

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



Epiphany of the Lord
3 January 2021

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(January 2nd - January 10th)

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	Joaõ & Edite Gomes
Mon.	Jan 04	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Wh)
	9:00am	Jean, Helen Donny & Robert Guenette
Tues.	Jan 05	St. John Neumann; Bishop (Wh)
	9:00am	Intentions for John E. Concannon
Wed.	Jan 06	St. André Bessette; Religious (Wh)
	9:00am	Intentions of David De Leon
Thurs.	Jan 07	St. Raymond of Peñafort (Wh)
	9:00am	Maria C. Cunha
Fri.	Jan 08	Christmas Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Intentions of T.J. De Costa
Sat.	Jan 09	Christmas Weekday (Wh)
	9:00am	Alice Soares
Sat.	Jan 09	Baptism of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00 pm	Harold Seguin
Sun.	Jan 10	Baptism of the Lord (Wh)
	7:00am	Alice Soares
	9:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11:00am	<i>Month's Mind</i>

Financial Report

Income:

4 th Sunday in Advent	\$4,344.00
Diocesan Assessment	\$1,906.00

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: **Simone Fahey***

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

IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE ETHICAL?

Having received several questions about the moral acceptability of receiving the different vaccines for Covid, I want to share with you a helpful resource. I know the image below is small, and so have put larger printouts on the bulletin boards for your reference.

CHARLOTTE
LOZIER
 INSTITUTE

Analysis of COVID-19 Vaccine Candidates

Includes vaccine candidates that received "Operation Warp Speed" funding or have been submitted to the FDA for emergency use approval

Sponsor(s)	Status	Development/ Production of Vaccine	Lab Testing
	Emergency Use FDA Application Approved		
	Emergency Use FDA Application Pending		
	Phase 3 Trials		
	Phase 3 Trials		
	Phase 3 Trials		
	Phase 3 Trials		
	Phase 1/2 Trials		
	Phase 1/2 Trials		
	Phase 1 Trials		

Key

- Does not use abortion-derived cell line
- DOES USE abortion-derived cell line
- SOME tests DO NOT use abortion-derived cells, SOME DO
- Currently undetermined

See here for a chart of all vaccines being tested and more detailed information about each: <https://s27589.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/COVID-19-Vaccine-Candidates-and-Abortion-Derived-Cell-Lines.pdf>

Last Updated December 14, 2020

As this shows, both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were ethically developed without cells derived from aborted fetuses; later testing did involve some use of these. The AstraZeneca vaccine was both developed and tested using these abortion-derived cells.

An instruction from the National Bishop's Conference of 14 December said that both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are morally acceptable to receive. The AstraZeneca one should be avoided if an alternative is available; however, the bishops said that "It may turn out that one does not really have a choice of vaccine, at least, not without a lengthy delay in immunization that may have serious consequences for one's health and the health of others.. In such a case ... it would be permissible to accept the AstraZeneca vaccine."

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@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

WEEKEND CHURCH SEATING PLAN: We continue to work hard each week to ensure that all parishioners and others can have a seat at Sunday Mass. It is because of our advanced planning, the additional Sunday Mass, and the diligent work of our ushers that we have been able to accommodate a reasonable and safe attendance at Holy Mass during a pandemic. Here, we would like to review a few points we are often asked about.

First, we still ask that you call the parish office if you are just returning to Mass so we can place you on the parish seating plan.

Second, if you do call and the Mass you desire to attend is full (on paper) you may still come to that Mass. We only ask that you arrive about 10 minutes before Mass begins so the ushers may be able to judge better by that time as to who is coming and who is not coming so they might know better where to seat you. In the parish office we generally do not take families off the schedule if they do not attend their scheduled time here and there. However, many absences may result in one's name being taken off the schedule.

Third, if on any given week you are not able to attend please email or call Janine Hammarquist in the parish office. In this way the ushers will be able to be provided with information that the particular pew you are seated in will be vacant for that particular day and time.

Lastly, as of now there is no need to make a reservation at a daily or First Friday Mass. Mass attendance has never been so high as to go beyond the pandemic seating space up to this point.

Thank you and if you have any questions regarding seating at Mass, please call the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS: will open again on **Wednesday, 6 January 2021** after the 9am Mass 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 January 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.

Epiphany of the Lord - January 3, 2021

Religious

Education



Have a Joyful New Year.
Classes resume on Jan. 10, 2021
Baptism of the Lord.
No classes on Sunday January 17 in
observance of MLK Jr.

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



Journey of the Magi
James Tissot (1894)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:1-2)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

Happy New Year to all of you! Our break from school has been wonderful. On Monday our students will return to school rested and ready to thrive in our school community. The two week reprieve was "just what the doctor ordered" and we are praying that the responsible choices that our families made over the break will assist the healthy and safe environment we have maintained thus far. Academically, students will have one week to get "back into the swing of things" before they demonstrate their knowledge of grade level concepts in our second round of MAP Growth testing. This month will pass quickly, and Catholic Schools Week 2021 will be here in no time! We have much planning to do to make this week a celebratory experience under the present guidelines. Registration for the 2021-2022 school year will begin during CSW, and we ask you to promote our wonderful parish school to families that you know... most especially preschoolers! More information to come. Thank you for your continued prayers and

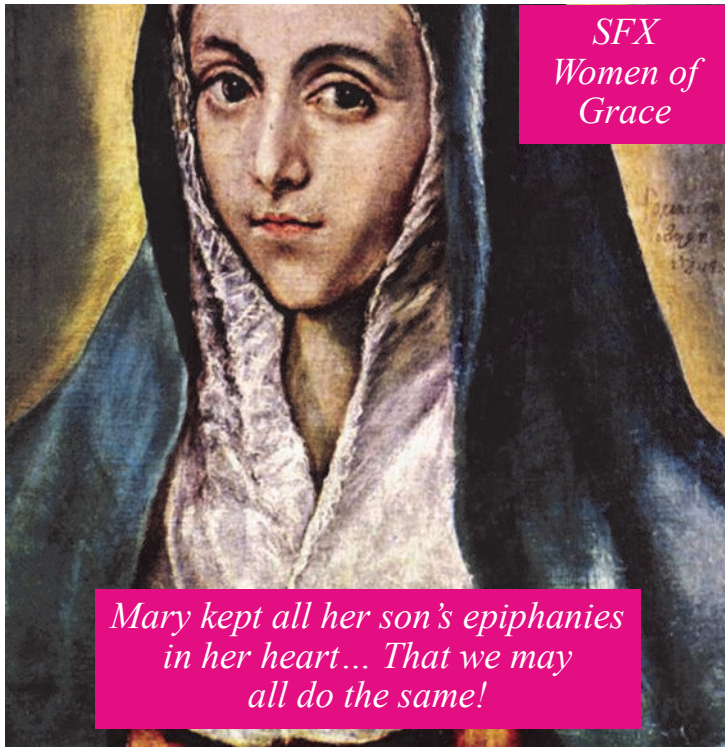
... God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

"A New Year has this useful thing about it... It makes man remember and regret his follies and his sins."

Hilaire Belloc



A BIG THANK YOU: from your Saint Vincent de Paul Society for your most generous assistance with the Christmas Box this year (in lieu of the annual Giving Tree). Because of your wonderful assistance the parish charitable society was able to assist 18 families and 22 homebound individuals - that's 40 households in our area that were maintained with food and joy during this Holy Season. Thank you to all who dropped off gift cards in the Christmas Box or at the parish center and for all your monetary donations, anonymous or otherwise.



SFX
Women of
Grace

Mary kept all her son's epiphanies
in her heart... That we may
all do the same!

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: If you know of any parishioner who has not been able to attend Church due to a medical condition *and* the inability to leave the home *and* that this person would like to receive Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, please call the parish office to speak to Father Williams or Deacon Dave. We have received permission from the bishop some weeks ago that the priest and deacon may visit homes and distribute Holy Communion. The reception of the Blessed Sacrament at home will not be at this time a weekly thing as it once was due to the fact that our many number of lay extraordinary Eucharistic ministers are still not bringing Holy Communion into the community. However, Father and Deacon are attempting to fit in all our homebound parishioners into a reasonable rotating schedule. Thanks for your assistance and understanding.

2021 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS ARE STILL HERE: Many of you have taken one of our lovely calendars with beautiful Christian art for 2020. We still have many of these available, so if you know of someone who cannot get out, please take some for them. If you see the calendars disappear from the church entrance we will still keep some in the office just in case people ask about them for a few more weeks more or so. Call the parish office if you need one or a few.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January 17th - Catholic Communication
January 24th - Diocesan Assessment

SFX PRAYER LINE

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

READINGS FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2021

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

ON THE COVER

On this feast day of the **Epiphany of the Lord** we celebrate the revelation and adoration of Jesus, the Christ Child.

Now one cannot adore what has not been revealed. Revelation always comes prior to adoration. When that which is divine is revealed it is the natural desire of man to adore this. Yet the divine often goes unnoticed. This is not surprising since when Jesus came on the scene with heavenly words and mighty deeds even then many refused to believe in Him. It is the unfortunate plight of man that he gives more import to what he is to eat and drink and what he is to wear than to the One who comes and gives all such good things (**Mt 6:25; 33**). Many who wait for God wait for a feast rather than a savior. However, it is as St. Paul says: "... *the kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the holy Spirit*" (**Rom 14:17**). Thus it is those who await the kingdom of God as a place of justice and reconciliation who will come to be satisfied.

Jesus Christ brings complete satisfaction. Mary his mother, Joseph his foster-father, the shepherds of the field, the Magi who come from the afar, and the angels on high are all elated in adoration of the Child Jesus. Jesus will grow; he will endure much to gain our salvation, but today is a day simply to adore the Lord in the company of those who first came to adore Him.

We offer you this opportunity with an image on our bulletin cover painted in the 15th century by the Florentine **Sandro Botticelli** entitled *The Adoration of the Magi* (1476). In this early Renaissance (yet almost pre-Mannerist) painting Jesus is adored from all directions. Let us do the same, adoring him from all corners of the earth.

Epiphany of the Lord- January 3, 2021

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, 3 JANUARY

Processional 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!

1st Reading: Is 6:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, every nation on earth will adore you*

2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Gospel Reading: Mt 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Offertory Hymn: What Child Is This

Communion Hymn: We Three Kings

Recessional Hymn: Joy to the World

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing*