

ST MARGUERITE d' YOVILLE PARISH



Sacred Heart

58 MAIN ST.
NO. STRATFORD, NH 03590



St. Francis Xavier

11 STATE ST., PO BOX 247
GROVETON, NH 03582

PARISH STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Daniel R. Deveau

Deacon:

Rev. Mr. Michael Johnson

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

Sacred Heart	Sunday Morning	9:00 am
St. Francis	Saturday Evening	4:00 pm
	Sunday Morning	11:00 am

WEEKDAY

Wednesday thru Friday 9:00 AM (Check Parish Bulletin)

PARISH OFFICE

Office Telephone: **636-1047**
Office Secretary: Mrs. Tina Hunt

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

Call Rectory for an appointment

MARRIAGE

Please contact the Rectory 6 mos.
prior to your tentative date.

CONFESSIONS

St. Francis Xavier Church
Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 pm (Also by appointment)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St. Francis 636-1047

Christian Formation:
Children ages 4-15 years

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sacred Heart 9:00 am Mass
St. Francis 11:00 am Mass

GENERAL INFORMATION

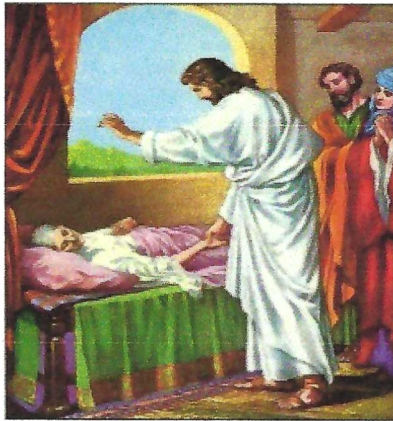
New Parishioners, WELCOME! Please call our Parish Secretary as soon as possible to register.

Parish Website: <https://stmargueritedygroveton.org>

Twentieth Sunday Ordinary Time

August 16, 2026

Jesus withdraws to the Gentile districts of Tyre and Sidon to get away from the adversaries who taunt him for breaking the Jewish rituals of purification. Here he will redefine the limits of clean and unclean. Through the supplication of a Canaanite woman, he will deal with the question of salvation for the Gentiles.



Strangely enough, Jesus remains silent as if he shared the arrogant particularism of the Jews toward these “Dogs of the Gentiles”. He seems to hesitate and when he decides to answer the woman, he does so in shocking terms. He wishes to do the will of God who desires that the lost sheep of Israel be gathered together. Only then, from the base of this renewed people, will he welcome the Gentiles, in accordance with their belief into the

great family of Abraham. What is this woman’s problem? She does not believe that she has any right to demand the bread of divine friendship reserved primarily for the Jews. All she can ask for are crumbs. She asks with such faith and humility that she will receive the fullness of salvation for which she hopes. In the welcome Jesus gives this foreigner, the Christians of the first century saw a prophetic model

for their own attitude toward Gentile believers. They had to go beyond the limits of an elitist religion, one based on race alone, in order to preach a universal salvation grounded in faith.

Can we transcend the frontiers of our prejudices? Many whom we consider alien in fact teach us the meaning of faith. (*St. Andrew Bible Missal*)

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Something to consider. Have you had the conversation? Making a will is more than putting your wishes on paper. It is an opportunity to prayerfully plan for the future, care for those who love you, and consider the legacy you want to leave.

No matter what age or stage of life, having a will, and talking with your loved ones about your

wishes, is an important act of love and stewardship. As you make your plans, please also consider including our parish in your legacy. Learn more about estate planning, Catholic health care directives, and legacy giving at www.catholicnh.org/legacy.

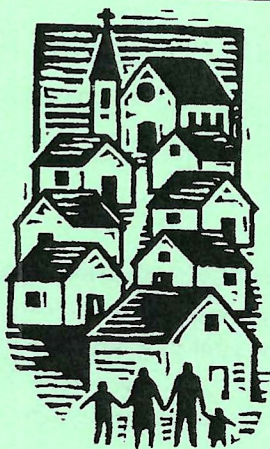
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You may have noticed some activity around the St. Francis Xavier Church building this week. One of those activities is the lift. The great oak tree had to be trimmed so that workers could get at the steeple. We have had an invasion of pigeons (about 30) taking up residence in our steeple. For the past year we have been searching for a pest control agency to help serve an eviction notice to the birds. The pigeons can no longer get into the steeple because a netting has been placed blocking the entry way. The next step will be to thoroughly clean out what the pigeons left behind. Hazardous suits must be worn before entering.

In regards to the ceiling repair or replacement in the church, the insurance adjuster was here Tuesday to access the damage. As pointed out before, there are some additional ceiling tiles that seem to be ready to come down, both in the center aisle. Those were the ones I was expecting to come down rather than the ones that fell a couple weeks ago.

I have to wait for direction from the Diocese as to how to move forward. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Some parishioners have already made donations toward our repairs. These donations are going into a special fund for repairs. This is very thoughtful.

Thank you. Fr. Dan



Bringing Home the Word

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
August 16, 2026

Build Love, Not Walls

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

In Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall," he tells how each spring he meets with his farming neighbor, and the two of them walk along on either side of the stone wall that marks their property to replace the stones toppled by the ice of winter. His neighbor loves the idea of a wall, inspired by his father's advice that "good fences make good neighbors." Frost, however, is not convinced and keeps suggesting that "something there is that doesn't love a wall," as if walls are not intrinsic to God's creation.

We humans seem to like our boundaries. As children, we divide

ourselves between girl germs and boy germs and draw imaginary lines in the back seats of cars. Later, we build walls everywhere—the Great Wall of China, the Berlin Wall, the structures at Mexico's border, backyard fences, and gated communities. We set up national boundaries, build emotional walls, relegate people to ghettos and the "other side of the tracks." We differentiate among religions, arguing over which is God's preference. We seem to use walls rather than love to give us our identity.

Some Scripture scholars suggest that this Sunday's gospel event was a turning point where it became clear that Jesus came to save not only the Jewish people, but all people—believers and unbelievers alike. Seeing the Canaanite woman's faith, Jesus willingly cured her daughter. With God, there are no boundaries or walls—not those of nations, not those imposed by languages and customs, not those we use to divide people of faith. †



***With God, there are
no boundaries or walls.***

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

[T]he pain that moves us to compassion is not the pain of a stranger; it is the pain of a member of our own Body, to whom Christ our Head commands us attend, for the good of all. In this sense, our service is identified with Christ's own suffering and, when offered in a Christian spirit, hastens the fulfillment of the Savior's prayer for the unity of all.

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Have you ever felt isolated by a wall?
- Who built it—you or someone else?

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 56:1, 6–7

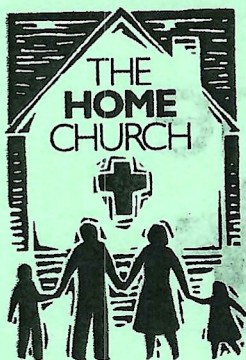
Them I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer.

Romans 11:13–15, 29–32

For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.

Matthew 15:21–28

[Jesus said to the Canaanite woman], "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."



Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos: A Place of Peace

Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR

Francis Seelos was twenty-four when he left his primarily Catholic hometown in Bavaria to minister among German-speaking immigrants in America. He dedicated himself to the life of an itinerant parish missionary preacher in English and German and served in the formation of Redemptorist seminarians. His apostolic labors never permitted him the opportunity to return to his homeland or see his beloved family again. Yet, when Fr. Seelos was assigned to New Orleans, he may have found the closest resemblance to what he left behind in Europe. Perhaps he was able to enjoy nostalgic memories of home when he wrote prophetically about his short time in the Crescent City, "It's good to be here in the sunny and warm South.... Here is my home.... Here I'll rest my bones in the grave, for I think I have wandered enough."

Father Seelos' sacred remains rest in St. Mary's Assumption Church, where he ministered as pastor for the last year of his life. Artifacts at the Seelos Shrine, Museum, and Welcome Center include his cast iron casket, a locket of hair taken

on the day of his death, and his original fifteen-decade Redemptorist habit rosary. Visitors can also experience a spiritual journey with the saint-in-waiting in a specially designed exhibit space called the "Seelos Walk of Life."

Visitors to the Seelos Shrine overwhelmingly sense our Lord's peace even when healings for themselves or for loved ones are not in God's divine plan. One young woman was asked if she was there to give thanks for healing. She replied, "Actually, Father, the doctors have told me there is no more that can be done. I know that my time here is coming to an end. But, yes, I'm here to give thanks because I know now that I'm not alone or afraid anymore. I have the gift of peace through the love and prayers I've experienced here at the Seelos Shrine." †

**Visitors to the
Seelos Shrine sense
our Lord's peace.**

From "The National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos,"
Liguorian, July/August 2025. For more information, call 800-325-9521
or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Seven Lessons of Mary" by Chris Padgett

Veneration of Mary is a natural consequence of Christology, so how much do we allow this reality to be fully realized in our personal faith journey? You can never exhaust the fullness of what God has done in and through Mary. The more we learn about who she is, about what her yes means throughout history, the more we should be able to reflect a deep devotion. Mary applies to us now in what it means to be a spiritual person. She is present today, waiting for us to go deeper in our relationship with her Son. The more we study and reflect on Mary, the more we understand that she is teaching us how to love Jesus.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.



God of all nations, hear
the prayers of your
people this day and unite
our prayers to those of
believers everywhere.
We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 17-22

Monday, Weekday: Ez 24:15-23
/ Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday, Weekday: Ez 28:1-10
/ Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday, Weekday: Ez 34:1-11
/ Mt 20:1-16

Thursday, St. Bernard: Ez 36:23-28
/ Mt 22:1-14

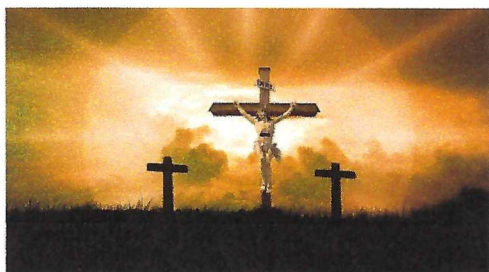
Friday, St. Pius X: Ez 37:1-14
/ Mt 22:34-40

**Saturday, Queenship of the Blessed Virgin
Mary:** Ez 43:1-7ab / Mt 23:1-12



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Mass Intention's

Sacred Heart

Sunday, Aug. 23, 2026

9:00 AM † For the intention of all
Parishioners.

St Francis Xavier Church

Wed, Aug. 19, 2026-No Mass

Thursday, Aug. 20, 2026

9:00 AM † For the repose of the souls of
Ralph & Marie Skowron.

Friday, Aug. 21, 2026

9:00 AM † **Linda Jean Reynolds, req. by**
Armstrong Charron Funeral Home

Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026

4:00 PM † **Antonio Boucher, req. by Family.**

† **Dorothy Beliveau, req. by**
Rita & Don.

Sunday, Aug. 23, 2026

11:00 AM † **Chester & Judith Ladd, req. by**
Carl & Michelle



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in Memory of:
Chester & Judith Ladd
From: **Aug. 23 through Aug. 29, 2026**
Requested by: **Carl & Michelle.**

The Church Remembers:

August 19: St. John Endes, Priest.

20: St. Bernard, Abbot & Dr. of the
Church.

21: St Pius X, Pope.

22: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin
Mary.

New Hampshire Catholic Appeal

Our parish continues to work toward our parish goal for the NHCA of \$ 15,440.00. To date, thanks to the generosity of so many, we have raised \$ 7,745.00. The NHCA supports the ministries such as the increasing needs of parishes, our community, Catholic schools, retired clergy, seminarians, and much more. If you have not donated yet to the appeal, please consider donating. 90% of every dollar raised above the goal will be rebated to our parish to be used for the needs of the parish. Thank you for your support as we continue to replace the love of God to all who are impacted by these ministries and beyond. To donate or learn more go to www.catholicnh.org/nhca

Parish Financial Report

For the week ending 8/16 /2026

<u>St. Francis Xavier</u>	<u>Sacred Heart</u>
Offertory: \$ 1059.00	\$ 173.00
Fuel: \$ 5.00	
Debt: \$ 397.00	\$ 657.00
Church Repair Donation: \$ 300.00	
Donations: \$ 100.00	
Thank you for your generosity!	

*Thank
you!*

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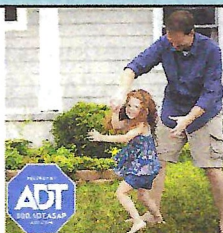
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