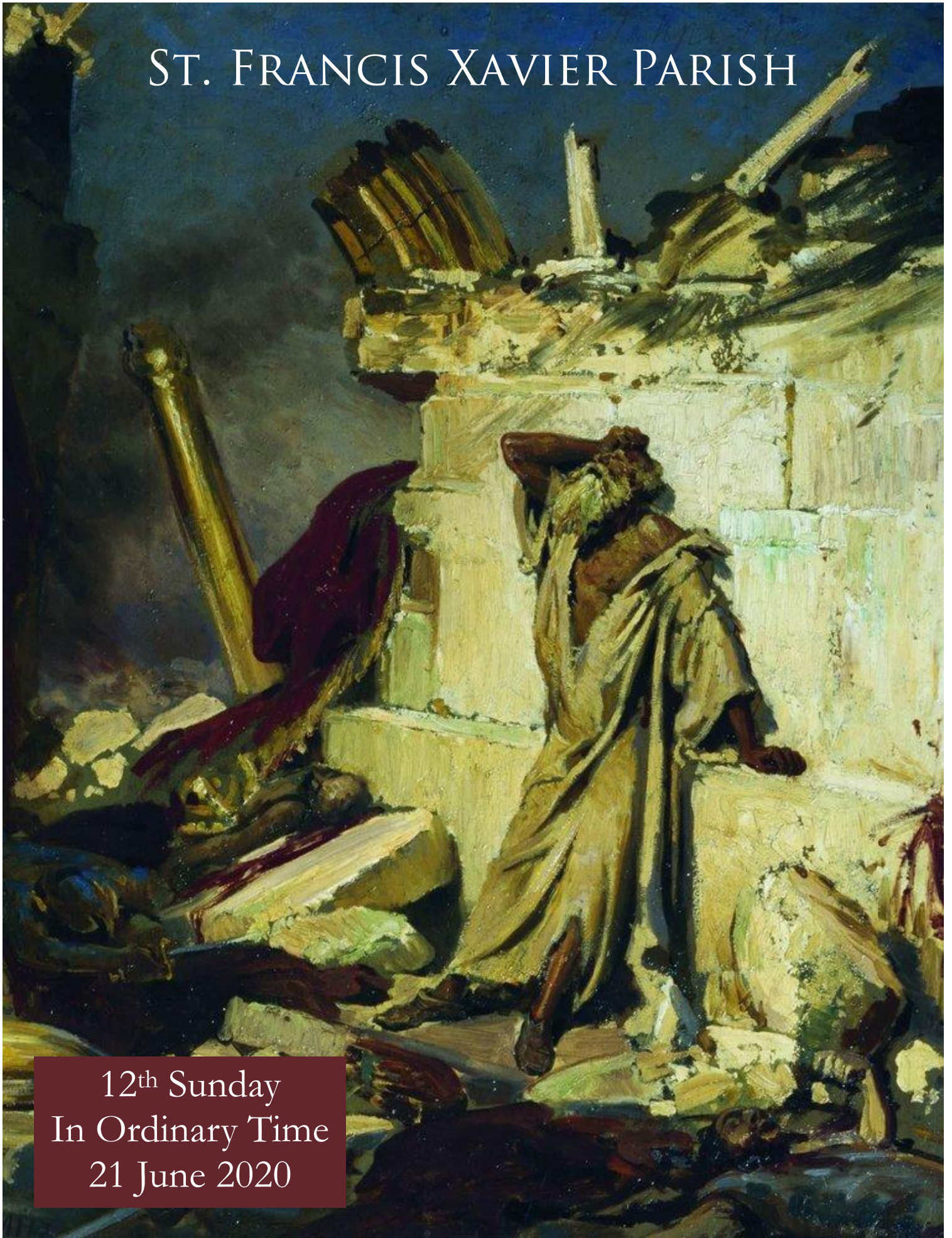


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



12th Sunday
In Ordinary Time
21 June 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(June 20th - 28th)

Sat.	June 20	12th Sunday (Vigil) (Wh) <i>Pro Populo</i>
	4:00 pm	
Sun.	June 21	12th Sunday In Ordinary Time (Wh)
	8:00am	Janice Romanowicz
	10:30am	For All Fathers
	5:00pm	Intentions of Carol Arsenault
Mon.	June 22	Ss. John Fisher & Thomas More Rd)
	9:00am	Rita & Joseph Pelletier
Tues.	June 23	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Jacqueline Ponte
Wed.	June 24	Nativity of John the Baptist (Wh)
	9:00am	Antonio Caldeira
Thurs.	June 25	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	George Bevilacqua
Fri.	June 26	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Rose Mullin
Sat.	June 27	Cyril of Alexandria; Bishop (Wh)
	9:00am	Antonio Farias
Sat.	June 27	13th Sunday (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00 pm	Gail Perzentz
Sun.	June 28	13th Sunday In Ordinary Time (Wh)
	8:00am	John Gwozdz Jr.
	10:30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>

Financial Report

Mail In/Drop Off Income:

Corpus Christi	\$4,344.25
Parish Building Fund.....	\$3,831.00

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: **Janice Romanowicz***

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

WHAT IS OUR WITNESS?

The word *martyr* comes from the Greek word meaning “witness.” The martyrs of the early Church were called that because they gave witness to the truth of our faith by dying for it, rather than denying it.

Every age of the Church has known martyrs. In a sense, this confirms the purpose of the Church: to continue the work of God in redeeming a fallen world. Just as Jesus Christ was killed after preaching a message of peace and love, as well as of the need for conversion from sinfulness, the martyrs face the same resistance from elements in the world that continue to reject this call to conversion. We see this same thing playing out in our country today, where the faithful proclamation of the message of the Gospel faces such opposition – some of it based more in emotion than reason. As we strive to be faithful to Christ in the present, it is a great consolation to be able to look to the martyrs as examples to us on earth, while they are interceding for us in Heaven.

This week the Church remembers two martyrs who have a particular importance for us in the English-speaking world: Saints John Fisher and Thomas More. Fisher was the bishop of Rochester in England, and More was the Chancellor of England – roughly equivalent in importance to the role of the Prime Minister today. England had been ruled by King Henry VIII since 1509. While the king started out as a fervent Catholic, when his wife did not bear a son who lived through infancy, Henry’s fear for the loss of his dynasty took precedence. His attempts to acquire an annulment failed, and when some of his advisors quietly proposed to the King that he declare himself the supreme head on Earth of the Church in England, Henry followed this path. While most people in the kingdom – including priests and bishops – went along with the King’s decree, Fisher and More both refused on the grounds of their faith. Their witness is notable because they didn’t do so in a loud way that drew attention to themselves; rather, they were clear that they were not rebelling against the king and would not encourage others to do so, while at the same time not doing anything that went against the truth of the Catholic Faith. In More’s words, he died, “the king’s good servant, but God’s first.”

Their witness is a good model for us: they were faithful even in the face of adversity, but not in a way that detracted from the love of the Gospel or that made them the center of things rather than their Faith. Rather, they quietly yet firmly held fast to the truth of the Gospel. May we do the same.

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

Monday 9:30am - 9:30pm

Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm

VESPERS & BENEDICTION

Monday & Wednesday: 6:30 pm

ON THE COVER

"Jeremiah said: "I hear the whisperings of many: "Terror on every side! Denounce! Let us denounce him!" All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. (Jer 20:10-13)

Do not we all feel like Jeremiah these days? Mention God and be denounced at work; defend a moral principle and be suspected by neighbors; question the full motivation of the latest cultural movement and be pummeled on social media. What is patently different in our situation from Jeremiah's is that the enemies of God's disciples no longer whisper. They bellow, they accuse, they threaten; they "cancel" you out and are proud of doing so!

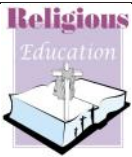
In our time of many social movements, some peaceful and some brutal, Catholics should concern themselves with their own movement: the movement of the Holy Spirit. This is *the* authentic movement because it originates in God. It moved Peter to declare to those who would denounce him: "*We must obey God rather than men*" (Acts 5:29). As a catholic movement it is universal. Here is Peter again: "*In truth I see that God show's no partiality. Rather in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him*" (Acts 10:34-35). Acceptance in Christ is therefore based on reverence and virtue, not on education or economic status, not on nationality or race. Acceptance, however, does still relate to creed: to the Christian "credo" or "I believe" that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God (Jn 3:16). It is God's acceptance that we are meant to strive for, not the approval of (1 Thes 2:4) or the conformity with man (Rom 12:1-2) especially not post-modern man who lacks peace in his spirit while seeking power in his flesh.

Throughout history, man has been pressured and denounced into leaving the counsel of God. Many men and women once virtuous have been whittled down slowly but steadily into vice, first by the requirement of being tolerant, then by being open and accepting, and finally by coming to full agreement with what is evil in the sight of God. Confusion, doubt, and fear of denunciation and isolation have all weighed heavily on Christian souls, many who have altogether abandoned their justifying faith to gain justification from the prevailing culture.

On this 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time, in a time that is certainly not ordinary, we place on our bulletin cover a work by the Russian realist **Ilya Repin**, entitled *Cry of Jeremiah on the Ruins of Jerusalem* (1870/Wikiart). This painting is utilized here to depict a spiritual rather than a historical reality. It represents the human soul confronting the dismantling of the divine law and the natural law. First comes the loss of beauty, truth, and goodness in the mind and heart of man, then this loss manifests itself in observable ways: the self-destruction of the soul and the annihilation of well-ordered society.

Here we see Jeremiah lamenting the loss of life as three bodies barely discernable from the wreckage lie bloody on the ground. Yet what is most telling in this image is the veil of the temple near the toppled golden pillar whose crimson folds appear as a waterfall of blood pouring out from the temple stones. This is the Church losing its lifeblood, its faith and its wisdom, by following a worldly way; a way that does not lead to joy and peace, but to frustration and destruction.

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time - June 21, 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



Refusal of Confession
Ilya Repin (19th Century)

"So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father." (Mt 10:31-33)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

And just like that, we close the book on yet another successful academic year... praise God! While this year turned out to be something unpredictable, our school community soared in the face of uncertainty. Virtual classrooms and grade level curriculum resulted in full report cards. Student-drop-offs of school textbooks and pick-up of personal belongings went off without a hitch. It was so wonderful to visit with our school family even if at a distance. Also, as an additional and traditional part of the end of year, the distribution of the summer work packet is a true highlight! A very blessed Father's Day to all of our school and parish fathers! May God continue to bless you and may He continue to bless our students and staff throughout the summer months, keeping them safe, healthy, and happy!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

June 21st - Diocesan Assessment
June 28th - Church in Latin America



Daily Mass Watch
Wednesday 24 June
9:00 AM

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY
OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

SFX
WOMEN
OF GRACE

"Actions speak louder than words. Let your words teach and your actions speak."

-St. Anthony of Padua

STEVEN BOOTH... thanks all who were able to attend his ordination, his first Mass, or who have been praying for him throughout his approach to the priesthood. He also extends his thanks to everyone who gave him a card for the event of his ordination. If you would like to send Steven a congratulatory card, etc. you may send this to him at **1133 Russells Mills Road, South Dartmouth MA 02748.**

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



READINGS FOR WEEK OF JUNE 21, 2020

Sunday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35 [14c]/Rom 5:12-15/Mt 10:26-33
 Monday: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18/Ps 60:3, 4-5, 12-13 [7b]/Mt 7:1-5
 Tuesday: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 10-11 [cf. 9d]/Mt 7:6, 12-14
 Wednesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1-3, 13-14, 14-15 [14a]/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80
 Thursday: 2 Kgs 24:8-17/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9 [9]/Mt 7:21-29
 Friday: 2 Kgs 25:1-12/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Mt 8:1-4
 Saturday: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19/Ps 74:1b-2, 3-5, 6-7, 20-21 [19b]/Mt 8:5-17

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!



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

THE MEN OF
ST. JOSEPH

Presents: "A Good Man"

Many people know of St. Thomas More through the award winning movie *A Man for all Seasons*. Less do they know St. John Fisher. In the movie, when More is tempted by Cardinal Wolsey with the office of Lord Chancellor and given the names of those who might take over this position from Wolsey, Thomas More responds "*Fisher for me!*"

John Fisher was himself a priest and declared a cardinal before his death. He was a scholar and chancellor for the University of Cambridge. Like Thomas More he was imprisoned for refusing to accept the king (Henry VIII) as the head of the church in England. Fisher was executed on June 22, 1535 just fifteen days before the beheading of St. Thomas More.

St. John Fisher once declared, "*A good man is not a perfect man; a good man is an honest man, faithful and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in his life.*" Fisher himself lived out this principle in peace and fortitude and he, like More, is an example to all men today especially Catholic men. His great contemporary Erasmus once said of John Fisher, "*He is the one man at this time who is incomparable for uprightness of life, for learning and for greatness of soul.*" Come to Holy Mass on June 22nd and pray for St. John's intercession for many more good men.

Processional Hymn: Abide With Me

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide; The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide; When other helpers fail and comfort flees; Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

1st Reading: Jer 20:10-13

Jeremiah said: "I hear the whisperings of many: 'Terror on every side! Denounce! let us denounce him!' All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. 'Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.' But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph. In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion. O LORD of hosts, you who test the just, who probe mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause. Sing to the LORD, praise the LORD, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!"

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, in your great love, answer me*

2nd Reading: Rom 5: 12-15

Brothers and sisters: Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned — for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come. But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

Gospel Reading: Mt 10:26-33

Jesus said to the Twelve: "Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

Offertory Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Recessional Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices; Who wondrous things hath done, in Whom his world rejoices; Who from our mother arms hath blessed us on our way, with countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.