

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



7th Sunday of Easter
24 May 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(May 23rd - May 31st)

Sat.	May 23	7th Sunday of Easter (Vigil) (Wh) Doris Farland
Sun.	May 24	7th Sunday of Easter (Wh) <i>Pro Populo</i> Steven Pepin
Mon.	May 25	St. Bede the Venerable; Priest (Wh) Domingos & Maria Gomes
Tues.	May 26	St. Philip Neri (Wh) Erminia Vicente
Wed.	May 27	St. Augustine of Canterbury (Wh) George Fagundes
Thurs.	May 28	Easter Weekday (Wh) Beverly Da Silva
Fri.	May 29	Easter Weekday (Wh) Ceasar Fernandes & Mr. & Mrs. Jose De Sousa
Sat.	May 30	Easter Weekday (Wh) Anibal V. Tavares
Sat.	May 30	Pentecost (Vigil) (Wh) Arthur & Jeanne Guillotte
Sun.	May 31	Pentecost Sunday (Wh) <i>Pro Populo</i> Robert Vigeant

Financial Report

Mail In/Drop Off Income:

Sunday, 17 May	\$2,692.00
Diocesan Assessment	\$761.00
Gifts/Bequests	\$1,850.00

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: **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

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED OUR PARISH

Over the last few weeks our parish has lost two people who served here in the past and for whom we now pray. The first is **Sister Louise Place, O.P.** (Sister Mary Lawrence) of the Dominican Sisters of Hope who died on April 23, 2020, at the Wartburg, Mount Vernon, New York. She was 90 years of age, born on May 14, 1929 in Fall River, Massachusetts.

Sister Louise entered the novitiate of the Dominican Sisters of Fall River, Massachusetts on February 1, 1947, made her First Profession August 30, 1948, and Final Profession August 30, 1952.

Sister Louise spent more than forty years at St. Francis Xavier School. She taught a variety of grades and later served as a substitute teacher and volunteer. Sister organized the school's first walk-a-thon in 1973, and was actively involved until her retirement in 2007. She will be remembered for the twinkle in her eye, her great sense of humor, her love for pranks, her baseball card collection, and most especially her deep faith and generous spirit.

Sister Louise was cremated and a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Saint Mary's Cathedral in Fall River at a later date. Internment of Sister's cremains will follow that liturgy in Notre Dame Cemetery in Fall River.

Father Albert Dagnoli, SS.CC., a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary—US Province, passed away on May 14, 2020 in New Bedford, MA after a brief period of hospitalization.

Father Al, who celebrated his 88th birthday on May 11, 2020, was born in Bellows Falls, Vermont. He professed his vows on August 22, 1962. On May 30, 1968 he was ordained to the priesthood in Jaffrey Center, NH. His first assignment was here at St. Francis Xavier Church.

In 1970 Fr. Dagnoli received permission from his order to enter the U.S. Navy and was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for his service to crew members onboard the USS Enterprise. In 1986, he achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander; he then retired.

Granted an honorable discharge, he returned to Fairhaven and began his beloved preaching ministry in parishes around the country, which he continued to enjoy until his priestly retirement to Damien Residence in 2016.

A private Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Damien Chapel in Fairhaven, followed by burial in the Sacred Hearts Community Cemetery.

Let us keep Sister Louise and Father Al in our prayers, in gratitude for their service to God in our community.

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

After Jesus had been taken up to heaven the apostles... entered [Jerusalem]... they went to the upper room where they were staying. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. (Acts 1: 12-14)

Many years before St. Luke referred to Mary as “the mother of Jesus” in his Acts of the Apostles, Mary prophesied (during her visitation to her cousin Elizabeth) that “all generations” (or ages) would call her “blessed” (Lk 1:48). In fact, St. Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:41) weaves this wonderful theme into Mary’s *Magnificat* by declaring Mary “blessed” three times immediately before Mary’s proclamation.

Mary’s prophecy has been fulfilled in the Catholic Church which reverently calls her, “Blessed Mother” and “Blessed Virgin Mary”. Yet some still claim that Luke’s Gospel only meant to point out that in the future people would say things like “Mary was *blessed* to be the mother of the savior” and that Mary’s prediction did not mean that “blessed” should be given to her as a title. Yet, how else would all the generations have accomplished calling Mary “blessed” without using that term in her title? It appears that many generations of Protestants by not using this term for Mary have forgotten about it completely even neglecting (and sometimes abusing) the blessedness of Mary, while at the very least tending to normalize Mary as a common, rather than a “blessed”, instrument of God.

The key to understanding the wonder of the Church’s singular fulfillment of this prophecy of Mary is found right in the Bible: it is there for *all* Christians. It is found in Luke’s portrayal of Elizabeth. First, Elizabeth calls Mary blessed “among women”, hence among *all* women for *all* time. Then she calls the fruit of Mary’s womb “blessed” meaning not only that Jesus is blessed (for He is of course divine) but that Mary is a *blessed* instrument. Finally, Elizabeth declares that Mary is blessed because she “believed” what was spoken directly to her from God, thus anticipating the words of Jesus to the woman in the crowd which do not, as some say, lessen Mary’s role but elevate it. Luke, our earliest Mariologist, recounts that event specifically to emphasize Mary’s unique faith (Lk 11:27-28). Two other points must be made. First, John the Baptist leapt in the womb of Elizabeth at the sound of *Mary’s greeting* and second, Elizabeth calls Mary “the mother of my Lord” which if this does not translate to you as “Blessed Mother of God” (Greek: *theotokos*) then, respectfully speaking, you have hardened your heart!

On this 7th **Sunday of Easter** we place on our bulletin cover a fragment of a work by the medieval Siennese painter **Duccio** entitled *The Apostles of Mary* (1311). We see here Mary surrounded by apostles. Mary is on a couch, yet she is not reclining as one at rest but upright and ready for conversation. Duccio has created a sort of religious symposium with Mary at the center. A *symposium* was a Greek banquet of men-only lying on couches while, for instance, they debate over an important subject...

(CONTINUED ON LAST PAGE...)

7th Sunday of Easter - May 24, 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

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



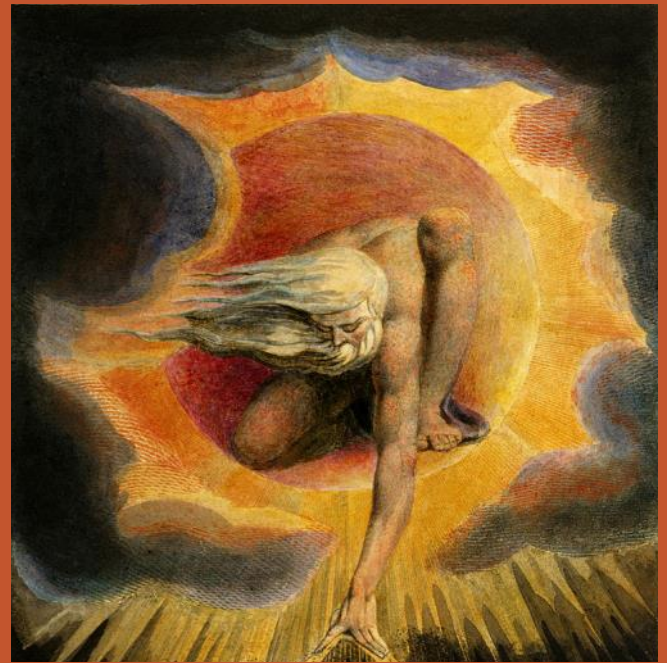
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

Our faculty, staff and students will enjoy a nice long weekend in commemoration of all those who currently serve or have served our country... Happy Memorial Day! During this month of May, even with our current restrictions, our school community has continued to honor Our Blessed Virgin Mother! A virtual version of our "recess rosary" has continued with our very own preschool teacher Michelle Cordeiro as our prayer leader! Our first week virtual turnout was 37 participants (plus siblings) which was an amazing rosary experience. In addition, at 3 pm each day an offering to pray a decade is made available to both students and staff alike. It is a joy and surprise to "see" who will pop in to pray a decade with me on a daily basis. As you would all expect, our school community continues to be abundantly blessed, even in the midst of disappointment and uncertainty. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.... we are blessed beyond measure. *Our Lady of the Rosary.... pray for us!*

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

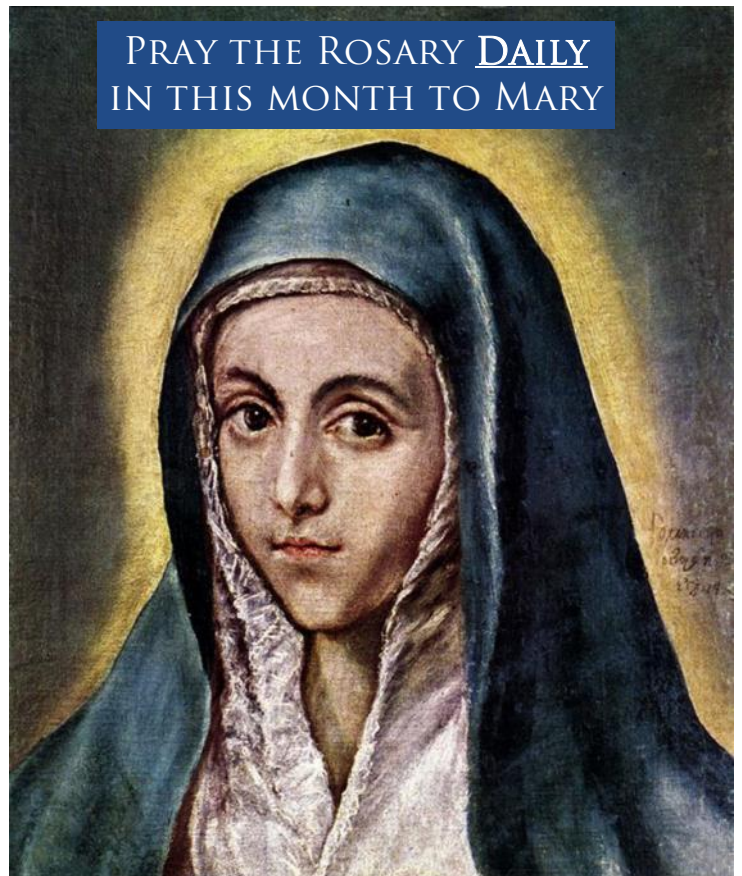
June 7th - Ecclesiastical Students
June 14th - Parish Building Fund



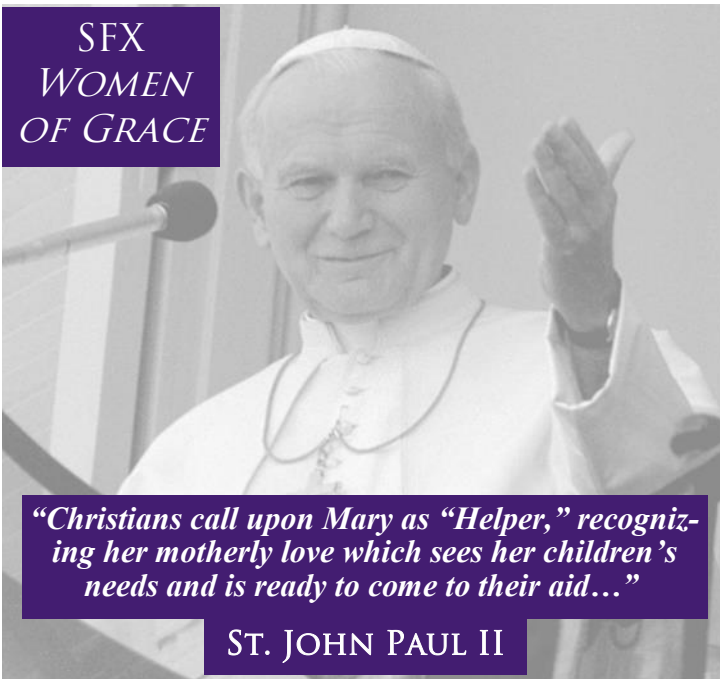
The Ancient of Days
William Blake (1794)

"Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word." (Jn 17:5-6)

PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY
IN THIS MONTH TO MARY



SFX
WOMEN
OF GRACE

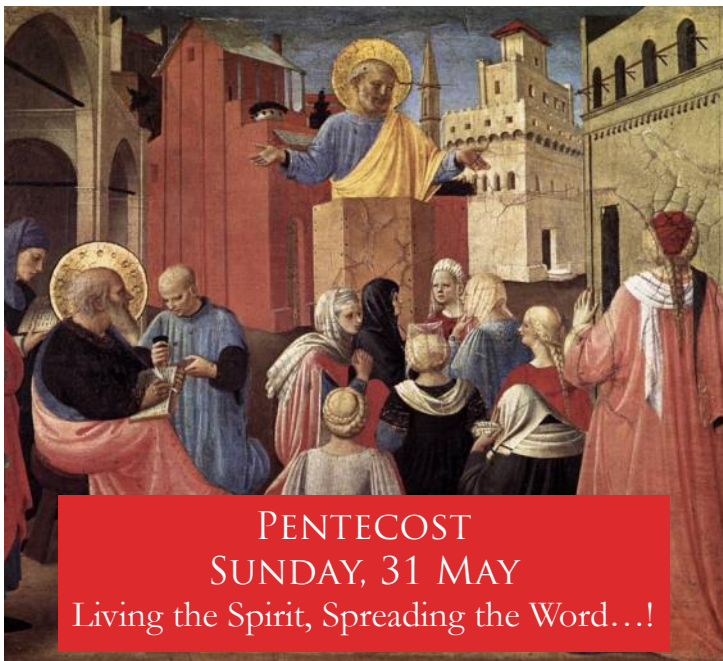


“Christians call upon Mary as “Helper,” recognizing her motherly love which sees her children’s needs and is ready to come to their aid...”

ST. JOHN PAUL II

READINGS FOR
WEEK OF MAY 24, 2020

Sunday: Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8 [13]/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a
Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26
Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab [19a]/Jn 21:15-19
Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [cf. 7b]/Jn 21:20-25



PENTECOST
SUNDAY, 31 MAY

Living the Spirit, Spreading the Word...!

DAILY MASS WATCH: If you are watching Holy Mass online, keep in mind that there are three consecutive memorials to wonderful saints this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

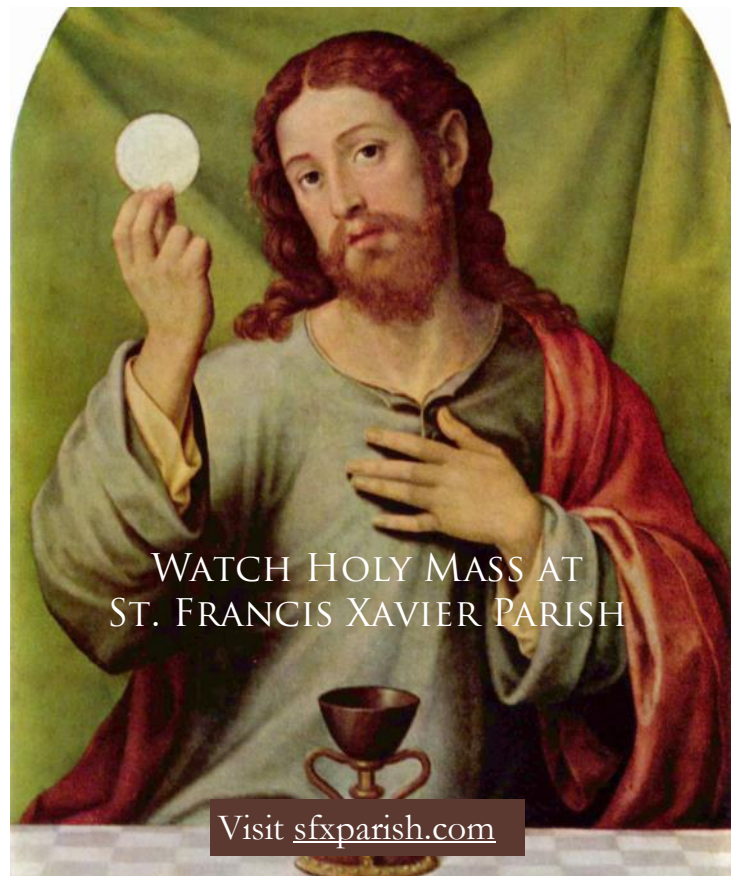
This **Monday**, we celebrate *St. Bede*, the great Benedictine monk who was a linguist, scholar and “Father of English History”. On **Tuesday**, we celebrate *St. Philip Neri*. Philip left an opportunity to be a prosperous businessman of Florence and went to Rome to fight against corruption and sloth reforming the Church at the grassroots. He started this as a lay person but then was ordained to the priesthood and founded a religious institute, the Oratory. This **Wednesday**, we remember *St. Augustine of Canterbury*, a mix of Philip and Bede, since he left Rome to become the great Apostle of England.

Please ask these blessed men to pray for us at this time for healing and reform of our nation and the Church.

Blessed
Memorial
Day!



REMEMBER THE FALLEN
- IN PRAYER



WATCH HOLY MASS AT
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

Visit sfxparish.com

THE GLORY OF GOD BY ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA

When love has entirely cast out fear, and fear has been transformed into love, then the unity brought us by our savior will be fully realized, for all men will be united with one another through their union with the one supreme Good. They will possess the perfection ascribed to the dove, according to our interpretation of the text: *One alone is my dove, my perfect one. She is the only child of her mother, her chosen one.*

Our Lord's words in the gospel bring out the meaning of this text more clearly. After having conferred all power on his disciples by his blessing, he obtained many other gifts for them by his prayer to the Father. Among these was included the greatest gift of all, which was that they were no longer to be divided in their judgement of what was right and good, for they were all to be united to the one supreme Good. As the Apostle says, they were to be bound together with the bonds of peace in the unity that comes from the Holy Spirit. They were to be made one body and one spirit by the one hope to which they were all called. We shall do better, however, to quote the sacred words of the Gospel itself. *I pray, the Lord says, that they all may be one; that as you, Father, are in me and I am in you, so they also may be one in us.*

Now the bond that creates this unity is glory. That the Holy Spirit is called glory no one can deny if he thinks carefully about the Lord's words: *The glory you gave to me, I have given to them.* In fact, he gave this glory to his disciples when he said to them: *Receive the Holy Spirit.* Although he had always possessed it, even before the world existed, he himself received this glory when he put on human nature. Then, when his human nature had been glorified by the Spirit, the glory of the Spirit was passed on to all his kin, beginning with his disciples. This is why he said: *The glory you gave to me, I have given to them, so that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, I want them to be perfectly one.*

Whoever has grown from infancy to manhood and attained to spiritual maturity possesses the mastery over his passions and the purity that makes it possible for him to receive the glory of the Spirit. He is that perfect dove upon whom the eyes of the bridegroom rest when he says: *One alone is my dove, my perfect one.*

BUILDING FUND SUPPORT: Thank you for your continuing support of the parish Building Fund. As you recall we completed a very big project last year in restoring the masonry and roof of the church bell tower. We are now replenishing the building fund with monthly collections as we continue moving to maintain and improve the church facility. We will soon decide which projects will take precedence this summer/fall and we will make you aware of these. Thanks for your generosity.

ON THE COVER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

... Hence in the Byzantine (Greek) artistic style Duccio replaces the likes of Socrates and Alcibiades with the Blessed Virgin Mary as the apostles gather around her.

In fact, this work is most often called *The Virgin's Farewell to the Apostles*. Thus, the apostles have come to be near the Blessed Mother to glean all that they can from her before she reclines into her holy death or Dormition, thence proceeding to her glorious Assumption.

In this month to Mary, let us recall all the well-deserved titles of Mary and let us become as overjoyed as Elizabeth and John the Baptist when each of her titles reaches our ears.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSING: The parish office will be closed this **Monday, 25 May** in the observance of Memorial Day. Please pray for all our deceased veterans on this day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, 26 May

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.