

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH OF ACUSHNET ADULT EDUCATION 2015 -2016

YEAR OF MERCY: HOW TO BE MORE MERCIFUL – OCTOBER 4 & 6

Janine Hammarquist

The Holy Father has declared a Year of Mercy starting in December of 2015 ending in November of 2016. In light of this forthcoming year dedicated to Mercy we will cover these and other questions. What does the church teach on Mercy? What does Pope Francis say in "The Face of Mercy"? How can we practice the Works of Mercy within our families? How can we become more aware of God's Mercy? How can we learn how to accept God's Mercy through the Sacraments? How can we extend Mercy to one another, and practice the Spiritual & Corporal Works of Mercy?

Janine Hammarquist grew up in New Bedford. She came to St. Francis Xavier in 1997; where she taught Religious Education for many years and was involved with Youth group and Peer Ministry until taking the position of Coordinator of Religious Education. She sits on the Diocesan Faith Formation Advisory Board and has been a leader for CLI (Christian Leadership Institute), leadership training experience for high school youth throughout the diocese. She continues to further her education through the Satellite Theological STEP Education Program through Notre Dame University. She and her husband Michael reside in New Bedford with their 3 children.

LIVING A LIFE OF GRACE – OCTOBER 25 & 27

Steve Guillotte

Catholics often hear about grace. We hear about it in the readings at Holy Mass; the priest speaks about it in his homily; even people we know speak sometimes about "being graced." But when Christ and his Church speak about grace do we mean the same thing as those who speak of it in the lunch room or in the movies? In this session we will examine the origin of grace, what it does in man, the various forms or manifestations of grace, what it means when we say the Blessed Virgin Mary is "full of grace", and why it is so imperative that each of us sets our mind and heart on living a life of grace!

Steven Guillotte is SFX Parish Director of Pastoral Services. Besides directing the parish operations, Steve also teaches in our RCIA program. He has taught adults the Catholic faith for the last 15 years. Steve has a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy specializing in the philosophy of religion, and ethics. Steve has spent many years as an in-home caregiver and a social service professional in the areas of developmental disabilities and elder advocacy & protective services.

HUMAN SEXUALITY: ORDER AND DISORDER – NOVEMBER 8 & 10

Deacon David Pepin

This class will present and explain Church teaching on the following topics: sexual identity, chastity and freedom, love, lust, masturbation, casual sex, homosexuality and pornography.

Deacon Pepin was ordained a deacon in 2002 after retiring from a 31-year career as an English teacher at New Bedford High School. He has a Master of Arts degree in English. He has been married to his wife Joan for 40 years, and they have three children and five grandchildren.

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HUMAN SEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE: ORDER AND DISORDER – NOVEMBER 22 & 24

Deacon David Pepin

This class will present and explain Church teaching on the following topics: the purposes, obligations and joys of Sacramental Marriage, contraception, natural family planning, in-vitro fertilization, sterilization, cohabitation, adultery, divorce and annulment.

APOLOGETICS 101: ONE TRUE CHURCH – JANUARY 10 & 12

Philip Martin

The word "apologetics" comes from a Greek word meaning "to give a defense". In his epistle, St. Peter says that we must "*always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope*" (1 Peter 3:15). Many people might believe that it is arrogant to claim that the Catholic Church is the one true Church of Christ. This talk will outline the ways to respond and defend our faith from common Protestant objections.

Philip Martin received his Theology degree from Franciscan University of Steubenville and his Masters in Religious Studies from Providence College. He has been teaching in the Theology Department at Bishop Stang High School in North Dartmouth for eleven years and has served as the Department Chairperson for the past eight years. In addition to teaching, he was the Director of Religious Education at St. Anthony of Padua Parish for six years, and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He has been happily married to his wife, Colleen, for thirteen years and together they have six children.

EVANGELIZATION: THE MEANING AND THE METHODS – JANUARY 24 & 26

Steven Guillotte

Did you know that the angels of God were the first evangelists and that the word evangelism derives from the angels' occupation with men? This is just one point that this session will examine including many others: how did Jesus evangelize, who were some of the great evangelizers of our Christian past; what is this task that the Church calls the "New Evangelization" and what is its proper purpose; why does it seem so difficult today to spread the "good news" of Jesus and how can I contribute in even a small way to evangelizing my neighbor.

THE HOLOCAUST SAINTS: EDITH STEIN AND MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE – FEBRUARY 21 & 23

Msgr. Gerard O'Connor

As a background we will cover some of the basic facts about the Nazi atrocities of the Second World War. The presentation will describe the Holocaust which killed 6 million Jews, minorities and enemies of the Third Reich. We will highlight the life of Edith Stein and Maximilian Kolbe who were killed at the hands of the Nazis and were both subsequently canonized saints of the Catholic Church.

Msgr. O'Connor is the Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish. As well as a bachelor's degree in Applied Physics he holds an MBA from Kingston University in London UK. Msgr. has a STB in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and a License and Doctorate from the Pontifical Liturgical Institute.

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THE DOMESTIC CHURCH: HOW FAMILIES CAN INSPIRE HOLINESS – MARCH 13 & 15

Anabela Shaughnessy

St. Therese of Lisieux is not only one of the most popular saints of the Catholic Church, she will be the first saint whose both parents will be canonized saints. Bl. Louis and Bl. Zelig Martin were beatified by Pope Benedict on October 2008 and are due to be canonized in October of 2015. This presentation will describe the life of St. Therese and that of her parents; demonstrating that the family is the incubator of holiness.

Anabela Shaughnessy is a native of New Bedford, MA. Her parents immigrated to the United States from the Azores. Anabela has a deep appreciation for how her parents' deep faith and the rich Portuguese religious heritage shaped and influenced her faith journey as a child and how that journey continues now for her as a mother of four. Anabela is the Assistant Principal at St. Francis Xavier School. She and her husband, Peter, currently reside in Fairhaven with their four children and are proud to call St. Francis Xavier their parish home.

THE LAST THINGS: HEAVEN, HELL AND PURGATORY – APRIL 10 & 12

Peter Shaughnessy

Polls suggest that many in our modern world no longer believe in the Catholic Church's teaching concerning the afterlife. This presentation will focus on Catholic doctrine regarding heaven, hell and purgatory. The Catholic approach to the afterlife will be compared to other Christian traditions, non-Christian religions and secular attitudes. A key question for discussion will be: what do I really believe about the afterlife and how does it affect my everyday life?

Peter Shaughnessy is the President/Principal of Bishop Stang High School. He earned his Bachelors degree in Political Science and English Literature from Canisius College. He holds Masters degrees in Theology and Pastoral Studies from Loyola University of Chicago and Educational Leadership & Administration from Benedictine University. Peter resides in Fairhaven with his wife, Anabela and their four children.

THE MARRIAGE VOCATION OR VACATION FROM MARRIAGE? – APRIL 24 & 26

Edward Trendowski

The Catholic Church teaches that a man and a woman can be called to the vocation of marriage. It is important for people discerning their vocation to reflect on what the vocation to marriage entails. Married couples should continue to reflect on how to live their vocation as well. If not, their marriage can go from being lived as a vocation to marriage to a vacation from marriage.

Edward Trendowski has been married to his wife Breanne for 8 years and they have four children. Edward works in the Office of Evangelization and Faith Formation for the Diocese of Providence. He also teaches three online Master's Degree online courses for St. Joseph College of Maine. Edward has a Master's Degree in Pastoral Theology from St. Joseph College of Maine and is currently working on completing a Ph.D. in Religious Education and Catechetics from the Catholic University of America. He loves to read the Bible and the Catechism.