

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



3rd Sunday
of Advent
13 December 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(December 12th - December 20th)

Sat.	Dec 12	3rd Sunday of Advent (Vigil) (Vi)
	4:00 pm	Brian O'Malley
Sun.	Dec 13	3rd Sunday of Advent (Vi)
	7:00am	Jenny Oliver
	9:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11:00am	<i>Month's Mind</i>
Mon.	Dec 14	St. John of the Cross; Priest (Wh)
	9:00am	Joseph & Marion Duprey
Tues.	Dec 15	Advent Weekday (Vi)
	9:00am	Bro. Armand, Elianne & Phillippe Binette
Wed.	Dec 16	Advent Weekday (Vi)
	9:00am	George Bevilacqua
Thurs.	Dec 17	Late Advent Weekday (Vi)
	9:00am	Duarte & Maria Viveiros
Fri.	Dec 18	Late Advent Weekday (Vi)
	9:00am	Mr. & Mrs. Jose DeSousa & Ceasar Fernandes
Sat.	Dec 19	Late Advent Weekday (Vi)
	9:00am	Roger Savaria
Sat.	Dec 19	4th Sunday of Advent (Vigil) (Vi)
	4:00 pm	Anne Medeiros
Sun.	Dec 20	4th Sunday of Advent (Vi)
	7:00am	Jean, Helen & Donny Guenette
	9:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11:00am	George Bevilacqua

Financial Report

Income:

2 nd Sunday of Advent	\$3,306.00
Parish Building Fund	\$3,238.50

Prayers Please

... for all the sick of our parish: those homebound, in the hospital, and nursing facilities; and for all the souls in purgatory. Please especially pray for all those mentioned in this weekend's Month Mind Mass.

Sanctuary Lamp

During Eucharistic Adoration please pray for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle burns this week: Jenny Oliver

ADVENT CONFESSION

Please see the full confession schedule for the Advent Season provided on page 3 of this bulletin

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A POETIC REFLECTION ON ST. FRANCIS

While the celebration of our patronal feast on 3 December was different this year, as a parish and school community we were still able to commemorate St. Francis Xavier as best we could. The fifth-grade class at our school were aided by their teacher, Mrs. Laurie Bentley, in writing the following poem that I want to share with you.

Saint Francis Xavier, Our Patron

By Mrs. Bentley and her fifth-grade class

Saint Francis Xavier grew up in a castle,
And lost his dad when he was young.
He went to college and made some mistakes.
His heart changed when he realized that he'd become high-strung.

Ignatius encouraged him to repent.
Francis's penance was extreme.
He tied up his arms, he prayed, and he fasted.
Ignatius and Xavier were a very holy team.

Xavier became a missionary priest,
And led an exemplary life.
He spread the gospel across many nations,
Overcoming much suffering and strife.

Xavier was drawn to the sick,
And even gave them his own bed.
While on his ship he would find an anchor
On which he would rest his head.

Xavier encouraged conversion
Speaking of God's mercy with every breath.
He made an impact throughout the world
Until his untimely death.

As I read over the poem, I thought of how it highlights a couple of lessons on how we can emulate St. Francis in our own lives:

- **Penance and Conversion:** As the poem says, St. Francis didn't live a perfect life. As he grew in faith he realized the need to give more of his life over to Christ. He both did penance for his sins and actively tried to live a holier life. The same dynamic is always true for us, no matter where we're at in our spiritual journey.

- **Zeal to Share Christ with Others:** St. Francis Xavier cared for both the bodies and souls of others – taking care of the physically sick, and sharing the message of the Gospel with those who did not know Christ. Again, how can we do the same?

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 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

ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Please see below the remaining Confession Schedule leading up to the Christmas Holyday:

14 Dec. - Monday: 9:30-10 a.m., 5:30-6:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. until all are heard

19 Dec. - Saturday: 9:30-10:00 a.m. & 3:00-3:45 p.m.

20 Dec. - Sunday: Beginning ½ hour before every Mass & after every Mass

21 Dec. - Monday: 5:30-6:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. until all are heard (**Note:** this will be the Last Chance for Confessions at the parish before Christmas)

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE & SEATING PLAN

We are completing our seating plans for the Christmas Masses. It is imperative that we treat the Christmas Mass times like weekend Mass times so as to avoid too many people in the church at any one time while we are still under the pandemic occupancy restrictions.

Bishop da Cunha acknowledges the present need for more Masses and so has granted the parishes a vigil Mass dispensation allowing for Masses earlier than 4 pm on Dec. 24th. Hence, our Mass schedule is as follows:

DEC 24TH

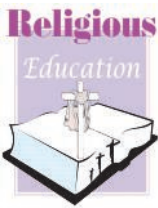
2:00 pm; 4:00 pm; 6:00pm

DEC 25TH

Midnight (12:00 am); 8:00 am; 10:30 am

Please call or email Steve in the parish office as to which Mass time you prefer to attend. When emailing your preferred Mass time **please be sure to include the number of people that will be attending.** Thank you.

3rd Sunday of Advent- December 13, 2020



Religious Education **SAVE THE DATE:** Upcoming Confirmation (Level 9) Service Project on Saturday December 19th. Wreaths Across America @ Bourne National Cemetery from 8am-Noon. We will be asking parents to drive their child to Bourne after meeting in the church parking lot due to social distancing. All Confirmation students are expected to join us in placing wreaths on the gravestones of our fallen service men and women. Once we arrive we will separate into groups to place the wreaths, please remember your mask as you may be less than 6 feet in distance and we want to keep everyone safe.

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 Dec. 13th will be Level 9 accompanied by a parent in church @ 10:05am.** Please be on time, you will be escorted to a pew by your teacher before we start. Please remember your mask.

Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Day Sunday December 20th is being revised due to our distancing guidelines. Please check your emails for instructions.

Please read the bulletin to find additional days and times to attend the *Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent*. Let us ready ourselves by utilizing the sacrament that Jesus has given us to cleanse our souls for His coming at Christmas.

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 at-home-activity that is requested of them to be up-to-date for that week.

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

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

This past week was highlighted by our first live-stream Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Our entire student body "tuned in" to attend Holy Mass "together" as a school community, making a spiritual Act of Communion. Creating a sense of community on-line can be challenging, yet we continue to press on and do our best to engage in school-wide activities of a virtual nature. With Christmas approaching quickly, we certainly miss the singing of carols and the preparations that are traditionally made for our annual, well-loved Nativity performance. While this is a tremendous sacrifice, we are filled with joy that we continue to maintain a healthy environment, remaining in a full in-model approach to learning. Please continue to pray for the health and wellness of our faculty and students!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal



The Virgin, Jesus & St. John the Baptist
William Bouguereau (1881)

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. (Jn 1:6-8)

MONTH'S MIND MASS

We remember the following individuals that were deceased or memorialized in the past month at our Sunday 11:00 am, Dec 13th Holy Mass

Domingos Pereira
Robert Macek
Constance Lapalme
Joan Davignon
Irene Zientek

Grocery Gift Cards are available from the Parish Office

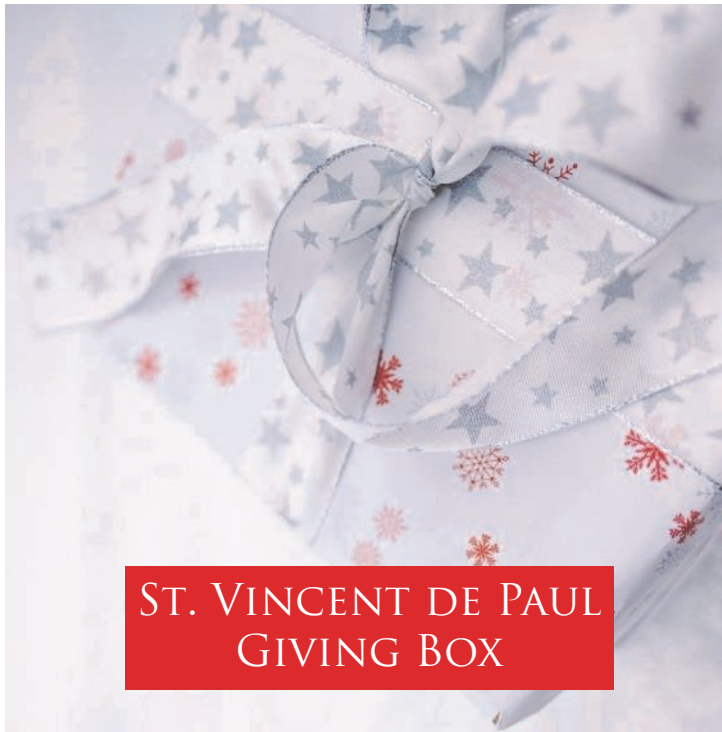
STOP & SHOP, SHAW'S, TRUCCHI'S
AND THE PARISH EARNS 5%

BLESSED GAUDETE SUNDAY FROM THE...

*SFX
Women of
Grace*

*“The Wilderness... shall bloom abundantly
and rejoice with joyful song... They will see
the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our
God.” (Is 35:2)*

(3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT)



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING BOX

Collecting department store, local restaurant,
and coffee-stop gift cards for our local
clients and other locals in need
on **December 12th and 13th**
at all the Masses

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

December 20th - Diocesan Assessment
December 25th - Christmas

SFX PRAYER LINE

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

READINGS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Please take a Christmas Flower envelope
from the church entrance if you would like
to assist us in adorning our sanctuary!



ON THE COVER

For this **3rd Sunday of Advent** we read in the first Mass reading from the Prophet Isaiah, *“The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God”*.

Now these words were written by Isaiah some seven centuries before Jesus the Messiah read them aloud in the synagogue in Nazareth on the Sabbath. Jesus of course read this from the sacred scroll as a self-revelation to those listening.

Many years earlier as a boy Jesus spoke with the Jewish scholars in the Temple in Jerusalem. The bible does not indicate what Jesus said except that those who listened were astounded at his understanding. We place on our bulletin cover a work by **James Tissot**, *Jesus Found in the Temple* (courtesy Brooklyn Museum). We ask you to reflect upon Jesus just as Mary and Joseph do in this image while holding out the arms of Jesus who accomplishes all that Isaiah predicted upon His Holy Cross.

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 13 DECEMBER

Processional Hymn: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come thou long expected Jesus, Born to set they people free; From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in thee

Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art; Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart

1st Reading: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Responsorial Psalm: *My soul rejoices in my God*

2nd Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Gospel Reading: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'*" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Offertory Hymn: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Communion Hymn: The King of Love

Recessional Hymn: Praise to the Lord

*Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of Creation,
O my soul praise him, for he is my health and salvation;
All ye who hear, Now to his altar draw near,
Joining in glad Adoration.*