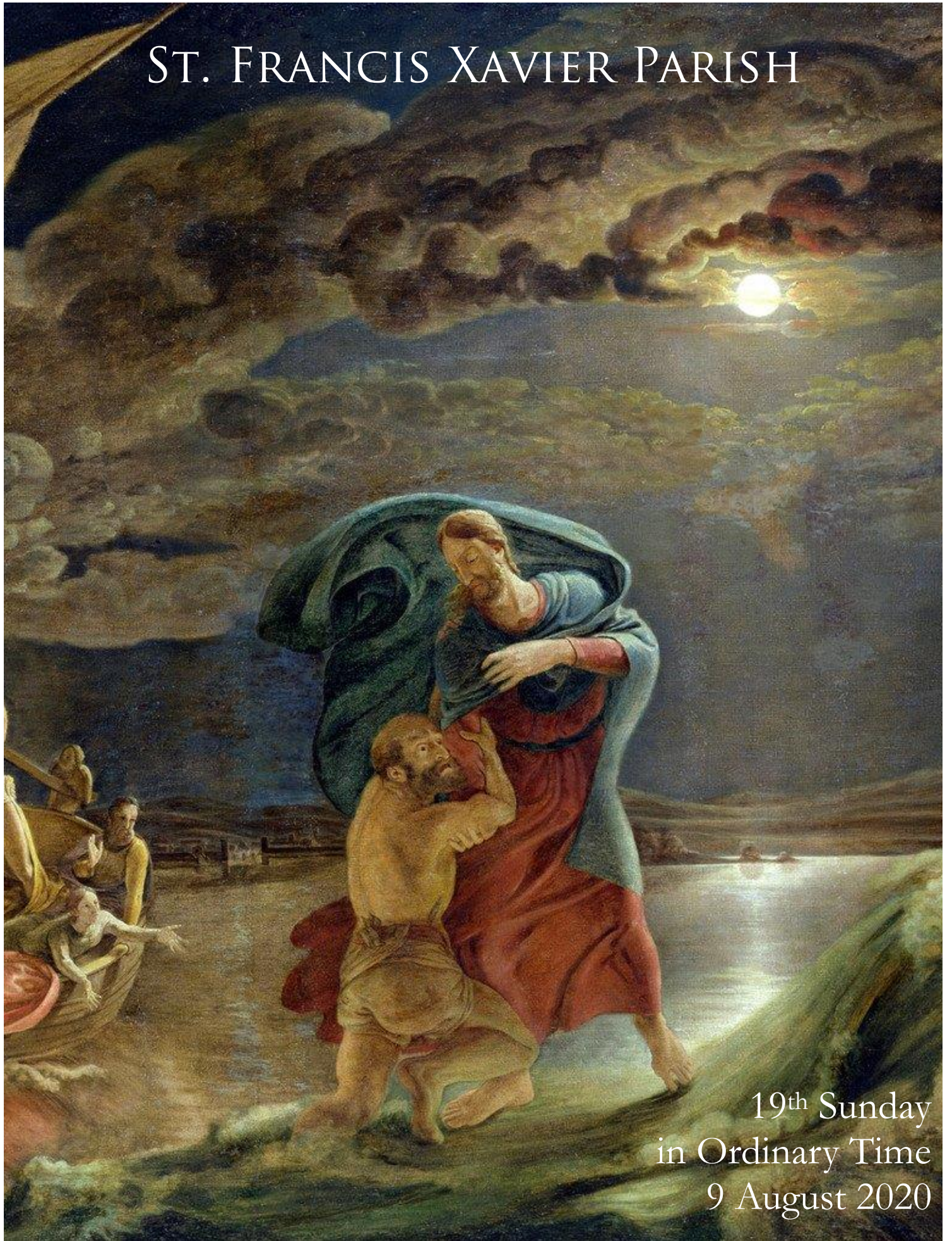


# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



19<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
9 August 2020



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

## Mass Schedule

**(August 8<sup>th</sup> - August 16<sup>th</sup>)**

|               |               |   |
|---------------|---------------|---|
| <b>Sat.</b>   | <b>Aug 08</b> | <b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b>          |
|               | 4:00 pm       | <i>Pro Populo</i>                                   |
| <b>Sun.</b>   | <b>Aug 09</b> | <b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr)</b> |
|               | 8:00am        | Inez Amaral   |
|               | 10:30am       | Month's Mind  |
| <b>Mon.</b>   | <b>Aug 10</b> | <b>St. Lawrence; Deacon (Rd)</b>                    |
|               | 9:00am        | Mildred Sorenson                                    |
| <b>Tues.</b>  | <b>Aug 11</b> | <b>St. Clare; Virgin (Wh)</b>                       |
|               | 9:00am        | Intentions of Gloria Fernandes                      |
| <b>Wed.</b>   | <b>Aug 12</b> | <b>St. Jane Frances of Chantal (Wh)</b>             |
|               | 9:00am        | Helen Hicks   |
| <b>Thurs.</b> | <b>Aug 13</b> | <b>Ss. Pontian &amp; Hippolytus (Rd)</b>            |
|               | 9:00am        | The Bohn Family                                     |
| <b>Fri.</b>   | <b>Aug 14</b> | <b>St. Maximilian Kolbe (Rd)</b>                    |
|               | 9:00am        | Miguel Sousa & Maria doCarmo                        |
| <b>Sat.</b>   | <b>Aug 15</b> | <b>Assumption of Mary (Wh)</b>                      |
|               | 9:00am        | Jeanne Guillotte                                    |
| <b>Sat.</b>   | <b>Aug 15</b> | <b>20<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b>          |
|               | 4:00 pm       | Maria Carmo Amaral                                  |
| <b>Sun.</b>   | <b>Aug 16</b> | <b>20<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr)</b> |
|               | 8:00am        | <i>Pro Populo</i>                                   |
|               | 10:30am       | Patricia Booth                                      |

### Financial Report

**Income:**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time ..... | \$4,823.00 |
| Peter's Pence .....                            | \$1,131.04 |

### 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: **The Homebound of our Parish***

## 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

#### NOTES ON VACCINES AND ETHICS

A constant news item over the last several months has been the development of a vaccine for COVID-19. This comes in the midst of a broader societal conversation over vaccination. Thankfully, the vaccine for COVID that is most advanced in development, developed by Moderna, is judged as being developed from ethical sources, meaning that should it prove successful, Catholics could receive it without any moral reservations.

The Church, generally speaking, is very supportive of vaccination because of the important benefit it provides for personal and public health. However, it objects to vaccines that are created using the remains of aborted children. It is important to note that this does not encompass all vaccines.

An ethically-produced vaccine should always be sought over one produced from unethical sources like the remains of aborted children. A question that naturally follows from this is, what if there are no ethical alternatives to a necessary vaccine?

In 2005 and again in 2017 the Pontifical Academy for Life - a group of bishops, moralists, and doctors sponsored by the Vatican - addressed this question. They said that parents should make known their objection to using an unethically-sourced vaccine, that nonetheless such vaccines could and even should be used if no ethical alternative were available and the need for such a vaccine is serious and necessary.

The reason for this is that the use of such a vaccine on a parent's part is called *remote material cooperation* - meaning that the person had no direct involvement in the initial sinful action (in this case, the abortion of the children whose cells were used to create the vaccine). In this case, the vaccinations are judged as morally justified because of the good they provide for society. The Academy said, "We believe that all clinically recommended vaccinations can be used with a clear conscience and that the use of such vaccines does not signify some sort of cooperation with voluntary abortion. While there remains the commitment to ensuring that every vaccine has no connection in its preparation to any material originating from an abortion, the moral responsibility to vaccinate is reiterated in order to avoid serious health risks for children and the general population."

For ethical updates on this and related matters, I encourage you to visit the National Catholic Bioethics Center website at [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org).

# 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-8:30pm

Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm

Friday 9:30am-8:30pm

Saturday 9:30 am-2:45 pm

## VESPERS & BENEDICTION

Monday & Wednesday: 6:30 pm

## ON THE COVER

*At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." (Mt 14:27-20)*

For the virtue of fortitude to arise in Christian hearts it must play out in two parts. First, we ought to come to firmly believe that God is present to us. Second, this belief should instill within us courage for acting boldly especially on God's behalf.

If you have ever been in a situation where the primary reason you were not frightened was because you had someone with you who not only made you feel safe but actually provided for your safety, then you can grasp the spiritual sense of what it is like to have faith that God is present.

If you ever had to walk through a dark labyrinth but became separated from your trustworthy companion and received no response after calling out to him for hours, would you not "take courage" after suddenly hearing his voice exclaim, "It is I, do not be afraid". This is the kind of interior assurance we seek to have in the spiritual life when we walk with God through the mazes of our life. Yet this is only the first part of Christian fortitude.

If upon hearing the voice of your reliable companion, fear of your situation still grips and paralyzes you from moving towards him, then you may not benefit from the voice of your friend calling you. It is the same in the spiritual life. Belief that is not transformed into courage makes you stay put. This prevents you from following God's commands in a perilous world. Sadly, you may even convince yourself that you are just fine staying put, so that you even risk losing your belief.

In the spiritual life it is imperative that we act like Peter and demand that God command us. We must of course also be like Peter in being ready to act on God's command. However, as we see in today's gospel reading, even if our courage is not perfect and we falter, Jesus is there to pull us up. Still, in the life of faith we must be willing to jump out of the security of our earthly vessels into the arms of God if spiritual courage is to be fruitful.

For this 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, we place on our parish bulletin cover a detail from a work by the German Romantic artist, **Phillip Otto Runge** entitled *Peter Walks on Water* (1806). Runge's Romanticism veered from romantic naturalism to esotericism and hence to a personal theology which caused Runge to collide with the leaders of his Protestant faith.

In our image we see Peter and Jesus riding a wave on the Sea of Galilee under an ominous moonlit sky, the light of which draws our eyes downward toward these two figures. Christ's cape forms the shape of a turbulent wave indicating his divine authority over nature. Those in the boat (mostly unseen) show the same apprehension as Peter whose fear overcomes his faith indicated by his left leg sinking into the sea. Peter's eyes are on the natural surroundings not where they should be - on the supernatural Jesus. Jesus for his part is thoroughly engaged in saving Peter, symbolic of his desire to save all humanity.

Let us believe through grace that Jesus is always present, and let us take courage in His presence.

## 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 9, 2020

### Religious Education



#### 2020/2021 Religious Education Classes:

Plans are underway for the start of the coming year. We will be returning with in-person classes, social distancing and wearing masks.

We will be providing each child with their own lap desk and writing instruments for those registered in the Religious Education Program. There will also be some remote learning this year depending on class sizes. If you are registering your child this coming year but are still apprehensive about returning to a classroom setting please contact Mrs. Hammarquist and special arrangements will be made.

Registration forms will be going out at the end of August for those who were previously registered in the program. If you are parishioners and you have a child that is in public school Grades 1-8 (9th Public or Catholic School) and would like him/her to attend our program for the 2020/2021 year please call the office to set up an appt. with Mrs. Hammarquist. Classes begin on Sunday September 27th.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** The church is open for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Mon. & Fri. 9:30am - 8:30pm 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.*

Stay Safe and Healthy  
God Bless, Mrs. Hammarquist

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

Plans for reopening our school doors are well underway, as desks are put in place and masks are purchased. Our preliminary plan consists of a welcome back to in-person learning, with an option for remote learning should families prefer not to return their student/s to class just yet. Our amazing staff looks forward to their "masked return" and are gearing up to engage both in-person and remote learners. We are certainly being stretched and challenged to be creative to suit everyone's needs. Our faith-filled school community finds comfort in the power of prayer and the sense of perseverance that our Lord encourages us to accomplish... all for His glory! Please continue to pray for our parish school and for a safe and successful return on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

#### UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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

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



*Elijah Fed By Ravens*  
Guercino (1620)

*Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter. Then the LORD said to him, "Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by" ... [then] there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave. (1 Kg 19: 9,11, 12,13)*

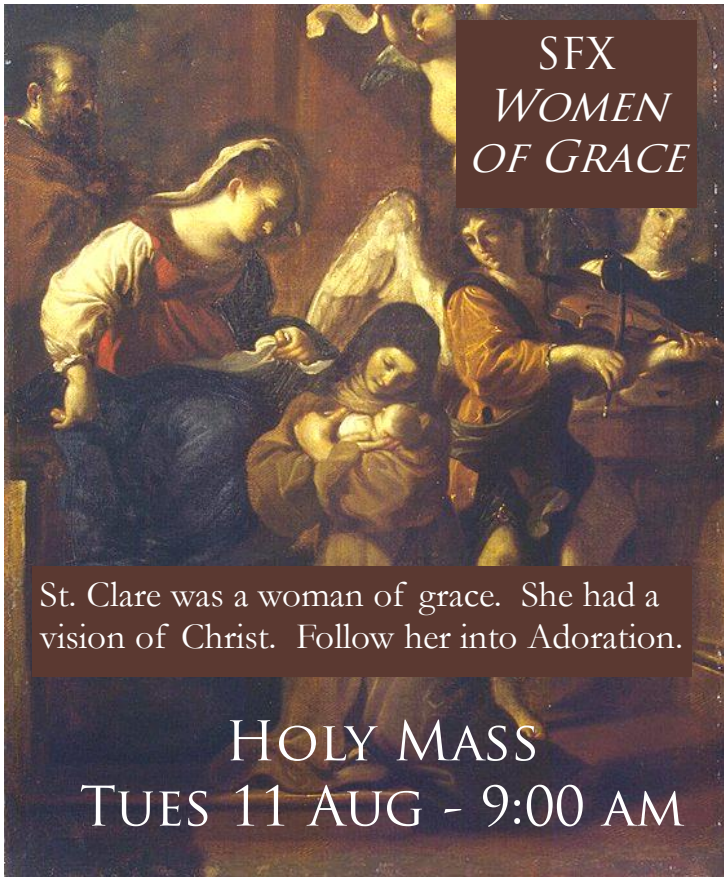
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY "POP-UP":** Our parish apostolate to the poor and homebound will once again be "popping-up" in our parking lot to set up a donation site for their charitable causes. Since they are not collecting food or other items at this time due to the pandemic, they are asking for cash/check donations and particularly grocery gift cards for those in need. We will have St. Vincent de Paul parish representatives in our east parking lot on **Saturday 22 August from 10 am to Noon** to collect your donations.

We are still selling grocery gift cards in the parish office so if you would like to purchase one or a few from the parish office please call Steve at 508 995-7600.

Lastly, on 22 August our St. Vincent de Paul Society will be joined in our parking lot by folks from *St. Kilian House*, a new Bedford facility overseen by Catholic Social Services that offers acute, temporary housing to homeless youth. St. Kilian's will offer information about its services and even though we live in a quiet rural area, homelessness of all kinds can still show up unexpectedly in every neighborhood.

Our SVDP Society will set up with a canopy, signs, and cones etc. for easy drop of your cards and donations. Thank you.





**SFX  
WOMEN  
OF GRACE**

St. Clare was a woman of grace. She had a vision of Christ. Follow her into Adoration.

**HOLY MASS  
TUES 11 AUG - 9:00 AM**

**READINGS FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 9, 2020**

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/  
Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33

Monday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9 [5]/Jn 12:24-26

Tuesday: Ez 2:8—3:4/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131 [103a]/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [4b]/  
Mt 18:15-20

Thursday: Ez 12:1-12/Ps 78:56-57, 58-59, 61-62 [cf. 7b]/  
Mt 18:21—19:1

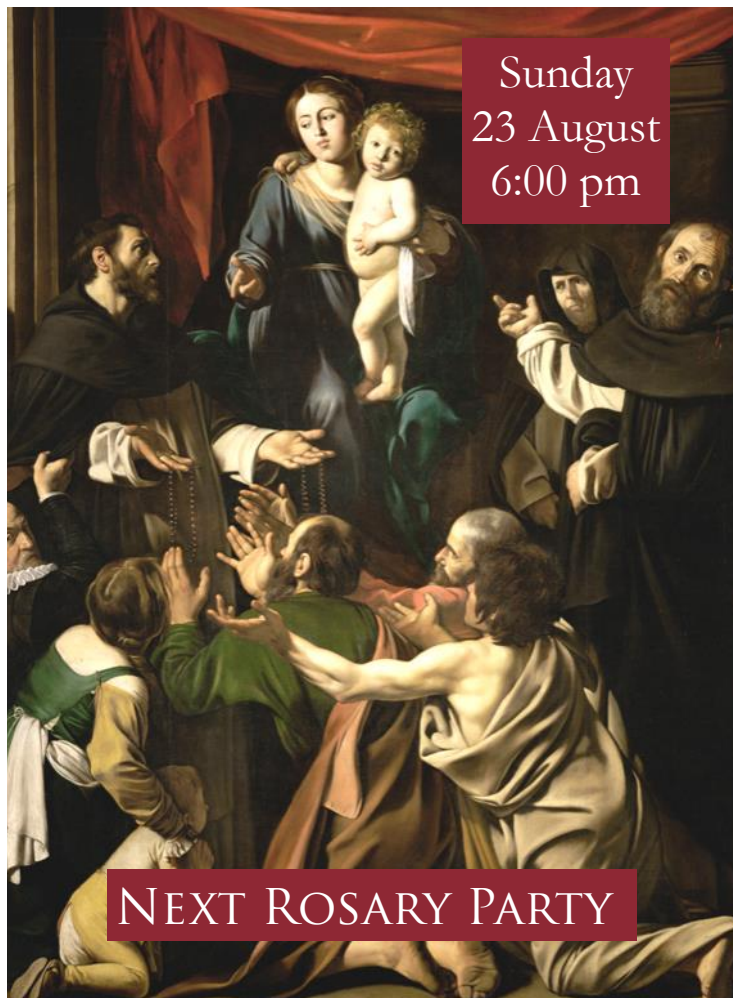
Friday: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [1c]/Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: *Vigil*: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14 [8] 1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28. *Day*: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16 [10bc]/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56

**The Assumption of the Virgin Mary**



**HOLY MASS  
SATURDAY  
15 AUGUST  
9:00 AM**



**Sunday  
23 August  
6:00 pm**

**NEXT ROSARY PARTY**

**SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION:** The Feast of the Assumption is always a Church high feast or solemnity. Most often it is also a Holy Day of Obligation. This year because the feast falls on Saturday (i.e. so near to Sunday) the Church is not making it obligatory. However, our love of the Catholic faith and of the wonderful dogma of the Assumption of Mary should move us to be joyful to come to Holy Mass especially due to our devotion to the Blessed Virgin and our hope of heaven. Please make a special effort to attend the **Saturday, 9 am Mass on August 15<sup>th</sup>**.

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR 19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 9 AUGUST

**Processional Hymn: Praise to the Lord**

*Praise to the Lord the Almighty, the King of creation;*

*O my soul praise him, for he is my help and salvation,*

*All ye who hear, Now to his altar draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a**

At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter. Then the LORD said to him, "Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by." A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake—but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire—but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Rom 9:1-5**

Brothers and sisters: I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

**Gospel Reading: Mt 14:22-33**

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

**Offertory Hymn: All You Who Seek a Comfort Sure**

**Communion Hymn: O Jesus We Adore Thee**

**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's arms, hath blessed us on  
our way*

*With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today*