

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



Easter Sunday
12 April 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(April 11th- April 19th)

Sat.	Apr 11	EASTER SUNDAY (Vigil) (Wh) <i>Pro Populo</i>
	7:30pm	
Sun.	Apr 12	EASTER SUNDAY (Wh)
	8:00am	For the Parish
	10:30am	Month's Mind
Mon.	Apr 13	Easter Monday (Wh)
	9:00am	Joao & Maria Martins
Tues.	Apr 14	Easter Tuesday (Wh)
	9:00am	Armand and Blanche Dessaint
Wed.	Apr 15	Easter Wednesday (Wh)
	9:00am	Antonio & Deolinda Xavier
Thurs.	Apr 16	Easter Thursday (Wh)
	9:00am	Walter Bohn
Fri.	Apr 17	Easter Friday (Wh)
	9:00am	William Duggan
Sat.	Apr 18	Easter Saturday (Wh)
	9:00am	Donny, Helen, and Jean Guenette
Sat.	Apr 18	Second Sunday of Easter (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00 pm	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Apr 19	Second Sunday of Easter (Wh)
	8:00am	Joseph & Yvonne Pinette
	10:30am	Clara & Eugene Bonville

Financial Report

Mail In/Drop Off Income:

Sunday, 5 April	\$6,846.00
Building Fund	\$1,846.00

Prayers Please

... for all the sick of our parish: those homebound, in the hospital, and nursing facilities; and for all the souls in purgatory. Please especially pray for all those who have contracted COVID-19, that the Lord will come to them, bless them and heal them

Sanctuary Lamp

*During this time of our absence away from Eucharistic Adoration please pray at home for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle at the main altar still 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

SEEKING THE LORD

I have shared before how St. John's Gospel has some of the passages that, for me, are some of the most beautiful and powerful to be found in Sacred Scripture. These last few days, I have been spending more time with this Gospel than usual because of the masterful way in which St. John, guided both by divine inspiration and his own recollections, expresses what the days of Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection were truly like. The Holy Thursday discourse and the description of our Lord's suffering and death provide material for a lifetime of reflection.

Yet it is his description of Easter that, in my opinion, really brings us to feel what it was like on that morning. A small excerpt:

Jesus said to Mary [Magdalene], "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."



How great was the love in Mary Magdalene's heart that brought her out early that morning, simply to be in the presence of what she thought would be a corpse – the dead body of her beloved teacher! This Easter of 2020, how can each of us relate to her on that first Easter morning? Like her, we are saddened by our separation from the Lord's presence – for us, in the Mass. Like her, we feel the absence in our lives from going without Him these past weeks. But – and this is key – are we allowing this time of separation to also be a time of growing love for the Lord: is our longing simply preparing us for a greater joy when we, like her again encounter the Lord?

These weeks of separation are difficult, but don't let them become a time for your love for the Lord to cool. Rather, as with Mary Magdalene, may the longing of our hearts only increase our love for the Lord, looking forward to when we, like her, will be in His presence once again!

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**

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Fr. Riley J. Williams, Pastor

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Deacon David Pepin

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Mrs. Janine Hammarquist, Rel. Ed. Coordinator

[jlh@sfxparish.com]

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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

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. (Col 3:1-2)

On this Easter Sunday let us be raised with Christ toward the hope of heaven and all its glorious expectations and joys. We should follow today the good and faithful counsel of Saint Paul in his Letter to the Colossians, “*Think of what is above, not of what is on earth*”.

We should acknowledge that when we read from Sacred Scripture in the holy liturgy, it is the Holy Spirit in the Church speaking to us. Those human beings who have selected the readings for the Mass, those who are given this task by the Church, do so through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Thus what we read and hear at Holy Mass is not coincidental.

Today the Church tells us not only to think of what is above, but to *seek* it. In order to better frame this instruction the Church also tells us through St. Paul what we should *not* think of or seek: that which is on earth. This is not to say that we are to forget to eat, drink, sleep and change our clothes and instead enter into some transcendental meditative state. It is also not to say that we should ignore the world and others in the world or that we should not try to better the world which Our Lord created. It means that we are to make the eternal truths and virtues our primary reflection and activity. It means that we are not to dwell on the fleeting thoughts and desires and achievements of the world which may take us as far as a comfortable retirement but not beyond. It means that we are to fill the temporal world with eternal things, especially faith, hope and love.

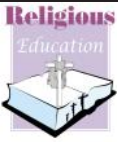
Today we are to consider those words of Jesus, “...*seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides*” (Mt:6:33). These consoling words are most significant for Easter morn as we consider them coming directly from God himself... today, now, and always!

On this **Easter Sunday** we place on our bulletin cover a work by **Francesco Buoneri** entitled *The Resurrection* (Art Institute of Chicago). Little is known of Buoneri and many have speculated as to his relationship with the master painter Caravaggio because of a few general footnotes in history. We can say with confidence only that he was a Caravaggisti, a 16th century painter dedicated to the baroque, tenebrist style of Caravaggio.

This painting lifts our minds and hearts away from the things of earth to the things of heaven. Because it is literally an uplifting work (for being oblong) we cannot show the entire figure of the sleeping soldier (bottom right). The risen Jesus takes one knee on a cloud illustrative of heaven as He holds His Cross now become a banner of victory. The soldiers do not look to heaven. They look about seeking some earthly explanation for the disappearance of Jesus. They are answered by the angel who looks beyond them to us encouraging that we look and seek what is above.

See also how the Lord Jesus looks down upon the world to bless it. In turn we must look up at Him to seek His will, “on earth as it is in heaven”, to fully capture His gracious benediction.

Easter Sunday - April 12, 2020



All rescheduled dates are dependent upon the recommendations of our Bishop.

Please visit our parish website or the parish Facebook page to view the Mass. Please make time for prayer (Daily readings via the Magnificat or USCCB website, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, even your own prayers during this most difficult time).

All First Communion Students have been receiving class work via their parents email in google forms, please continue checking your emails for the upcoming class. First Communion Day of Reflection 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.

Level 1-9 classes Please check your emails! Religious Education Class work, helpful prayer tips & websites as well as fun activities for feast days have been sent out via parents email. Some of this work is being required to be sent back completed, especially if your child is in a sacramental year.

Thank you to all of the families that have taken the time to check emails and complete the work on the Holy Mass!

Have a Safe and Blessed Easter! He is Risen!

God Bless, Mrs. Hammarquist



The Disciples at the Tomb
Jacob Jordaens (1625)

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. (Jn 20:6-8)

OCTAVE OF EASTER: We ask that you all please bask in the Easter graces by watching our parish liturgies (**online**) during the eight days of Easter. Begin with watching the solemn daily Masses on Easter Monday and conclude with the serene Holy Hour of Divine Mercy on the Second Sunday of Easter. These devotions practiced eagerly in sincere faith offer an abundance of grace. *Live your Catholic faith in the Risen Christ!*

**RESURREXIT
SICUT DIXIT!
(HE HAS RISEN AS HE SAID!)**

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

While Virtual Learning Days can feel quite long and the April showers are a bit challenging, we are all doing our best to accept our "new normal". Our teachers are doing an amazing job delivering grade level curriculum to their students and progress is being made! Our school community has been patient and positive throughout this entire process of learning at home. Father Williams celebrated our first virtual Mass last week, allowing our families to join our hearts through prayer! Please continue to pray for our students and faculty as we navigate these uncharted territories. Be well, stay safe and...

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

EASTER MONDAY CLOSING: This **Monday, 13 April**, the parish office will be closed as it is traditionally for Easter Monday to allow the pastor and staff some rest and time with family and friends.

It seems odd saying that the "office is closed" as it has been so to visitors all during this pandemic. Still, we know it has been a comfort to many of you that we have kept a presence in the office on weekdays to take your calls and meet you outside. We will see you all soon!

**SFX
WOMEN
OF GRACE**

“Congratulations, you have a baby boy” or, “Mom, he asked me to marry him!” Those statements each have seven words; seven words that changed your life dramatically. When the doctor announced the birth of your child or your daughter told you about her engagement, you believed them. Those seven words were spoken and your mind raced ahead to the future. There was no doubt that life as you knew it was changing. “He is not here, he has risen” (Lk 24:6). Again, seven words. Seven words that not only changed your life but also changed the course of history! No longer would we have to live without hope. We would no longer have to die in our sins. By those seven words we learned of our redemption. Take some time and think about those seven words and what they mean for your life. Live, now knowing that these words speak of the pivotal moment when your life would never be the same because you have been graced with eternal salvation.

Happy Easter, Carol Eccleston

**READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY & WEEK
APRIL 12, 2020**

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/ Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10
 Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Mt 28:8-15
 Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 [5b]/Jn 20:11-18
 Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/Lk 24:13-35
 Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Lk 24:35-48
 Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118: 1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a [22]/ Jn 21:1-14
 Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]/Mk 16:9-15



From Our Parish Men of St. Joseph

BLESSED EASTER!



THANK YOU: to all those who supported our Easter Basket project and our recent parking lot drive. We raised \$245 in gift cards and \$2,456 in cash and checks for the Sister Rose shelter. **Happy Easter!**

MONTH'S MIND MASS

We remember the following individuals that were deceased or memorialized in the past month at our Sunday, Apr. 12th Holy Mass

**Kenneth Daniels
Helene Sowa
Edna Bonville**

**SUNDAY, 19 APR
HOLY HOUR
WITH
CHAPLET OF
DIVINE MERCY
&
BENEDICTION**

Live Streaming
with
Father Williams
**From 3:00 pm
To 4:00pm**
on our
Parish
**Facebook
page**

STEVE'S COLUMN

OF CONFINEMENT: We have reached Easter Sunday and the beginning of an eight-day octave of great solemnity. However, public Mass is still suspended as well as the Happy Easter handshakes and embraces we are eager to give after Holy Mass. Hopefully we will soon see the peak of the COVID-19 virus begin to descend in our state, our nation, and all around the world. We pray for this, we pray for as few deaths as possible which in itself is a sad and inauspicious prayer.

During this time of quarantines and self-restraint, we are offered many counsels as to what we should be doing during this time to keep up our life of faith - Holy Mass online first of all. Some have said to spend time with family (difficult for me because I live alone). Others say go for walks, catch up on reading, turn this into a retreat. I walk mostly alone these days. It seems I cannot read very much because of the extra time I have given to thinking. As for a retreat, this is not possible since I still have responsibilities at the parish most days. Yet, I can attend Holy Mass by assisting at the parish tapings and this has been a blessing.

I do not write this by way of complaint or to seek sympathy. I do well alone and always have. It is just that this pandemic is strange in that for the first time it seems that we can better serve the people close to us by being at a distance from them. This novel virus has dispersed our genuine charity like Babel scattered our imprudent unity (**Gn 11:9**). Charity has always been something we do up close. Yet, my next door neighbor's wife had a brain tumor removed on the first day of April and he could not visit her. He serves her (and others) by staying away. However, the prayers we have all prayed for her have acted as the best charity since she is reportedly doing far better than the doctors expected. (My neighbor, not a religious man, used the word "miraculous").

As noted in our On the Cover piece in today's bulletin, my present thoughts have drawn closer to eternal things, probably because a viral pandemic seems so "otherworldly". First, the Holy Spirit has drawn me to the ark. Questions abound among us as to whether God has dealt this out to us as say he did the deluge in the time of Noah - another time in which man had abandoned God. I agree with all those wise people of our day who say we cannot speculate as to this. I know that all that happens does so through the will of God and yet without the appearance of a true prophet to guide me, I listen within my heart. There is a tension; for me it is the forewarning of the soul, a palpable pattering of the divine within that has my greatest attention. I think of Noah. I have prayed to Noah that I might trust like he once trusted and learn what he once learned so akin to him now as I sit peering out the portentous porthole and send out prayers as messengers to fly back and alert me that I may once again step out onto dry land. I mean this in a spiritual way...

Thence, my soul continues on to Egypt with the Israelites. They stayed within their dwellings respectful of God, posts and lintels sprinkled with the blood of the lamb so that their first born males might be preserved from death. They ate the flesh of the unblemished lamb, for us a foreshadowing of the Lamb of God, the Body of Christ; and bitter herbs to signify their harsh bondage. This bondage has allegorical meaning also as the oppression of death: mortal, which haunts the entire globe especially now; and eternal, which Christ overcame on the very first Easter Sunday.

Within my mind is Israel praying its Passover confinement in trepidation and in trust. The Israelites did not yet know God well. They had come to know that this was the God of their ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob only through the reminding of Moses (**Ex 3:15**). They had seen God's power and protection in the previous plagues on Egypt but still lacked the intimacy with God that the Spirit had showered upon their deliverer (**Ex 33:17**).

The threat of this virus has awoken in me a salubrious fear of the power of God and a deferential trust in his mercy and protection. Like Moses behind his four walls, I await in a hurried spiritual state (**Ex 12:11**); I await in my baptized soul not only the passing of this pandemic but the freedom of the children of God (**Rom 8:21**). St. Paul tells us that creation will only cease groaning painfully until it is set free from corruption; let us say from the corruption of war and famine, viruses and mosquitoes, but mostly from death. St. Paul further points out that creation receives liberation as a *share* in the revelation of the children of God. Now one shares only in what has first been given to another. Therefore, it is not as some have suggested: that the earth will now heal by our confinement. That is not a sharing but a consequence. It is only by the gift of our full liberation at the coming of Christ that creation will be apportioned its allotted share of freedom.

These have been my thoughts of late; which I usually keep in private prayer. Yet, the spirit of confinement must be ruminated over and revealed if it is to be fruitful. *Confinement* comes from the Latin, meaning "bordering". In solely spiritual terms, our confinement means that our prayer waits on the border of heaven calling out to the Lord for rescue and relief. Just as we hope to emerge from this pandemic, we must have a far greater hope to emerge from mortality and sin. This emergence begins on Easter Sunday with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.