

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS, MA

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

DECEMBER 10, 2017

STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

### HEART OF THE WORLD LI

~ ST. FRANCIS XAVIER ~

For the last few of weeks we have been considering the practical advice that our Blessed Mother has given us at Medjugorje—the Five Stones of Prayer, Fasting, Mass, reading/praying with the Bible, and Confession. In giving these, she is drawing on the biblical account of David and Goliath (see 1Sam 17). She compares our attempt to live authentically Christian lives in this secularized society as a similarly mismatched fight. However, just as David went out to meet Goliath in battle armed with sling, five stones, and confidence in the Lord, so must we.

#### The fifth stone: **Confession:**

In part III of his Summa Theologica, St. Thomas Aquinas reasons that sin sets us on a trajectory away from God that we cannot arrest on our own. If we imagine sin as placing us on an inclined plain covered in pea-stones with nothing to grab onto or any way to stop our fall, we can begin to understand our plight. For us, the movement away from God resulting from one sin is unstoppable, never mind irreversible. Not only can we not stop, we cannot even *want* to stop(!) on our own.

Thomas goes on to reason that if the above is the case, then we cannot even repent (feel contrite) for our sins unless God placed that in our hearts. If God placed it in our hearts to repent, then it stands to reason that He is in the process of rescuing us—which means that He must have *already* forgiven us the offense!

To state it another way, God has already forgiven us the offense in order to arrest the fall and place repentance in our hearts. It therefore follows that all we need to do to complete the reconciliation is actually to apologize. If this is the case, then what in the world is the point of the Sacrament of Confession?! There *must* be more to it.

The ‘more’ that Thomas came to understand was healing. The Sacrament of Confession is necessary not so much for the forgiveness of sins, but the healing (from the sin) and strengthening (from God’s help) that results. This is why Jesus requires us to use the Sacrament.

God has no desire merely to treat our symptomatic sins, but to heal their root causes. We need to do some work and get to the roots of our habitual sins (the vast majority of which are compensation for these ailments). We can then give them to Christ and experience what the saints have referred to as an encounter with Redeeming Love.

It also helps to prevent us from an alternative where we run to the Sacrament in order to *feel* better, which very unfortunately, is more akin to using the Sacrament something like toilet paper. When you go to the doctor, would you rather be cured or *feel* better?

Confession is a *very* powerful stone against the Enemy as it strips bare his schemes and heals us of the damage.

<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Dec 9</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Michelle Smith	
<b>4:00 PM</b>	John McBride	
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Dec 10</b>
<b>9 AM</b>	Maria Pacheco	
<b>11AM</b>	Rose Bouchard	
<b>1 PM</b>	Maria Loreta Rengolaris	
<b>Monday:</b>		<b>Dec 11</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Bradley Mann	
<b>Tuesday:</b>		<b>Dec 12</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Special Intention	
<b>Wednesday:</b>		<b>Dec 13</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Mary Jane Ferreira	
<b>Thursday</b>		<b>Dec 14</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Patrick Barry	
<b>Friday</b>		<b>Dec 15</b>
<b>8:30 PM</b>	Carmine Molinare	
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Dec 16</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Steve Cahoon	
<b>4:00 PM</b>	Melden Smith	
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Dec 17</b>
<b>9 AM</b>	Richard Viens Lucier	
<b>11AM</b>	Members of the Parish	

### ~ SACRED HEART CHAPEL ~

<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Dec 9</b>
<b>4 PM</b>	Joseph Mahoney	
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Dec 10</b>
<b>8 AM</b>	Members of the Parish	
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Dec 16</b>
<b>4 PM</b>	Cleo and Lottie Bettez	
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Dec 17</b>
<b>8 AM</b>	Greg Smith	



# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS, MA



## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

#### DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE – 5 PM (ENGLISH)  
– 7 PM (PORTUGUESE)  
– MIDNIGHT (ENGLISH)

#### DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY – 7 AM (LATIN)  
– 9 AM (ENGLISH)  
– 11 PM (ENGLISH)



### SACRED HEART CHAPEL

#### DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE – 4 PM (ENGLISH)

#### DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY – 8 AM (ENGLISH)

Please clip for reference, so you will not need to call the Parish Office for Mass times. Thank You.

### **YOUNG ADULTS GROUP**

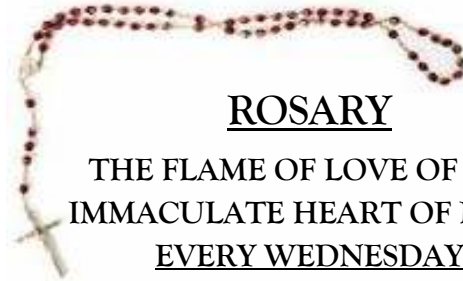
Saturday, December 9, 2017 - 6PM  
SFX Young Adult Group will be hosting a  
**MOVIE NIGHT**

At

Fr. Duffy Pastoral Center  
357 South Street  
Hyannis, MA

For more information on future events, please  
contact them through  
our website [stfrancishyannis.org](http://stfrancishyannis.org) or  
Facebook: St Francis Xavier Young Adults.

Group meetings will be held once a month, at  
5:30 PM on Saturday, at the Duffy Pastoral  
Center. Please check the website (above) or the  
Facebook page, for further details as to the next  
meeting date.

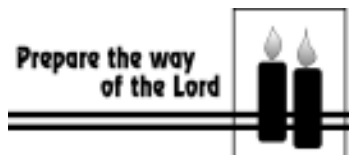


## ROSARY

THE FLAME OF LOVE OF THE  
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY  
EVERY WEDNESDAY

9:10 TO 10 AM

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER - HYANNIS



### **CHRISTMAS DINNER AT OUR LADY OF THE CAPE - BREWSTER**

Our Lady of the Cape Parish on Stony Brook Road in Brewster invites all who want to join with others for Christmas Dinner and celebrate the Birth of Jesus. Dinner will be served at 12:00 Noon on Christmas Day in the Parish Center, located behind the church. All are welcome! Meals-on-Wheels are also available and will be delivered to people living within a reasonable distance of the Church. For more information and if you wish to make a reservation for dinner, please call Dave Danish at 508-896-7613 or email him at: [DDanish@comcast.net](mailto:DDanish@comcast.net).

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## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS, MA

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### **SANCTUARY LAMP**

Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to book the Sanctuary Lamp at St. Francis, in honor of a loved one. The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week in honor of:

**MELDEN SMITH**

### **COLLECTIONS**

St. Francis Xavier Church  
Sacred Heart Chapel

December 10, 2017 - \$ 6,218  
St. Vincent DePaul - \$ 933

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### **EUCCHARISTIC APOSTLES OF DIVINE MERCY**

Meetings are usually held every other Monday. However, the next meeting will be held on **January 8, 2018**. For further information, call the office at 508.775.0818.

### **COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP...**

Join us each Sunday morning after 9 and 11AM Masses, in the Lower Church Hall, at St. Francis, for coffee and fellowship.



### **SVDP CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS**

For \$25.00, to the St. Vincent DePaul society, here at the Parish, you can make a donation of a 'Christmas Dinner Basket', to be given to a needy family, in the name of that 'difficult-to-buy-for' person on your gift list. Purchase your gift cards at the Parish Office, 21 Cross Street. Monday - Friday from 9 AM to 12:00 Noon, or at the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, behind the Church Office on Cross Street, on Tuesday or Friday, during Pantry hours. Cards will also be available this weekend, in the Lower Church Hall, at Coffee and Fellowship, after 9 and 11AM Masses. Phone the St. Vincent de Paul Society office at 508.775.3073 if you have need for further information.

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### **CAPE COD HOSPITAL - CHAPLAINS' OFFICE**

The Pastoral Care office at CCH wants to encourage parishioners to feel free to call the Chaplains office if they or a loved one are in the hospital. Although your desire for Pastoral Care is recorded at admissions occasionally data entry mistakes do happen. The Chaplain tries to visit every Catholic patient within 24 hours on the weekdays and within 48 hours on the weekend, but if you would like communion brought to you or a loved one and have not seen someone from the Chaplain's office please feel free to call 508.862.5287 and ask the hospital operator to connect you with Pastoral Care.

**In case of emergencies a priest is always available to be paged if you ask your nurse!**

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### **OFFICE FOR CHILD PROTECTION**

Substance abuse is a growing problem that can start as early as grade school. Warning signs can be sudden changes in behavior or moods, significant changes in eating or sleeping habits, and increased secrecy and hostility. If you believe that your child may be involved with drugs or alcohol, contact the school's social worker and/or your child's physician. Early detection and treatment are crucial to long-term physical and emotional health. For more information, please contact the Office for Child Protection at (508) 997-7337. (45)

## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS, MA

### ADORATION

MONDAY

THROUGH

FRIDAY

NOON TO 3PM

COME PRAY

AN HOUR WITH ME.



### ADORATION COME PRAY ONE HOUR WITH ME

There is a need for additional people to spend a time with Our Lord. Sometimes things come up (illness, family problems) that require the presence of the person who said they would pray with the Lord. It is difficult to predict, but also makes it difficult for them to follow through with this commitment. If you can fill in as a substitute, could you please contact Deacon Bruce Baxter at his email at [deaconbrucebaxter@gmail.com](mailto:deaconbrucebaxter@gmail.com) or call the Parish Office for details 508.775.0818. Thank you to those of you who have come forward and offered to help.

### A HUGE 'THANK YOU' TO....



..All parishioners who participated in, and helped facilitate, our recent Holiday Fair, light supper on the Feast of our Patron Saint, and St. Nicholas Pancake Breakfast. Parishioner support is most appreciated as are the superb efforts of the Events Team, and all Volunteers, who worked tirelessly to plan and organize our annual December Weekend event, from 'set up to take down'. Many dedicated hands proved successful.

**God Bless and Merry Christmas.**

### SPECIAL MASS AT OLV FOR MSGR. HENRY T. MUNROE...

All are invited to join the Our Lady of Victory Family of Faith for the Month's mind Mass for Msgr. Henry T. Munroe on Tuesday December 12 at 7PM at Our Lady of Victory Church, 230 South Main St., Centerville, MA.. Msgr. Munroe served Our Lady of Victory, St. Francis Xavier and the diocese for many years, and hope you will join parishioners and friends as they come together in thanksgiving for his service. Refreshments will be served in the parish center afterward.



### A WOMENS BIBLE STUDY – CHRIST THE KING PARISH, MASHPEE

You are invited to the Advent Gathering to reflect and prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. Enjoy a lovely meal and exchange gifts for re-giving on Tuesday morning December 12 from 9 to 11AM or Thursday evening December 14 from 7 to 9PM. They are scheduled to meet at Christ The King Parish, Classroom B. For reservations, please call 508-420-0443 or visit the website at [WWPMashpee@aol.com](mailto:WWPMashpee@aol.com).