

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
of Advent  
6 December 2020



## St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

### Mass Schedule

**(December 5<sup>th</sup> - December 13<sup>th</sup>)**

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Dec 05</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Vigil) (Vi)</b>
	4:00 pm	Raymond Martin
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Dec 06</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Vi)</b>
	7:00am	Mary Booth
	9:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11:00am	Nicholas Urbanek
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Dec 07</b>	<b>St. Ambrose; Bishop (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Carol Desrosiers - Graf
	<b>Dec 07</b>	<b>Immaculate Conception (Vigil) (Wh)</b>
	7:00pm	<i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Dec 08</b>	<b>Immaculate Conception (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Anne Medeiros & Amelia Leconte
	5:30pm	Robert Vigeant
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Dec 09</b>	<b>St. Juan Diego (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Antonio Caldeira Jr.
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Dec 10</b>	<b>Our Lady of Loreto (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Beverly DaSilva
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>St. Damasus I; Pope (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	John Gracia
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Dec 12</b>	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe (Wh)</b>
	9:00am	Living & Deceased Women of the Parish
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Dec 12</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Vigil) (Vi)</b>
	4:00 pm	Brian O'Malley
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Dec 13</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Vi)</b>
	7:00am	Jenny Oliver
	9:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11:00am	<i>Month's Mind</i>

### Financial Report

#### Income:

Christ the King .....	\$4,014.90
Human Development.....	\$1,110.50
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent .....	\$4,225.00

### Prayers Please

... for all the sick of our parish: those homebound, in the hospital, and nursing facilities; and for all the souls in purgatory. Please also pray for **Lauren Christine Barney** who was baptized on 29 November in our parish church.

### Sanctuary Lamp

*During Eucharistic Adoration please pray for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle burns this week: **Anibal V. Tavares***

### 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 WEEK WITH OUR LADY

This week we will have three important Marian Feast Days – very appropriate for this season of Advent. The Blessed Virgin Mary is the perfect model of Christian discipleship, and this week she offers us three important lessons of discipleship.

**8 December – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** On Tuesday we commemorate the teaching of our faith that God preserved the Blessed Virgin Mary from any taint of sin – including original sin – from the first moment of her conception. This was brought about because God – Who is outside of time – applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary the results of Christ's Death and Resurrection. Even though these took place about 45-50 years later in time, God applies them in an anticipated manner. Mary is still saved by Christ, but this allows her to truly be the new Eve – free of original sin, able to make a fully free choice to cooperate with God's plan of salvation. Her response to God is heard in the Gospel – "Let it be done to me according to your word." This captures the lesson of discipleship of this feast – to be fully open to God's plan for our lives.

**10 December – Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto** The town of Loreto in Italy has a shrine in which is kept, according to tradition, the house from Nazareth in which the Holy Family lived. Archeological evidence gives credence to the tradition that, during Medieval times, the house was physically brought from the Holy Land, where it would have been threatened by invasion, to the safety of Italy. The lesson for discipleship here is of daily living with Jesus, as the Holy Family did in their home. Discipleship is not just an occasional event, nor one of extraordinary actions. Rather, it is daily faithfulness to the will of God in our lives, in things great and small, notable and humble.

**12 December – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** This is the greatest Marian Feast of the Americas, commemorating Mary's appearances to the Mexican native Juan Diego in 1531, in the early years of contact between Europeans and Americans. Her messages to St. Juan Diego revealed that she is the mother of all who follow her Son. She shows us that, as disciples, we are called to show Christ's love to others without any discrimination. This doesn't mean being blind to sin, evil, or wrong, but rather to love them with the love of the Heart of Jesus and to do all we can to bring them to Him.

As we celebrate these Marian Feasts, may we also be guided by them to reflect on how we can better follow Christ by imitating His Holy Mother Mary.

# 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](mailto:info@sfxparish.com)

**Fr. Riley J. Williams, Pastor**

[\[rjw@sfxparish.com\]](mailto:rjw@sfxparish.com)

**Deacon David Pepin**

[\[dbp@sfxparish.com\]](mailto:dbp@sfxparish.com)

**Mrs. Janine Hammarquist, Rel. Ed. Coordinator**

[\[jlh@sfxparish.com\]](mailto:jlh@sfxparish.com)

[\[ministry@sfxacushnet.com\]](mailto:ministry@sfxacushnet.com)

**Mr. Steven Guillotte, Director of Pastoral Services**

[\[sng@sfxparish.com\]](mailto:sng@sfxparish.com)

**Mrs. Michelle Russo, Parish School Principal**

[\[mrusso@sfxacushnet.com\]](mailto:mrusso@sfxacushnet.com)

**Mrs. Anabela Shaughnessy, Asst. Principal**

[\[ashaughnessy@sfxacushnet.com\]](mailto: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

**EXCEL IN LEARNING AND LIFE:** Bishop Stang, a Catholic, college-preparatory high school in Dartmouth, MA, will administer the Scholastic High School Placement Test (HSPT) on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade applicants may choose either date for virtual or in-person testing. Visit [bishopstang.org](http://bishopstang.org) for more details or to complete the required pre-registration. Merit scholarship incentives are available.

## ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Please see below the Confession Schedule prior to the Christmas Holyday. **Please note that on 12 December** we will have two visiting priests to hear confessions during the *Advent Day of Reflection*:

**7 Dec.** - Monday: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**12 Dec.** - Saturday: 9:30-11:00 a.m. (Advent Day of Reflection) & 3:00-3:45 p.m.

**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.

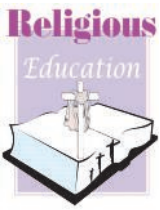
**20 Dec.** - Sunday: Beginning ½ hour before every Mass & after every Mass

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

**2020-2021 Missals:** Last weekend we put out missalettes for the new liturgical season so that each family can have one to take home to reflect on the Sunday readings and bring back-and-forth to Mass with them. We still have some missalettes available for families of the parish which did not pick one up last week. These will be yours until we will need them to put out in the pews, at a date to be determined later in 2021. We will also be keeping some of these in storage at the church to also later place in the pews (with covers) once the pandemic has passed. Thank you.

**2021 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS ARE HERE:** Thanks once again to **Acushnet Creamery** for sponsoring our lovely calendars which keep us all up-to-date on the liturgical seasons and celebrations with beautiful sacred images. The calendars have arrived and you will be able to pick them up after the weekend Masses **this week**. Please make sure you use them daily as a reminder especially of daily Mass!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent- December 6, 2020



**SAVE THE DATE:** Upcoming Confirmation (Level 9) Service Project on **Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup>**. 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. 6<sup>th</sup> will be Levels 7 & 8 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 stay tuned for more information.

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

As Advent advances swiftly, we focus on the coming of Our Lord and are filled with joy! This past week we celebrated our patronal feast day with treats, including time spent in Adoration and the launching of our new school mission statement. We also had the pleasure of hosting our first ever Virtual Talent Show this past Friday evening! Students submitted videos displaying their God-given talents which were compiled into a virtual show shared with our school families. Our School Events Committee has been busy creating fun for our students during these times! Our students have been "good little girls and boys" and St. Nicholas will make his annual visit for his feast day this weekend. St. Nick will also send a virtual message wishing our students well (COVID times!) Thank you for your continued prayers for our school community, as we continue to "sail on" in these uncharted waters.

**God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal**



*Saint John the Baptist*  
El Greco (1600)

*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths" (Mk 1:2b-3)*

## St. Vincent de Paul Announcements

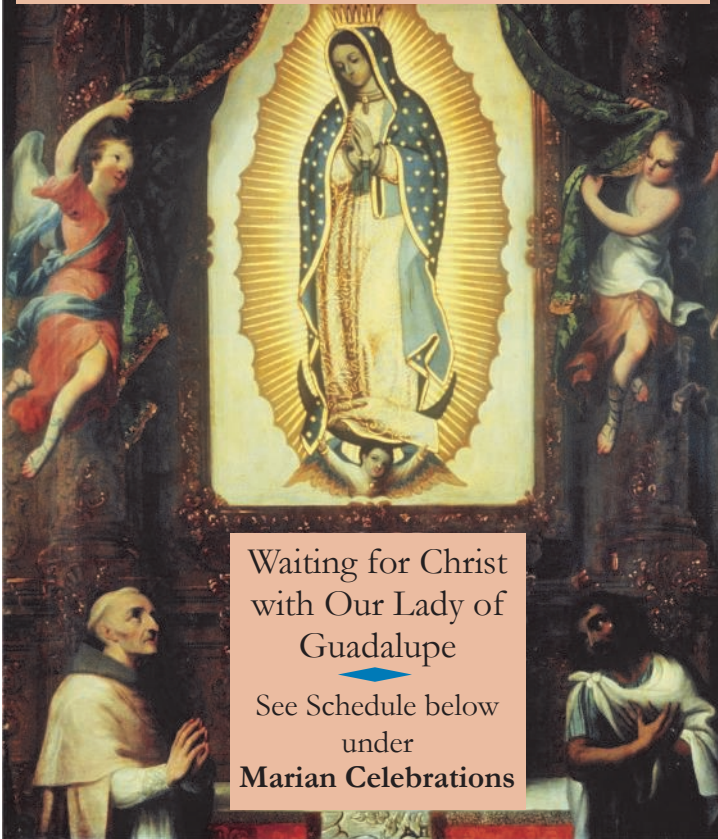
- 1) Our parish SVDP Society collected a total of \$1,477.00 in cash and grocery cards during its recent "pop-up" fundraiser in the parish parking lot.
- 2) They will also be purchasing clothing for 20 homeless veterans presently living in New Bedford at the Veterans Transition House
- 3) Starting **this weekend** of December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and again on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, the Society will place a Christmas "Gift Box" at the entrance of the church for all Masses, In lieu of the annual "Giving Tree" (due to the pandemic) the "Box" will be there for parishioners to donate gift cards such as: Wal Mart, Amazon, Kohls, Dunkin Donuts, Cumberland Farms, Jeffrey's Pizza, Acushnet Creamery and the like.

**Thanks for your great support**



## ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTION

12 December - 9 am to 11:00 am



Waiting for Christ  
with Our Lady of  
Guadalupe  
See Schedule below  
under  
Marian Celebrations

## Some December Marian Celebrations

### **8 December - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:**

Vigil Mass - Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.

Feast Masses - Dec. 8 at 9 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

### **9-12 December: - Anniversary of the Apparitions of Guadalupe:** Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the parish church

### **10 December - Feast of Our Lady of Loreto**

Daily Mass - 9:00 a.m.

### **12 December - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Advent Morning of Reflection:**

Daily Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Confessions - 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Advent Reflection by Father Williams - 10:00 a.m.

## UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** - Religious Retirement Fund  
**December 20<sup>th</sup>** - Diocesan Assessment

## SFX PRAYER LINE

Please call 508-850-6649 between 8am & 8pm

Or email your prayer request to:

[sfxprayerline@gmail.com](mailto:sfxprayerline@gmail.com)

## READINGS FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/ Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

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 **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent** we read in the first Mass reading from the Prophet Isaiah, *“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins”*.

This expiation of sins comes to Jerusalem through the Immaculate Conception of one Daughter of Jerusalem, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the sinless vessel of our salvation Jesus Christ. Thus, we place on our bulletin cover a work from the Spanish Baroque master **Francisco de Zurbarán** entitled *The Immaculate Conception* (1630). Here we see the Virgin as created in a vision in the mind of God surrounded by a host of cherubs. In the upper left of the painting are the Gates of Heaven and Jacob’s Ladder. In the upper right are shown the Morning Star and the Unblemished Mirror. All four of these images are used as honorary titles in litanies to the Blessed Virgin Mary. At her neckline she wears a brooch with a capital “A” overlapping a capital “M” for “Ave Maria”.

Come to Holy Mass on **7 December at 7:00 pm (vigil)** or **8 December at 9:00 am or 5:30 pm** to ring out your “Ave” to Our Blessed Mother.

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 6 DECEMBER

**Processional Hymn: On Jordan's Bank**

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces  
that the Lord is nigh; Awake and hearken for he  
brings Glad tidings of the King of kings*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Is 40:1-5, 9-11**

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Pt: 3:8-14**

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. **(continued)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Pet: 3:8-14**

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

**Gospel Reading: Mk 1:1-8**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**Offertory Hymn: Soul of My Savior**

**Communion Hymn: The King of Love**

**Recessional Hymn: Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven**

*Praise my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet thy  
tribute bring; Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
ever more his praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting king.*