

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS, MA

THE HOLY FAMILY - JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

DECEMBER 31, 2017

STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

FAMILY

~ ST. FRANCIS XAVIER ~

This weekend's celebration is the Feast of the Holy Family and Monday is the Feast of Mary as Mother of God. The very essence of "family" presents to us an icon of the Trinity.

"Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. ..." God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them." (Gn 1:26-27)

Love must be expressed relationally to be complete. As humans, we experience love as gendered beings. This is because the unity/oneness of God is too simple for us to comprehend. So, God created us in His Image as male and female. Adam and Eve were *created married*.

None of us have everything we need in and of ourselves. We are male and female to be the complement for each other. Therefore, in spousal love, we find the complementary aspects that make us complete—an Other to whom we can direct our love and give ourselves completely.

In order for us to relate to the fullness of God, then, we need a feminine dynamic in which we can relate to Him—who is more than 'masculine'. We refer to God in the masculine because He is the initiator of all that is and that dynamic is in its most natural essence, masculine. However, in Him is the fullness of Love from which flows Love in all of its dynamics, masculine and feminine. This is where Mary comes in.

It is in Mary that we find the feminine dynamic of love that is the corollary of the Fatherhood of God. She is the daughter of the Father, the spouse of the Holy Spirit, and the Mother of Jesus. In these distinct movements of feminine love we find in Mary the perfect human complement of the Love of God. *In Mary we see the perfect creaturely response to the Creator*. This is important to us on two different levels.

Mary is the perfect example for all of us no matter what our gender is. Before God, Who is the initiator, we are all 'feminine'. (This is why classical spiritual authors always refer to the soul as 'she'.) It is in this regard (Daughter) that we all need to imitate her.

Mary is also for us the relational source of the femininity of God's Love as Spouse/Mother. Mary is no more divine than we are, yet by virtue of her Immaculate Conception, unlike us, she completely exercises the divine love given to her by God. Moreover, in Marriage we understand that the 'two' become 'one'. So, as Spouse of the Holy Spirit, there is a oneness between God and Mary that is unique.

Perfect daughter, spouse, and mother, Mary provides for us the 'feminine' dynamic in which we can relate to God from our human and binary experience of love.

Saturday		Dec 30
8:30 AM	Dominic & Grace Rinaldi	
4:00 PM	Jean & Jack Manoog	
Sunday		Dec 31
9 AM	Members of the Parish	
11AM	Daniel & Jeannette Birmingham	
1 PM	Judith D'Agostino	
Monday:		Jan 1
8:30 AM	Adelia Dominic	
Tuesday:		Jan 2
8:30 AM	Margaret Kelly	
Wednesday:		Jan 3
8:30 AM	Joseph S. Mahoney	
Thursday		Jan 4
8:30 AM	Leslie Campbell	
Friday		Jan 5
8:30 PM	Thomas Andrew George	
Saturday		Jan 6
8:30 AM	Special Intention	
4:00 PM	Adelia Dominic	
Sunday		Jan 7
9 AM	Members of the Parish	
11AM	John Barry	
1 PM	Rev. Henry T. Munroe	

~ SACRED HEART CHAPEL ~

Saturday		Dec 30
4 PM	Joseph Paul Keohane	
Sunday		Dec 31
8 AM	William Johnson	
Saturday		Jan 6
4 PM	Adele Snee	
Sunday		Jan 7
8 AM	Jim Davis	



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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:

DOMINIC AND GRACE RINALDI

COLLECTIONS

St. Francis Xavier Church
Sacred Heart Chapel

December 24, 2017 - \$14,370
St. Vincent DePaul - \$ 1,165

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...

Coffee and Fellowship gatherings have been suspended but will resume **January 7, 2018**. Do join us each Sunday morning after 9 and 11AM Masses, in the Lower Church Hall, at St. Francis, for coffee and fellowship.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CATHOLIC FOUNDATION - DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

The **Diocese of Fall River** is standing on the threshold of a life-changing chapter in its 113-year history, and is currently seeking to fill its newly created full-time position of **Executive Director for The Catholic Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts**. This fundraising leader will broaden, deepen and expand the relationships with current and future donors, and will work closely with Bishop da Cunha and the Board of Directors to ensure the appropriate strategies are developed and implemented. This once in a lifetime opportunity will be both challenging and rewarding. For a full description of the position, please go to www.fallriverdiocese.org and click on "Employment Opportunities", or contact Peter Powers, Executive Director of Human Resources and Administration, at (508)985-6507, or by e-mail at ppowers@dioc-fr.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RAFFLE WINNERS

K of C Council 2525, 500 Club monthly raffle
December winners are:

\$250.00	Thomas Flaherty	Cummaquid
\$100.00	Mary Kleeman	W.Yarmouth
\$ 50.00	Jean McNamara	Hyannis
\$ 50.00	Rita Donovan	Whitman
\$ 50.00	Fr. Mike Fitzpatrick	Hyannis

You can join anytime for \$50.00 and you will participate in 12 consecutive Monthly drawings with 60 chances to win. Applications are available in the box outside of the K of C Hall entrance at Our Lady of Victory Parish. For more information see kofccouncil2525@comcast.net or call 508.775.4054.

**THE PARISH NURSE WILL BE
IN THE OFFICE ON
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3
FROM 9AM TO 11AM**

(following 8:30 AM Mass)



**THE PARISH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, JANUARY 1
HAPPY AND BLESSED
NEW YEAR TO ALL.**

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SPIRITUALITY FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

- JAN 10

A mini-retreat series will begin the New Year with **"Follow Your Bliss"** led by Peggy Patenaude of Taking Time Out. It will be held on Wednesday, January 10 at Sacred Hearts Retreat Center in Wareham, MA from 10:00am -12:30pm. (Coffee at 9:30) Cost is \$25. Pre-registration required. Contact Peggy at 508-548-9149 or timeoutretreats@comcast.net. For more information, visit www.timeoutretreats.com.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

- JAN 19-21

Give your children the best gift possible - the abiding love between their parents. Learn how to encourage it by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Jan 19-21, 2018 in South Kingstown, RI and Mar 9-11, 2018 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PREPARATORY SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018

9:30 -11:00 A.M.

Looking for an exceptional middle school experience for your child? St. Francis Xavier Preparatory School cordially invites you and your family to attend Open House, Friday, January 19, 9:30 - 11:00 A.M. Receive a tour from a current SFXP student; observe classes in session; and learn about the rigorous academics, rich array of co-curricular opportunities and our faith-filled, structured environment. For more information, please contact Mrs. Jenn Canzano, Admissions Director, at [508-862-6336](tel:508-862-6336) or email jcanano@sfxp.org. Visit www.sfxp.org. Financial aid is available.

ST. JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL PREVIEW NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2018

6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

Join JP II administrators, faculty members, guidance counselors, athletic director, JP II parents and students to learn about the benefits of a St. John Paul II High School education. This relaxed, conversational presentation features valuable information concerning, Academic Program, Athletic Program, College Counseling, Co-Curricular offerings, Financial Aid Information, Performing and Visual Arts, Spiritual Life, and Student Life. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers as well as individual consultations and tours. Registration is not required. For more information, please contact Mrs. Jenn Canzano, Admissions Director, at [508-862-6336](tel:508-862-6336) or email jcanzano@jp.dfrcs.org. Visit www.sjp2hs.org. Financial aid is available.

OFFICE FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Teen suicide remains a serious issue in our area and across the country. There are warning signs that can alert parents, caretakers, and professionals to the potential for suicide in any teen. If you would like more information on this topic, please call the Office for Child Protection at (508) 997-7337. (48)

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WINTER BRUNCH TO SUPPORT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The 13th annual Foundation to Advance Catholic Education, Inc., (FACE) winter brunch will be hosted by The Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., Bishop of Fall River. The event will take place on Sunday, February 4, 2018, at the Coonamessett Inn of Falmouth. Proceeds from the event benefit FACE, which provides need-based scholarships to children attending Catholic schools on Cape Cod and throughout southeastern Massachusetts.

Mary and Larry McGrath, Esq. are serving as co-chairs for this year's event and with their committee are planning an afternoon of delicious food, children's entertainment and merriment.

Beginning at 11:30 a.m., the festivities will include an award winning Sunday brunch buffet, silent auction and a fun filled raffle with fantastic prizes.

In his letter of invitation to the winter brunch, Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., notes the ongoing challenge to maintain Catholic schools and to provide a quality Catholic education to thousands of children.

"We know that with the generous help of dedicated people like you, we can meet this challenge. Together we will continue making Catholic education available to as many children as we possibly can," writes the Bishop.

The FACE winter brunch offers a great opportunity to help support Catholic education in the Fall River Diocese. For details, including ticket information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Jane Robin at 508-759-3566.

A WOMAN'S BIBLE STUDY AT CHRIST THE KING PARISH - MASHPEE WOULD YOU LIKE MORE FROM YOUR FAITH?

"WWP Scripture studies with practical application to life today; provoking questions; reflection and prayer, are all incredible tools to help you become the woman God created you to be." - Lisa Brenninkmeyer founder of WWP

Take time for yourself to renew your Faith

No Bible experience necessary

Meet women from several parishes.

Weekly groups:

Tuesdays 9 to 11 AM and Thursday evenings 7 to 9 PM

Parish of Christ the King, Mashpee - Classroom B

WWPMashpee@aol.com

(call Christ the King Parish for exact dates for the new year)