



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

Feast of Corpus Christi
14 June 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(June 13th - 21st)

Sat.	June 13	Corpus Christi (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00 pm	Simone Beaulieu
Sun.	June 14	Corpus Christi (Wh)
	8:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:30am	Month's Mind
	5:00pm	Harry & Mary Booth and Theodore & Anna Saulnier
Mon.	June 15	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	For Peace in Our Nation
Tues.	June 16	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Amelia Leconte
Wed.	June 17	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Annette Poitras
Thurs.	June 18	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Cesar Fernandes & Mr. & Mrs. Jose De Sousa
Fri.	June 19	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Wh)
	9:00am	Arthur & Jeanne Guillotte
Sat.	June 20	Immaculate Heart of Mary (Wh)
	9:00am	Russell Tetreault
Sat.	June 20	12th Sunday (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00 pm	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	June 21	12th Sunday In Ordinary Time (Wh)
	8:00am	Janice Romanowicz
	10:30am	For All Fathers

Financial Report

Mail In/Drop Off Income:

Sunday, 7 June	\$6,439.75
Ecclesiastical Students.....	\$935.00

Prayers Please

... for all the sick of our parish: those homebound, in the hospital, and nursing facilities; and for all the souls in purgatory.

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: **Rose Mullin***

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

GRATITUDE AND CONCERN

Thankfully, things are beginning to return to normal. For me, it has been a true blessing to be able to worship with you again at Mass. I would again like to thank you – as I did last weekend – for your cooperation with our precautions. As the old saying goes, an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.

Being careful has paid off: looking at the chart for new Coronavirus cases in Massachusetts for the past few weeks, the reopening of churches and other places of worship has not had a negative effect on the decline of infections. In fact, they have continued to drop. Let us hope that as more places reopen they will be as serious as churches have been in sanitizing and guiding social distancing.

Thanks must be given where it is due: Governor Baker placed a great deal of trust in places of worship by including us in the first phase of reopening. Even previous to the announcement, he invited the Catholic Church in our state, along with other religious organizations, to be part of a dialogue regarding reopening. This invitation on his part and his subsequent actions in our favor need to be remembered.

This should be remembered not only for its own sake, but also because of the contrast in which they stand in comparison with nearby New York. Both the governor and the mayor of New York City have displayed an antipathy bordering on hostility towards the practice of faith, and indeed faith itself.

On 13 April, Governor Cuomo spoke at a press conference in which he announced the beginning of a decline in new cases of infection. He took a gratuitous swipe at religion by saying to a reporter, "The number is down because we brought the number down. God did not do that. Faith did not do that. Destiny did not do that." He continued, "Our behavior has stopped the spread of the virus. God did not stop the spread of the virus. And what we do, how we act, will dictate how that virus spreads."

On 2 June, Mayor de Blasio of New York City explained that he was allowing huge protests to continue while churches were still banned from having even limited services. He is even allowing restaurants to reopen ahead of churches, which are likely to have to wait until July to reopen. These things are not in opposition: the protests have their place, and the restaurants as well. But if these can reopen or take place, then why not churches? Let's wait and see if he offers an answer.

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 & BENEDICTION

Monday: 6:30 pm

Wednesday (with Holy Hour 6:00 to 7:00 pm)

ON THE COVER

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." (Jn 6:51)

Today is the solemn feast of **Corpus Christi**, or the Most Holy Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We ought to celebrate it with an especial glorification in appreciation of our communal homecoming to the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist after an absence of a few months. Hopefully this absence has magnified our devotion to this precious divine gift, a devotion which just a few months ago had been shown to be severely deficient.

As we recall, not long before the COVID-19 virus hit we were talking about recent polling showing that many Catholics no longer believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. This was disturbing enough to prompt some bishops and priests to put forth letters and instructions that in Holy Communion we receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. Then the virus hit. The pandemic gained the greatest attention in the Church while the theme of the Holy Eucharist was shelved again as Our Lord became unobtainable not due to any shortage of wheat.

On this feast day we do well to consider the proximity of two Eucharistic occurrences: first, statistical proof that faith in the Holy Eucharist has greatly diminished and second, that this same Holy Eucharist became inaccessible to the faithful.

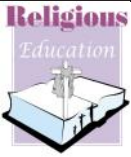
Now when one occurrence follows upon another, this does not mean that one caused the other. We cannot say with certainty that God withdrew the Holy Eucharist from us as a consequence of our lack of communal faith. However, we cannot wholly discount this either. Nor do we mean to suggest that God sent a deadly virus only to remind us of his Real Eucharistic Presence. Yet, even through a very physical event such as a deadly pandemic, God will inject his own spiritual meaning into the Church. As men we felt deeply the restrictions of the pandemic; as churchmen we felt intensely the withholding of the Blessed Sacrament. As we emerge from these constraints have we grown in our devotion to the Real Presence? Have we come to understand that it is the Holy Eucharist that binds us in faith not only as a sign but as a supernatural grace in the very Divine Person whose Body and Blood we must worthily consume? Do we now realize that we gather on Sunday and everyday to partake in Christ and not merely in some prayed-over bread?

On this **Feast of Corpus Christi** we place on our bulletin cover a detail of a work by the French realist **James Tissot** entitled *The Communion of the Apostles* (1894 – Brooklyn Museum). Tissot was influenced by Degas and Manet although Tissot never fully transitioned to Impressionism, keeping one individualized foot in the realm of romantic realism.

Here we have a work reminiscent of the earth tones of Rembrandt which lend a somber solemnity to its telling. Christ appears as a "priest of Melchizedek" wearing a humeral veil held aside reverently by Saints Peter and John. This is a very liturgical piece so that even the table appears as an altar rail. Jesus distributes Holy Communion indicating that this *is* His Body while the Apostles kneel in worship. The thirteenth figure kneeling with face unseen must be our Blessed Mother.

Let us likewise adore Jesus in His most Blessed Sacrament.

Feast of Corpus Christi - June 14, 2020



Please Continue to PRAY for our **Confirmation Candidates** as we await a new date for Confirmation from the Bishop with the new guidelines in place and considering the safety of those attending. All Candidates please make sure that you are up to date with all requirements sent out via parent emails a few weeks ago.

Also, if you have completed your "Choosing a Confirmation Name" form and have yet to return it, you can drop this off in our parish drop box at this time. Please be sure to complete both sides of the form so we can ensure that the choice of your confirmation name has been well thought out.

All students will soon be receiving information specific to their grade level. Please continue to check emails for the Sunday Mass Questionnaires which need to be completed by all students in all Levels. They started on Sunday March 22 including Holy Week through Pentecost.

We are continuing to work on the best approach for First Holy Communion and will be in contact with families very soon.

God Bless, Mrs. Hammarquist
jlh@sfxparish.com

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



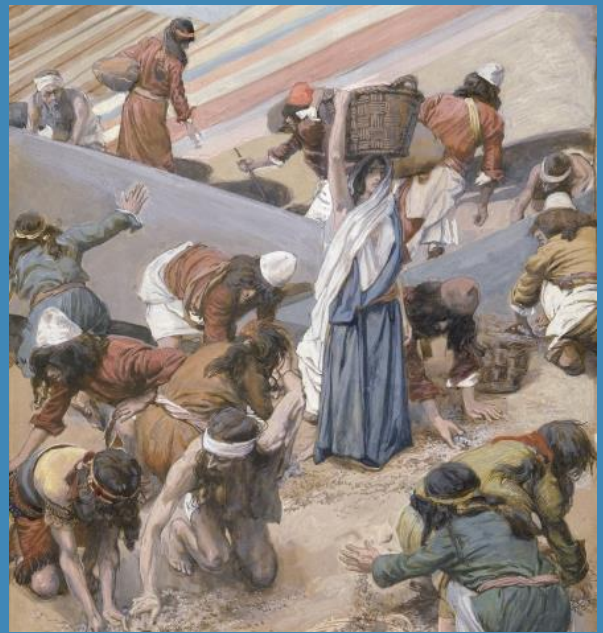
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

"And just like that, the virtual doors close on the 2019-2020 school year!" While the year turned out to be quite different than we expected, we have great cause for celebration! Even though we experienced natural "bumps" that come with the transition of any kind, we continue to be blessed as we remain always faithful and confident in prayer. As the school year winds down this week, let us remember the extraordinary accomplishments of our staff and students, but also of the entire diocese for turning on a dime to pivot to remote learning literally in three days! The Catholic Schools Alliance has put together the following video to celebrate our amazing schools and families (<https://www.catholic-schools-alliance.org/our-catholic-schools-rise-up-to-remote-learning/>) where St. Francis' students have quite a large showing! Please continue to pray for our parish school as we already begin our planning for next school year. Happy Summer!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

June 14th - Parish Building Fund
June 21st - Diocesan Assessment



The Gathering of the Manna
James Tissot (1902)

"Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever." (Jn 6:57-58)

A Reflection on Christ's Priesthood on the Event of a Priestly Ordination:

[Christ's priesthood is his ordained role] to offer sacrifice and prayer for humanity to his heavenly Father. His ordination or anointing to the office of high priest took place at the moment of the Incarnation, i.e., at the moment when the Word of God assumed human flesh in the womb of Mary. During his life on earth Christ exercised his priestly office by all the acts of his will, and then at the Last Supper and on Calvary he united all these mortal acts into one supreme sacrifice to the Father. Along with the sacrifice, Christ also prays as a priest, notably when he instituted the Eucharist and in the sacerdotal prayer recorded by St. John (17:1-26). Moreover, Christ's priesthood continues everlastingly in heaven, as revealed in the Letter to the Hebrews. Regarding the manner in which he exercises his eternal priesthood, revelation merely says: "He is always making intercession for us" (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34), which is a truly sacerdotal function because, as St. Paul affirms, it bears an intimate relation to the sacrifice of the Cross. In fact, Christ's continuing priesthood is the basis in faith for the existence and efficacy of the sacrifice of the Mass (from Catholic Culture's - Catholic Dictionary).

SFX
WOMEN
OF GRACE

READINGS FOR WEEK OF JUNE 14, 2020

Sunday: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12]/1 Cor 10:16-17/Jn 6:51-58
Monday: 1 Kgs 21:1-16/Ps 5:2-3ab, 4b-6a, 6b-7 [2b]/Mt 5:38-42
Tuesday: 1 Kgs 21:17-29/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 11 and 16 [cf. 3a]/Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday: 2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14/Ps 31:20, 21, 24 [25]/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Sir 48:1-14/Ps 97:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7 [12a]/Mt 6:7-15
Friday: Dt 7:6-11/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 10 [cf. 17]/1 Jn 4:7-16/Mt 11:25-30
Saturday: 2 Chr 24:17-25/Ps 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Lk 2:41-51

*"From the depths of my nothingness, I prostrate myself before Thee, O Most Sacred, Divine and Adorable Heart of Jesus, to pay Thee all the homage of love, praise and adoration in my power.
Amen."*

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

VESPERS & BENEDICTION IS BACK! On Mondays we are once again celebrating Vespers at 6:30 pm. This occurs in the parish church during the time in which we are also celebrating Eucharistic Adoration.

On Wednesdays Deacon Dave will be holding a Holy Hour from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. From 6:00 to 6:30 pm there will be the praying of the Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration. Deacon will begin Vespers at 6:30 pm. He will conclude the Holy Hour at 7:00 pm with Benediction. This Holy Hour is dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory through the intercession of St. Joseph. Hope to see many of you there!

MONTH'S MIND MASS

We remember the following individuals that were deceased or memorialized in the past month at our Sunday 10:30 am, June 14th Holy Mass
Evelyn Camara
Maria Cunha

ADORE THE
LAMB OF GOD...

Image on Steven Booth's Ordination Card

"Abraham said, 'God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.' And the two walked on together." -Gen 22:8

Congratulations Father Steven Booth

ORDAINED ON
SATURDAY, 13 JUNE 2020

Feast of Corpus Christi - June 14, 2020

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI, 14 JUNE

Processional Hymn: Praise to the Lord

Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of creation; O my soul praise him, for he is thy health and salvation, All ye who hear, Now to his altar draw near; Joining in glad adoration...

1st Reading: Dt 8:2-3; 14b-16a

Moses said to the people: "Remember how for forty years now the LORD, your God, has directed all your journeying in the desert, so as to test you by affliction and find out whether or not it was your intention to keep his commandments. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does one live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD.

"Do not forget the LORD, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery; who guided you through the vast and terrible desert with its saraph serpents and scorpions, its parched and waterless ground; who brought forth water for you from the flinty rock and fed you in the desert with manna, a food unknown to your fathers."

Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 10: 16-17

Brothers and sisters:
The cup of blessing that we bless,
is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?
The bread that we break,
is it not a participation in the body of Christ?
Because the loaf of bread is one,
we, though many, are one body,
for we all partake of the one loaf.

Gospel Reading: Jn 6:51-58

Jesus said to the Jewish crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

Offertory Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Communion Hymn: Gift of Finest Wheat

Recessional Hymn: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

At the Lamb's high feast we sing, Praise to our victorious king, Who hath washed us in the tide, Flowing from his pierced side...