

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



30th Sunday
in Ordinary Time
25 October 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(October 24th - November 1st)

Sat.	Oct 24	30 th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) 4:00 pm Domingos & Rosa Lima
Sun.	Oct 25	30 th Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr) 7:00am Pro Populo 9:00am Robert Tisdelle 11:00am Anna Saulnier
Mon.	Oct 26	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Robert Guenette
Tues.	Oct 27	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Dorothy Martin
Wed.	Oct 28	Ss. Simon & Jude; Apostles (Rd) 9:00am George Bevilacqua
Thurs.	Oct 29	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Robert Guenette
Fri.	Oct 30	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Bryon Daniels
Sat.	Oct 31	Blessed Virgin Mary (Wh) 9:00am Lawrence Mulvey
Sat.	Oct 31	All Saints (Vigil) (Wh) 4:00 pm Jonathan Salvail
Sun.	Nov 01	All Saints (Wh) 7:00am Raymond & Yvonne Fournier 9:00am Pro Populo 11:00am Theodore Saulnier

Financial Report

Income:

29 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	\$4,235.39
Propagation of the Faith	\$925.00
Disaster Relief	\$688.00

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: **The Souls in Purgatory**

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

PREPARING OUR CONSCIENCES TO VOTE

Over the past few weeks the main resource for my homilies and speaking about voting has been the guide issued by the bishops of our country called *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. In it the bishops explain how to approach voting as people of faith – respecting the separation of church and state while also remaining faithful to our own identity as Catholics.

With the various issues being discussed this election, I think the following excerpt will be helpful in your own discernment in voting. Numbers denote the paragraphs in the document. I encourage everyone so interested to read the guide in its entirety; it can be found through an internet search using its name. The following are direct quotations; emphases are my own.

34. Catholics often face difficult choices about how to vote. This is why it is so important to vote according to a well-formed conscience that perceives the proper relationship among moral goods. ***A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who favors a policy promoting an intrinsically evil act***, such as abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, deliberately subjecting workers or the poor to subhuman living conditions, redefining marriage in ways that violate its essential meaning, or racist behavior, ***if the voter's intent is to support that position***. In such cases, a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. ***At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate's opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues*** involving human life and dignity.

35. There may be times when a Catholic who ***rejects a candidate's unacceptable position even on policies promoting an intrinsically evil act may reasonably decide to vote for that candidate for other morally grave reasons***. Voting in this way would be ***permissible only for truly grave moral reasons***, not to advance narrow interests or partisan preferences or to ignore a fundamental moral evil...

37. In making these decisions, it is essential for Catholics to be guided by a well-formed conscience that recognizes that ***all issues do not carry the same moral weight*** and that the ***moral obligation to oppose policies promoting intrinsically evil acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions***. These decisions should take into account a candidate's commitments, character, integrity, and ability to influence a given issue. In the end, ***this is a decision to be made by each Catholic*** guided by a conscience formed by Catholic moral teaching.

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

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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

[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 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

ON THE COVER

Thus says the LORD: "You shall not molest or oppress an alien... You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry to me, I will surely hear them cry." (Ex 22:20-22)

In our first reading today we hear how God commands his chosen people not to molest or oppress any alien people whom they encounter, for they themselves were once an alien people oppressed in Egypt. The Lord God continues: the Israelites are to do no wrong to any widow or orphan. Still the Lord God persists, for the Spirit makes it clear that God hears the cry of all those who are wronged and who have no voice. The world may not hear these cries, but the Lord says, *"I will surely hear them..."*

It is a very unfortunate affair that the Church must make a distinction between what are called "life issues" and "social justice" issues. God makes no such distinction. God hears the cry of all the afflicted. He hears the cry of the widow and orphan, the cry of the enslaved, the cry of the refugee; the cry of the child in the womb and we know how much he loves his little ones (Mt 19:14). We should be in fear if these little ones cry out to God from the womb against us.

Now as Catholics we should consider the affliction of all people in our nation and around the world. However in an election season we should also consider that we are not just any people. We are people of true religion, we are people of faith; we are children of God who must stand fast with the ears of God hearing what others ignore. We cannot forsake life in any form but especially we cannot forsake life in the womb because as God's stewards we should surely hear the babes whom others do not hear.

Have you not heard *"out of the mouth of babes... you have established a bulwark against your foes to silence [the] enemy"* (Ps 8:2) and also *"Wisdom ... gave ready speech to infants"* (Wis 10:21). If we do not hear the cries of the children in the womb and do not put them first in the voting booth, them tell me (please tell me) who else will? The world is not listening! The United Nations, the European Union, and the secularists of our own nation listen to the cries of the refugee, the immigrant, the widow and orphan, but have blocked their ears entirely to the unborn. We Catholics are the last remaining hope of waiting-to-be-born children. Do you not see this? Have you not yet realized this?

For this **30th Sunday in Ordinary Time** we place on our bulletin cover a work by the great Baroque Flemish painter **Peter Paul Rubens** entitled *The Virgin and Child Surrounded by the Holy Innocents* (1618 – courtesy Wikipedia). This image is representative of the eternal joy of those children massacred by King Herod after the birth of Jesus (Mt 2:16-18). We offer it as representative of our present hope for those children massacred in the womb by our modern society and for your most earnest reflection during this election cycle.

True, we could have shown images of refugees crowded on boats, or hungry women and children. However, the world has been shown these images and has mostly acted. We also could have placed on our bulletin cover Ruben's *Massacre of the Innocents*. In our time, it is these innocents that have yet to be sufficiently spoken for... and voted for.

sng@sfxparish.com

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - October 25, 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 Sun Oct. 25 & 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.

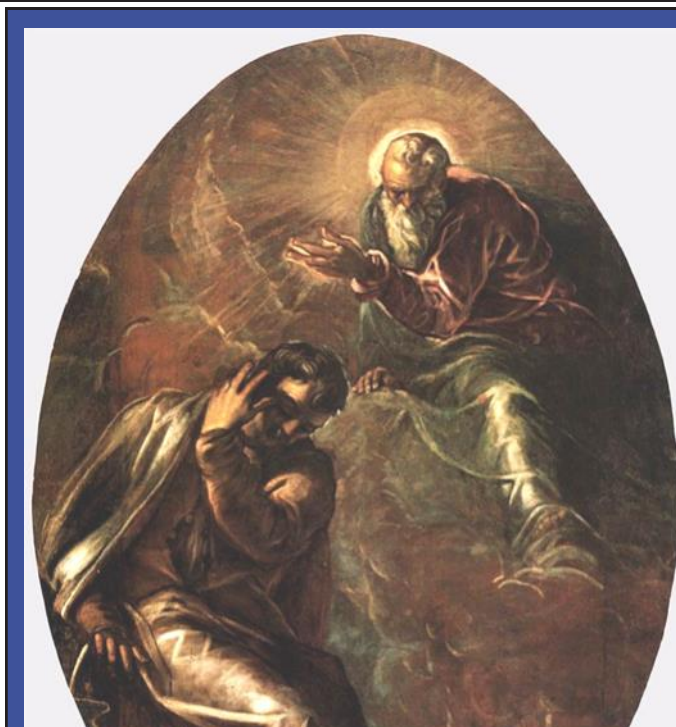
On-Line learning: Families, that chose to have their child stay at home, need to check their emails each week for the lesson / power point / videos and return the work and / or activity that is requested of them to be up-to-date for that week.

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.

To keep informed of important dates please visit our Parish Master Calendar on our website at www.sfxparish.com.

If you have any questions please email Mrs. Hammarquist at jlh@sfxparish.com

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



The Eternal Father Appears to Moses
Tintoretto (1578)

One of them, a scholar of the law, tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Mt 22:35-37)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

The month of October has been "filled to the gills" with feast days and studies centered around the lives of the saints. On **Friday, October 30th** we will celebrate our annual All Saints Celebration as the culmination of our month long October celebration of the Most Holy Rosary and the Queen of Saints, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Our students have already begun learning about the lives of the saints and researching the saints of their choice for the feast of All Saints Day (November 1st)! While our student-saints will not be able to go "**Marchin' Down Main Street**" to Mass as we have been able to do in past years, we do plan on recapturing some of our school traditions through a parade of sorts and a special candy treat. Accepting our new normal has been both a challenge and a new experience, so please keep us in your prayers!

All you holy saints and angels.... pray for us!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

CONGRATULATIONS FATHER LEONARD

On 17 October 2020, Father Leonard Kayondo was awarded the **2020 Peace-builder Award** from the *Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution*. It is awarded in recognition of Father Leonard's exemplary leadership and for "rebuilding communities and the youth after the genocidal violence in Rwanda". It is particularly noted in his award letter that Father Leonard "created sports via the United States soccer team for youth" and "rural basic education" in Rwandan villages.

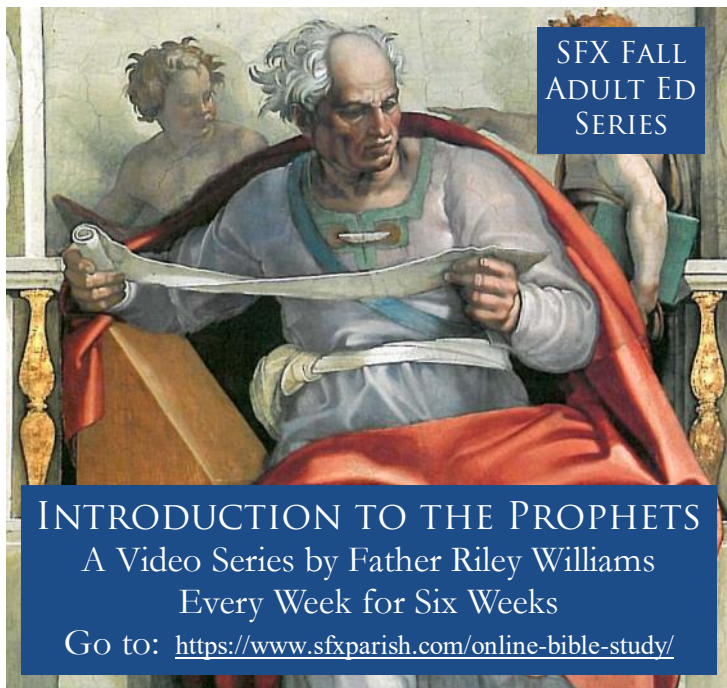
Father Leonard wanted to particularly share this information about his reception of this award with our parish because our charitable and collaborative assistance has played such a large role in his work. All of us who know Father Leonard know of course how humble he is and how the grace that he received from God to accomplish this great work in Rwanda he bestowed upon us so that we too might be grateful to God for allowing us to assist.

Thank you for all your parish support of our many Rwanda fundraisers. Please note that some past recipients of this award include the president of Ghana and the first female chief justice of Ghana. *Father Leonard, thank you for representing the truth and charity of the Catholic Church!*

SFX
Women of
Grace



MAKE READY FOR ALL SAINTS
NOVEMBER 1ST



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/>

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Once again we are facilitating the opportunity for parishioners to donate to a wreath for a veteran they do not know or one that they do know and is interred at **Bourne National Cemetery**. A \$15 donation buys one wreath. If you have a loved one in the cemetery and would like to have a wreath laid please contact Steve in the parish office. On **Saturday 19 December** our Confirmation Students (9th grade) will go to the cemetery to lay wreaths in the cemetery.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

October 25th - Diocesan Assessment
November 1st - All Saints Day
November 8th - Building Fund

READINGS FOR WEEK OF OCTOBER 25, 2020

Sunday: Ex 22:20-26/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 [2]/1 Thes 1:5c-10/Mt 22:34-40
Monday: Eph 4:32—5:8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Eph 5:1]/Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [1a]/Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5a]/Lk 6:12-16
Thursday: Eph 6:10-20/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 [1b]/Lk 13:31-35
Friday: Phil 1:1-11/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [2]/Lk 14:1-6
Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26/Ps 42:2, 3 5cdef/Lk 14:1, 7-11

THE RIGHT DECISION FOR THE RIGHT PROBLEM: Catholic writer G.K. Chesterton once wrote, “*We have not got real Democracy when the decision depends upon the people. We shall have real Democracy when the problem depends upon the people. The ordinary man will decide not only how he will vote, but what he is going to vote about.*”

It is almost unfathomable that we still have citizens, some Catholic, who are undecided as to how they are going to vote in the upcoming elections. These individuals apparently are still unable to make up their mind as to what to vote about. This must be the case since surely they must know what the candidates, local and national, stand for by now.

As Chesterton puts it - it is the problem of what to vote about that is still making them indecisive. Catholics should not be indecisive.

Of the four principles of Catholic social teaching, the *very first* principle is the “Dignity of the Human Person”. Without this the other three principles (Subsidiarity; the Common Good; and Solidarity) lose their foundation. Further, there is no right that upholds the dignity of the human person more than the *right to life*.

The liberties of domestic people upheld by the established authority (subsidiarity), the welfare of the community (common good) and the mutual support for everyone in the community (solidarity) each pivot on the “right to life” *from the moment of conception* which will forever be the primary moral power that ensures the dignity of the human person and hence the other three social principals.

If you are a Catholic who is undecided, then vote for the right to life. If you are a Catholic who has decided and is voting against the right to life, then you must reconsider.

Also, please see Father William’s column on Page 2

ALL SOULS - 6 PM MASS & PROCESSION



Monday
November 2

Please wear a mask - not a Halloween mask!

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 25 OCTOBER

**Processional Hymn: Immortal, Invisible,
God Only Wise**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes, Most Blessed most glorious, the Ancient of days, Almighty victorious, they great name we praise.

1st Reading: Ex 22:20-26

Thus says the LORD: "You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans. "If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortioner toward him by demanding interest from him. If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you shall return it to him before sunset; for this cloak of his is the only covering he has for his body. What else has he to sleep in? If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate."

Responsorial Psalm: *I love you, Lord, my strength*

2nd Reading: 1 Thes 1:5C-10

Brothers and sisters: You know what sort of people we were among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.

Gospel Reading: Mt 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Offertory Hymn: Come Down, O Love Divine

Communion Hymn: Blest Are They

Recessional Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God

*Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things have done, In whom his world rejoices,
Who from our mothers arms, Hath blessed us on our way,
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.*