

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
17 May 2020

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

### Mass Schedule

(May 16<sup>th</sup> - May 24<sup>th</sup>)

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>May 16</b> 4:00 pm	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Vigil) (Wh)</b> <i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>May 17</b> 8:00am 10:30am	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Wh)</b> Helen, Jean & Donny Guenette Dorothy Mello, Joan Semeio, & Cynthia Rebello
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>May 18</b> 9:00am	<b>St. John I, Pope &amp; Martyr (Rd)</b> Robert Latshaw
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>May 19</b> 9:00am	<b>Easter Weekday (Wh)</b> Erminia Vicente
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>May 20</b> 9:00am	<b>Easter Weekday (Wh)</b> Rene Pepin
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>May 21</b> 9:00am 7:00pm	<b>Ascension of the Lord (Wh)</b> Manuel Freitas Robert Latshaw
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>May 22</b> 9:00am	<b>St. Rita of Cascia; Religious (Wh)</b> Mr. & Mrs. Jose Anjo & Family
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>May 23</b> 9:00am	<b>Easter Weekday (Wh)</b> Anibal V. Tavares
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>May 23</b> 4:00 pm	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Vigil) (Wh)</b> Doris Farland
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>May 24</b> 8:00am 10:30am	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Wh)</b> <i>Pro Populo</i> Steven Pepin

### Financial Report

#### Mail In/Drop Off Income:

Sunday, 10 May .....	\$3,011.18
Building Fund .....	\$1,792.00

### 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: Mr. & Mrs. Jose Anjo & Family*

### 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 MAY CROWNING RITUAL FOR YOUR HOME

On Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> we held our traditional May Crowning, assisted by two members of our First Communion Class. Well, the ritual was traditional – the circumstances were not! While I hope that many of you watched our service on the internet, I know that some of you weren't able to, or would otherwise like to participate in this service in person. To that end, I have prepared a brief prayer service that you can use at home with your own statue of Mary and a small crown – may her prayers continue to help us during this time, as we entrust ourselves to her!

Begin with the Sign of the Cross. The leader then says the opening prayer:

*As we honor and venerate the glorious memory of the most holy Virgin Mary, grant, we pray, O Lord, through her intercession, that we, too, may merit to receive from the fullness of your grace. Through Christ our Lord.*

Next, read this brief passage from Sacred Scripture:

*A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne (Rev. 12:1, 5)*

After this, pray the following litany, alternating between the leader and the others:

Leader: *Lord, we bless you, for you are full of mercy and justice: you humble the proud and exalt the lowly.*

**All: You gave us the highest example of your divine wisdom in the mystery of the Word made flesh and of His virgin Mother.**

*L: Your Son, humbled by death, rose glorious at your right hand, the King of all creation.*

**A: The Virgin, who acknowledged herself to be a servant, became the Mother of our Redeemer and of those reborn in her Son. Now, raised above the angels, she prays for all as the Queen of mercy and grace.**

*L: Bless us as we crown this image of the Mother of your Son.*

**A: We confess Christ to be the King of creation and call upon Mary, our Queen. May we walk in their likeness, spending ourselves for the sake of others. Content with our place in this life, may we one day hear your voice inviting us to take our place in heaven and receive the crown of victory.**

Following this, the image of Mary is crowned, and all present pray a Hail Mary or another Marian prayer; the Rosary may also be prayed.

# 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

*Jesus said to his disciples: "... I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth... he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans..." (Jn 14: 16-18)*

During the years of Jesus' public ministry on earth, his companions, the twelve Apostles, could not have had a greater advocate. When St. John the Apostle closes his gospel narrative by declaring that there are not enough pages in the world to record all the amazing things that Jesus accomplished on earth (Jn 21:25), we get some notion of the incomparable protection the Twelve came to experience during those years. There certainly were times when the Apostles still felt fear as just before Jesus calmed the stormy sea (Mk 4:25). However, over time and after the witness of many miracles and escapes they must have gained the confidence that they could not be harmed or threatened as long as the Lord was by their side.

Therefore, we can surmise what the Apostles must have felt when after entering Jerusalem triumphantly with Jesus they lost Him to persecution and death in that city. The Apostles were not soldiers or spies. They were not prepared to repel and overcome such a conspiracy. Where could the Apostles go now or what could they do after this, having been in the precious company of the Son of God for so long yet now fully bereft of his care? They regrouped, but only in hiding. Thereafter incredibly, Jesus appeared to them three days later on Easter Sunday evening. The advocate had returned - but only for a time. He ascended into heaven and the Apostles were once again seemingly unprotected.

During this week we celebrate **Ascension Thursday**. Thus we place on our bulletin cover a work by the great Dutch master **Rembrandt** entitled *The Ascension of Christ* (1636). Rembrandt was a great painter of the baroque period especially in the style of Tenebrism in which the artist casts a great contrast between light and darkness.

Interestingly, the central focus in this work of Rembrandt, that is Christ ascending, appears more like paintings of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary which usually have her rising on a cloud supported by angels. In most Ascension works, Jesus rises on his own power or appears drawn into heaven above. One possible reason for this presentation is that Rembrandt had been commissioned by a representative of the Prince of Orange to model his work on Peter Paul Rubens a distinctly different Dutch baroque painter who completed a brilliant Assumption work.

In Rembrandt's *Ascension* all natural light is overcome so that even the brightness of the day appears as darkness in the presence of the divine illumination of heaven. What we have here is a vision. How else can one capture efficiently the distance between earth and sky. Most importantly for our meditation today we see the beginning of an exchange of the divine advocacy; for as Jesus ascends to His Father, the Holy Spirit descends toward Him eager for his arrival upon the earth to enter into the hearts of all the faithful.

We have only two more liturgical weeks before we arrive at Pentecost and so we should be readying ourselves now to be renewed by our new advocate and protector, the Holy Spirit.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - May 17, 2020

### Religious



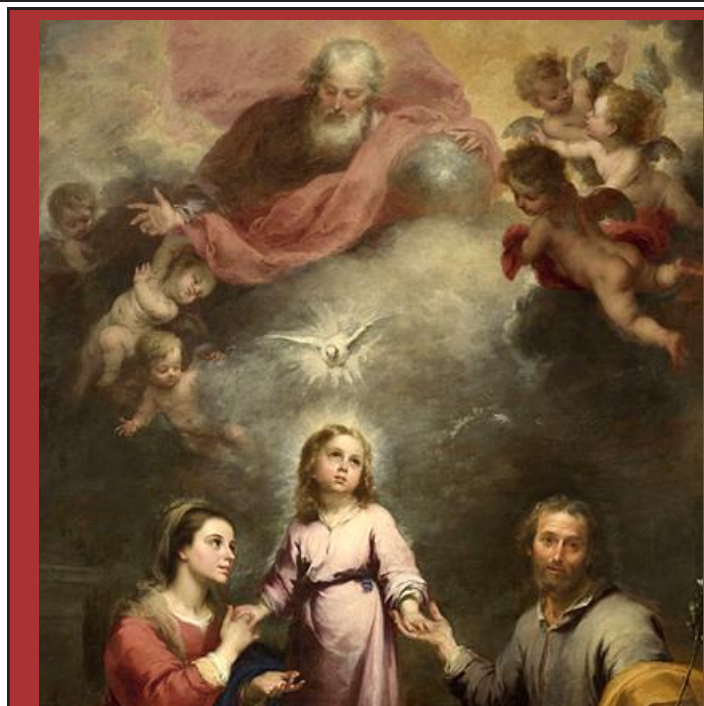
During this month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, please consider increasing your Marian prayer by praying a *daily* decade of the Holy Rosary as well as a full rosary once a week. Visit our parish website or the parish Facebook page to view the Mass daily. Please make time for prayer (Daily readings 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.

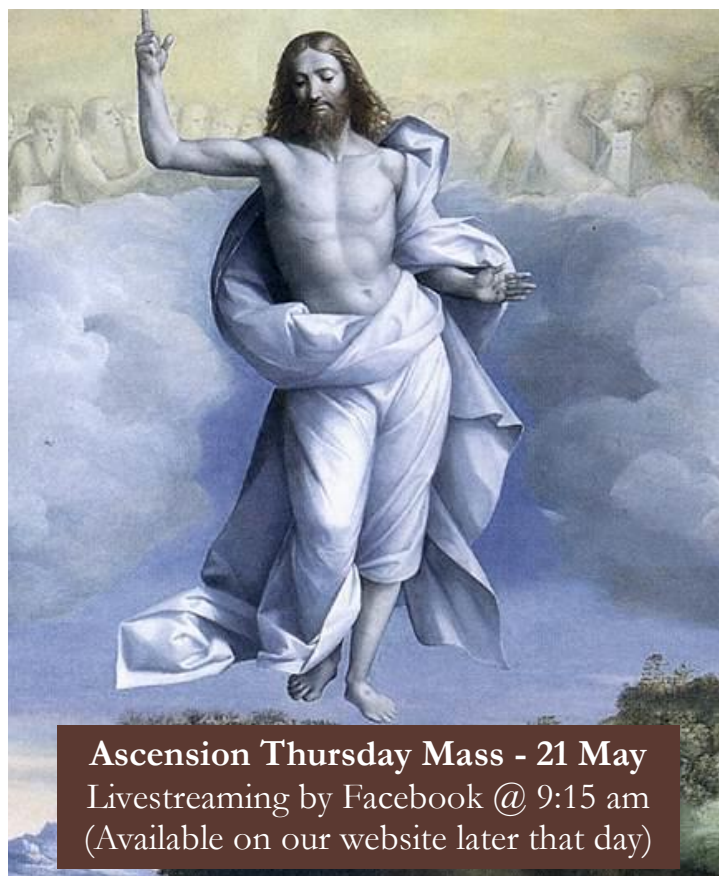
*Thank you to all of the families that have taken the time to check emails and complete the work on the Holy Mass each week as well as class work!*

God Bless, Mrs. Hammarquist



*The Holy Trinity & the Holy Family*  
Bartolome Esteban Murillo (1677)

*On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." (Jn 14:20-21)*



**Ascension Thursday Mass - 21 May**  
Livestreaming by Facebook @ 9:15 am  
(Available on our website later that day)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

It is a challenge to express one's appreciation through social distancing, but our School Events Committee rose to the occasion for Teacher Appreciation Week! Our teachers enjoyed their week and the outpouring of love from our school families! Teachers were invited to do a "drive by" the school on Wednesday afternoon, as they were celebrated with signage and showered with gift cards (to Jeffrey's Pizza & Acushnet Creamery) from our school parents. A wonderful video was also created using clips and photos from our families and crafted to completion by Laura Guenette, SEC chairperson. Time is moving quickly and our students are in the "home stretch" of distance learning to close out our academic year. While our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are understandably disappointed that their end of year will not look exactly like what our school tradition usually holds, plans are underway to celebrate their achievements as best as we are able! As always, continue to pray for our parish school...

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

### UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**May 17<sup>th</sup>** - Diocesan Assessment  
**May 21<sup>st</sup>** - Ascension Thursday (for St. Vincent de Paul)

**SFX  
WOMEN  
OF GRACE**

“The Blessed Virgin . . . as Mother of the divine Redeemer here on earth, above all others and in a singular way was a generous associate and humble handmaid of the Lord. She conceived, brought forth, and nourished Christ, she presented him to the Father in the temple, shared her Son’s sufferings as he died on the cross. Thus in a Holy singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity, in the work of the Savior, in restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace.” (Lumen Gentium, 61)

**MAY IS FOR MARY**

**READINGS FOR  
WEEK OF MAY 17, 2020**

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 [1]/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15

Ascension Thursday: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

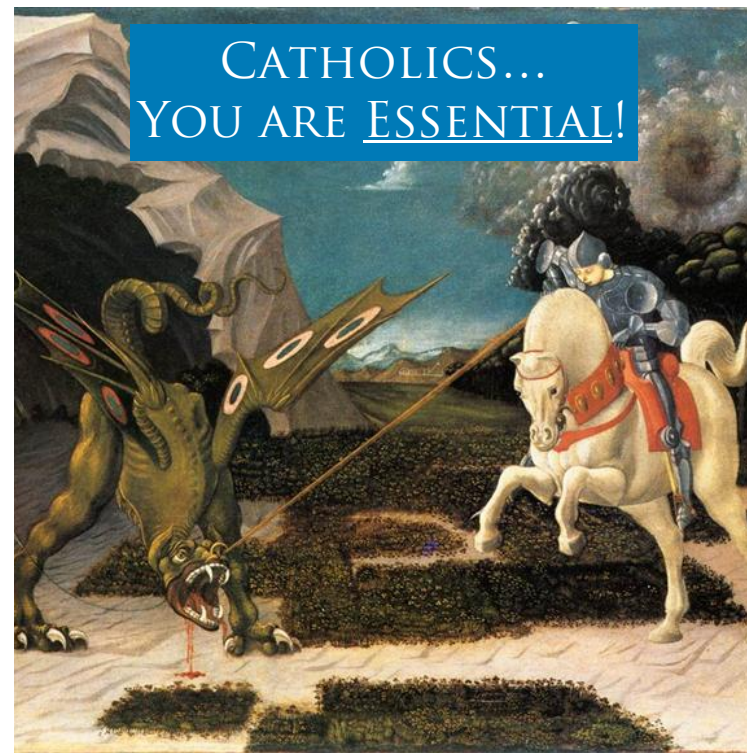
Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28

**PENTECOST  
SUNDAY, 31 MAY**

**Just as then... may the Spirit  
deliver us from confinement!**

**CATHOLICS...  
YOU ARE ESSENTIAL!**



**THE GREEN IS BACK  
AT SFX PARISH  
Hope to see you soon!**

CHRIST, THE SOURCE OF LIFE  
BY ST. CYRIL  
OF ALEXANDRIA (BISHOP)

THOSE WHO HAVE A SURE HOPE, guaranteed by the Spirit, that they will rise again lay hold of what lies in the future as though it were already present. They say: "Outward appearances will no longer be our standard in judging other men. Our lives are all controlled by the Spirit now, and are not confined to this physical world that is subject to corruption. The light of the Only-begotten has shone on us, and we have been transformed into the Word, the source of all life. While sin was still our master, the bonds of death had a firm hold on us, but now that the righteousness of Christ has found a place in our hearts we have freed ourselves from our former condition of corruptibility."

This means that none of us lives in the flesh anymore, at least not in so far as living in the flesh means being subject to the weaknesses of the flesh, which include corruptibility. *Once we thought of Christ as being in the flesh, but we do not do so any longer*, says Saint Paul. By this he meant that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us; he suffered death in the flesh in order to give all men life. It was in this flesh that we knew him before, but we do so no longer. Even though he remains in the flesh, since he came to life again on the third day and is now with his Father in heaven, we know that he has passed beyond the life of the flesh; *for having died once, he will never die again, death has no power over him any more. His death was a death to sin, which he died once for all; his life is life with God.*

Since Christ has in this way become the source of life for us, we who follow in his footsteps must not think of ourselves as living in the flesh any longer, but as having passed beyond it. Saint Paul's saying is absolutely true that *when anyone is in Christ he becomes a completely different person: his old life is over and a new life has begun.* We have been justified by our faith in Christ and the power of the curse has been broken. Christ's coming to life again for our sake has put an end to the sovereignty of death. We have come to know the true God and to worship him in spirit and in truth, through the Son, our mediator, who sends down upon the world the Father's blessings.

And so Saint Paul shows deep insight when he says: *This is all God's doing: it is he who has reconciled us to himself through Christ.* For the mystery of the incarnation and the renewal it accomplished could not have taken place without the Father's will. Through Christ we have gained access to the Father, for as Christ himself says, no one comes to the Father except through him. *This is all God's doing, then. It is he who has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation.*

**FOOD AND CAN DROP OFFS:** The precautions surrounding this pandemic have affected some of the operations of our parish groups and volunteers.

First, for the time being we will no longer be accepting redeemable **cans and bottles** in the east parking lot. The sorting of these items has never been a clean job, but because of the pandemic and the inability of the human eye to discern a virus on a can or bottle, we are temporarily suspending the drop off of such redeemable items which have always been turned into cash to benefit our parish youth group.

Further, as noted in previous bulletins, our **St. Vincent de Paul Society** is not receiving **food items** at this time in its drop box upstairs also due to the pandemic precautions. Please be assured that we are supporting our local poor through St. Vincent de Paul with grocery cards for shopping at Stop & Shop, Shaw's or Trucchi's. They would be grateful for any donation of cards for this purpose.

## Parish Financial Update

We thank everyone who has continued to mail in, drop off, and make on-line offerings to the parish. Your diligence has kept us paying the bills during this difficult time.

We want you to be aware that we are doing our part in the parish office by keeping a very close eye on our expenses which we have reduced significantly to keep the parish budget intact. We had some assistance from the diocese which "forgave" our April assessment which for our parish is an amount of \$3,075.00. In May and going forward we will still need to pay this monthly. We are paying only for things we deem essential while at the same time not allowing things to deteriorate. Hence we are keeping up with the care of the grounds and the property, for example, some needed masonry repair and getting quotes for summer/fall work.

As this pandemic, its precautions, and its directives carry on we all feel a bit worn wondering when things will return to normal. All the more reason to pray for endurance and to know that we who run the operations of the parish are grateful for your continuing support. We are a solid parish, yet even we feel the severity of the steady accrual of lower collections.

We ask that if you have intended to send in your parish envelopes please do so or you may go to our parish website and give on-line. We are doing our very best to keep your parish financially healthy and we are grateful for your devoted consideration.

**Thank you and God Bless.**