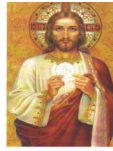


MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday March 5, 2016
Vigil for Sunday
 5:30pm Raffaella Baiardi and Luca Palumbo

Sunday March 6, 2016
 7:30am All Parishioners of SFX
 9:30am Joseph Milone
 11:15am John Praino
 12:30pm Michael Manniello

Monday March 7, 2016
 7:30am Flora Landi
 9:00am Addolorata Iaffaldano

Tuesday March 8, 2016
 7:30am Bernardo Picca
 9:00am Domenico Delli Carpini

Wednesday March 9, 2016
 7:30am Carle Schmidt, Jr.
 9:00am Giuseppe Bruno

Thursday March 10, 2016
 7:30am
 9:00am Antonio Cipollone

Friday March 11, 2016
 7:30am Manuel and Aida SanPascual
 9:00am Antonio Cipollone
 7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 12, 2016
 7:30am Antonio Cipollone
 9:00am Maria Avellino

Vigil for Sunday
 5:30pm Leona F. Harrison

Sunday March 13—Fifth
 7:30am All Parishioners SFX
 9:30am Giovanni Assalone
 11:15am Louis Lombardi
 12:30pm Rita and Thomas Leanza

There are still Masses available for 2016. Please come to the Rectory Monday through Saturday from 9-5pm or Sunday from 1pm-5pm.



SAVE THE DATES: St. Francis Xavier Holy Week Parish Mission "Lord, Have Mercy! Receiving from God What We Need But Don't Deserve" preached by Fr. Glenn Sudano, CFR on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of Holy Week, March 21, 22 and 23 at 7:30pm each evening. Please see flier in bulletin.

MONDAY NIGHT TALKS ON THE MASS DURING LENT BY FR. MATTHEW REIMAN: March 7 and 14 in the lower Rectory at 7:30pm

Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 7:00pm on March 11, 18 and 25.

PALM CROSSES will be available for purchase after Masses in the Vestibule of the Church beginning this weekend, March 5th and 6th. Sponsored by the Confirmation students.



Easter Flowers can be memorialized in honor of loved ones. Each \$25 donation can be memorialized with up to three names which will be published in the bulletin after Easter. Easter envelopes are in the Vestibule of the Church.



St. Francis Xavier School: Good luck to our Science Fair winners who will be competing in the Bronx-wide Fair on March 10th. The boys and their dads are looking forward to Boys' Night on Friday, March 11th. Registration for new students is ongoing. **For online application for St. Francis Xavier School and increased financial assistance go to www.CatholicSchoolsNY.org or call 646-794-2885.** Contact the school office at 718-863-0531 for a tour. Visit the school website for updated information.




Religious Education—Learning to live our Catholic faith 24/7: The children of Religious Education and "Wednesdays With Jesus" have raised enough money for one more rabbit (total of three rabbits) for a needy farm through Catholic Relief Services. Congratulations on their Works of Mercy! This week the children of UPK "Wednesdays With Jesus" are learning about the Tabernacle, the Monstrance and "The Good Shepherd." Sunday Religious Education and "Wednesdays With Jesus" is made possible through the generosity of our volunteers who bring our beautiful Catholic faith to our children without getting paid to do it. May God bless them always!

Big Deal Supermarket & Holy Name Society "LENTEN FUNDRAISER" now through Easter Sunday, March 27th. A percentage of all sales will be donated to St. Francis Xavier. Just drop your sales receipt into the jar labeled Lenten Fundraiser. Delivery & phone orders please call 718-824-7571. For phone orders, please tell Big Deal to drop sales receipt in jar. Please see flier in Church Vestibule.

Thank you Xavier Players & SFX Teen Choir for donating \$1,310 to the Church from the production of "Broadway Night."

Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal Easter Food Drive: Needed are non-perishable-canned food and monetary donations for hams. Please drop off food in bins in Vestibule of Church before March 12/13 or during the week in the Rectory.

Next Week's Readings (Fifth Sunday of Lent): Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126:1-2,2-3,4-5, 6 (3); Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11



Weekly Collection (Parish Pay Included)
 February 28, 2016: \$5,235
Second Collection (Catholic Relief Services): \$1,198

Collection Last Year (Parish Pay Included) 2015
 March 1, 2015: \$7,032
 March 15 (Catholic Relief Services): \$1,181
 Thank you for your generosity. May God Bless you.



Dear Parishioners,

Last weekend we had the joy of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time with the children of our School and Religious Education Program preparing for their First Holy Communion in May. What a joy it is to be part of the work of teaching our children our beautiful Catholic Faith, about the Mercy of God, and the boundless love that He has for each and every one of them. The innocence and purity of heart of these precious children remind us of what our hearts should be like. Jesus came to make us new, to give us a new heart, to return us to the innocence and purity we lost by sin. As St. Paul put it in our second reading today: *"Whoever is in Christ is a new creation in Christ: old things have passed away; behold, new things have come, and all this is from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ..."* That is the cause of our Joy on this Fourth Sunday of Lent, traditionally called *Laetare Sunday*, a Latin word which means *Rejoice!*

The Love of God the Father, who is rich in Mercy, is illustrated so beautifully in today's Gospel of the beloved and rich parable of the *Prodigal Son*. In the dictionary, the word *prodigal* is defined as wastefully extravagant, giving in abundance, lavish and excessive in spending. Indeed the prodigal son squandered and wasted his father's inheritance. He demanded his share of his father's estate that would come to him when his father died, basically saying he wished his father was dead. Taking the money, he squandered it on decadent living until he had nothing and was reduced to eating the food of pigs. Then *"coming to his senses"* he realizes how good it was to be in his father's house. He decides to go back to his father, but never expecting to be accepted back as his father's son. He only hoped to be taken in as a hired worker so he could at least survive and have food to eat.

Yes, the younger son was prodigal, lavish and excessive in squandering his inheritance. But can we not also say that the Father was prodigal, too, lavish and excessive in Mercy? In justice that son deserved a severe condemnation and punishment. Instead, his Father runs out to embrace him, welcomes him home, restores to him the dignity of being his son, a member of his household, and heir to all that he has. This is what God is like with us as well when we squander His Grace by sin, but then *come to our senses* and repent. As Pope Francis put it, *"The Name of God is Mercy."* This is what should fill us with so much hope and so much joy on this *Laetare Sunday*.

All this need not remain abstract for us, but is brought home to each one of us in a concrete and most personal way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

No matter where we have been or what we have done, we always have the opportunity to *come to our senses*, to return to our Father's House, and be welcomed home as His Sons and Daughters in this beautiful Sacrament of Divine Mercy. There are still plenty of opportunities left to get to Confession, especially during Holy Week (See the flier inserted in today's bulletin.) Please do not let Lent go by without making a good Confession. No matter how long it has been, you will be welcomed with great Joy and leave with an inner Peace that the world cannot give or take away. May God bless us all.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Matthew J. Furey



Cardinal Dolan is asking for your support of the vital ministries, programs and services provided through the *Cardinal's Appeal* each year. Invest in your faith and your parish by making your gift to the 2016 Appeal. Please fill out your pledge card and send it in, or drop it in the collection or at the Rectory. Extra pledge envelopes are available in the Vestibule of the Church. You can also make a gift online: www.cardinalsappeal.org. If you have already made a pledge, thank you!

SFX CARD PARTY COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE GREAT GATSBY

Thursday, April 14, 2016. Please call Liane Weihe 347-410-2744. Please see flier in Church vestibule.

St. Clare of Assisi: The mission in Italian on March 12th, Saturday at 1:00pm by Deacon Vincenzo La Gamba. Reflections for women on March 19th at 1:00pm by Kathy Jankowski. Please call Rectory at 718-863-8974.

Catholic Teachers in Public Schools Annual Mass & Communion

Breakfast: April 2, 2016, 9am to 1pm, The RiverView, One Warburton Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. Please see fliers in Vestibule..

Weekly Reflections on Sunday Gospel Readings by our own

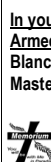
Fr. Ralph Verdi. Go to: rcvolgc.wix.com/wordsofasoul.



Please remember the following

members of our parish community in your prayers:

William Ahearn, Dennis Aiello, Edwardo Alicea, Mary Annunzio, Judith Arriaga, Betty Barbagallo, Dottie Barry, Nettie Bianchini, Joe Blandino, Nellie Calderon, Louis Campisi, Flavia Chiappa, Marie Ciacco, Theodore Civetta, Jenny Cioffi, Loreen Clavin, Lorraine Capozzi, Yolanda Carrozza, Angelo Caruso, Brenda Colon, Mary Cozzocrea, Joanne Cunneen, Patsy D'Agostino, Richard Daum, Margaret Mary Dean, Carlann Defedele, Antoinette DeLillo, Baby Colin Depriest, Al & Dot DeSantis, Patrick Dolan, Baby Max D'Onofrio, Carmella Emily DonVito, Mario Esguerra, Cheryl Espinoza, John Esposito, Esther Finn, Carmen Flores, Billy Fischer, Rosemarie Flatley, Luis Paz Florencio, Sr., Peter Frenna, Bill Ford, Donald Gallagher, Maritza Garcia, Brian Gillick, Alexis Marie Gonzalez, Cora Gonzales, John Hastings, Charlotte Hayes, Kerry White Hemmer, Laura Lifrieri Hernandez, Gloria Irizarry, Frances Jenkins, Felix Jaiman, Emily Koch (6-yr. old), Janet Kreage, Rosemarie Leo, Margaret Leonard, Ann Kittle, Angela Lifrieri, Gloria Lisanti, Lucy Lorusso, Barbara Lyne, Andy Massa, Vincent (Jimmy) Mastrogiovanni, Paul McAllister, Theresa McDermott, Jennie Miraglia, Maria Mayo, Maria Mazzella, Marjorie Morales, John Mullane, Brianan Murtagh, John Muzzillo, Michael Nichols, Paige O'Donnell, Kerry O'Keefe, Rosa Maria Ortiz, Louie Paone, Ralph Palumbo, Sylvia Pankovcin, Virginia Parthen, Richard Quartarone, Barbara R. and Mollie R, Giselle Ramos, Thomas J. Reardon, Blake Rosenn, Angela Rizzo, Alejandra Rosario, Rosa Russo, Gloria Santaniello, Maureen Dean Schmidt, Theresa Smith, Niko Stravrianopoulos (3-yr. old), Marie Swain, Paul Teehan, Frank Toapha, Justina Torres, Patricia Trainor, Lori Mayer Tricoli, Dominick Villara, Christopher Vitale, Kathy Vitale, George Walsh, Gary Wieler, Jonathan Wilson (12-year old), Ottilia Zangrandi, Madelyn Ziesel



In your prayers please remember all the men and women serving in our

Armed Forces, especially: Zachary Piragnoli, Nick Visconti, Christopher C. Cannata, Carlos E. Blanco, Emmanuel Martinez, Lt. Michael Tafone, Cpl. Christopher Anthony, Cpt. Brian Pascuzzi, Master Sgt. Janelle Amador, Anthony Thomas Candito, Sgt. Troy Mastin, 1st Lt. Nicholas Cardiello

Pray for those who have died: Maria Teresa Ciaccio, Claire Cardinale and Michelle Marie D'Amour



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER Holy Week Mission with Father Glenn Sudano, C.F.R.

Palm Sunday, March 20th:

Father Glenn will preach at all the Masses.

Palms will be blessed and distributed at all Masses:

**Saturday Vigil, 5:30pm and Sunday, 7:30am, 9:30am,
11:15am and 12:30pm**

Monday, March 21st at 7:30pm:

The Mercy of God the Father

We have a Father who reveals in creation His goodness, generosity, and *over abundant* LOVE; Confession available after Talk

Tuesday, March 22nd at 7:30pm:

The Mercy of God the Son

And this unconditional LOVE is revealed and made flesh in the person of Jesus Christ
Confession available after Talk

Wednesday, March 23rd at 7:30pm: The Mercy of God the Holy Spirit

Who pours out His underserved LOVE upon each of us and works in us, His Mystical Body, the Church!

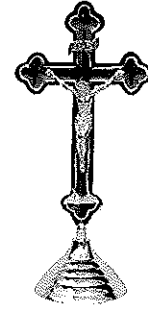
Eucharistic Healing Procession

"Fr. Glenn Sudano, CFR, is a founding member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, a community begun by eight Capuchin friars in the spring of 1987. The community, which presently has over 120 members and 15 friaries, was founded to care for the poor and to preach renewal and reform in the Church. After spending many years in formation and leadership positions in the community, he now serves others through spiritual direction, pastoral counseling, spiritual deliverance ministry, preaching parish missions, and other forms of evangelization."

***Come to the St. Francis Xavier Parish Mission and
see how to receive Divine Mercy
—not because we deserve it, but because we need it!***



St. Francis Xavier



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We have a Father who reveals in creation His goodness, generosity,
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And this unconditional LOVE is revealed and made flesh in the person of Jesus Christ
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The Mercy of God the Holy Spirit
Who pours out His underserved LOVE upon each of us and works in us,
His Mystical Body, the Church!
Eucharistic Healing Procession

Confession will also be available in the Church:

Monday, March 21st: 1:00pm to 9:00pm (Reconciliation Monday)
Tuesday, March 22nd: 10:00am to 4:00pm
Wednesday, March 23rd: 10:00am to 4:00pm
Saturday, March 26th: 4:00pm to 5:00pm

EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday:

9:00am Solemn Morning Prayer (Tenebrae)
7:30pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper
(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Altar of Repose until Midnight.)

Good Friday:

9:00am Solemn Morning Prayer (Tenebrae)
3:00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday:

9:00am Solemn Morning Prayer (Tenebrae)
8:00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday Masses:

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:15am & 12:30pm