

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



25th Sunday
in Ordinary Time
20 September 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(September 19th - September 27th)

Sat.	Sept. 19	25th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)
	4:00 pm	Al Hebert
Sun.	Sept. 20	25th Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr)
	7:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	9:00am	Gerald Stabell
	11:00am	Abel & Ernestina Rego
Mon.	Sept. 21	St. Matthew; Apostle (Rd)
	9:00am	Harold Seguin
Tues.	Sept 22	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Intentions of Pattie & Lou Aiello
Wed.	Sept 23	St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Wh)
	9:00am	Manuel Rodrigues
Thurs.	Sept 24	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Irene Bergeron
Fri.	Sept 25	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Maria Carma Amaral
Sat.	Sept. 26	Ss. Cosmas & Damian (Rd)
	9:00am	Yvette Hebert
Sat.	Sept. 26	26th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)
	4:00 pm	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Sept. 27	26th Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr)
	7:00am	Anna Coulombe
	9:00am	Janice Romanowicz
	11:00am	Edite Gomes

Financial Report

Income:

23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	\$3,287.04
Annual Parish School	\$4,600.00
24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	\$3,481.50
Parish Building Fund	\$3,132.00

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: **Anibal V. Tavares***

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 CATHOLIC REFLECTION ON VOTING

For those who've been living in a cave for the last year, there's an election coming up in just over a month. For all of us who have been more in touch with current events, we've been inundated both with developments in the political world and also with increasingly partisan innuendo from all sides. The election will be not only for the president, but also for one of our state senators and also a variety of local officials.

Our faith is not the only thing that forms our values and concerns when we go into the voting booth – but it should be one of the most important things we allow to guide us. I always find it ironic that when movie stars or musicians speak out on political issues their statements are given press, while when a religious figure does the same – speaking not just for themselves but as a representative for a venerable system of values and philosophy – they are greeted with suspicion or outright dismissed. For us as Catholics, letting our faith guide our vote doesn't mean trying to impose our beliefs on others. Rather, it's looking at how our faith guides our rational decision-making process – on issues of human life and sexuality, of economic and labor issues, environmental concerns, and on a variety of other issues – to decide for whom and for what we will give our support. Just because our values are formed by our faith doesn't mean they're not as valid as any others.

In the world of religion news there have recently been stories about priests who have issued very direct statements about which candidates and parties Catholics can or can't vote. That is why I want to emphasize here that the Church defines her role with voting as helping Catholics to understand how the issues line up with the values of our Faith. It is your job – as members of the lay faithful of the Church – to bring these values out into the world. Again, this is not to impose what is particular to our faith on those who don't believe as we do, but rather to speak on issues of public debate the truth that our reason can grasp – such as the beginning of life at conception – and our Faith compels us to make known.

Over the next month, I encourage all of us to reflect on how our values will translate into our votes. There is no such thing as a “Catholic candidate” or a “Catholic party”: no candidate or party's platform lines up with everything that the teaching of the Gospel encourages us to practice. Instead, we need to begin from the issues and then, considering where the different candidates and proposed bills stand, let our reason and our conscience guide us as to whom we should lend our support.

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 7:00am, 9:00am & 11:00am

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm

Monday-Saturday 9:00am

First Friday 9:00am & 6:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Monday 5:30-6:30pm

(9:30-10:00am Monday Holidays)

Saturday 9:30-10:00am

Saturday 3:00-3:45pm

First Fridays 6:45-7:15pm

Any Time by Appointment

ADORATION

Monday 6:30am-8:30pm

Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm

Thursday 6:30am-8:30pm

Friday 6:30am-8:30pm

Saturday 6:30 am-2:45 pm

VESPERS & BENEDICTION

Monday & Wednesday: 6:30 pm

ON THE COVER

'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?' (Mt 20:13-14)

When we think of a generous person we often think of one who is wealthy or of sufficient means who gives often to those in need. Therefore in religious terms when we speak of God's generosity we recall his act of creation when he takes from his own great store of truth, beauty, and goodness to form a physical universe which has within it the sustenance necessary for all his living creatures.

Generosity also bespeaks a specific attitude of kindness in conversation and association. For example, a person engaged in an argument will be generous for allowing the other person to speak in his turn, one in authority will be generous for raising up those under his care, while a newsman will be generous in reporting all the facts regardless of his personal political position. Generosity in this sense is a sort of "principle of charity" in social engagement which betokens a never out-of-fashion truthfulness and courtesy to all.

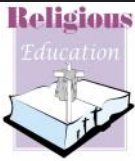
In this Sunday's gospel reading we learn more about God's generosity. We read how God calls various people to come to work in his vineyard. These are not busy, working-people but those "*standing idle in the marketplace*". This relates to those who have not yet taken up the call to work in the Kingdom of God. In this parable Jesus is specifically teaching the Jews who have a long-standing covenant with God (for *their* "daily wage") to accept those who will now be invited by God to receive an equal wage of grace through His messianic mission. These others (non-Jews) may not have worked as long, not endured as long, but because of the generosity of God and their acceptance of God's gracious invitation, will receive the same remuneration. The spiritual lesson for us today is that those of us who have received God's grace should not be envious but glad for its bequeathal to others; for grace is not earned but freely given.

For this **25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**, we place on our bulletin cover a work by the great Dutch master **Rembrandt**, *Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard* (1637). Rembrandt is the great practitioner of tenebrism where darkness prevails until it is itself prevailed upon by a single source of artistic illumination. (If fact, we have brightened Rembrandt's original image so that the painted figures on our bulletin cover may be more easily seen).

Rembrandt portrays the landowner just as he completes his distribution of wages. The day laborers are all still standing in line. Yet already two who worked the longer day begin disputing with the vineyard owner for more pay. One puts out his hand to receive more, the second motions in anger to those behind him who have received equal pay and who are seen amazed and reveling in the generosity of the owner. The landowner puts his hand over his heart to indicate his sincerity to the unsatisfied workers while Rembrandt signals to us that the landowner is God by the blessing which the landowner offers over the wages that he gives.

The wages that God gives is grace. God distributes his grace in varying amounts as he sees fit. As his gracious children we are to celebrate when it is given - and as it is given - in equal or in greater amounts to others.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 20, 2020



2020/2021 Religious Education Classes: Plans are being finalized for the start of the coming year. We will be returning with a *hybrid model* of remote learning and 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. 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 have been sent via email through Google Forms for those previously registered in the program. Please submit payment via mail, parish metal drop box (outside of the office) or the collection basket at Mass (write Religious Education on the outside of envelope) by September 24th. 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. *Catholic School families will be receiving information soon for Sacramental years.*

Religious Education Registrations: Sacramental Years: If you are a parishioner here at St. Francis and your child is attending a Catholic School other than St. Francis and will be entering the 1st/2nd grade (First Communion Program) or 8th grade this school year please contact Mrs. Hammarquist at jlh@sfxparish.com.

Stay Safe, Healthy and Holy
God Bless, Mrs. Hammarquist

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



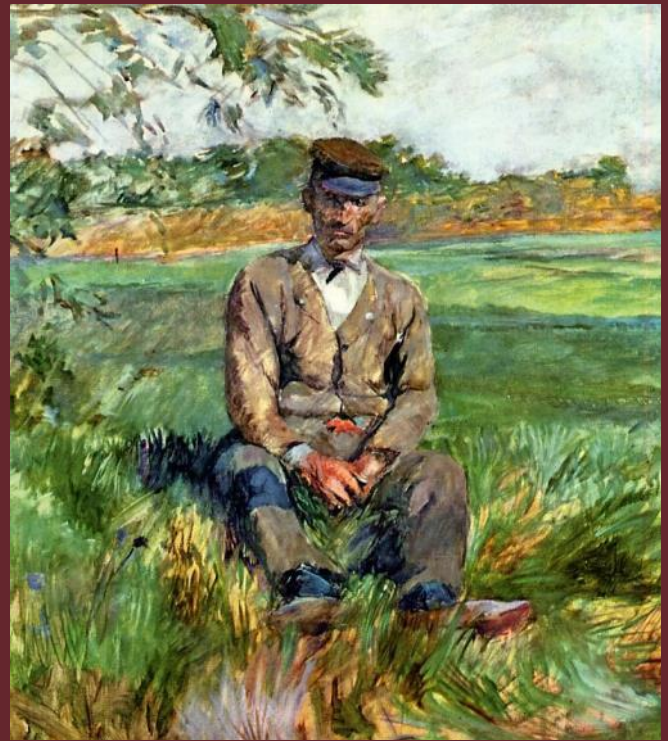
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

We are so blessed to be a TRUE PARISH SCHOOL! The generosity displayed through the collection for our school a few weeks ago is not only greatly appreciated, it is also rather moving! The St. Francis community is an amazing group of faith-filled, prayerful, dedicated and generous people that I am honored to be a part of. The financial support provided by our parishioners will be earmarked for ongoing improvements in the areas of academics, technology, and the support of our faculty. We are tremendously blessed. Please continue to pray for the health of our school community and the ongoing success of our parish school.

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

September 20th - Diocesan Assessment
September 27th - Cardinal Medeiros Residence
October 4th - Parish Building Fund



A Laborer at Celeyran
Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1882)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard... He saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' (Mt 20:1,3-4)

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Thank you to all who gave to this year's Catholic Charities Appeal. A total of **\$80,767** was donated to the diocesan appeal on behalf of our parish including one generous anonymous donation of \$50,000 for which we are truly grateful. In this trying time for everyone, our parish gift to this appeal is another sign of the life of our parish which arises from of our Eucharistic prayer life. We send these funds with our blessings upon all our local poor.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Bishop Edgar da Cunha has passed onto his parishes a message from him and other bishops of the United States that they all desire the dioceses to assist those other dioceses in our nation who have suffered recently from natural disasters, for example in Louisiana from Hurricane Laura and in **California** due to the many wild fires. Because our collection schedule is already full for September, we will hold a collection for Disaster Relief on **Saturday, 10 October and Sunday, 11 October**. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

TUNE INTO THE TRUTH!



WPMW is your local Catholic Radio Station
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News - Rosary - Holy Mass - Sacred Scripture

SFX PRAYER LINE

Please call 508-850-6649 between 8am & 8pm
Or email your prayer request to:
sfxprayerline@gmail.com



SFX PARISH
ACUSHNET

HOLY MASS
ST. PADRE PIO
WED 23 SEPTEMBER

READINGS FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 [18a]/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a
Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13
Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44 [35]/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163 [105]/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc [1]/Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4 [1]/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Eccl 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17 [1]/Lk 9:43b-45

Celebrate Life

September 24, 2020, 7:00 pm

2020 Virtual
Fundraising Event

*Abundant Hope
Resource Ctr.*

Register at
508-243-5307

Local Parish Job Opening

The Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, Fairhaven, has an opening for a **One Person Office Manager**. The position includes all aspects of an office, Quickbooks-Online, Payroll Processing a plus, Human Resources and varied other responsibilities. 30 hours per week with salary based on qualifications.

For more information email mgray@sccc.org or call 508-993-2442, ext. 208

PARISH ANNUAL APPEAL: If you did not receive a mailing, please let us know in the parish office. Every penny of the Annual Appeal is used to support our parish operations. Thanks for your great support!

DAILY MASS WATCH

9:00 am
Mass

FEAST OF ST. MATTHEW
21 SEPTEMBER

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 20, 2020

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 20 SEPTEMBER

ProceSSIONAL Hymn: Alleluia Sing to Jesus

*Alleluia Sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion, thunder like a
mighty flood,
Jesus out of every nation, hath redeemed us by His
blood.*

1st Reading: Sir 55:6-9

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord is near to all who call upon him*

2nd Reading: Phil 1:20C-24; 27A

Brothers and sisters: Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit. Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Reading: Mt 20:1-16A

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' ...

Gospel Reading: (Continued)

...So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.' When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Offertory Hymn: Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

Communion Hymn: Faith of our Fathers

Recessional Hymn: O God Beyond All Praising

*O God beyond all praising We worship you today,
And sing the love amazing That songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder At every gift you send,
At blessings without number And mercies without
end;
We lift our hearts before you And wait upon your
word,
We honor and adore you Our great and mighty
Lord.*