

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



Holy Family
27 December 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(December 26th - January 3rd)

Sat.	Dec 26	The Holy Family (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00 pm	Edmond Tetreault
Sun.	Dec 27	The Holy Family (Wh)
	7:00am	Harry B. Booth
	9:00am	Anne Medeiros, Boyd & Michele Hudson
	11:00am	Dorothy & Joseph Mello, Ida & Aldo DeRossi
Mon.	Dec 28	The Holy Innocents; Martyrs (Rd)
	9:00am	Anastasia Hammarquist
Tues.	Dec 29	St. Thomas Becket; Bishop (Wh)
	9:00am	Robert Guenette
Wed.	Dec 30	6th Day in the Octave (Wh)
	9:00am	Raymond Lemieux
Thurs.	Dec 31	St. Sylvester I, Pope (Wh)
	9:00am	Robert Vigeant
Thurs.	Dec 31	Mary, Mother of God (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00pm	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Fri.	Jan 01	Mary Mother of God (Wh)
	8:00am	Braulina Ventura
	10:30am	Joe & Jeanne Olivier
Sat.	Jan 02	Ss. Basil & Gregory; Bishops (Wh)
	9:00am	Alberto & Ana Sousa
Sat.	Jan 02	Epiphany of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00 pm	Louise Tetreault
Sun.	Jan 03	The Holy Family (Wh)
	7:00am	Steven Massoud
	9:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11:00am	Joao & Edite Gomes

Financial Report

Income:

Immaculate Conception	\$1,068.50
3 rd Sunday in Advent	\$3,542.06
Retired Religious	\$1,472.00

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 Eucharistic Adoration please pray for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle burns this week: **Claudette & Carl Siler***

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

WHAT DOES THE HOLY FAMILY HAVE TO TEACH US?

Every year, on the Sunday after Christmas (or else on 30 Dec. when Christmas is on a Sunday), the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. Not only is this a day to reflect on how God, when He joined Himself to our humanity, lived in a human family just like all of us, but also a day to reflect on how our families are reflecting the model of the Holy Family.

I know – when I put it that way, it sounds rather intimidating. What do our families have in common with a family in which the child is God Incarnate and the mother is without sin? When we reflect on the story of Christ's early years, however, we discover the stresses and tensions that the Holy Family had to face. In how they overcame these, we can find encouragement for the power of God's grace at work in our families as well.

A family begins with the marriage of man and woman – different and yet complementary to one another. Their union in the Sacrament of Marriage welcomes God into their union. More than this, it shows how their discipleship – following – of God will be expressed *through* their marriage.

Later, the couple is called to make a complete gift of self to each other in an act of love that is open to new life. This love is called to be **freely** given; **faithful** in its exclusivity to one's spouse; **total** in that nothing is done to hinder the full act, such as artificial contraception; and **fruitful** in its openness to new life.

As our families grow, we show a **mutual care for one another**. I find this beautifully expressed in seeing families at different stages of their development: in a young family the parents care for their children, while as they age the children take more and more care of their parents. We all know the importance of grandparents, aunts and uncles, and other relatives to this dynamic as well. I think it's a special mark of family's power that its bonds remain even when tested by disagreements.

This leads to another consideration of the vocation of families: reconciliation. The Holy Family's was a peaceful place, but we know our own homes aren't always this way. Sometimes hurts erupt into arguments, other times they are borne in silence. In either case, how can we help to bring about healing and reconciliation in our families – either with hurts we have caused ourselves, in bringing about reconciliation between others? Jesus, save us! Mary & Joseph, pray for us!

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]

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

NEW YEARS ADORATION & EVENING PRAYER SCHEDULE:

For New Year's, Eucharistic Adoration will be suspended beginning on Tuesday 29 December (just before the 9 am Mass) with resumption on Monday, 4 January after the 9 am Mass. Please note also that there will be no Vespers & Benediction on Wednesday 30 December.

Please also note that the **Christmas season runs to January 10th**, so please come as often as you are able to daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and Christmas Vespers & Benediction.

ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC ADORERS: The parish center keeps a list of all regular adorers in its Eucharistic Adoration program for the purpose of contacting them in case of cancellation or suspension of hours due to storms etc. If you are a Eucharistic adorer and you do not get a message prior to a snow storm, please call the parish office and we will be sure to check your identifying information to ensure we have the most updated telephone number etc. for you. Thank you all adorers for loving Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSING: The parish office will be closed on **Thursday 31 December** and **Friday 1 January** to allow the pastor and parish staff some much deserved rest after a busy holyday season. The office will reopen again on Monday 4 January. Thank you for your consideration.

MASS INTENTIONS: Our Mass Book will open again on **Wednesday, 6 January 2021** after the 9am Mass. At that time we will be taking Mass intentions for the period of **July 1st to December 31st, 2021**. If you are unable to come to the parish that morning, please call the parish office on or after January 6th and we can assist you over the telephone; *we will not be taking intentions for this second half of 2021 prior to January 6th*. (Please note that we can still also accommodate Masses offered in Rome for your loved ones during the rest of the year of 2021 from this month onward).

As in the past, there will be on January 6th the usual procedure of standing in line to reserve 3 Mass Intentions and returning to the back of the line (if one desires) for no more than 2 more, bringing the maximum to 5 Masses that can be scheduled that day. This allows us to keep the line moving and provides fairness to all those seeking Mass intentions.

IMPORTANT: However, due to the pandemic guidelines, no one will be admitted into the parish center without wearing a mask and social distancing will be respected. If you would prefer to call the office rather than come in person, please do so. Someone will take your Mass requests over the phone and these will be fit into the Mass intention book after all the Masses are recorded by those who come in person.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph- December 27, 2020



No classes for all levels on
Sunday December 27, 2020.
Have a Joyful New Year.
Classes resume on Jan. 10, 2021
Baptism of the Lord.

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 Jan. 10th will be all First Communion Level 2 Students accompanied by a parent in church @ 8:00am.** Please be on time, you will be escorted to a pew by your teacher before we start. Please remember your mask.

Let us not forget that we can take an hour out of our weekend to view Holy Mass on television or on the internet. Even though the Pope has instituted a dispensation from actually attending Mass during this time due to the pandemic we can still view it and take part in kneeling and standing and responding to the prayers at home. *God commanded us to keep holy the Sabbath, and Mass is the way a Catholic fulfills that requirement. And if God tells us to do something, we should do it.*

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

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



The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Tintoretto (1555)

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." (Lk 2:30-32)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

All is calm, all is bright! The school has been a rather quiet place this past week as our students and staff are in the midst of enjoying a holiday vacation-week of rest and relaxation. This rather rare **two week break at Christmas** has given us plenty of time to celebrate the God-given gift of our families. What better time to focus our attention on the Holiest of Families - Jesus, Mary and Joseph? The Holy Family is our great example to imitate as we strive to exemplify the virtues and charity that existed in their home. While these challenging times have caused our immediate families to be together more than ever, our good and gracious God gives us the strength, patience, and perseverance to endure all trials and tribulations. Let us recommit ourselves in the new calendar year to promote happy and healthy homes and households... *Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, help and guide us!*

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

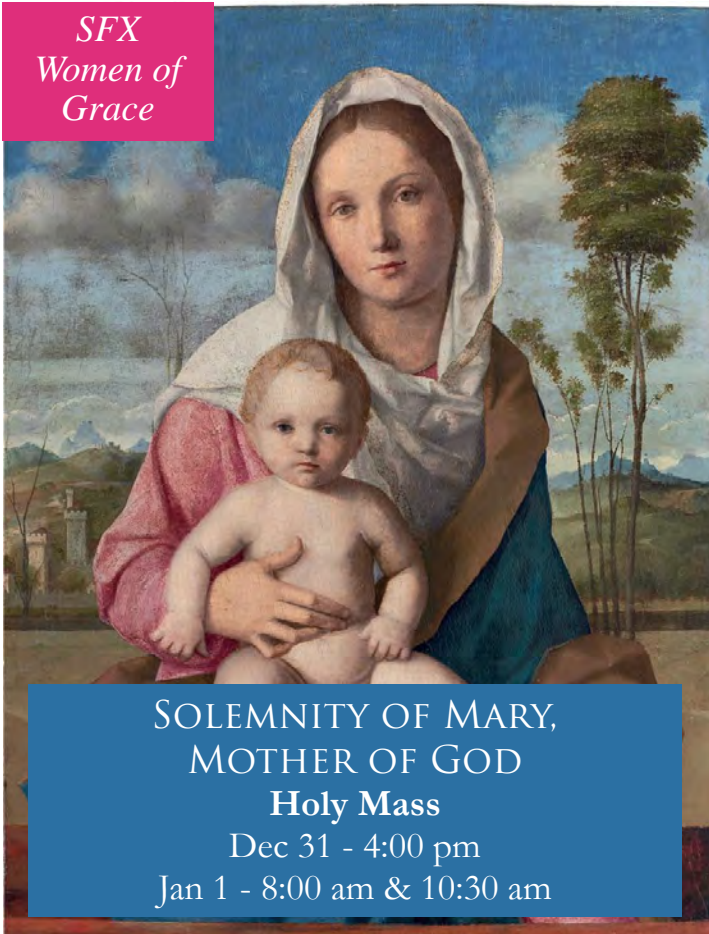


A BLESSED NEW YEAR: from your Saint Vincent de Paul Society. We thank you for your most excellent and generous support of all our events throughout this most difficult year.

This year has had many challenges but since it has had caused many more new struggles, it has allowed your parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society to be more active in these struggles. We have adapted to cash and gift cards because of COVID and people's needs and you have answered the call most graciously. Have a wonderful New Year!

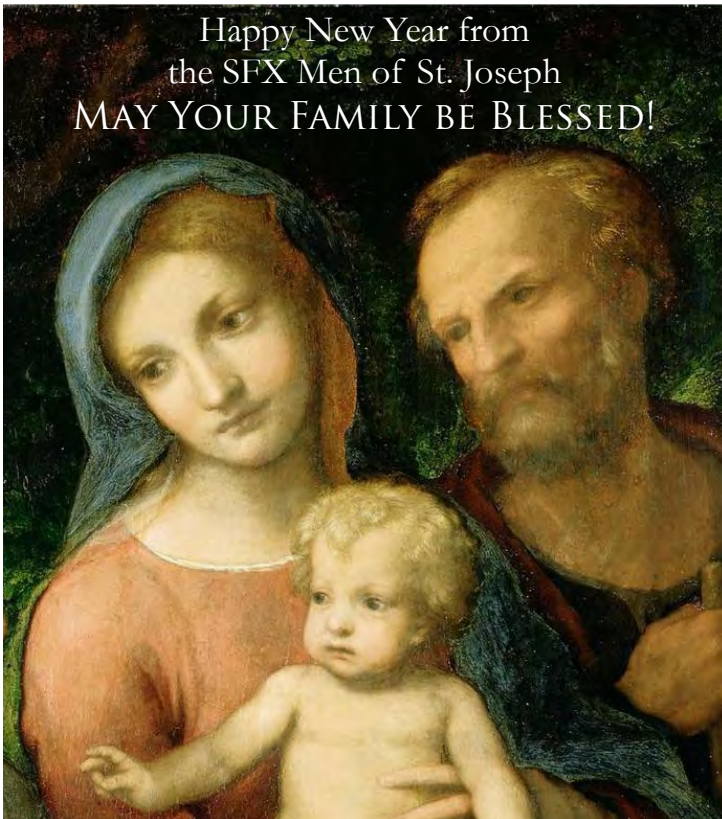
SECRETARIAL/BOOKKEEPING WANTED: A position is available in the parish office for a person with office management, telephone, customer service, computer, and bookkeeping (QuickBooks) skills. Excellent knowledge of Word, Excel, and Publisher also needed. This is a full time position of 30 - 35 hours per week or five, 6 1/2 to 7 hour work days per week. If you have these skills and are interested in working in the SFX Parish office, please see or email Father Riley Williams at rjw@sfxparish.com.

SFX
Women of
Grace



SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD
Holy Mass
Dec 31 - 4:00 pm
Jan 1 - 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Happy New Year from
the SFX Men of St. Joseph
MAY YOUR FAMILY BE BLESSED!



UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January 1st - Mary, Mother of God
January 3rd - Parish Building Fund

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 27, 2020

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1
2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col
3:12-21 or 3:12-
17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt
2:13-18
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk
2:22-35
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk
2:36-40
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1
-18
Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk
2:16-21
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn
1:19-28

ON THE COVER

On this feast day of the **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph** we celebrate the providential method that God specifically chose for bringing the Savior of the World into the world and to thereby establish the salvation story for all time.

In the human imagination, the pagan gods come into being in many different ways. They issue from the brain matter of a prior God or they sprout up from the earth or become personified in some natural entity like the Sun or Moon. However, the One True God wipes away all of man's religious fears and fantasies and offers his divine son to the world through the process of conception and birth. Notice that we do not call it "natural" conception and birth because there are some very unique supernatural aspects to this wonderful event. Yet, these divine acts of God were put into effect so that divinity might be joined with humanity in one divine person, Jesus Christ, who grew in the womb, and after birth was raised in the most and best human way, by his beloved mother and father.

This family that was formed through the will of God is a *Holy Family*, made holy first and foremost by the presence of God the Son. This Real Presence, represented in the image on our bulletin cover in the artistry of Spanish painter **Jusepe de Ribera** entitled *The Holy Family with St. Anne & Catherine of Alexandria* (1648 - courtesy *The Met*) is for us attainable in the Holy Eucharist. The human family that makes the Blessed Sacrament the center of its family spirit, is the family that has the greatest opportunity of becoming a *holy family*.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph- December 27, 2020

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, 27 DECEMBER

Processional Hymn: The First Noel

The first Noel the angels did say, Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In fields as they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep - Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel

1st Reading: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins — a house raised in justice to you.

Responsorial Psalm: *Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways*

2nd Reading: Col 3:12-21

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

Gospel Reading: Lk 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted - and you yourself a sword will pierce - so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Offertory Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Communion Hymn: What Child Is This

Recessional Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!