



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

Bishop da Cunha's 2019 Christmas Message

Dear friends in Christ,

During these dreary, cold and dark days of December, we long for light and warmth. As we are affected by the darkness of these winter days, we also feel the impact of what is happening in the world around us. If we pay attention to what is happening in our political discourse and even what is happening in the Church, we have reason to be discouraged. We long for light, wisdom and guidance in times of turmoil, uncertainty and confusion.

This is why God sent His Son Jesus, and this is where faith comes in. If we think of the time and place Jesus came, those weren't much better than our time and place. Darkness, doubt, confusion, violence, and wars were all around. It was exactly to that situation that God sent Jesus to bring light and peace.

As we celebrate Jesus' coming this Christmas, let us pause to reflect, remember and recognize that He comes in the midst of all this brokenness, darkness, confusion and sin, to rescue us. He did just that in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago and He still does it today, if only we open our hearts to welcome Him.

This year, more than ever, we need the light, guidance and presence of Jesus in our lives and in our world. We recognize that we need the presence of Jesus, we recognize that without His presence the world is in trouble and we are going to pay the price. But the problem is that sometimes we say we need Jesus but we may not be ready to make room for Him. We may be too busy with too many preoccupations of this world and we may keep the doors of our hearts closed. Unless we open the door, allow Him to come in and make room for Him, we will not experience His presence. What is Christmas without the presence of Jesus? Take Jesus out of Christmas and it will not be Christmas at all. It will just be another social event that comes and goes and the world remains in the same darkness.

So let us truly make this Christmas all about Jesus, all about the celebration of His birth, all about His coming and becoming human like us; about His emptying of Himself to take our human condition, so we may experience the love God has for us. I hope the words of Scripture will take a different meaning for us this year, that we will hear those words in a different way, in a manner that penetrates and transforms hearts, minds and lives. Let us listen to the words of the Gospel of St. John telling us: "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14), or "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him" (Jn 3:16-17). These beautiful, inspired and inspiring words from the Gospel of John can have a special significance when heard in the Christmas context.

So, my dear friends, I invite you to gather as families this year in faith, hope and prayer to make this a real celebration centered on Jesus, Who is the reason for the season. As you open the doors of your homes to welcome relatives and friends who come home or come to visit during this Christmastime, make sure you also open the door of your heart to welcome Jesus. I send you my prayers and sincere best wishes for a truly blessed and Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones.

Merry Christmas! Feliz Natal! Feliz Navidad! Joyeau Noel!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

47 Underwood Street • Fall River, Massachusetts 02720-3701
Telephone: 508-675-1311 • Facsimile: 508-679-9220

December 22, 2019

Holy Family Parish—370 Middleboro Avenue—P.O. Box 619 East Taunton, MA 02718

Encounter Christ in the Sacraments

Holy Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m.
Daily Mass: Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.
(The rosary is prayed prior to daily Mass at 7:35 a.m.)

Sacrament of Confession:

Saturdays from 3-3:50 PM at Holy Family.

Eucharistic Adoration

(in the Parish Center Chapel)
Mondays-Fridays 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

The Rosary is prayed every Monday in the chapel from 6-7 pm for Vocations. All are welcome to come and pray.

Sacrament of Baptism

By appointment. Parents must contact the Priest or Deacon for an appointment.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Those parishioners wishing to be married at our parish must contact the Priest or Deacon **at least 8 months** before the date of the wedding.

Visitation and Anointing of the Sick

We are pleased to anoint and/or bring Communion to any parishioner who cannot participate at Mass for reasons of illness or age. Please contact us.

Bulletin Submissions —

Please email bulletinholyfamily@gmail.com with any announcements at least one week in advance of the publication date.

Please Pray for the Following:

Gail Nigloschy & Family	Jacqueline Van Dyke
Evelyn Driscoll	Kevin Gallagher & Family
Deborah Lewis	Marc DeSousa
Jim & Adeline Marques	Lindsey and Theo
Mary daSilvia	Tara Ramos
Steve Kennealy	Janice Fitzpatrick
Carmen Sousa	Liam Quinn
Meg Goslin	Patrick Lynch
Sr. Anita Marie	Lorraine Moisan
Annie Rose	Sylvia Medeiros
Adam Gannon	Kate Powlowsky
Steven Bois	Lorraine Rapoza
Susan Feinberg	Julia Lopes
Heather Gacheco	Marianne Powers
Luzia & Adelino Grazito	Denis Candlen
Dennis Medeiros	Jean Poole
Edward Kerrigan	Aaron Lewis

Welcome

To any new parishioners or those who might be visiting our parish family this week! Please introduce yourself to the Fr. Wilson or Deacon Kevin. We are so happy you have joined us!

About Us

Parish Center

438 Middleboro Ave., E. Taunton, MA 02718

Office Hours

Monday–Friday from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Phone Numbers

Rectory: 508-824-5665
Parish Center: 508-824-5707
Faith Formation: 508-824-3578
Fax -508-822-2915

Website: <http://www.hfparish.net>

Parish Staff

Fr. Richard Wilson, *Pastor*
fatherwilson@anchornews.org

Rev. David S. Marcham, *Visiting Priest*
dmarcham@hcfm.org

Rev. Mr. John J. Fitzpatrick, *Deacon* (retired)
zekefitz29@gmail.com

Rev. Mr. Kevin Gingras, *Deacon*
kpingras@gmail.com.

JR Pimentel, *Director of Music Ministry*
mmpjr315@comcast.net

Tracey Desmarais, *Secretary*
secretary@holyfamilytaunton.org

That Man Is YOU!
tmiy@holyfamilytaunton.org

Mary C. Anderson, *Organist*
Steve Woolson and Dave LeClair, *Maintenance*

Sarah Parker, *Sacristan*

Dave Jolivet, *Rectory Assistant*

Recurring Events

St. Vincent DePaul Society

2nd Wednesday at 7:00pm

Knights of Columbus

1st Wednesday at 7:00pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry

2nd Wednesday at 1:00pm

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available:

- Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6 pm at St. Ann's Church in Raynham (Father Rich will be at both of those services)
- Tuesday, Dec. 24 after the 8 am Mass
- Tuesday, Dec. 24 between 2:45 and 3:30 pm
- Thursday, Dec. 26 after the 8 am Mass

Christmas Mass times:

- 4:00 vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at both the church and also the parish center. Please note that the church tends to fill up early and quickly, and once it does, we ask that you proceed to the parish center if the lot is full at the church.
- Midnight Mass at the church
- 10:00 AM Christmas day at the church.

Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day) Mass times:

- *5:00 pm vigil Mass on 12/31/19
 - *11pm Holy Hour on 12/31, followed by Midnight Mass
 - *8am, Noon, and 6:30pm on January 1st
- Please note that the Noon Mass will be for the intentions on the Angel Trees.

Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances, there will not be an Advent presentation this year at 2pm on December 22nd as noted in the Advent letter that was mailed out.

On January 2nd, the Mass Intention book will open for dates July 1-December 31, 2020. Please note that you can book up to 3 Mass Intentions during that time frame beginning January 2, 2020. Additionally, if there are any weekday Masses remaining from January -June, 2020, you may book more Masses during those months. The donation for a Mass is \$10.

Mass for Married and Engaged Couples:

On Sunday, December 29, which is the Feast of the Holy Family, we will be having a special Mass for married and engaged couples. This will take place at the 10:30 Mass. Couples will receive a blessing during the Mass, and a light reception will follow in the basement of the church. All are welcome to attend.

Faith Formation will not be held the weekends of December 21/22nd or December 28/29th for Christmas break.

Classes will resume the weekend of January 4/5th. Have a wonderful Christmas vacation!



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 21

- 8:00 Karen Coughlin
- 4:00 Margaret Carvalho-21st anniversary
Antone Silvia, Jr.-2nd anniversary

Sunday, December 22

- 7:30 Jose & Maria Maranhas
- 9:00 Rosemarie Olivadesa
- 10:30 For the People of the Parish

Monday, December 23

- 8:00 Cecelia Majkut

Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

- 8:00 Maria Medeiros
- 4:00 (church) Brett Ploude-4th Anniversary
- 4:00 (PC) Carl & Dora Dutra
Joyce H. Gaddy
Beatrice A. Lagace

Midnight: For the People of the Parish

Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas)

- 10:00 AM: Theodore (Jeff) Aleixo, Sr.

Thursday, December 26

- 8:00 Jacinto & Maria Paiva

Friday, December 27

- 8:00 Cornelius J. O'Neill

Saturday, December 28

- 8:00 Special Intention
- 4:00 For the People of the Parish

Sunday, December 29

- 7:30 Stephen Thrasher
- 9:00 Mary Horgan-30th Anniversary
- 10:30 Joseph Victorino-1st Anniversary



SAVE THE DATE:

The Fall River Diocese 2020 Women and Men's Conference will take place on Saturday, March 7, at Stonehill College in Easton. Response over the past 3 years has been very positive to this one-day Lenten program that features noted speakers, music, Mass, fellowship and more. So, please mark your 2020 calendar now and watch for details on the Women & Men's Conference in the coming months.

If you are still interested in joining the Century Club,

it's not too late! Applications are by the doors of the church and at the parish center. There are still 8 more months of \$25 raffles out of the 10 AND the big raffles that occur during the dinner in October. You can pay the \$100 annual dues monthly, or all at once.

Do you have a truck with a snow plow?

Would you be interested in helping us by plowing occasionally to help defray the cost of snow removal this winter? If so, please contact Tracey or Dave in the office or Fr. Rich. Thanks so much!

VOCATION PRAYER CROSS: It's a new year coming up in just a couple of weeks! We have a new sign up sheet for the Vocation Prayer Cross located on the table at the back of the church for the first 6 months of 2020. Let's fill it up! You can take a week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks... whatever you'd like! What better resolution than to help pray for vocations! If you've never done it before, there's a book of prayers that come with the cross. You simply take the cross and booklet home when you come to Mass on the weekend, pray during the week using the book, and then return the cross and booklet the following week.

The 2020 Fall River Area Support Group:

This is a support group to help people cope with the loss of a loved one. Losing someone we love truly hurts, leaving us with so many unanswered questions and a multitude of conflicting emotions. At first, we may turn to family and friends to share our grief; but as time goes on, we may find it difficult to reach out to them. This support group meets on Tuesdays from 7-9pm at the Catholic Education Center, 423 Highland Ave., Fall River, MA from 7-9pm. The sessions are each 6 weeks long. They are: January 21-February 25, March 10-April 14, May 12-June 23, July 21-September 1, & September 29-November 10th. There are no fees and parking is available adjacent to the building. For more information, or to register, please call 508-675-1311, ext. 6701, or email rsaraiiva@dfrcs.org

ATTENTION ALL ADORERS-

Going forward, Janice Connors will be taking over as head of emergency Adoration coverage. There will be updated substitute sheets available by the end of the month in the chapel with her contact information on it. Once you've been unsuccessful finding coverage for your hour as one of our Adorers on your own, or if you have an emergency, you'll contact Janice (or one of her team members) for assistance instead of the office. Thank you!

The Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program

needs more team couples-both newly married and veterans (age is not a consideration). We constantly hear from those working in the program, how much they get out of their involvement. The Diocesan Marriage Preparation program meets in 3 locations: Mansfield, Dartmouth, and Dennisport on Cape Cod. In each location, there is a team of volunteers that facilitate 3-5 sessions per year. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please email or call the Office of Faith Formation at bboneau@dioc-fr.org or call 508-675-1311, Ext. 6702.

World Wide Marriage Encounter- Give your spouse a special gift this Christmas by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Mar 13-15, 2020 in Duxbury, MA and Apr 18-19, 2020 in BREWSTER, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

SPECIAL ADORATION HOURS:

Christmas Eve: 11am-2:30pm

Christmas Day: Closed

December 23, 26, 27, & 30: **Regular hours** (11am-10pm)

New Year's Eve (12/31-Vigil for Solemnity of Mary Holy Day): 11am-4:30pm

January 1: Closed

January 2: Regular Hours (11am-10pm)

January 3: First Friday **at the church** beginning after the 8am Mass. Rosary for vocations @ 7:15pm, and Benediction at 7:45pm.

January 4: First Saturday at the parish center from 10am-3pm

Masses around Taunton- With the collaboratives of the parishes in the central part of Taunton, some new Masses times have become available. **Monday** nights there is Mass in English at Annunciation of the Lord at 6:30 pm (there is also a Portuguese Mass Mondays at St. Anthony's at 6 pm). **Fridays** there is a noon Mass at St. Mary's (in the side chapel), as well as a Spanish Mass at 6 pm.



The Pro-Life Apostolate is sponsoring its Annual Essay Contest to focus on the upcoming anniversary date of Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton, the decisions which legalized abortion on demand in this country. Our Theme this year is "**CHRIST OUR HOPE: In Every Season of Life.**"

Essays will be grouped and judged in two categories according to grade level: Grade 6, 7, and 8 comprise the first category and Grades 9 through 12 comprise the second category. First Prize winners will be awarded \$150 cash and Second Prize will be \$75 cash. Contact the Faith Formation office for further information. Deadline for submission of entries is February 14, 2020.

If you're looking for that perfect Christmas gift for someone special, please consider a gift subscription to The Anchor, the official Catholic newspaper of the Fall River Diocese. For just \$25 a year (or \$45 for two years), The Anchor is something they'll cherish and appreciate year-round.

To subscribe, please send a check payable to "The Anchor" to 887 Highland Avenue, Fall River, Mass. 02720. Or you can subscribe online using any major credit or debit card at <http://www.anchornews.org/contact/subscribe.html>.

13 Day Rome and Holy Land Pilgrimage September 6-18, 2020

Join Father Jason Brilhante and fellow pilgrims on a life-time experience to Rome, Assisi, and the Holy Land where Jesus himself was born, lived, and began his public ministry. Some of the highlights of the pilgrimage include attending a Papal Audience where pilgrims are present for the Holy Father's weekly catechesis, a visit to Assisi where the much beloved Saint Francis is entombed, and then on to the Holy Land. There, pilgrims will visit Cana where Jesus turned water in to wine, the Church of the Nativity where Jesus was born, and many more holy sites. The pilgrimage includes roundtrip airfare from Boston, two meals a day, and first class hotels for accommodations. For more information about the pilgrimage, please visit www.inspirationaltoursinc.com, or email Father Jason Brilhante at fr.jason.brilhante@gmail.com.

TMIY will be on break until January 18th.

All men are invited to join us when we resume for the 2nd half of the program at the Parish Center from 6:15am -7:45am on Saturdays. Breakfast is served at every meeting!

THANK YOU to all of you during our Advent season for all your support! There were so many instances where our Parish Family came together to help both the church, and also our community as a whole. Many of you purchased gifts for the annual giving trees, or gave food to our SVDP group so that those in our area wouldn't go without this Christmas. Thank you to SVDP for organizing the program and putting in countless hours preparing the days leading up to, and the day of the distribution of the food baskets and gifts. Thank you to those who gave of their time to clean the church and those who decorated the church and parish center, as well as those who donated toward flowers, so that we might have a beautiful Parish in which to worship. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus and the other volunteers that made our breakfast with Santa a success. Thank you to all the Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and our magnificent choir for helping to make our Masses beautiful, not just during Advent and Christmas, but the whole year through. We are incredibly blessed to have such a strong sense of community here at Holy Family Church. May God Bless you all! Merry Christmas!

The parish office will be closed on December 24/25th in observance of Christmas, and also December 31/January 1st for New Year's and the Holy Day.

Fr. Rich will be celebrating Mass at Lifecare for the residents and their families on December 26th at 2:30pm

Please join us after any of the Masses the weekend of January 4/5th to thank our seminarian, Matt Laird, for all that he's done here for us at Holy Family over the last year. We'll be having a light dessert/pastry reception after all the Masses that weekend so you can with him well during the remainder of his time pursuing the priesthood as he will be heading back to the seminary that week. On Saturday, January 4th, those wishing to stop by for a quick bite and to talk to Matt can go to the Parish Center after the 4:00 Mass because there is a wedding at the church following Mass. On Sunday, please join Matt downstairs in the basement of the church after any of the Masses. Anyone wishing to help by baking a dessert or pastry or be willing to help with set-up/clean-up, please call Tracey in the office. Thank you all in advance for helping us give Matt a warm send-off with our sincerest gratitude.



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