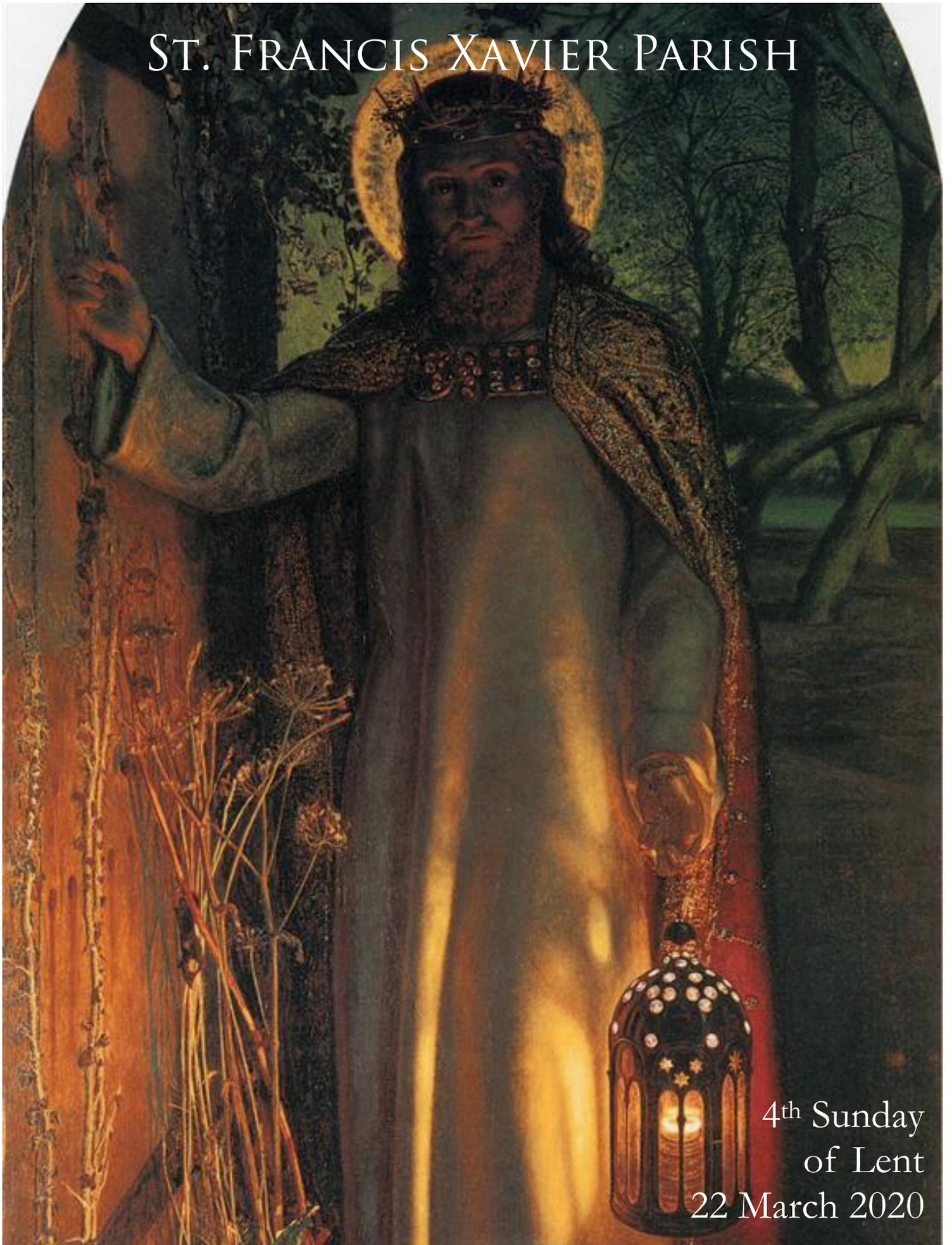


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



4th Sunday
of Lent
22 March 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(March 21st - March 29th)

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> Steven Pepin 10:30am
Mon.	Mar 23	St. Turibius of Mogrovejo (Vi) 9:00am Anibal V. Tavares
Tues.	Mar 24	St. Oscar Romero; Bishop Martyr (Vi) 9:00am Daniel Wynne
Wed.	Mar 25	Annunciation of the Lord (Wh) 9:00am Carlos Almeida
Thurs.	Mar 26	Lenten Weekday (Vi) 9:00am Intentions of Margaret Sweeney
Fri.	Mar 27	Lenten Weekday (Vi) 9:00am Mr. & Mrs. Paulino Fernandes & Daughter Ana
Sat.	Mar 28	Lenten Weekday (Vi) 9:00am Donny, Helen & Jean Guenette
Sat.	Mar 28	5th Sunday of Lent (Vigil) (Vi) 4:00pm <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Mar 29	5th Sunday of Lent (Vi) 8:00am Theresa Nientimp 10:30am Dorothy Mello

Financial Report

Income:

3 rd Sunday in Lent	\$3,802.23
Diocesan Assessment	\$2,090.50

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: **Robert Tisdelle**

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 TO DO?

Well, this is certainly a strange column to write. As I type, I know that few of you will see these words in print, yet hope that through the internet many more of you will be able to access them. In this strange time I would like to offer some thoughts on how to make good spiritual use of this time of isolation.

Earlier today I read an article by a cloistered nun in which she shared her wisdom on how to make fruitful use of a time of isolation – which, in her case, is basically her whole life. One of the points she made was the need to structure our time – free time can be either well-spent or wasted; it's up to us which it shall be.

As you organize your time, be sure to make time for prayer. God is always with us, and even if our normal practices of faith are disrupted, we can be creative in finding other ways to pray. Below are a few suggestions as to how you can incorporate prayer into your daily and weekly life during these times of separation and isolation:

- **Visit the Epidemic Page on our Website:** We have prepared several resources for prayer and spiritual growth on our website. We will also be adding video resources of daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, and other devotions that you can pray on your own.

- **Create a Family Prayer Space:** Faith isn't just nourished at church; it also grows at home in what is called the "domestic church". Do you have a focus of prayer at home – a crucifix, statue, or image around which your family can pray? It can be a fun activity to let the children decorate it – with supervision, of course – with flowers, their own pictures, or other appropriate things. A candle or two, lit during prayer, is also appropriate.

- **Gather for Family Prayer:** You can either use one of the resources on our website, the Magnificat prayers (again, check the website), pray a family Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet, or offer your own prayers. Pick a time each day to gather as a family and make it a ritual. Keep track of the saints' days that come up and find a little way to celebrate them.

- **Visit the Church:** For as long as we are able, we will keep the doors of the church open for private prayer. As a precaution we are regularly wiping the handles and other common surfaces with disinfectant wipes – and, for safety's sake, wash your hands after visiting. The Holy Eucharist is the center of our life of faith, and even if Mass cannot be celebrated in public, making a regular visit to church to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament is a wonderful help to faith in this challenging time.

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

Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness... Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret... Awake O Sleeper! (Eph 5:8-9; 11-12; 14)

In one of our recent weekly parish instructions on *The Sacraments* narrated by Father Matthew Kauth (St. Benedict Press), we cited a point from the teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Angelic Doctor. In his teaching on sin, St. Thomas points out that the gravest effect of sin is the darkening of the sinner's intellect. This is to say that the person engaged in serious sin may no longer recognize his sin, as sin. Such a person will even come to favor dark and shadowy things, just as the truth and the light of God will grow to dismay and frustrate him. If this person be of a weak nature, he will simply hide from the light. However, if he be strong, he will try to defeat the light and all those who bear it.

During Lent, in the Daily Office of the Church, we pray these words of Psalm 36: "*Sin speaks to the sinner in the depths of his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes. He so flatters himself in his mind that he knows not his guilt... All wisdom is gone*". The psalmist continues: "*[The sinner] plots the defeat of goodness as he lies on his bed*". What this means by way of examples is that the one who covets his neighbor's wife plots the defeat of marriage; the one who plans an abortion plots the defeat of creation; while the one who rises early to purchase all the toilet paper in the store plots the defeat of justice!

Now the remedy for the ignorance and forgetfulness brought on by our sins is found in Psalm 51: "... *in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom*". However, it seems impossible that the one who knows not his sin will pray this without an acknowledgment of his sin! So we must pray for him even if he be our enemy (Mt 5:44), believing that nothing will be impossible for God (Lk 1:37).

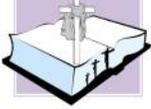
We place on our bulletin cover for this 4th Sunday in Lent an image painted by **William Holman Hunt**, entitled *The Light of the World* (1851). Hunt was a British painter of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood whose Romantic works were chock-full of religious symbolism.

Here we see Christ bringing light to the sinner's soul. He comes at night indicated by the stars dotted above and behind him. On the ground near his feet are apples fallen from the tree, a sign that this soul has not been vigilant in keeping up with the spiritual harvest. Even the door that the Lord knocks upon has the growth and stubble of spent flowers blocking its entrance. Unkempt vines descend from the roof over the domicile. Thankfully, Jesus, whose halo appears as a harvest moon, has come knocking at this soul looking to enter with his golden lamp of salvific light. He peers out at us as if to say, "*Awake O Sleeper*"... put away at last your fruitless works of darkness which you keep and store away in the unlit closet of your mind and heart.

4th Sunday of Lent - March 22, 2020

Religious

Education



All First Communion Students will be receiving class work via the internet, please make sure that you are checking your emails for the upcoming class. First Communion Day of Reflection has been cancelled and all work will be sent home mostly via email, if you or someone you know does not have access to a computer please contact me and we can make special arrangements. Please keep all of the First Communicants in your prayers as they prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time this year.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: For Level 3 students is cancelled for the remaining weeks of March.

Conf. 2 (Level 9) Retreat has been postponed until Saturday May 2 8:30am-3pm at the parish.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION EVENT This last event scheduled for March 22nd has been cancelled due to Covid-19. It will not be rescheduled. Information on the sacraments will be sent out via email please complete and send back.

Conf. 1 (Level 8) Retreat has been postponed until Saturday May 16th 11am-5pm @ SFX 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



Samuel Anoints David to the Kingdom
Alexander Ivanov (19th Century)

The LORD said, "There—anoint him, for this is the one!" Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David. (1 Sm 16:12-13)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

As you are all already aware, due to the Coronavirus situation our parish school has been closed for the past week and will continue to be closed at least throughout next week as well. Our teachers have been preparing at-home learning assignments throughout this time in order for our students to continue making grade level progress. While this type of arrangement has posed some challenges for teachers, students and parents alike, a positive and prayerful attitude is carrying us through! Also, as you know, our major school fundraiser has been postponed. Please mark the new date on your calendars, as this fundraiser is absolutely necessary for the continued vitality of our parish school. **Embrace Grace** is now scheduled for **Friday, June 19th, 2020**. We will be ending our school year with a major party *and* a major fundraiser! Continued prayers are very much needed and appreciated.

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 22nd - Catholic Relief Services
April 5th - Building Fund
April 10th - Holy Land (Good Friday)

PARISH CALENDAR

Due to the uncertainty of planning ahead because of the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the Corona Virus (COVID-19) we will not be posting the weekly calendar of events here in its usual spot in the bulletin. Please note that we also are updating our website parish calendar regularly including date changes and any cancellations.

Don't Despair...

... Our Bloom is Coming Soon!
SFX PARISH OF ACUSHNET

SFX WOMEN OF GRACE

Prayer Against Coronavirus

Lord Jesus Christ, our Divine Physician, we ask you to guard and protect us from Coronavirus COVID-19 and all serious illness. For those that have died from it, have mercy; for those that are ill now, bring healing. For those searching for a remedy, enlighten them; for medical caregivers helping the sick, strengthen and shield them. For those working to contain the spread, grant them success; for those afraid, grant peace. May your precious blood be our defense and salvation. By your grace, may you turn the evil of disease into moments of consolation and hope. May we always fear the contagion of sin more than any illness. We abound on ourselves to your infinite mercy. Amen

(Pedro de la Cruz)

OUR PARISH ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

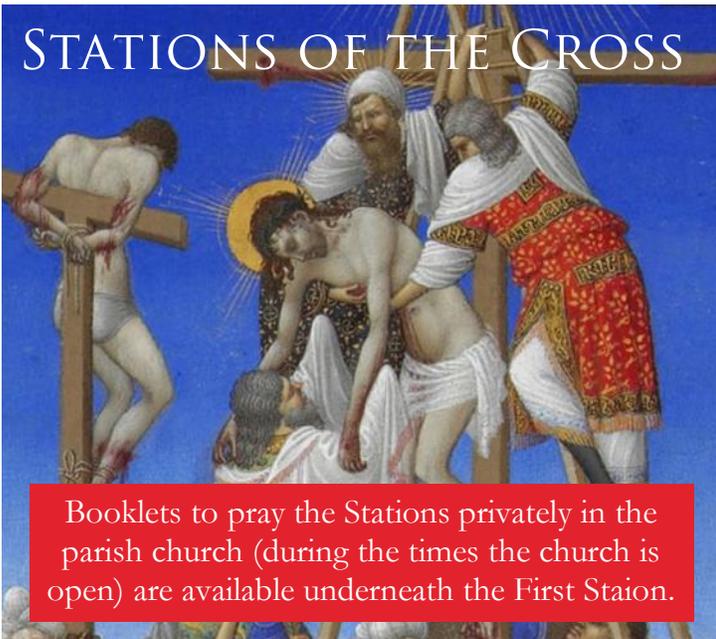
We are cancelling the last two classes on our series on the book and video presentation by Father Kauth entitled *The Sacraments*. We were to hold two last videos and instructions (Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders) in the parish center, however we are offering all parishioners the opportunity to watch these videos in home and at their own leisure on-line.

Please follow the instructions listed below:

- 1) Go to <https://www.saintbenedictpress.com/index.php/studymap/member/>
- 2) Click "Create an Account"
- 3) Insert your information
- 4) For "Study", choose "Sacraments"
- 5) For Parish, choose ours
- 6) For access code, type in **SC00218**
- 7) After that, just select the video in the series that you would like to watch

**Please note that this is an 8 Part Series and an excellent presentation about the Catholic Sacraments

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Booklets to pray the Stations privately in the parish church (during the times the church is open) are available underneath the First Station.

March 16, 2020



EUCHARIST PROCESSION FOR DELIVERANCE
FROM THE SCOURGE OF PESTILENCE

EASTER FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES

(Available in the
Church Entrance)

DAILY PRAYER AT HOME: Due to the suspensions of Holy Mass in our nation, *Magnificat*, a provider of daily prayer booklets, is offering complimentary access to their online version to assist people to pray at home. If you are interested in using their product during this time, please visit their site at <https://us.magnificat.net/free>. This is a great opportunity for you to continue, or perhaps even increase, your daily prayer during this trying period

4th Sunday of Lent - March 22, 2020

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT OFFICE OF READINGS BY ST. AUGUSTINE, BISHOP

The Lord tells us: *I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.* In these few words he gives a command and makes a promise. Let us do what he commands so that we may not blush to covet what he promises and to hear him say on the day of judgement: "I laid down certain conditions for obtaining my promises. Have you fulfilled them?" If you say: "What did you command, Lord our God?" he will tell you: "I commanded you to follow me. You asked for advice on how to enter into life. What life, if not the life about which it is written: *With you is the fountain of life?*"

Let us do now what he commands. Let us follow in the footsteps of the Lord. Let us throw off the chains that prevent us from following him. Who can throw off these shackles without the aid of the one addressed in these words: *You have broken my chains?* Another psalm says of him: *The Lord frees those in chains, the Lord raises up the downcast.*

Those who have been freed and raised up follow the light. The light they follow speaks to them: *I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness.* The Lord gives light to the blind. Brethren, that light shines on us now, for we have had our eyes anointed with the eye-salve of faith. His saliva was mixed with earth... He mixed saliva with earth, and so it was prophesied: *Truth has sprung up from the earth...*

We shall be in possession of the truth when we see face to face. This is his promise to us. Who would dare to hope for something that God in his goodness did not choose to promise or bestow?

We shall see face to face. The Apostle says: *Now I know in part, now obscurely through a mirror, but then face to face.* John the Apostle says in one of his letters: *Dearly beloved, we are now children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. We know that when he is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.* This is a great promise.

If you love me, follow me. "I do love you", you protest, "but how do I follow you?" If the Lord your God said to you: "I am the truth and the life", in your desire for truth, in your love for life, you would certainly ask him to show you the way to reach them. You would say to yourself: "Truth is a great reality, life is a great reality; if only it were possible for my soul to find them!"

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 22, 2020

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/ Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a and 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53

Statement of Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., Suspending the Celebration of Masses in the Fall River Diocese March 16, 2020

Out of concern for the health and well-being of all who reside in Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod and the Islands and in response to the direction of public officials, I am suspending all public Masses and other liturgical services in the Diocese of Fall River effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020 and continuing until further notice. This includes Masses of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

At the same time, I am issuing a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass during this time to all Catholics of the Diocese.

Exceptions are granted for the celebration of weddings and funerals, but attendance must be limited to immediate family members only, not to exceed 10 persons. Every effort must be made to follow precautions already announced in previous communications from the Diocese along with recommendations of public health officials...

The Mass is our central act of worship, the source and summit of our Catholic faith, and it goes without saying that this difficult decision was not made lightly. It was done after prayerful consideration of the critical health threat that now confronts us. The gravity of it demands that we take whatever action is needed, despite the hardship, for the good of the protection of all especially those who are most vulnerable at this time.

Please join me in prayer in these challenging days for all who are impacted by COVID-19 and in a special way for those who are sick and for those who work to combat the disease.

I wish to entrust all of our people especially our sick and elderly to the protection of our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Assumption the patroness of our Diocese, so that under her motherly care we all may persevere in faith to support one another. Let us all pray that this may come to a quick end and normalcy may be restored.