

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



4th Sunday of Easter
3 May 2020



St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(May 2nd - May 10th)

Sat.	May 2	4th Sunday of Easter (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00 pm	Joseph Mello & Inez Amaral
Sun.	May 3	4th Sunday of Easter (Wh)
	8:00am	Rita Chapdelaine
	10:30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon.	May 4	Easter Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Irene Martin
Tues.	May 5	Easter Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Stacey Gwozdz
Wed.	May 6	Easter Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Maria N. Silva
Thurs.	May 7	Easter Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Irene Arsenault
Fri.	May 8	Easter Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Domingos & Rosa Lima
Sat.	May 9	Easter Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Salome Cunha
Sat.	May 9	5th Sunday of Easter (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00 pm	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	May 10	5th Sunday of Easter (Wh)
	8:00am	For All Mothers
	10:30am	Month's Mind

Financial Report

Mail In/Drop Off Income:

Sunday, 26 April	\$3,906.00
Diocesan Assessment	\$1,039.00

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 COVID-19 patients, all medical staff, and all those awaiting medical treatments and elective surgeries who are suffering.

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: Stacey Gwozdz

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

THE RECONSECRATION OF OUR COUNTRY TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

This past Friday the bishops of our country reconsecrated our nation to the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title, Mother of the Church. This action is meant as a special invocation of her prayers during this time of national crisis due to the epidemic.



The title “Mother of the Church” was first used by Pope St. Paul VI at the Second Vatican Council. It reflects the two ways in which the Blessed Virgin Mary is our Mother: not only is she the mother of Christ, the head of the Church of which we are part, but also as a fellow disciple who prays for us, that we may be faithful just as she is.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the mother of our Redeemer, and therefore the mother of our Salvation. Jesus Christ is the one mediator between God and humanity (1 Tim. 2:5), yet He has also allowed Mary to participate in a special way in His plan of salvation. To honor the Blessed Virgin Mary is to honor the God Who did such great things through her, while also to recognize that her cooperation with God’s plan is the perfect model of our free will cooperating with grace. In this she is not only a **model** for all believers, but also the **mother** of all believers and the mother of the Church.

The great theologian Fr. Henri de Lubac once reflected how, when Jesus was dying on Calvary, Mary’s faith **was** the faith of the Church – in that she was the only believer whose faith was not at least shaken by what she was seeing. In these troubling times, may her prayers help us to be faithful to God, just as she is!

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

When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. (1 Pt 2:23)

Today's first reading presents an extremely profound statement that would be quite at home in any book of proverbs: *If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God.*

First of all, this sentence is a conditional. St. Peter is telling us that it is *only* a grace before God *if* or under the strict condition that one suffers patiently for doing what is good. Sadly, many people suffer patiently for doing what is bad. There is no grace there.

Only when one suffers for something good and virtuous and pleasing to God does it conform to grace. Not only this but every act of Christian patience has its source in God. Since through our baptism we are inalterably joined to the vine of grace, any patience that we practice as believers originates as a gift from the Holy Spirit (**Jn 15:5**). As taught in the Parable of the Talents all grace begins with the Father and returns to him with interest (**Mt 25:27**). Yet, for grace to run its full circuit it must have our eager cooperation.

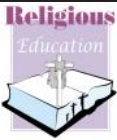
St. Peter tells us in today's holy liturgy that Christ is our perfect example of patience. Jesus returned no threat when He might have used His divine authority to exact justice against his persecutors. In fact, Jesus sought no justice from man, but only from his Father, the one and true just judge! Not only did Jesus not curse his enemies, he blessed them with "*Father, forgive them; they know not what they do*" (**Lk 23:34**).

Hence, we place on our parish bulletin cover for this 4th **Sunday of Easter** a work by the Early Renaissance master **Antonello de Messina** entitled *Christ Blessing* (1465). Antonello was named "de Messina" for having been born in the Sicilian city of the same name. Messina was first an ancient Greek colony. It was a vital seaport across from the toe of the Italian peninsula. Antonello eventually traveled to Naples, another coastal city in Italy, where he was exposed to Netherlandish painting which was prevalent there. It is said by some that he introduced oil painting to Italy (**source: Wikipedia**).

This work of oil on wood is a fine example of quattrocento portraiture (i.e. the Italian 15th century). The figure of Christ is still traditionally statuesque, yet the expression is a snapshot of vibrant activity. The eyes of Christ are clear and piercing, penetrating the soul of the observer with gentleness and love. De Messina has found a way to impart compassion from a face with closed lips. The hands of Christ are most interesting since they appear as a separate feature! With most of the humerus muscle, all of the elbow and most of the forearm unseen, Christ's hands are not clearly joined to His body. This allows Messina to create a distinct artistic space to present Our Lord's hands with the delicate fingers of a child. This is not to portray unmanliness, but to emphasize the peaceful nature of Christ's merciful blessing.

This image calls us to the same peacefulness asking us to avoid using threats or insults on the part of Christ. Instead we are to act *as Christ*, offering judicious blessings that will move the wayward and the vicious to a conversion of heart.

4th Sunday of Easter - May 3, 2020

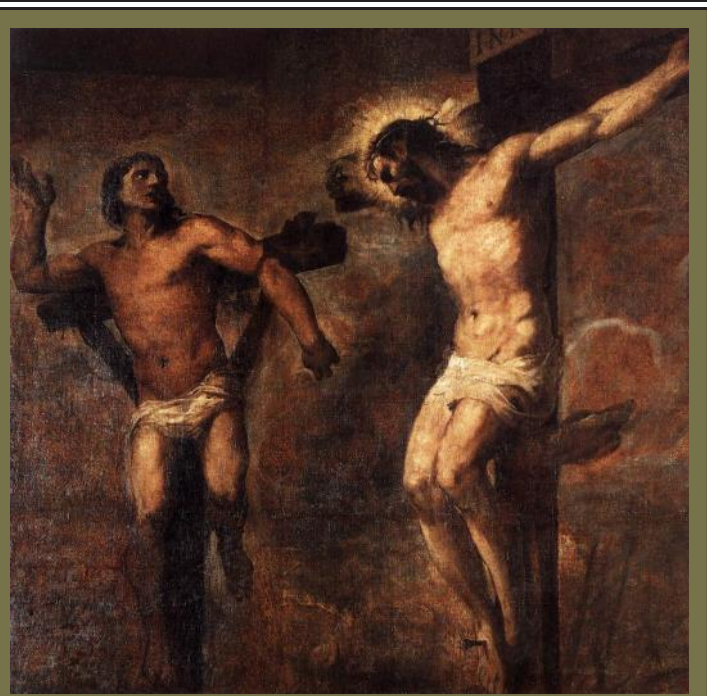


During this month, I am usually very busy with rehearsals, First Communion & Confirmation Masses along with Mother's Day and concluding our Religious Education year. It looks very different this year and all of you continue to be in my prayers daily. During this month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, please consider increasing your Marian prayer by praying a daily decade of the Holy Rosary as well as a full rosary once a week. Visit our parish website or the parish Facebook page to view the Mass daily. 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).

Please PRAY for All of our First Communion Students awaiting a new date to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for the first time this year. The students have been completing assignments via the computer and doing a great job! They will still have a few practices to finish up before receiving the sacrament. Parents please keep checking your email for upcoming lessons.

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 each week as well as class work!
Have a Safe and Blessed Easter Season! He is Risen!



Christ and the Good Thief
Titian (1566)

"I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (Jn 10:9-10)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



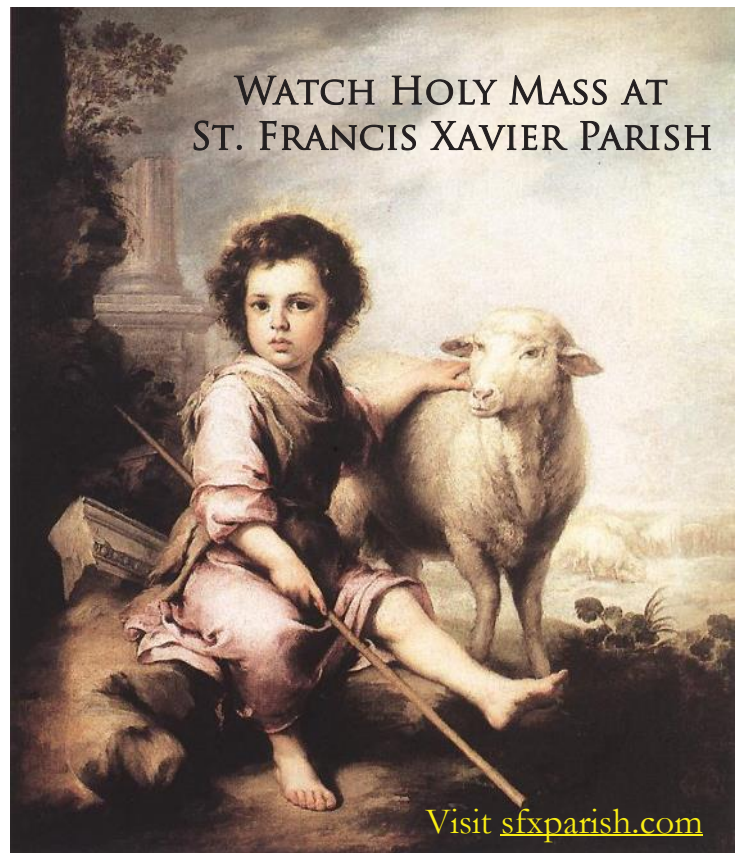
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

Christ is Risen..... Truly He is Risen! Our faculty and students returned to their virtual classrooms this week with the joy of the Resurrection still alive in their hearts! With Governor Baker's announcement, we realize that distance-learning is our present reality. We will complete the 2019-2020 school year remotely. As I continue to conduct classroom walkthroughs, check daily assignments, and review student work, it is clear that all is going very well despite our current process. We are very grateful for our fantastic teachers and our school parents who are partnering with us in the learning process. This new territory can be difficult to navigate, and we appreciate the ongoing support, communication, and input as we venture forward. Please continue to pray for our school community as we continue to educate our students, as well as provide opportunities for students to socialize with their peers!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

May 10th - Parish Building Fund



SFX
WOMEN
OF GRACE



"How often I have failed in my duty to God, because I was not leaning on the strong pillar of prayer."

-ST. TERESA OF AVILA

DAILY GRACELINES
WWW.WOMENOFGRACE.COM

READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY & WEEK
MAY 3, 2020

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10
Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:11-18
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Ps 117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20
Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14

Our New Shrine to Our Patron Saint
UT VITAM HABEANT!
That They May Have Life!



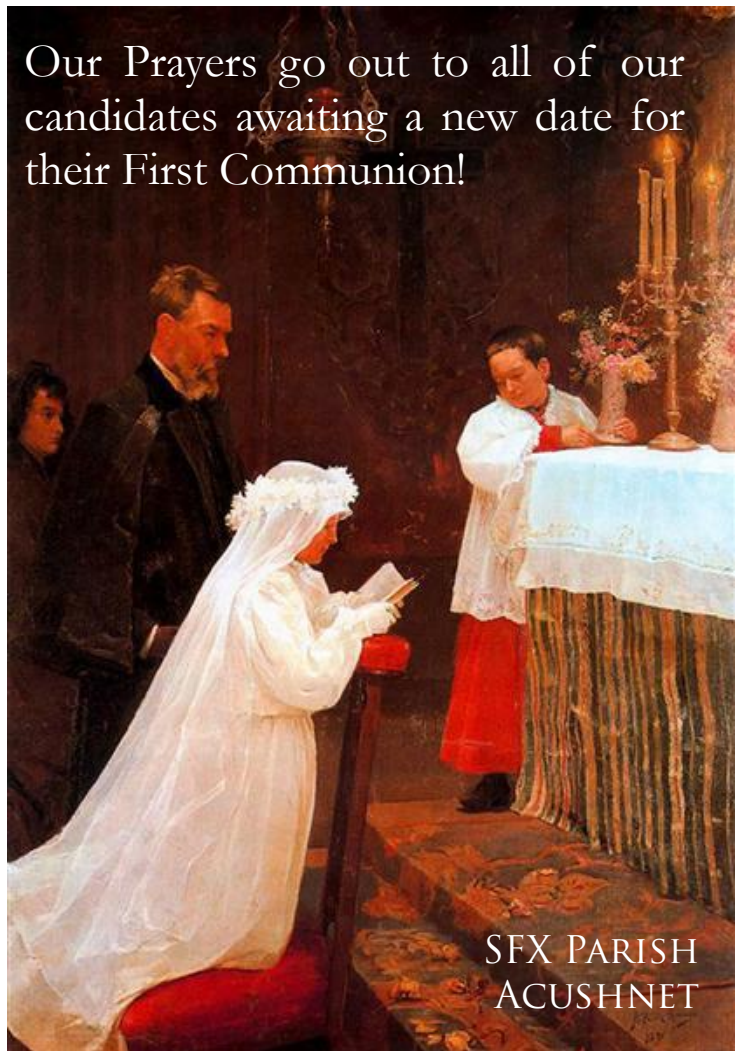
THANK YOU: to all those who supported our Easter Basket project and our recent parking lot drive. We raised \$245 in gift cards and \$2,456 in cash and checks for the Sister Rose shelter.

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.



MOTHER'S DAY IS ON ITS WAY...
SUNDAY, 10 MAY

Our Prayers go out to all of our candidates awaiting a new date for their First Communion!



SFX PARISH
ACUSHNET

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD
BY ST. GREGORY THE GREAT (POPE)

I am the good shepherd. I know my own – by which I mean, I love them – *and my own know me*. In plain words: those who love me are willing to follow me, for anyone who does not love the truth has not yet come to know it.

My dear brethren, you have heard the test we pastors have to undergo. Turn now to consider how these words of our Lord imply a test for yourselves also. Ask yourselves whether you belong to his flock, whether you know him, whether the light of his truth shines in your minds. I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love; not by mere conviction, but by action. John the evangelist is my authority for this statement. He tells us that *anyone who claims to know God without keeping his commandments is a liar*.

Consequently, the Lord immediately adds: *As the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep*. Clearly he means that laying down his life for his sheep gives evidence of his knowledge of the Father and the Father's knowledge of him. In other words, by the love with which he dies for his sheep he shows how greatly he loves his Father. Again he says: *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them; they follow me, and I give them eternal life*. Shortly before this he had declared: *If anyone enters the sheepfold through me he shall be saved; he shall go freely in and out and shall find good pasture*. He will enter into a life of faith; from faith he will go out to vision, from belief to contemplation, and will graze in the good pastures of everlasting life.

So our Lord's sheep will finally reach their grazing ground where all who follow him in simplicity of heart will feed on the green pastures of eternity. These pastures are the spiritual joys of heaven. There the elect look upon the face of God with unclouded vision and feast at the banquet of life for ever more.

Beloved brothers, let us set out for these pastures where we shall keep joyful festival with so many of our fellow citizens. May the thought of their happiness urge us on! Let us stir up our hearts, rekindle our faith, and long eagerly for what heaven has in store for us. To love thus is to be already on our way. No matter what obstacles we encounter, we must not allow them to turn us aside from the joy of that heavenly feast. Anyone who is determined to reach his destination is not deterred by the roughness of the road that leads to it. Nor must we allow the charm of success to seduce us, or we shall be like a foolish traveler who is so distracted by the pleasant meadows through which he is passing that he forgets where he is going.

A Blessing

(A Poem by G.K. Chesterton)

I live in an age of varied powers
and knowledge,

Of steam, science, democracy,
journalism, art;

But when my love rises like a
sea,

I have to go back to an obscure
tribe and a slain man,

To formulate a blessing.

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!