

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



All Saints Day
01 November 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(October 31st - November 8th)

Sat.	Oct 31	All Saints (Vigil) (Wh) Jonathan Salvail
Sun.	Nov 01	All Saints (Wh) Raymond & Yvonne Fournier <i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon.	Nov 02	All Souls' Day (Bl) 9:00am All Faithful Departed 6:00pm All Deceased Parishioners
Tues.	Nov 03	St. Martin de Porres (Wh) 9:00am Roberta Boucher & Anne Medeiros
Wed.	Nov 04	St. Charles Borromeo; Bishop (Wh) 9:00am Maria C. Freitas
Thurs.	Nov 05	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Elaine Correia
Fri.	Nov 06	FIRST FRIDAY (Wh) 9:00am Intentions of Aura Hughes 6:00pm Manuel Pereira
Sat.	Nov 07	Blessed Virgin Mary (Wh) 9:00am Alderic & Margaret Petitpas
Sat.	Nov 07	32nd Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) 4:00 pm <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Nov 08	All Saints (Wh) 7:00am Rose Emmanuel 9:00am Robert Latshaw 11:00am <i>Month's Mind</i>

Financial Report

Income:

30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	\$3,798.95
Diocesan Assessment	\$1,619.50

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 Eucharistic Adoration please pray for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle burns this week: Margaret & Alderic Petitpas

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

Understanding the Pope's Comments About Civil Unions

About ten days ago an interview was released in which Pope Francis appears to give support to civil union laws, in particular as a way of giving legal recognition to homosexual couples. In the days since the interview's release, the release of further details has only muddied the waters of the truth of what was said and when. The interviewer has admitted that he spliced different quotes together, so that what seems to be a complete statement by the Pope is, in fact, a compilation of sentences said at different times.

Nevertheless, we need to reflect on what was said, and how to understand it in light of the teachings of Jesus Christ and of the natural law, grasped by human reason. In the documentary, Pope Francis talks about the right of people with a homosexual orientation to be a part of their family, that is, to not be thrown out because of that fact. This is completely in line with Catholic teaching: a 1986 Vatican document clearly stated: "It is deplorable that homosexual persons have been and are the object of violent malice in speech or in action. Such treatment deserves condemnation from the Church's pastors wherever it occurs. It reveals a kind of disregard for others which endangers the most fundamental principles of a healthy society. The intrinsic dignity of each person must always be respected in word, in action and in law." Continued acceptance, love and support by their families is an obvious expression of this.

This is the context of what Pope Francis says next: "Lo que tenemos que hacer es una ley de convivencia civil. Tienen derecho a estar cubiertos legalmente": *What we have to make is a law of civil convivencia. They have the right to be legally covered. Convivencia* can mean anything from cohabitation to harmony to coffee hour after church. In the Pope's native Argentina, civil unions are called "Uniones Civiles Convivenciales," meaning that what he said remains ambiguous. His history with the issue can perhaps help us to better understand what he means.

In 2010, then-Cardinal Bergoglio (now Pope Francis) was involved in the debate over a law which would establish gay marriages in Argentina. He was dead-set against it, writing in a private letter – later made public – that the bill presented "a situation whose outcome can seriously harm the family...At stake is the identity and survival of the family: father, mother and children. At stake are the lives of many children who will be discriminated against in advance, and deprived of their human development given by a father and a mother and willed by God. At stake is the total rejection of God's law engraved in our hearts...Let us not be naive: this is not simply a political struggle, but it is an attempt to destroy God's plan. It is not just a bill (a mere instrument) but a 'move' of the father of lies who seeks to confuse and deceive the children of God." (continued on page 3...)

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

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email: info@sfxparish.com

Fr. Riley J. Williams, Pastor

[rjw@sfxparish.com]

Deacon David Pepin

[dbp@sfxparish.com]

Mrs. Janine Hammarquist, Rel. Ed. Coordinator

[jilh@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 9:30am-8:30pm

Tuesday 6:30am-8:45am

Wednesday 6:30pm-8:30pm

Thursday 6:30am-8:30pm

Friday 6:30am-8:30pm

Saturday 6:30 am-2:45 pm

VESPERS & BENEDICTION

Monday & Wednesday: 6:30 pm

(Pastor's Column Continued...)

At the same time, there are reports that Cardinal Bergoglio proposed a support for civil unions that would give some legal rights to homosexual couples while not conferring on their relationships the full rights and title of marriage. In his mind, this would preserve the institution of marriage while hopefully satisfying those wanting to change it. In the end, both his proposal and the Church's opposition to the bill changing marriage failed. Some pointed to his language in criticism of the bill as having brought about greater support for it.

There have been other situations in which the Church has allowed for some legal recognition of gay couples (an example being the California bishops in a labor issue in 1997). However, a 2003 letter from the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith explained why allowing for civil unions presents an attack on marriage as well. Although civil unions have a different name than marriage, they are still analogous to them. The letter continues, "lifestyles, and the underlying presuppositions these express, not only externally shape the life of society, but also tend to modify the younger generation's perception and evaluation of forms of behavior. Legal recognition of homosexual unions would obscure certain basic moral values and cause a devaluation of the institution of marriage." It continues, "Society owes its continued survival to the family, founded on marriage. The inevitable consequence of legal recognition of homosexual unions would be the redefinition of marriage, which would become, in its legal status, an institution devoid of essential reference to factors linked to heterosexuality; for example, procreation and raising children. If, from the legal standpoint, marriage between a man and a woman were to be considered just one possible form of marriage, the concept of marriage would undergo a radical transformation, with grave detriment to the common good. By putting homosexual unions on a legal plane analogous to that of marriage and the family, the State acts arbitrarily and in contradiction with its duties."

When Pope Benedict wrote his biography of Jesus Christ, he said in the introduction that, as he was writing the book as a private person, people could feel free to disagree with him. Whatever Pope Francis said (or didn't), a comment in an interview does not constitute Church teaching. The Pope is not infallible just because he speaks: when he teaches authoritatively, as in an official document, then it is important for us to follow his guidance. In this case, his comments indicate a personal opinion, but are not anything more than that. He is not speaking about changing the Church's understanding of marriage, nor establishing a new policy of encouraging civil unions. Rather, he proposes civil unions as a way to assure basic protections to homosexual persons and also as a stopgap to prevent the need to legalize gay marriage. Both of these aims should be supported by Catholics, while we can certainly disagree on this particular response to them.

All Saints - November 1, 2020

Religious
Education



2nd Graders from SFX School receiving the Sacraments here at St. Francis will attend classes with us in the Parish Center on Sundays Nov. 1, 8, 15 & 22. *Please wear a mask.*

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Sundays in church during our regularly scheduled class times led by Fr. Williams. Every student should have an adult accompany them. This will take the place of the Family Faith Formation Events that we had in prior years. Every grade level will have two scheduled hours of Adoration during our class year from October-May. This will include all Sacramental Students also. **Sunday November 8th will be Level 5 accompanied by a parent in church @ 8:05am.** Please be on time, you will be escorted to a pew before we start. Please remember your mask and please be on time.

On-Line learning: Families, that chose to have their child stay at home, need to check their emails each week for the lesson / power point / videos and return the work and / or activity that is requested of them to be up-to-date for that week.

Day of Reflection on Sat. Nov. 7th 12:00-3:30pm for all Level 2 students in preparation for receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation here at St. Francis, at least one parent or guardian must accompany each student on-line. Instruction will be given to the students prior to this day. Please keep our second graders in your prayers as they prepare to receive their second sacrament: the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the end of the month.

Please remember to pray for the souls of the faithful departed during the month of November, especially on Monday Nov. 1st All Souls Day!

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

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

Welcome November! God is so good, as we continue to remain a healthy and vibrant school community. This past Friday's All Saints Day dress up, while different than in years past, was a celebratory gesture of the magnificent day of honoring the saints! Awesome costumes, researching of information and facts, a small parade and the realization of our lives being designed as a journey to sainthood were the objectives for this year's wonderful celebration! Our first school Mass is set to take place this coming Monday, November 2nd (weather permitting of course). This Mass will not only be the celebration of the Eucharist for the first time this school year for students and staff, but also a Mass of Remembrance for the souls of the dearly departed members of the SFX school community. Thank you for your continued prayers for the health and well-being of our school community... they are appreciated and are working!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal



The Meeting of Pope Leo and Attila
Francesco Solimena (17th - 18th Centuries)

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Mt 5:3, 9)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THANKSGIVING FUNDRAISER: Our own parish St. Vincent de Paul Society is planning another "pop up" fundraiser on **Saturday 14 November** after the 9 am Mass and until 11:00 am. Due to the COVID restrictions and the desire to not collect and distribute canned goods etc. from one household to another, the focus of this "pop up" fundraiser in our east parking lot (elevator side) is to receive donations of grocery food cards so that our local poor can either go shopping or their family members or SVDP members can shop for them for the Thanksgiving dinner this year. As always, thank you for your great generosity to the local poor.

ALL SOULS - 6 PM MASS & PROCESSION

Monday
November 2

Please wear a mask - not a Halloween mask!

SFX
Women of
Grace

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY MASS

9 AM & 6 PM
6 NOVEMBER

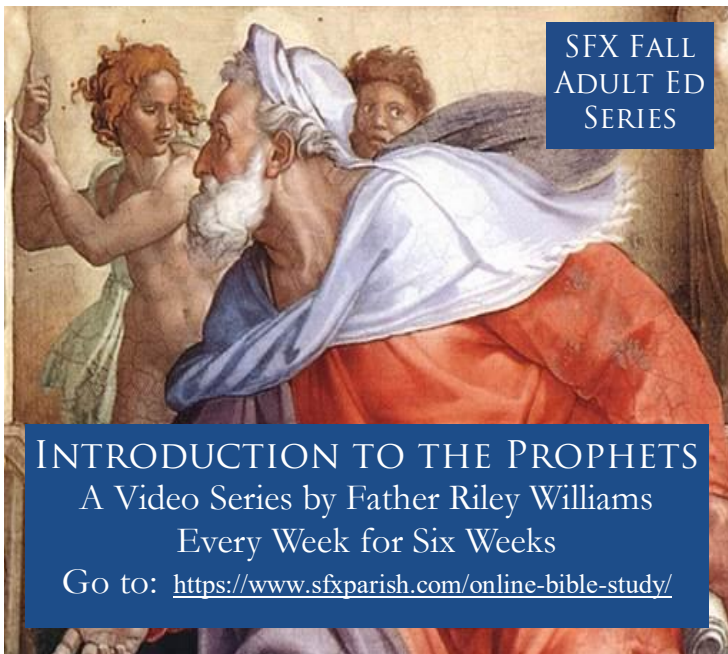


SFX FALL
ADULT ED
SERIES

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPHETS

A Video Series by Father Riley Williams
Every Week for Six Weeks

Go to: <https://www.sfxparish.com/online-bible-study/>



READINGS FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

Sunday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a

Monday: Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40

Tuesday: Phil 2:5-11/Ps 22:26b-27, 28-30ab, 30c, 31-32 [26a]/Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday: Phil 2:12-18/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Lk 14:25-33

Thursday: Phil 3:3-8a/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [3b]/Lk 15:1-10

Friday: Phil 3:17-4:1/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [1]/Lk 16:1-8

Saturday: Phil 4:10-19/Ps 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a and 9/Lk 16:9-15

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

November 1st - All Saints Day
November 8th - Building Fund

RCIA - or the *Rite of Christian of Initiation of Adults* is for those who are interested in becoming Catholic. We will once again hold instructional sessions beginning in January and running through March 2021 to prepare those desiring to receive the **Holy Sacraments** of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. If you know of anyone interested in entering into the Catholic faith or those seeking a return but who are lacking some sacraments, please call Steve in the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS: Most likely due to COVID-19 we have taken fewer Mass Intentions than in previous seasons. We still have several daily Masses in January 2020 that are open and other Mass intention openings going forward through June 2020. If you cannot come to the parish office, please call us with the intention for your loved ones, at 508 995-7600 and we will be glad to reserve it for you. You may then mail in the \$10 offering (per Mass).

ELECTION NOVENA: Please see below the last four days of an election novena proposed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Catholics are encouraged to recite each of the novena prayers on the dates noted along with one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be.

Day Seven: Sunday, November 1

May there be a transformation of politics to focus on the dignity of the human person and the common good.

Day Eight: Monday, November 2

May we keep in mind the gift of religious freedom and our duty to defend and exercise it as faithful citizens.

Day Nine: Tuesday, November 3

Today, as we approach the polls, may we understand & embrace the principles of our Faith that should guide our political engagement.

Closing: Wednesday, November 4

May the leaders elected this week be guided by the Holy Spirit as they fulfill their positions.

ON THE COVER

On this Sunday's cover of the bulletin is a work by Italian artist **Giovanni Bonnati** entitled *St. Charles Borromeo among Plague Victims* (courtesy **Wikicommons**). Saint Charles' feast day is this week on Wednesday 4 November.

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR ALL SAINTS DAY, 01 NOVEMBER

Processional Hymn: For All the Saints

For all the saints, who from their labors rest , who thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy name O Jesus be forever blessed , Alleluia, Alleluia

1st Reading: Rev 7:2-4, 9-14

I, John, saw another angel come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, "Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the children of Israel. After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb." All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed "Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen." Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, "Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you are the one who knows." He said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb."

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face*

2nd Reading: 1 Jn 3:1-3

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.

Gospel Reading: Mt 5:1-12A

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

Offertory Hymn: Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

Communion Hymn: Come Down, O Love Divine

Recessional Hymn: I Vow to Thee My Country

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no questions, the love that stands
the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the
price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them
that know;

We may not count her armies, we may not see her
King; Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suf-
fering; And soul by soul and silently her shining
bounds increase, And her ways are ways of gentle-
ness, and all her paths are peace.