

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS, MA

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

DECEMBER 24, 2017

STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

### HEART OF THE WORLD LIII

~ ST. FRANCIS XAVIER ~

Tomorrow is Christmas. It has come upon us very quickly this year. I guess it seems that way every year, but this year since Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> falls on a Monday, we lose a whole week of Advent. We abruptly go from the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent to Christmas Eve inside of the same day. Here at St. Francis, it is especially abrupt as we practically have Masses crashing into each other. It is easy to lose focus.

In our first reading today, we hear how King David, filled with a spirit of gratitude and generosity has the inspiration to build a beautiful Temple for God. A Temple so that He can be worshiped appropriately and His people have someplace to go to give Him thanks and praise, ask forgiveness, and express their love.

Through Nathan the prophet, God responds to David in a most extraordinary way. He tells him 1) Good thought David, and I appreciate your magnanimity, but 2) who do you think it was that made you who you are—mind the hubris! 3) I am so proud of you, I will make you more renowned than if you build me a house. I am making you the forebear of the Messiah. He will be your son and mine. It is He who will build me a house. Not merely of stone and wood, but flesh. He will be not someplace, but someone for my children to come to and to give thanks and praise, ask forgiveness, and express their love. This will not be only for Jews, but ALL my children.

Just as epic as this blessing of God is David's response:

"Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, Lord GOD, and who are the members of my house, that you have brought me to this point? Yet even this you see as too little, Lord GOD; you have also spoken of the house of your servant for a long time to come: this too you have shown to man, Lord GOD! What more can David say to you? You know your servant, Lord GOD! For your servant's sake and as you have had at heart, you have brought about this entire magnificent disclosure to your servant." (2 Samuel 7:18 – 21)

His full response runs all the way through to the end of chapter 7. It is full of wonder, gratitude, and (appropriate) pride. Pride because he was not honoring himself, but because God was honoring him. We see this same thing in the interaction of Mary and her cousin Elizabeth in Luke 1:39 – 55. Elizabeth says (like David) "And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:43) Mary responds (like David) with her great Magnificat. (Lk 1:46 – 55)

How will you receive Christ at Christmas? How will you receive Him in Holy Communion? Will you be full of wonder, gratitude, and pride, because He has done great things for you?

<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Dec 23</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Eleanor Watt	
<b>4:00 PM</b>	Christopher King	
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Dec 24</b>
<b>9 AM</b>	Dcn & Mrs. Manuel Camara	
<b>11 AM</b>	Al Makkay	
<b>1 PM</b>	<b>LATIN</b>	
<b>3 PM</b>	<b>SPANISH</b>	
<b>5 PM</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	
<b>7 PM</b>	<b>PORTUGUESE</b>	
<b>12 PM</b>	<b>MIDNIGHT - ENGLISH</b>	
<b>Monday:</b>	<b><u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u></b>	
<b>7:00 AM</b>	<b>LATIN</b>	
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	
<b>Tuesday:</b>		<b>Dec 26</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	DeShay Ray Anna Day	
<b>Wednesday:</b>		<b>Dec 27</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Peter G. Beaulieu	
<b>Thursday</b>		<b>Dec 28</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Larry Timony	
<b>Friday</b>		<b>Dec 29</b>
<b>8:30 PM</b>	Special Intention	
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Dec 30</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Dominic & Grace Rinaldi	
<b>4:00 PM</b>	Jean & Jack Manoog	
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Dec 31</b>
<b>9 AM</b>	Members of the Parish	
<b>11AM</b>	Daniel & Jeannette Birmingham	
<b>1 PM</b>	Judith D'Agostino	

~ SACRED HEART CHAPEL ~

<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Dec 23</b>
<b>4 PM</b>	Deborah Bellis	
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Dec 24</b>
<b>8 AM</b>	Members of the Parish	
	<b><u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u></b>	
<b>4 PM</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	
	<b><u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u></b>	
<b>8 AM</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Dec 30</b>
<b>4 PM</b>	Joseph Paul Keohane	
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Dec 31</b>
<b>8 AM</b>	William Johnson	

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS, MA

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

SACRED HEART CHAPEL \*

### CHRISTMAS EVE

5 PM ENGLISH  
7 PM PORTUGUESE  
12 PM MIDNIGHT - ENGLISH

### CHRISTMAS EVE

4 PM ENGLISH

### CHRISTMAS DAY

7 AM LATIN  
9 AM ENGLISH  
11 AM ENGLISH

### CHRISTMAS DAY

8 AM ENGLISH



A SERVICE OF 'LESSONS AND CAROLS' WILL TAKE PLACE AT 11:15 PM BEFORE MIDNIGHT MASS.

*We are grateful to all who contributed and help render our sanctuaries beautiful for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. May the souls of all our departed family and friends rest in peace.*

ROSE BOUCHARD, JACKIE & PORKY  
RICHARD BRUNELL  
THE BURKE & OLSZOWY FAMILIES  
HERB & TERRY BURROUGHS  
DEACON & MRS. MANUEL CAMARA  
THE CAREY FAMILY  
JOSÉ & ADELAIDE CARVALHO  
DR. YONG MIN CHI  
LAWRENCE CLEVELAND  
DR. GILBERT CONNELLY  
THOMAS AND MARY CONNELLY  
KERIN COPPARINI  
ALAN F. DALY  
DEACON DICK & PEGGY DRESSER  
GALKOWSKI & GRANTHAM FAMILIES  
LOUISE AND WILLIAM T GODFREY  
RITA GUADAGNOLI  
JOSEPH & DALIA JANIUNAS  
NELLIE KENYON



KENT LUTHER  
BARBARA MARKLEY  
IDA AND INEZ MARTINELLI  
RESIDENTS OF MAYFLOWER PLACE  
DAN MAZZOLA  
CARL AND ELOISE MC KEON  
ANNA & VINCENT MECCHI  
VINNY MECCHI  
EUGENIA MEDEIROS  
JOHN J. MILLER  
ANGELA & MOZART P. MONIZ, SR.  
RUSSELL JOHN MONIZ  
HUGH G. O'NEILL, JR  
MARIA ALICE PACHECO  
HENRIQUE & MARIA PAVAO  
CHRISTOPHER REIMER  
GREGORY SMITH  
ANNA STEFANSKI  
HELEN AND WALTER WHITE, SR.



### **SANCTUARY LAMP**

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week in honor of:

*Nancy Aldi*

### **COLLECTIONS**

St. Francis Xavier Church  
Sacred Heart Chapel

December 17, 2017 - 6,439  
St. Vincent DePaul - \$ 1,516

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# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS, MA

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## *Diocese of Fall River* *Office of the Bishop* **Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.** **Bishop da Cunha's 2017 Christmas Message**

Dear Friends in Christ,

On September 20<sup>th</sup> of this year, Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico as a Category 4 storm leaving an unprecedented path of destruction in its wake. To this day, many people are without electricity or cell phone service. Because of this, people are connecting, communicating and spending time with each other personally, and rediscovering the value of family time.

Jesus came to reconnect us with God and with one another. He came to reestablish the links that were broken and rebuild the bridges that were destroyed by sin. No tie is more powerful than the bond between families. Family and faith are the most precious gifts we have.

Research shows that people who are disconnected from the real world and from one another are less happy than those who are connected with others, especially family. We were not created to live solitary lives or to experience virtual relationships. We were made to live in a family, in society, and connected with each other. Research has also shown that children of families who share meals together do better in school and are less likely to get into trouble or involved with alcohol or drugs. Imagine how many more benefits it would bring to families and children if they prayed together and spent quality time sharing their values and celebrating their faith together!

What we do in this life, good or bad, impacts the lives of others. Our attitude and behavior also affects our relationship with God. Being part of a family and a social group is a privilege and a responsibility. Loving and being loved is the essence of the human existence. It is in the family that we learn how to love and how to live; it is the key to the meaning of life itself. "The family lives its Spirituality precisely by being at one and the same time a domestic Church and a vital cell for transforming the world" (Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* # 324).

Jesus' coming made it possible to reconnect ourselves with God and with each other. He gave us the tools to break the barriers of separation and division. He wants us to be one family living as brothers and sisters. Obviously, we have a long way to go. There is still division, hatred and discrimination. These are the effects of original sin, but we have been redeemed. We are called to resist the temptation of isolating ourselves from our families or fostering division among God's people. We are more alike than we are different. We must find and affirm what we have in common rather than what is different. Christ is our peace. He broke the barriers of hostility that kept us apart. "The pleasure of belonging to one another leads to seeing life as a common project, putting the other's happiness ahead of my own" (*Amoris Laetitia* #220).

As we celebrate Christmas this year, let us pause and remember the family of Nazareth: Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and acknowledge the importance of family in our own lives. We live in a time when everyone is very much influenced and affected by the power of modern communication tools. We are impacted by social and virtual communication. Many, especially the younger generation, are so attached to the virtual world that they end up disconnected from the real world. My hope and prayer is that we will make this Christmas a real celebration of family and unity. "For a Child is born to us, a Son is given us; upon His shoulder dominion rests. They name Him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace" (Is 9:5).

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.  
Bishop of Fall River

47 Underwood Street • Post Office Box 2577 • Fall River, Massachusetts 02722-2577  
Telephone: 508-675-1311 • Facsimile: 508-679-9220

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## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS, MA

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Christmas 2017

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace to you. This is my 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas here. Does it seem like it? Time moves so quickly. This past year has been one of great Grace. In addition to observing the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Blessed Mother's apparitions to the Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco at Fatima, we have had opportunity to recognize how blessed we are.

Earthquakes, hurricanes Maria, Jose, Harvey, and Irma, genocide and terrorist attacks, wild fires, and countless other less general tragedies have rocked our country and the world this past year. It has been a time for us to share with our brothers and sisters that have been effected by these events. Tragedy seems to bring out what is very best in our spirit.

As we head into a new year, it would be a good resolution to make an effort to extend the same kind of instinct of charity that is natural to us in general disasters toward those among us that are experiencing their own particular one. The closer we are to a situation, the easier it is for us to see their mistakes, or even sins or crimes that may have been a contributing factor to the crisis. 'Well, if he would just stop smoking, he would not have set that fire when he fell asleep with a lit cigarette.' 'If she wasn't texting, she would not have driven off the road,' etc.

Charity begins at home and extends outward. The closer to the very locus of the situation, the more impact it has. That is also why it is harder for us, because being up close, we see the messiness and judge fault instead of mobilize to problem solve. It is wonderful that we are so generous for major disasters and tragedies, but the early Christians were noted for their love of each other.

Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1 Pt 4:8-10)

It is also easy for us to question our Faith in the wake of events like these. Where was/is God? Why doesn't He do something? Well, what if He is waiting on you? It is not like He is above getting His hands dirty. He understands quite well what it is like. In fact, when Christ first came among us it was in difficult circumstances, to put it mildly. A 'crisis' pregnancy. A King without a home. Unwelcome and turned out. He understands quite well.

May you have a merry Christmas and New Year, fully cognizant of God's generosity to you and forming a resolve to give back by cooperating with Him in 2018 by reaching out to others without judging. The opportunities are manifold.

In Christ,

Fr. Michael