THE SICK

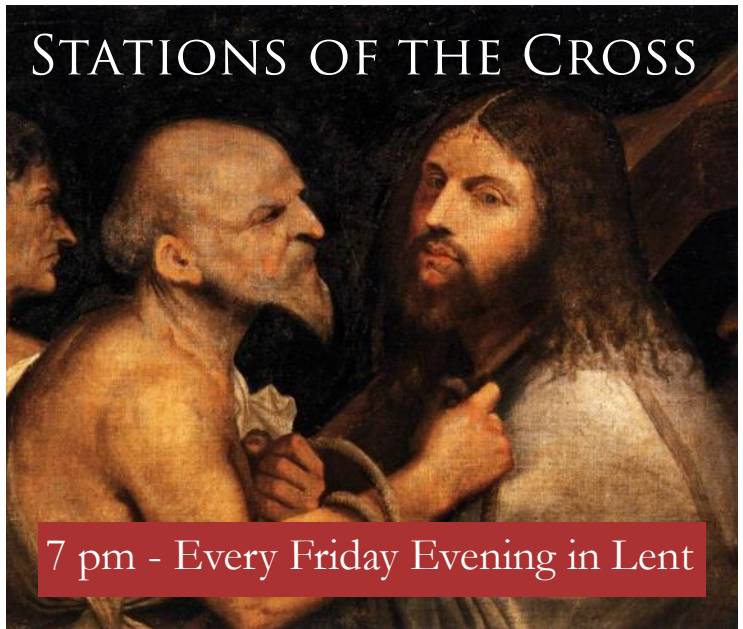
In Parish Hospitality Room



Join us on Saturday
April 4th

Sign up in the
Parish Church

40 DAYS FOR LIFE.
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7 pm - Every Friday Evening in Lent



MARRIAGE BOOT CAMP

Day of Reflection on the Ideal
and Vows of Marriage

Sunday 29 March
11:30 am - 5:00 pm

REGISTER TODAY

3rd Sunday of Lent - March 15, 2020

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 15, 2020

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 [cf. Ps 42:3]/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 [12a]/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14

CHRISM MASS: This annual Mass celebrated by Bishop Edgar da Cunha with many of the priests in the diocese will take place this year on **Tuesday 7 April** in St. Mary's Cathedral at 4:00 pm. This Holy Mass celebrated during Holy Week is the time when the bishop blesses the oils that will be used in Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick throughout the parishes of the diocese.

In the past few years there has been a general admission policy for attendance at this Mass, so if you would like to attend you are free to do so without a ticket. This is a great opportunity to celebrate Holy Week with your bishop and his presbyterate.

NEXT ROSARY PARTY: Our next gathering to pray the Most Holy Rosary as a parish is **Sunday 22 March** at 6 pm in the school gym. Join us for this wonderful prayer and some lovely snacks and fellowship afterwards. Please consider adding the Rosary to your Lenten prayer regimen.



EASTER BASKETS: Our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society is in the midst of 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.

PARISH ENVELOPE CORRECTION: Hopefully, you will have noticed 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 on 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 incorrectly for March 22th for a second collection which will be held on March 15th (**This Weekend**). Thank You and sorry for the confusion this has caused!

OUR DOMINICAN SISTERS: If you or any alumni of St. Francis Xavier School that you know would like to reach out and write to the religious sisters now living in New York but who once taught in our parish school please see the following addresses below:

Sr. Linda Rivers:

299 N Highland Avenue
Ossining, NY 10562

Sr. Mary Martin, Sister Claire, Sister Janine, Sister Annette, and Sister Louise Place:

2 Wartburg Place
Mount Vernon, NY 10552

DAILY MASS WATCH: We have two great bishops to celebrate this week at 9 am Mass: **St. Patrick** on Tuesday & **St. Cyril** on Wednesday. On Thursday we celebrate **St. Joseph** as the faithful spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Thursday, though not a holy day of obligation, is still a high feast, a solemnity, in which tradition allows us to relax our Lenten fast. Come to daily Mass if you are able, and if not, pray for the intercession of these saints!

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.