

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
26 April 2020

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

### Mass Schedule

(April 25<sup>th</sup> - May 3<sup>rd</sup>)

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Apr 25</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Vigil) (Wh)</b>
	4:00 pm	Leonel & Lourdes Resendes
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Apr 26</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Wh)</b>
	8:00am	Irene Martin
	10:30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Apr 27</b>	<b>Easter Weekday (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Alsuino Cordeiro
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Apr 28</b>	<b>St. Peter Chanel; Martyr (Rd)</b>
	9:00am	Jose da Costa
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Apr 29</b>	<b>St. Catherine of Siena; Virgin (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Maria N. Silva
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Apr 30</b>	<b>Easter Weekday (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Bob Tisdelle
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>May 1</b>	<b>St. Joseph the Worker (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Raymond & Carol Lemieux
	6:00pm	Carlos & Fatima Couto
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>May 2</b>	<b>St. Athanasius; Bishop (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Robert Krauzek
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>May 2</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Vigil) (Wh)</b>
	4:00 pm	Joseph Mello & Inez Amaral
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>May 3</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Wh)</b>
	8:00am	Rita Chapdelaine
	10:30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>

### Financial Report

#### Mail In/Drop Off Income:

Sunday, 19 April .....	\$3,228.50
More Easter Envelopes .....	\$842.00

### 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: **Robert Vigeant***

### 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

#### REDISCOVERING THE FAMILY ROSARY

As the month of May approaches, and our time at home continues, we have the opportunity to rediscover a beautiful Catholic tradition: the family Rosary.

One of the major promoters of this act of prayer was Fr. Patrick Peyton. A native of Ireland, he joined the Holy Cross Fathers and dedicated his life to evangelization through the media and promoting the praying of the rosary through large rallies he held around the world. One of his favorite sayings was “the family that prays together, stays together.”



Fr. Peyton’s message should have particular importance for us: he is buried on the grounds of Stonehill College in North Easton (run by the Holy Cross Order), and is being considered for canonization as a saint. His cause was started by then-Bishop O’Malley in 2001, and in 2017 he was declared venerable.

While the family rosary seems so simple, the simple action of prayer can bring such great graces into a home. It is also an important lesson for the younger members of the family: if children see their parents pray, they will pray; if they don’t, not matter what is said to them, it is that much more unlikely that prayer will become a regular habit in their lives.

In particular, I would like to invite everyone to a livestreamed parish Rosary and Benediction at 5 p.m. on 10 May – Mother’s Day, as we honor Christ’s mother and pray for our own mothers.

# 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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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 the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs... as you yourselves know. This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him”. (Acts 2:22-23)*

Today our first reading at Holy Mass comes from St. Peter’s proclamation to the Jews following the graceful event of Pentecost. Peter had just received the grace of fortitude and so he boldly asserts in public for the first time that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

One can only wonder what Peter was thinking when he uttered the words *“delivered up by the set plan of God”* especially as he had played a role in that plan by falling asleep at Gethsemane when Jesus had asked him to pray with Him (Mt 26:40). Of course, Peter tried to prevent the arrest of Jesus by taking up the sword to save Him (Jn 18: 10-11). However, later he denied even knowing Jesus (Mt 26:75). Did Peter ever recall his failings while he was preaching about the capture and detention of Jesus. Would Peter wince, as say Frodo did, with remembrances of his dark moments? Probably not.

We can surmise that Frodo was healed when he travelled to the undying land. Peter, in his turn, was blessed for being in the presence of the Resurrected Lord who forgave him his weakness and chose Peter to lead His apostolic mission (Jn 21:15-19). The Peter who speaks confidently at Pentecost is the *repentant* Peter who has humbly accepted his failings and now his appointed role strengthened by the Holy Spirit. Now as the *forgiven* Peter, he can never be gainsaid, because his Lord Jesus Christ would never permit it!

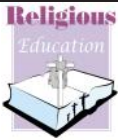
For this **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**, we place on our bulletin cover a mystical work by **El Greco** entitled *The Repentant Peter* (1600). El Greco was a Greek who painted in Spain during the Counter-Reformation. Raised in Crete, he became a local master of the Post-Byzantine style. Working in Venice he encountered the Mannerism of Tintoretto. One might say that El Greco’s work was an amalgamation of the Cretan and Venetian styles with a splash of Rome. Yet, even this could not sufficiently describe the expressive style of this artist who seems his own species.

Here we see St. Peter in dutiful repentance, just as he is dutiful to the infant Church whose keys to the kingdom hang upon his wrist. A tree stands behind him reminding us of Gethsemane. To our left we see Mary Magdalene already on foot, leaving the empty tomb, rushing to Peter as seen by the waving hem of her garment. Behind her is the tomb magnified by angelic glory. The sky above the tomb appears as a waterfall of light; this glimmering light also fills the cape, tunic, and face of Peter.

Some say that El Greco abandoned all form for light. However, line and form still exist with El Greco. It is just that he has filled these with bright color and light; perhaps “colored light” is an apt description. A much better description would be “spiritual light” and it is interesting the God gave El Greco and St. John of the Cross to the Spanish church as contemporaries in the resurgence of the faith.

In our meditation of this work we can think on the repentant Peter as ourselves: forgiven, still perhaps wincing over past sins, yet moving forward confidently in God.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter - April 26, 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).

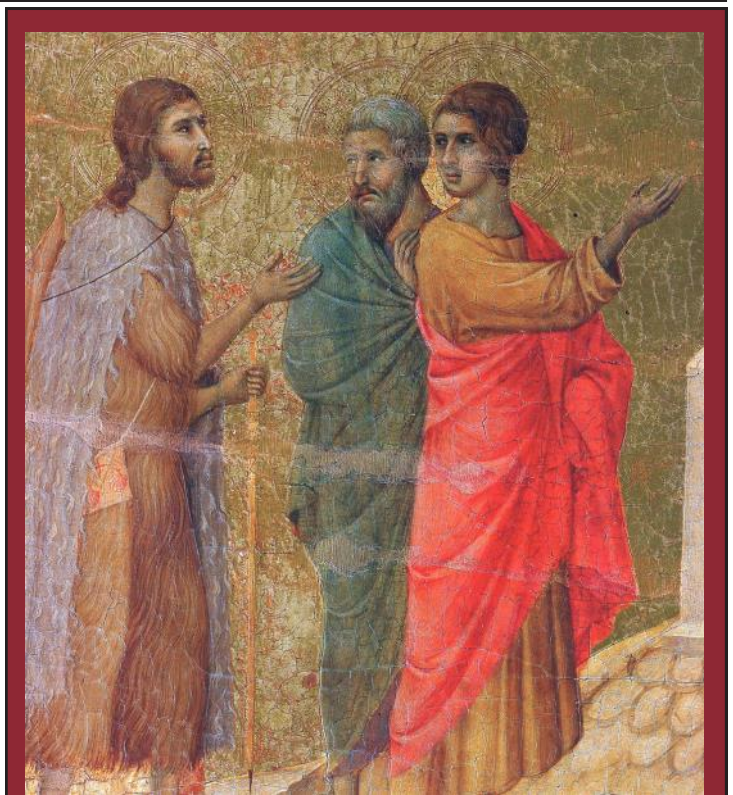
**All First Communion Students** have been receiving class work via their parents email in google forms, please continue checking your emails for the upcoming class. First Communion Day of Reflection work will be sent home mostly via email, if you or someone you know does not have access to a computer 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!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

God Bless, Mrs. Hammarquist



*Christ on the Road to Emmaus*  
Duccio (1311)

*And it happened that, while [Jesus] was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. (Lk 24:30-31)*

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

If you have driven by the school lately, you may have noticed the beautiful signage affixed to the front doors: "WE MISS OUR SCHOOL!" A mysterious and unknown parish school enthusiast is being attributed (and credited) for this anonymous act of love and kindness that has brought great joy to our staff and school community. We are all missing school very much these days, but are so grateful for our amazing staff and our supportive parents during these unprecedented times. Our SFX school community remains prayerful, positive and patient until we are reunited on site once again! Thank you for your continued prayers...

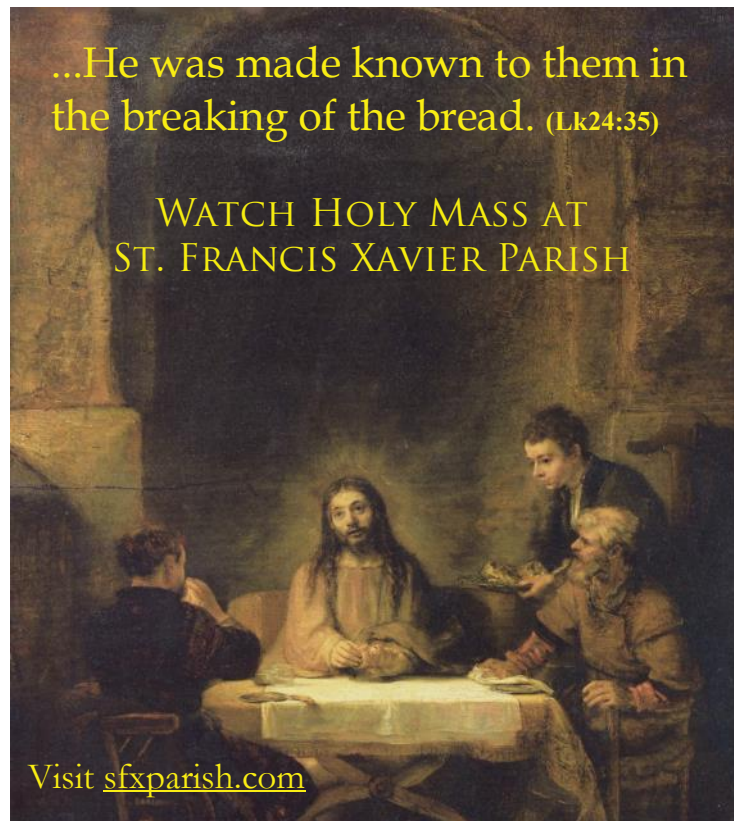
God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

### UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

April 26<sup>th</sup> - Diocesan Assessment  
May 10<sup>th</sup> - Parish Building Fund

...He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Lk24:35)

WATCH HOLY MASS AT  
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



Visit [sfxparish.com](http://sfxparish.com)

SFX  
WOMEN  
OF GRACE

*A message being  
passed on from our parish  
Women of Grace leader,  
Carol Eccleston, to all  
women of the parish:*

From Women of Grace International:

Dear Women of Grace Family, as a means of daily support and inspiration, we will temporarily be sharing our **Daily Gracelines** with our entire email audience. We hope it is a source of daily encouragement for you as we walk through these challenging times together. We are praying for you. If you are not a subscriber, go to [womenofgrace.com](http://womenofgrace.com) to subscribe.

With love and prayers,  
Your Women of Grace Family

READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY & WEEK  
APRIL 26, 2020

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [11a]/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35  
Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/Jn 6:22-29  
Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35  
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66: 1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/Jn 6:35-40  
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/Jn 6:44-51  
Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59  
*St. Joseph the Worker:* Gn 1:26—2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 16 [cf.17b]/Mt 13:54-58  
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/Jn 6:60-69

EASTER FLOWER OFFERINGS -  
IN MEMORY OF:

Eugene Laplante	Walter J, Robillard
John Gracia	Irene Arsenault
Nathan Rayner	Philla Family
Henry & Jeanne Nolin	Alice Caldeira
Alfred & Juliette Mailloux	Booth Family
Ronald A. Andrews	Cesar Fernandes
Jose & Deolinda de Sousa	Fahey Family
Heroux & Vincelette Families	
All Those Who Died from the Corona Virus	



**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.



Visit [sfxparish.com](http://sfxparish.com)

St. Joseph  
The Worker  
&  
First Friday

HOLY MASS  
MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>



*“The flowers  
appear on the  
earth... and the  
song of the dove  
is heard in our  
land” (Sg 2:12)*

SFX PARISH



FROM A DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANS  
BY ST. JUSTIN MARTYR (100-165 AD)

**NO ONE MAY SHARE** the Eucharist with us unless he believes that what we teach is true, unless he is washed in the regenerating waters of baptism for the remission of his sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ.

We do not consume the Eucharistic bread and wine as if it were ordinary food and drink, for we have been taught that as Jesus Christ our Savior became a man of flesh and blood by the power of the Word of God, so also the food that our flesh and blood assimilates for its nourishment becomes the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus by the power of his own words contained in the prayer of thanksgiving.

The apostles, in their recollections, which are called gospels, handed down to us what Jesus commanded them to do. They tell us that he took bread, gave thanks and said: *Do this in memory of me. This is my body.* In the same way he took the cup, he gave thanks and said: *This is my blood.* The Lord gave this command to them alone. Ever since then we have constantly reminded one another of these things. The rich among us help the poor and we are always united. For all that we receive we praise the Creator of the universe through his Son Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday we have a common assembly of all our members, whether they live in the city or the outlying districts. The recollections of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as there is time. When the reader has finished, the president of the assembly speaks to us; he urges everyone to imitate the examples of virtue we have heard in the readings. Then we all stand up together and pray.

On the conclusion of our prayer, bread and wine and water are brought forward. The president offers prayers and gives thanks to the best of his ability, and the people give assent by saying, "Amen." The Eucharist is distributed, everyone present communicates, and the deacons take it to those who are absent.

The wealthy, if they wish, may make a contribution, and they themselves decide the amount. The collection is placed in the custody of the president, who uses it to help the orphans and widows and all who for any reason are in distress, whether because they are sick, in prison, or away from home. In a word, he takes care of all who are in need.

We hold our common assembly on Sunday because it is the first day of the week, the day on which God put darkness and chaos to flight and created the world, and because on that same day our savior Jesus Christ rose from the dead. For he was crucified on Friday and on Sunday he appeared to his apostles and disciples and taught them the things that we have passed on for your consideration.

## A Cure For What Ills Us

As we wait for this pandemic to show some signs of weakening locally, nationally, and internationally, we the People of the Church also give much of our time to an examination of the moral and spiritual illness that pervades the world. The virtue of *hope* is what we pray for during this time, but also the virtue of *prudence*, to act wisely for ourselves and our neighbors, and the virtue of *fortitude* and especially its derivative *patience*.

Patience is not just the ability to wait for something to arrive or to happen, but the virtue to carry on in waiting without sadness, fear, or anger. Always obedient to the will of God, the patient person seeks prudence which will allow him to offer to God the sacrifice of waiting while prompting him to temper his attachments to pleasure for the sake of truth and others.

So we wait now for relief, for a return to normalcy, for a vaccine! However, we should use our waiting-time for the improvement of ourselves. In this we might take some advice from Catholic thinker, G.K. Chesterton:

*"The essence of [a] medical cure is that a man is patient. But the essence of [a] moral cure is that the patient must be impatient. Nothing can be done unless he hates his own sin more that he loves his own pleas-*

**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!