

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



2nd of Sunday Easter
19 April 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(April 18th - April 26th)

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
Mon.	Apr 20	Easter Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Darrin Rebello & Jennifer Lawrence
Tues.	Apr 21	St. Anselm; Bishop (Wh)
	9:00am	Jose & Odilia Alexandre
Wed.	Apr 22	Easter Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Annette Poitras
Thurs.	Apr 23	St. George; Martyr (Rd)
	9:00am	Carlos Almeida & Parent-In-Laws
Fri.	Apr 24	St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen (Rd)
	9:00am	Souls in Purgatory
Sat.	Apr 25	St. Mark; Evangelist (Rd)
	9:00am	Jose & Maria Inacio
Sat.	Apr 25	Third Sunday of Easter (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00 pm	Leonel & Lourdes Resendes
Sun.	Apr 26	Third Sunday of Easter (Wh)
	8:00am	Irene Martin
	10:30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>

Financial Report

Mail In/Drop Off Income:

Sunday, 12 April	\$1,766.50
Easter Envelopes	\$1,971.00

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: **Joseph & Yvonne Pinette***

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

A MESSAGE FOR OUR TIMES

This Sunday marks the end of the Octave of Easter, also being kept as Divine Mercy Sunday. This is an especially appropriate feast for our time, given the circumstances in which the visions which gave rise to this feast first occurred.



St. Faustina Kowalska, to whom Jesus appeared to spread the message of His Divine Mercy, received her first vision in the Polish city of Plock on 22 February 1931. Some background helps to add color to this fact: Poland had been reconstituted as a country only 13 years prior, following over a century in which it had been wiped from the map of Europe and occupied by other countries. Looking back, we realize that these years of the apparitions were the time of the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party in neighboring Germany, which would invade Poland in 1939, setting off World War II.

There is something powerful to reflect that it was in these unsettled circumstances that Jesus came to share His message of mercy. It reflects what He does in today's Gospel, in coming to the disciples who were huddled in the Upper Room, hiding in fear. The knowledge of the presence of Jesus is most powerful when we realize how fragile our situation is: really, the current crisis has simply revealed how precarious the world always is. This said, all of this should only deepen our understanding of what the Resurrection of Christ means: that our human fragility is healed and strengthened by the victory Christ has won over death in our nature. His Resurrection is the ultimate comfort we can receive, and His mercy is the assurance of His desire that we partake in the eternal life He offers us.

Although we cannot join together – in person – this Sunday, I hope you will join us for a livestreamed Holy Hour beginning at 3 p.m. While it is sad that we cannot be together in church for this time, how powerful to think that, throughout our parish, an appeal to God's mercy will arise!

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

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” (Jn 20:21-23)

All Christians should be amazed that on the evening of the same day that He rose from the dead, Jesus visited the Apostles and gave them the express authority to forgive sins through His gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had already appeared to Mary Magdalene in the morning (Jn 20:13-15). Later in the day he met two disciples leaving Jerusalem whose distraught hearts He resuscitated (Lk 24:32). In his meetings with Mary and these disciples He initially kept his true identity hidden. However, when he comes upon the Apostles on that first Easter evening, Jesus spares no time showing Himself to them. He has come on business, the business of the His Father’s divine mercy; for just as the Father has sent Him, so he is sending out his new overseers of justice and mercy.

The Church considers this visitation to the Apostles to be the institution of the Sacrament of Penance. The Apostles had already been chosen for the priesthood at the Last Supper. Now they are to be the keepers of the episcopal office or bishops of the Church binding and loosening through the grace and power of Jesus Christ. Yet one of their number was not there.

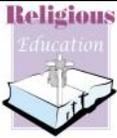
The Apostle Thomas was not there. Thus he did not receive the breath of the Holy Spirit on Easter Evening. When Jesus appears again a week later, Thomas is now present. Jesus addresses Thomas immediately, inviting him to probe the wounds of His Crucifixion. The purpose of this is not only that Thomas will believe, but that he will also be able to forgive sins. For how could Thomas, if he doubted the risen power of Jesus, ever be able to forgive sins in the name of Jesus? Jesus is being merciful to the doubt of Thomas, yet He also means to be merciful to the entire world *through* Thomas.

For this **Second Sunday of Easter**, often captioned “**Divine Mercy Sunday**”, we place on our bulletin cover a work by the famous medieval Sienese painter **Duccio** entitled *Doubting Thomas* painted as part of his *Maesta* or *Majesty* Altarpiece for the Cathedral of Sienna (1311). Duccio painted in a style inherited by Byzantium but with a fresh religious fervor obvious in the gestures of his figures.

Here in beautiful medieval color Duccio places the risen Christ in between two groups of Apostles. Christ lifts his arm so that the wound of this side might be revealed (and as a sign of blessing). This is not the presentation of Caravaggio or later painters which show Jesus guiding the hand of Thomas into the wound. Thomas is eager to reach out and touch the Lord Jesus as seen by his forward leaning. Even the disciples behind Thomas press upon each other in this “still-life” to rush upon their Lord. Duccio paints Jesus afore the Jewish Temple to make the point that our new temple is the Sacred Body which has now become our focus of worship.

In true Sienese artistic style, this sacred work is meant to instill in us a desire to rush toward the Divine Mercy of God!

2nd Sunday of Easter - April 19, 2020



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

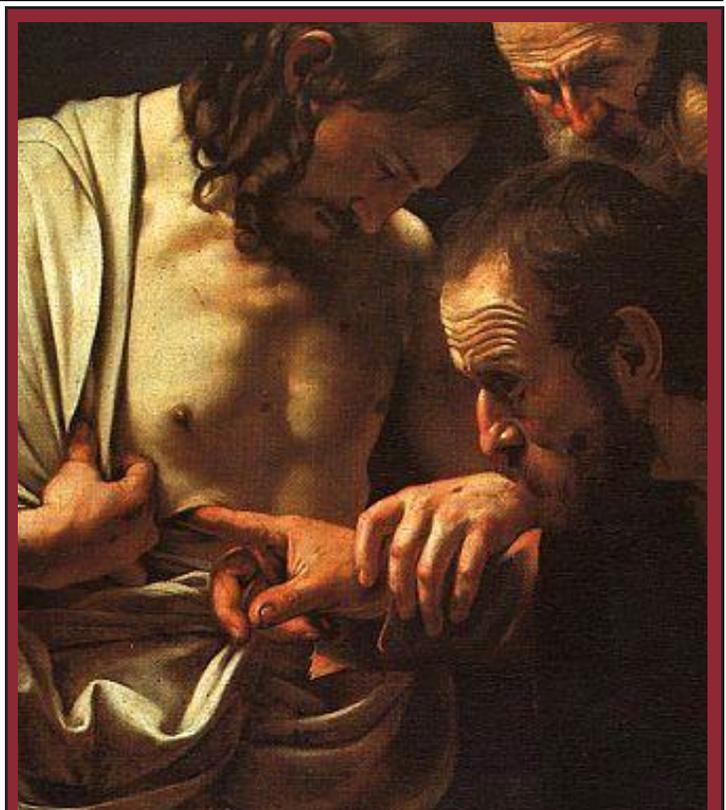
Please visit our parish website or the parish Facebook page to view the Mass. Please make time for prayer (Daily readings via the Magnificat or USCCB website, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, even your own prayers during this most difficult time).

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 Season! He is Risen!
God Bless, Mrs. Hammarquist



The Incredulity of St. Thomas
Caravaggio (1602)

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." - (Jn 20:26-27)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



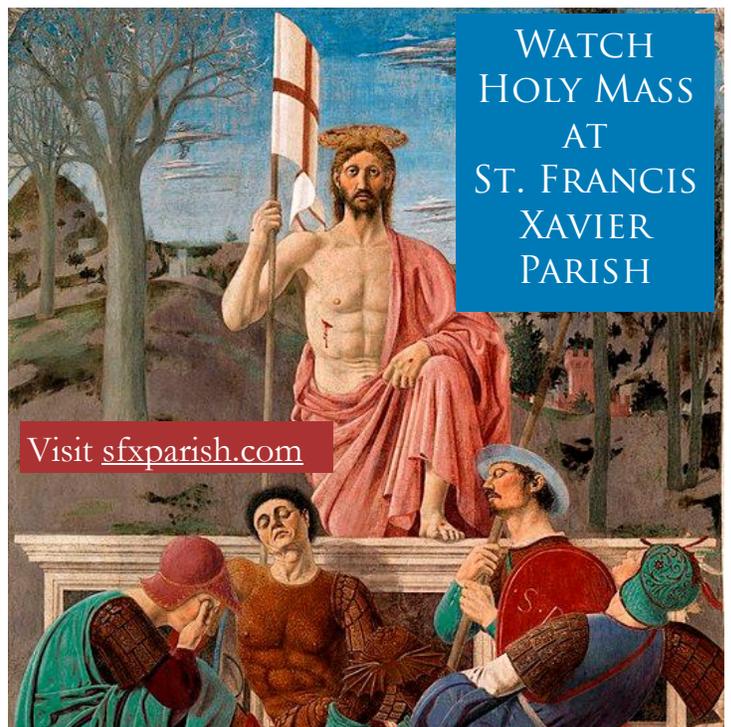
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

A virtual "Alleluia" was heard this past week, as our school staff created an Easter greeting for our students and families! A collaboration of individual greetings and well-wishes was put together and shared in a sincere attempt to keep our joyful dispositions connected during this season of hope and promise... *Our Lord has risen as He said!* Please visit the following school website address/link to find our school's Easter greeting:

<https://www.sfxacushnet.com/celebrate-the-50-days-of-easter/>

Our virtual classrooms are buzzing with activity as our amazing teachers and staff deliver instruction to the best of their abilities. That being said, all students and faculty will enjoy a greatly needed rest and reprieve as we all enjoy our April break away from computers and screens!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal



SFX WOMEN OF GRACE

From St. Faustina's Diary: "I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is the image with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in you" (327). I want the image

to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it (341)."

We are familiar with the image of Diving Mercy which appeared to St. Faustina in 1931. The two rays coming forth from the heart of Jesus represent blood and water gushing forth from the heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us. During the recent Urbi et Orbi blessing by the Pope, the ceremony was held outside in the rain, which flowed down the crucifix. The blessing was so powerful and the rain running over Christ's bloody side on the cross reminded me dearly of the image of the Divine Mercy - the blood and the water flowing from the heart of Jesus.

God Bless, Carol Eccleston

READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY & WEEK APRIL 19, 2020

Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/Mk 16:15-20



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.

Also, please note that we are not receiving drop-off food items at the parish during this pandemic. However, we would be glad for any grocery cards to give to those who would be hesitant to receive food shelter items at this time.

EXCERPT FROM THE DIARY OF ST. FAUSTINA

"Today the Lord said to me, 'Daughter, when you go to confession, to this fountain of My mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul and ennobles it. Every time you go to confession, immerse yourself entirely in My mercy, with great trust, so that I may pour the bounty of My grace upon your soul. When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of Mercy. Tell souls that from this fount of mercy souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust. If their trust is great, there is no limit to My generosity. The torrent of grace inundate humble souls. The proud remain always in poverty and misery, because My grace turns away from them to humble souls.'" (1602, page 568)

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

A LETTER FROM ST. AUGUSTINE
TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED
(AND THUS FOR ALL OF US)

I SPEAK TO YOU who have just been reborn in baptism, my little children in Christ, you who are the new offspring of the Church, gift of the Father, proof of Mother Church's fruitfulness. All of you who stand fast in the Lord are a holy seed, a new colony of bees, the very flower of our ministry and fruit of our toil, my joy and my crown. It is the words of the Apostle that I address to you: *Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh and its desires*, so that you may be clothed with the life of him whom you have put on in this sacrament. *You have all been clothed with Christ by your baptism in him. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free-man; there is neither male nor female; you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Such is the power of this sacrament: it is a sacrament of new life which begins here and now with the forgiveness of all past sins, and will be brought to completion in the resurrection of the dead. *You have been buried with Christ by baptism into death in order that, as Christ has risen from the dead, you also may walk in newness of life.*

You are walking now by faith, still on pilgrimage in a mortal body away from the Lord; but he to whom your steps are directed is himself the sure and certain way for you: Jesus Christ, who for our sake became man. For all who fear him he has stored up abundant happiness, which he will reveal to those who hope in him, bringing it to completion when we have attained the reality which even now we possess in hope.

This is the octave day of your new birth. Today is fulfilled in you the sign of faith that was prefigured in the Old Testament by the circumcision of the flesh on the eighth day after birth. When the Lord rose from the dead, he put off the mortality of the flesh; his risen body was still the same body, but it was no longer subject to death. By his resurrection he consecrated Sunday, or the Lord's day. Though the third after his passion, this day is the eighth after the Sabbath, and thus also the first day of the week.

And so your own hope of resurrection, though not yet realized, is sure and certain, because you have received the sacrament or sign of this reality, and have been given the pledge of the Spirit. *If, then, you have risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your hearts on heavenly things, not the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.*

DAILY MASS WATCH: In so many Resurrection of Christ works of art from the Renaissance, Jesus is depicted holding a standard seen waving as a pure white flag bearing a red cross. The crimson red on wool white is a powerful symbol and it reminds us of the Book of Revelation and the unblemished lamb that had been slain and was worshiped before the throne of God (Rev 5:6-12).

In this second week of Easter we also experience red on white in the Sacred Liturgy. For while we are still in the liturgical white of the Easter Season we celebrate the memorials or feasts of martyrs three days in a row this coming Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

On Thursday the priest celebrant will vest in red for **Ss. George and Adalbert**. On Friday the red celebrates the life and death of **St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen**, a capuchin friar, who for successfully preaching to the new Protestants in Switzerland was stabbed to death in a church with the excuse that he was a spy for the Holy Roman Emperor. Finally, on Saturday, the priest (and deacon) wear red to honor **St. Mark the Evangelist** who was believed to be the companion and scribe of St. Peter the Apostle. It is St. Mark who is believed to have written the Gospel that tells the story of Christ according to St. Peter.

Even if you cannot attend Holy Mass on these days, please spend time looking up these saints and learning about their lives in Jesus Christ and ask them to pray for our world and our Church.

PARISH CENTER DROP OFFS AND PICK UPS: We have received several inquiries at the parish if it is OK to drop off the *Rice Bowls* at this time. The answer to this question is "YES". We have already received some bowls (boxes) and Janine Hammarquist has already begun to sort out the change as they arrive.

The procedure for drop off and pick up is as follows: We ask that you please call us ahead of time to let us know the day and time you will be by. We will take note of this and prepare for your arrival. We ask that you then drive your vehicle into the driveway near the rectory carport and telephone us from your car which should by this time be parked outside the parish center entrance (rectory side). A parish center employee you have been speaking with will go outside and speak/meet with you at your (rolled down) passenger side vehicle window. If you are dropping off a Rice Bowl, you can just leave this on your passenger seat and the parish worker can take it from there.

The same process goes for picking up grocery cards. Please leave the money on the passenger seat and the parish worker will make an exchange by placing the grocery cards on the passenger seat and taking the payment left on the seat. Thanks and God Bless!