

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
In Ordinary Time  
26 July 2020



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

### Mass Schedule

(July 25<sup>th</sup> - August 2<sup>nd</sup>)

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>July 25</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b>
	4:00 pm	Ralph & Grace Watts
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>July 26</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr)</b>
	8:00am	Stanley Gwozdz
	10:30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>July 27</b>	<b>Feria (Gr)</b>
	9:00am	Ron Pimental & Catherine White
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>July 28</b>	<b>Blessed Stanley Rother (Rd)</b>
	9:00am	Paulino & Ana Vieira & Daughter
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>July 29</b>	<b>St. Martha (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Barry Fuller
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>July 30</b>	<b>St. Peter Chrysologus; Bishop (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Wallace Martin
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>July 31</b>	<b>St. Ignatius of Loyola; Priest (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Lauretta Rutter
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Aug 01</b>	<b>St. Alphonsus Liguori; Bishop (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	José Alves & Maria Belo
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Aug 01</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b>
	4:00 pm	Manuel & Rosa Frias
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Aug 02</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr)</b>
	8:00am	Sarah Feeney
	10:30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>

### Financial Report

#### Income:

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time .....\$3,555.50

#### Recent Expense:

Parking Lot Sealing/Lining .....\$7,700.00

### 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: Stacey Gwozdz*

### 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

#### RELICS, AND WHY THEY MATTER

This Monday & Tuesday we will be celebrating the dedication of our new parish shrine to Blessed Stanley Rother, located to the right of the entrance to our Adoration Chapel. The centerpiece of this shrine is a first-class relic of the Blessed, namely a small piece of his bone.

In the past I have heard confusion expressed about why the Church would offer such a thing. Isn't it a bit macabre or ghoulish to have a visible piece of a human body in church? From the standpoint of our faith, however, we can understand why the Church recognizes the importance of honoring the relics – the bodies and possessions – of the saints.

As humans we have both a body and a soul. When we become holy, our entire being is involved in this process. We can't think that our soul is the only thing that matters when it comes to our faith, and our body is just "along for the ride." Such a view would miss the fact that it is both our spiritual and physical aspects that are called to respond to the call to holiness given us at our Baptisms.

It is with our bodies that we serve God through actions of prayer (such as kneeling); it is through our bodies that we serve others in the name of Christ. When a man and woman are joined in the Sacrament of Marriage it is through their union – expressed not only spiritually but also physically – that they grow in love for one another through the guiding Spirit of God, and also thereby participate in the creation of new life.

We can then see that to say someone is holy means that not only their spirits but also their bodies share in holiness. It is a hallmark of our Catholic Christian Faith that the goodness of the physical world is affirmed. The sacraments are but one sign of how matter (water, oil, bread and wine) can, through the transformation worked by God's Spirit, be a way of growing closer to God. Why can the same not also be true of our bodies, in which the Spirit of God is also active?

When our soul leaves our body at death, the body still retains its dignity. That is why the Church has always emphasized the importance of giving a body a dignified burial. When an individual is on the path to sainthood, a part of their body will often be divided into small pieces so that their physical presence can be in more places than just where they are buried. In the same way that going to a grave of a loved one offers us a special connection with them, so will our prayers at our new shrine of Blessed Stanley Rother be offered in a place that will give us a special connection to him as we seek his prayers 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

*God said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." Solomon answered... "Give your servant... an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong...The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. (1 Kg 3:5,9,10)*

Most of the time in our prayer, we are asking things of God. We make petitions for ourselves and intercessions for others. We are the ones who initiate the requests or supplications. We may even feel at times that we are knocking at a closed door behind which is an empty room. We do not consider often enough that God is already present asking us to ask something of him as this Sunday's first reading indicates.

So what is the spiritual difference? Why should I not just ask God anytime for anything I want? Why should I have to wait on God to ask me to ask him for something? There is a vast disparity between these two approaches. When I initiate the asking without considering that God is always the initiator I forget about the gifts that God has to offer. I choose my petitions from my own gift register, not God's. However, when I wait upon the Lord to ask me to ask for something, I have begun to trust that God already knows what is good for me, and I will know much better what to ask for.

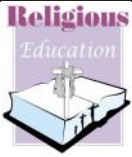
Remember the instruction of Jesus: God knows how to give good gifts to his children (Lk 11:13). However, these gifts are from God's shelf and God's treasury and they all proceed from the Holy Spirit (Lk 11:13). Notice that in our quotation above from Sacred Scripture, God does not ask Solomon to ask him for "anything". God tells Solomon to ask for "something", specifically "ask something of me". The objective of our petitions should always have its source and fulfillment in heaven. In this way our requests, whether they be for the benefit of the body or the spirit, will always correspond with our final destiny.

For this **17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time** we place on our bulletin cover a work by the German painter **Ludwig Knaus** entitled *Solomonic Wisdom* (1878). Knaus was a portraiture and genre painter and his images of cheery rustic peasants were quite romantic, ranging from being optimistic to almost frolicking. Like other German Romantics he painted visions of pastoral joy in calming landscapes as in his famous work *The Girl in the Meadow* (1857).

In our bulletin image we see a young man intently listening and in his turn repeating his instruction. The teacher appears to be a Jewish elder who is eager to offer his wisdom which must be comprehensive for the symbols painted in this piece. On the floor lies a sword and behind the elder a horn indicating his knowledge of both history and the arts. He sits in an ancient structure which is seemingly timeworn yet its vaulted ceiling shows that at a time it was a magnificent structure. Near the light over the boy's head is a ladder indicating the ascent of knowing. This boy comes seeking knowledge, but not just any knowledge. He desires to learn the wisdom of his past.

We contend that the boy is like the young Solomon who puts prudence before materiality and earthly pleasure. The elder man represents God who has a cache-reserve of many virtues and wisdoms that he wants us to ask of him. These gifts sit in a deep, everlasting chamber ready to be lent out just for the asking.

## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 26, 2020



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** The Blessed Sacrament is exposed Mon. 9:30am - 9:30pm and the church is open so please stop in, even if only for a few minutes, to be with the Lord throughout the summer. He doesn't forget about us we should also not forget that He is there for us if we only open our hearts to let Him in. *Don't forget your mask.*

### *Does your summer include taking a vacation from Mass?*

This is a question that has been asked in years past and this year it has a different meaning to us all. Let us not forget that we can take an hour out of our weekend to view Holy Mass on television or on the internet. Even though the Pope has instituted a dispensation from actually attending Mass during this time due to the pandemic we can still view it and take part in kneeling and standing and responding to the prayers at home. *God commanded us to keep holy the Sabbath, and Mass is the way a Catholic fulfills that requirement. And if God tells us to do something, we should do it.*

### Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.

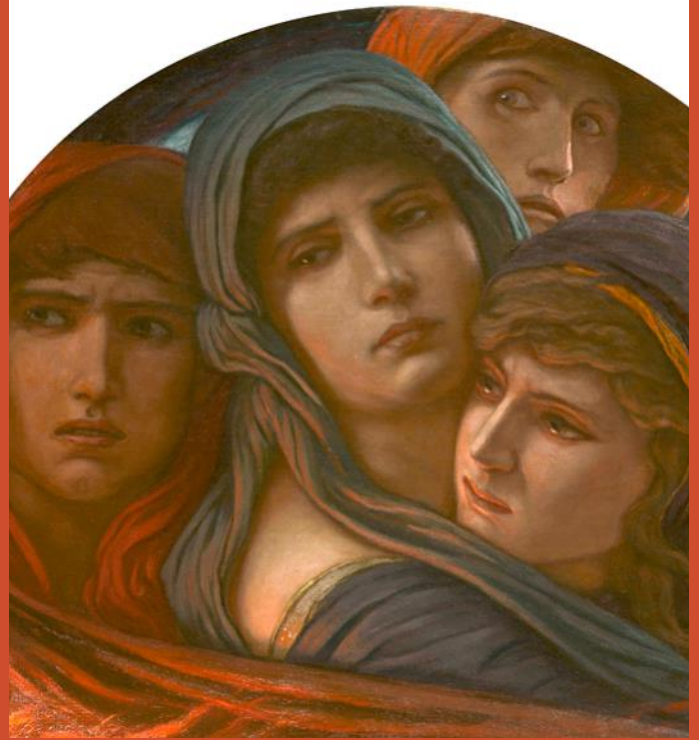
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Stay Safe and Healthy

God Bless, Mrs. Hammarquist



*A Glimpse of Hell or Fear (detail)*

Elihu Vedder (1898)

(Art Institute of Chicago)

*"Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes." (Mt 13:49-51)*

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

As the month of July comes to a close, a slight sense of unease seeps into our minds, as we realize that summer is speeding by! As you can imagine, preparation for the start of the 2020-2021 school year has been like none other we have ever experienced. While we are elated at the prospect of seeing our students in-person once again, there are numerous accommodations, arrangements, and alterations from the norm that must be taken into consideration to open safely. But we are up for the challenge! Please continue to pray for our school community during these trying and unpredictable times. Pray for our planning and implementation team as they discern best practices and methods for reopening in the fall. As always, thank you for your continued support.

**God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal**

### UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Building Fund

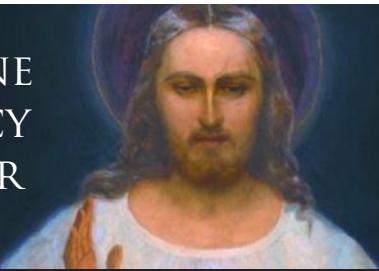
**August 30<sup>th</sup>** - Diocesan Assessment

**MASS SEATING & SCHEDULE:** We continue to manage the seating plan from week-to-week and because of the continuous & gradual return to Holy Mass of many parishioners, every weekend has its challenges. We thank all of you who have emailed or phoned us if you are not able to attend Mass here on any given weekend as this allows us room to adjust the seating plan.. If you have been scheduled to attend Mass regularly but know that you can't attend here as the weekend approaches, please let us know.

Parish staff have been monitoring the schedule diligently and ask that you *please give deliberate thought* early on in the week as to any changes in your Mass times or absences. We would like to complete the weekend seating plan by the Thursday of the week. The parish staff have made accommodations as late as just a few hours before a Mass when contacted. We know that you can appreciate the inconvenience this imposes on the staff who have taken on an increase of duties due to the present pandemic and its official requirements. Lastly, as Father Williams noted last weekend at Mass, all seats, reserved or not, become open 5 minutes before Mass. We thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. God bless!



## DIVINE MERCY HOUR



Parishioner and *Women of Grace* leader Carol Eccleston is looking to start up a parish apostolate of prayer for the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The idea was conceived during the time of the pandemic especially when we were all keeping mostly to our own homes. The apostolate asks for people to commit to one day of the week to offer prayer at 3:00 pm, the Divine Mercy Hour. This is being proposed as a way to bring consolation to the heart of Jesus in these tumultuous times. If you are interested and able to commit to one day per week to pray the chaplet and do so with the knowledge that others are joining you in this, then please contact Carol at [lovepeaceandprayer@gmail.com](mailto:lovepeaceandprayer@gmail.com).

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Please be aware that the "Adoration Captains" have met with the Coordinator, Mary Cardoza, to get more Adoration up and running. The goal is to have Adoration begin after the Monday morning Mass and run overnight until the morning Mass on Tuesday and also a similar overnight process for after the Friday morning Mass until 2:30 pm on Saturday. If you are new to the parish and would like an hour of prayer before Our Eucharistic Lord in the monstrance, please call the parish office. Adoration seating in the chapel will be safe and limited by social distancing guidelines. More information to come.



## WANTED

We are in hot pursuit of the "Wipes Gang" and are gathering together a parishioner posse to help us lasso them in. If you see this character or another out-a-stock outlaw that looks like him - Bring 'em in!

## READINGS FOR WEEK OF JULY 26, 2020

Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 [97a]/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46  
Monday: Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21 [cf. 18a]/Mt 13:31-35  
Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 [9]/Mt 13:36-43  
Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11 [2]/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42  
Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab [5a]/Mt 13:47-53  
Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14 [14c]/Mt 13:54-58  
Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34 [14c]/Mt 14:1-12

## Blessed Father Stanley - Pray for Us



Our parish will be blessing our new shrine of Blessed Stanley Rother on his feast day of July 28<sup>th</sup>. We will have two times of prayer to mark this event; Fr. Williams is especially encouraging all our parish ministries and apostolates to make the effort to attend one or both of these events:

**Monday, 27 July at 6:30 p.m.** - Vespers of the Feast with veneration of the relic of Blessed Stanley Rother

**Tuesday 28 July at 9 a.m.** - Mass of the Feast with the blessing of the shrine

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 26 JULY

**Processional Hymn: Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven**

*Praise my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring; Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, ever more his praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting king.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12**

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, “Ask something of me and I will give it to you.” Solomon answered: “O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?” The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: “Because you have asked for this—not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right—I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you.”

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Lord, I love your commands*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Rom 8: 28-30**

Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

**Gospel Reading: Mt 13:44-52**

Jesus said to his disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. “Do you understand all these things?” They answered, “Yes.” And he replied, “Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”

**Offertory Hymn: Be Thou My Vision**

**Communion Hymn: Lord of All Hopefulness**

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
Be there at our waking and give us we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts Lord, at the break of the day.*

**Recessional Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of Glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
Op'ning to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!*