


# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



15<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
In Ordinary Time  
12 July 2020



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

### Mass Schedule

(July 11<sup>th</sup> - July 19<sup>th</sup>)

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>July 11</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b>
	4:00 pm	<i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>July 12</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr)</b>
	8:00am	Joseph Mello
	10:30am	<i>Month's Mind</i>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>July 13</b>	<b>St. Henry (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Stanley & Helena Rusczyk
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>July 14</b>	<b>St. Kateri Tekakwitha; Virgin (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Muriel Perry
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>July 15</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure; Bishop (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	George Bevilacqua
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>July 16</b>	<b>Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Leonel & Lourdes Fernandes & Parents
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>July 17</b>	<b>Feria (Gr)</b>
	9:00am	Harold Sequin
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>July 18</b>	<b>St. Camilus de Lellis; Priest (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Joaquim & Maria Torres
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>July 18</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b>
	4:00 pm	Simonne & George Fahey
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>July 19</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr)</b>
	8:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:30am	Mary Booth

### Financial Report

#### Mail In/Drop Off Income:

13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time .....	\$6,895.00
Latin America Church .....	\$886.50

### 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: Leonard Melanson*

### 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 NEW FRIEND FOR OUR PARISH

When I was a seminarian, in conversations with my spiritual director in which I told him of some new saint whose story inspired me, he would always say, "looks like you've made a new friend." This is a wonderful way to consider the saints: those who are joined to us in one Faith, with whom we share one Baptism, who were nourished at the same table of the Holy Eucharist as we are, and now are praying that we may be in Heaven as they are.

Our parish already had a great "friend" in our patron, St. Francis Xavier. He leaves our community a powerful legacy, being one of the greatest missionaries the Church has ever known. In a few weeks we will dedicate a new shrine in our church to another missionary, Blessed Stanley Rother.



A native of Oklahoma, Blessed Stanley responded to God's call to become a priest and was ordained in 1963. A few years later he volunteered as a missionary to Guatemala. While St. Francis Xavier was tasked with making an initial proclamation of the Gospel to those who had never heard of it, Bl. Stanley Rother gave his life to serving people who were already baptized, yet needed to be further built up in their faith. Caught up in the violence rocking that nation, he was killed for defending his people by a death squad on 28 July 1981. In 2016 he was recognized as the first American-born martyr, and was beatified the following year.

The Archbishop of Oklahoma City has granted our parish a first-class relic of Bl. Stanley which will be placed in his shrine when it is dedicated on his feast day, 28 July 2020. You may have already noticed the shrine, located to the right of the sanctuary near the entrance to the Adoration Chapel.

In the weeks leading up to the shrine's dedication later this month we will be putting a serialized biography of Bl. Stanley beginning with this week's bulletin, which I encourage you to read as a way to be inspired by the life of this great martyr. Blessed Stanley, pray for us!

# 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

*Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it... The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. (Mt 13:7, 22)*

The “Word of God” means all the wisdom in Sacred Scripture particularly the four Gospels of Jesus Christ sown in the world for man’s salvation. It also means Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was always with God and of whom John the Apostle says all things came to be through the Word, and without the Word nothing came to be (Jn 1:3). Thus the Word of God also means God’s eternal providence expressed not only in Sacred Scripture but in creation itself establishing the very plan of the universe.

Catholics believe that there are two great revelations of God. The one we most speak of is recounted in the Holy Bible. God reveals himself to us in the Word through inspired writers who have recorded God’s activity in the history of the world. The other revelation, the one we speak less of and seem to have forgotten, is the world itself, the design of which makes clear the purposes of God. The purposes of God are not fleeting but eternal so that, for example, the creation of male and female is an everlasting principle of life fixed not only on earth but in heaven to be forever embodied in the Resurrection of the Body.

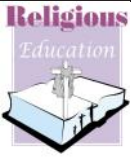
Now the reason why so many people today are falling away from the wisdom of the Word given by God in Sacred Scripture is because they have already fallen away from the wisdom offered in the world made by God. When we no longer believe that killing a child in the womb is wrong or that sexual activity between persons of the same gender is wrong, we have already come to reject the disclosure of God through the world. We have allowed our anxieties, fears and doubts sown by the devil in the world, to choke the revelation of God clearly shown in the schema of the world (Rom 1: 20-21). Not only this, but if we continue to reject the wisdom of God set in human nature, we will purpose to go against God and to falsely remake human nature in any image that relieves us of our swelling anxieties.

For this 14<sup>th</sup> **Sunday in Ordinary Time** we place on our bulletin cover a work by the Symbolist painter **Odilon Redon**, entitled *Christ with Red Thorns* (1897). Redon is said to have ushered in Surrealism. His interest in Asian and Western spiritual culture places him solidly within symbolic art and as an apparent successor of the likes of William Blake. He painted several meditations on Christ and while certainly not orthodox in intention, many serve as respectable images of Our Lord to be considered for deeper interpretation.

Here is Christ, hung upon the cross. He wears no crown of thorns. The thorns instead act as a climbing plant spreading out over the Christ figure attempting to creep and overtake the Passion and the cross. They even pierce the face of Christ, his human nature. This is symbolic in that Christ is the vine and we are His branches. Thus what we see here is a clash between vine and thorns; nature and grace against fabrication and corruption. This is what we are experiencing today: the great battle between original and immutable truth and diabolic and sham forgery.



## 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 12, 2020



**All students:** your parents received an updated email on class work. Please complete this work as soon as possible so you can enjoy the summer months. If you have not returned to Mass in the church at this time, please remember to keep Sunday holy by viewing the Mass on EWTN or your local station and making a spiritual communion. If you are ready to return to Mass please call the parish office to reserve a pew.

Please keep the 24 First Communicants in your prayers as they receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the first time at this weekend's Masses and Saturday July 18th. Please pray their parents that they continue to teach their children the importance of a Eucharistic life.

*Please keep our 16 Confirmandi in your prayers that the Holy Spirit will intercede to always guide them toward their faith and bless them with wisdom and courage to remain faithful to the truth of Our Lord Jesus Christ and that Mary help them to be attentive to that which the Lord asks of them, and always to live and to walk according to the Holy Spirit. They will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>.*

**"Summer Religious Education Office hours** will be: Mon, Tues, Fri 9:30am-Noon. "

Stay Safe and Healthy

God Bless, Mrs. Hammarquist

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

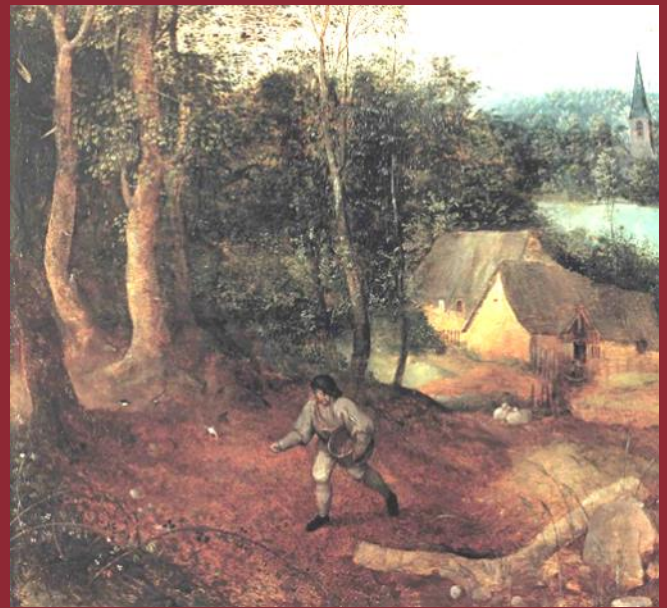
We are back in the office after a short break and are in full (or at least half) swing with our summer office hours. Our administrative staff and teachers will be especially busy over summer adopting and adapting to the new guidelines for returning the students to classwork. We will be putting much thought into safe and best practices for the 2020-2021 school year. We are grateful to our facility director John Guillotte and his summer side-kick Dominic Correia for ensuring a spotless environment and for assisting with new seating and other spatial arrangements as we prepare for another exciting school opening!

**Summer Office Hours are:**  
**Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays**  
**from 9:30am-1:30pm.**

**God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal**

### UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**July 26<sup>th</sup>** - Diocesan Assessment  
**August 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Peter's Pence



*Parable of the Sower (detail)*  
Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1577)

*And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow...Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear." (Mt 13:3, 7-9)*

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Our Mass Book opened last week for the period of **January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. If you were unable to come to the parish that morning, please call the parish office if you would like to schedule a Mass intention for that time period. (Please note that we can also accommodate Masses offered in Rome for your loved ones during the rest of the year of 2020).

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Our parish office never closed during the pandemic. As the church is an essential service we continued to maintain regular office hours to receive your calls, answer your questions and concerns, and process your requests. In truth, with the exception of in-person meetings there is almost no parish office service that we were not able to render to parishioners during the high times of the pandemic. We offered spiritual counseling over the phone, ensured that you received your weekly bulletins, emailed home assignments for religious education, recorded Mass intentions, processed Mass cards, and even safely met parishioners waiting in their cars to receive grocery gift cards etc.

In the coming days we will discuss the reopening of the parish office and parish center for limited business and activities. We will follow the public health guidelines for such a reopening including the wearing of masks and social distancing. We thank you for your patience in all of this as we ourselves who work in the office look forward to an eventual return to business as usual.

SFX  
WOMEN  
OF GRACE



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
Holy Mass  
Thurs. 16 July - 9 am

*"This habit of thy order... shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger, and a pledge of peace."*

*-Our Lady's Message to St. Simon Stock*

*"Mary seeks for those who approach her devoutly and with reverence, for such she loves, nourishes, and adopts as her children."* (St. Bonaventura: Memorial 15 July)



Religious Ed at SFX Parish

PLEASE PRAY FOR  
THOSE BEING  
NEWLY CONFIRMED  
ON SUNDAY 12 JULY  
AT 5:00 PM

READINGS FOR WEEK OF JULY 12, 2020

Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14 [Lk 8:8]/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9  
Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 10:34—11:1  
Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8 [cf. 9d]/Mt 11:20-24  
Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15 [14a]/Mt 11:25-27  
Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21 [20b]/Mt 11:28-30  
Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16 [cf. 17b]/Mt 12:1-8  
Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14 [12b]/Mt 12:14-21

A BIOGRAPHY OF  
BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER

From the Archdioceses of Oklahoma City

*As we prepare a new shrine in our parish church for Blessed Stanley Rother, we are presenting some information about Father Rother over the next few weeks:*

Stanley Francis Rother was born March 27, 1935, in Okarche, Oklahoma. The oldest of the children born to Franz and Gertrude Rother, he grew up on a farm and attended Holy Trinity Catholic Church and School. He worked hard doing required chores, attended school, played sports, was an altar server and enjoyed the activities associated with growing up in a small town.

While in high school, he began to discern the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. He was accepted as a seminarian and was sent to Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Texas. He completed his studies at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and was ordained a priest on May 25, 1963. Father Rother served as an associate pastor for five years in Oklahoma.

He sought and received permission to join the staff at the Oklahoma diocese's mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. He served the native tribe of the Tz'utujil, who are decedents of the Mayans. Although he struggled with Latin in the seminary, Father Rother learned Spanish and the Tz'utujil language in Guatemala. He celebrated Mass in their language and helped translate the New Testament.

Father Rother was surrounded by extreme poverty among the Tz'utujil, who were living in one-room huts growing what they could on their small plots of land. He ministered to his parishioners in their homes; eating with them, visiting the sick and aiding them with medical issues. He even put his farming skills to use by helping them in the fields, bringing in different crops, and building an irrigation system....



THE SACRED LITURGY FOR 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 12 JULY

**Proclamation Hymn: All People That On Earth Do Dwell**

*All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell, Come ye before him and rejoice...*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Is 55:10-11**

Thus says the LORD: Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

**Responsorial Psalm: *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.***

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Rom 8:18-23**

Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

**Gospel Reading: Mt 13:1-23**

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell...

... among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear." The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand*. Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: *You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them*. "But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. "Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

**Offertory Hymn: Prayer of Saint Francis**

**Communion Hymn: Lord, Who at Thy First Eucharist**

**Recessional Hymn: Love Divine, All Love Excelling**

*Love, divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down, Fix in us they humble dwelling, All they faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love thou art; Visit us with thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.*