

# Saint Francis Xavier Parish

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

December 30, 2018



**HAPPY ☆ NEW ☆ YEAR**

**REV. DENNIS M. DINAN, PASTOR**

**ABBY RODDEN, PARISH SECRETARY**

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:30AM-11:30AM TELEPHONE: (845) 252-6681

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### **Our Lady of the Lake Church**

Rt 52, Lake Huntington

#### **Masses**

Sunday 8:30am  
Holydays of Obligation As Announced

#### **Confessions & Daily Mass**

At St. Francis Xavier

### **St. Francis Xavier Church**

151 Bridge St., Narrowsburg

#### **Masses**

Saturday 4:30pm  
Sunday 11:00am  
Daily (Tuesday-Friday) 8:30am  
Holydays of Obligation As announced

#### **Confessions**

Saturday 4:00pm  
Or by appointment

Dear Parish Family,

### **Happy New Year!**

Well, it is almost January 2019! The name "*January*" comes from the Roman god *Janus*, the god with two faces, one looking to the past and the other looking to the future. Surely, this is a time to look back at the year that has just ended and to look forward to the New Year ahead of us. How did I spend this one year of my life that has just passed? Did I use it to accomplish meaningful goals and necessary objectives in my life? Did I use it to better understand the purpose of my existence? Could I have done better last year in the way I invested my time between the demands of work, family, friends and society, and the demands of my spiritual life? What am I glad I accomplished last year and what did I fail to achieve? How can I build on the achievements of last year while reversing the failures and losses in this New Year? Through soul searching questions like these we find that a review of the past year naturally leads to setting goals and resolutions for the New Year.

There are people who tell you that there is no point making New Year resolutions. Do not believe them. They will tell you a lot of other things also! We must set goals and make resolutions as a necessary consequence to reviewing the past year. Moreover, we need to review our lives from year to year because, as Socrates says, "the unexamined life is not worth living."

Our media today will be filled with individual and collective New Year resolutions. Most of those, however, are not resolutions at all but only wishes. What is the difference between a resolution and a wish? A wish identifies a goal, an objective, one wants to reach; a resolution specifies the steps one will take to reach it. A wish says, "this is where I want to be," a resolution says, "this is the road I will take, and this is what I will do to get there." The wishful person says "I want to pass my exams this year" and the resolved person says "I will devote an extra hour to my studies everyday in order to pass my exams." The wishful person says "I will have more peace and love in my family this year" and the resolved person says "I will spend more time with my family at table instead of rushing off to the TV, so that we get to know and understand ourselves better." The wishful person says "I will live a life of union with God this year" and the resolved person says "I will set aside this time everyday to pray and hear God's Word." The difference between wishing and resolving is: are we prepared to do what it takes to make our dreams come true, are we prepared to pay the price? Think how the Holy Family we are celebrating lived! We can too!

For us as Catholics, New Year's Day is also celebrated as the *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*. The gospel that we will hear presents Mary to us as a model of that new life in Christ that all of us wish for ourselves in the New Year. There we see that Mary was prepared to do something to realize this goal. What did she do? We read that the shepherds, when they went to adore the Child Jesus in the manger, told all that the angels had said to them. "*And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.*" (Lk 2:19). Again after the boy Jesus was found in the Temple, we are told that "*His mother kept all these things in her heart.*" (Lk 2:51). Mary was a woman who valued the *Word of God*, who treasured it and made time to meditate

and ponder it. It is true that the holiness of Mary is attributed to the grace of God, but this should not make us forget that she needed to make an effort in order to cooperate with the grace of God. She pondered the *Word of God* in order to discern what God was saying to her at every stage in her life as the handmaid of God.

The two examples above of Mary pondering the *Word of God*, namely, after the visit of the shepherds and after the finding in the temple, show that Mary found the *Word of God* both in Divine Revelation (the angels' words to the shepherds) and in her own experiences (her encounter with her son in the temple). Similarly God speaks to us today through Divine Revelation (e.g. Sacred Scripture, the teaching and preaching Tradition of the Church throughout the centuries) as well as through our personal experiences, if only we made time to reflect on them as Mary did.

Whatever the situation in which we find ourselves—a problem, a hardship, a disappointment, a decision to make—God has a solution, an answer that is just right for us. We tell God about it in prayer but we also listen to what God has to tell us about it. If we understand prayer, we know it is a conversation with God. Sometimes, though, all we do is the speaking—the telling of our list of problems to God—and do not wait to hear what God has to say to us. Let us today resolve to listen more to the voice of God, to treasure God's Word and ponder it in our hearts. Then we'll be able to realize our New Year's resolution of a new life in union with God.

And, "How do we become like this?" There are many approaches but, as a start, let me suggest one. I recently heard that Saint Peter's in Liberty will be offering a "series" called "Discovering Christ." It provides those who join up with a number of experiences in chronological sequence where they can bring family and friends to hear the good news and personally encounter Jesus Christ! I've been part of it. In my last parish, we offered it. We liked it and benefited from it!

The goals of "Discovering Christ" are 1) to help persons enter or renew a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to experience the love of the Father, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as his children and serve as his disciples in the Catholic Church and 2) to also help them to receive the interpersonal support they need to live for Christ within the parishes of those who attend the series.

Obviously, there's a lot more, but some things just have to be experienced. This is just to bring it up and let you think about it. It means saying, "I will set aside the time." It then means that something happens in the heart of every person who is willing to listen to the gospel calling them to know and serve Christ better. It's a disciple's response. It's an expression of love. It's being centered on the Eucharist. We'll speak more about this. They'll be flyers and announcements. You'll find detailed information on times and dates in the bulletin and on our website. We'll arrange transportation. You don't need to wait for *good intentions* to crop up, or for "*Someday when I have more time.*" We can't predict that. Besides, it takes less than you think!

Happy New Year!

God's Peace, ✚  




Centering Prayer Seminar  
Sunday, January 20, 2019  
(Snow date: Sunday, January 27, 2019)  
2:00-4:00 pm  
Church of St. George, Jeffersonville  
Presented by: Sister Peggy Murphy

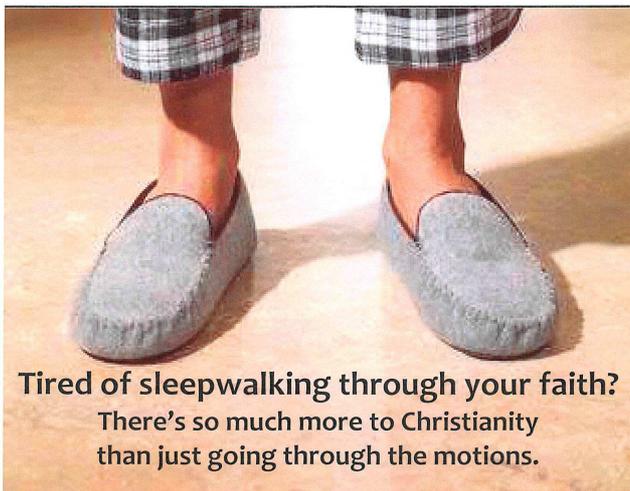
"We may think of prayer as thoughts or feelings expressed in words, but this is only one expression.

Prayer is the opening of mind and heart – our whole being to God.  
Through faith we open our awareness to God whom we know by faith is within us."

-Fr. Thomas Keating

Centering Prayer is a silent meditation that encourages deeper openness to God. This introductory session will include times of practice and explanation. The session will be directed by Sister Peggy Murphy, a Dominican Sister and Professor of Religious Studies at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh.

*Be still  
and know  
that I am  
God*  
-PSALM 46:10



**Tired of sleepwalking through your faith?**  
There's so much more to Christianity than just going through the motions.

Join us for "Discovering Christ," a 7-week series including dinner, teachings, and discussion about enduring questions worth asking... about God and the ultimate purpose of life.

Sunday Evenings from February 24 – April 14, 2019  
5:00-7:30 p.m.

St. Peter's School Cafeteria (basement level), Liberty, NY

\*Retreat on Saturday, March 31 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Dinner and program offered at no cost.

All are welcome. Most appropriate for adults and mature high school students.

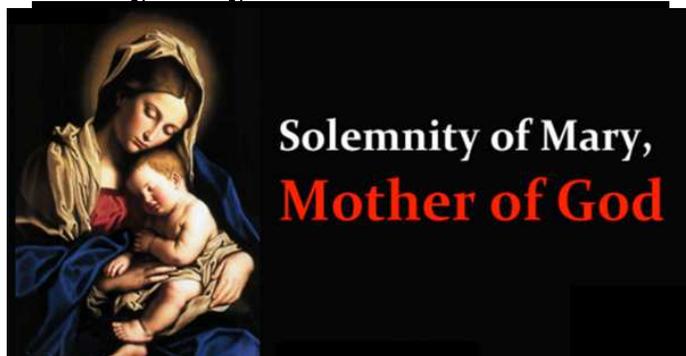
For information and to register: [www.discoverchristssullivanco.org](http://www.discoverchristssullivanco.org) or contact us at [discoverchristssullivan@gmail.com](mailto:discoverchristssullivan@gmail.com) or 845-663-1689.



*Thank you to all who donated to our Parish, our Toy Drive, and our Outreach Program this Christmas Season!*

*Your generous support makes it possible to keep our parish programs running, which in turn, helps members of our local community who are in need.*

## New Year's Holyday Mass Schedule



### Monday, Dec. 31-Solemnity of Mary Vigil

St. Francis Xavier- 4:30pm

### Tuesday, Jan. 1-Solemnity of Mary Holyday

St. Francis Xavier- 10:00am

Our Lady of the Lake- 12:00pm

NO MASSES

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 3**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 4**

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**

4:30pm -Our Parish Family

**Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am -Our Parish Family

11:00am -Lewis F. Meckle

Requested by Regina Moran

-Alix Fils-Aime

Requested by Rachel & Ray

Murawski

**Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

4:30pm -Pete Moran

Requested by Regina Moran

**Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

10:00am -Our Parish Family

12:00pm -Our Parish Family

**Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**NO MASS**

**Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**NO MASS**

**Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**

**NO MASS**

**Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**

4:30pm -Our Parish Family

**Christmas Collection**

December 24/25, 2018

***Christmas Eve***

St. Francis Xavier \$1,888.00

***Christmas Day***

Our Lady of the Lake \$480.00

St. Francis Xavier \$724.00

**Total**

**\$3,092.00**

**Thank you!**

**Collection**

December 22/23, 2018

***First Collection***

Our Lady of the Lake \$445.00

St. Francis Xavier \$937.00

***Other (Capital Improvements/Flowers)***

Our Lady of the Lake \$20.00

St. Francis Xavier \$10.00

**Total**

**\$1,412.00**

**Thank you!**

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

1 John 3:1-2, 21, 24

Luke 2:41-52

**Please Pray for our Parish Family**

*(This list will be cleared for the new year. Please let us know who you would like on the new list as soon as possible. Thank you!)*

**For the Sick:** Peggy Bayly Lohmann, Dennis Falk, Barbara Walter, Gloria Saures, Ed Brennan, Amy Ernano, Clayton Snow, Barnabas O'Driscoll, Sean Sweeney, Jose Mabama, Ron Burke, Charlotte Mills, Carol Mash, Mary Cauvaris, Barbara Smith, Janine Perry, Hilde Bielfeld, Rosemary Barile, Christine Mary Faggione, Tracy Larssen, Helene Indelicato, Madeline Sheans, Peggy Lee Romano, Mary Weiden, Mary Tresh, Ida Alvarez, Mildred Meyer, Kenneth "Boomer" Meyer, and all those struggling with any kind of illness and suffering.

**For the Deceased:** Theresa Delaney, Helen Bunis, Maria Meyer, Pat Noble, Joseph Meyer, Gloria Ackermann, Eileen Dempsey, Martin Ferrick, Jacoba "Cobi" Campfield, George Johnson, Josephine Kelly, Joanne Barnes Brennan, Dr. Robert Lucas, Daniel Kelly, Fr. William Scully, Jean Salmeri, Barbara Smith, Mary Ann Janowsky, Helen Guttzeit, William Ackerman, Lewis Meckle, Alix Fils-Aime, Elizabeth Creamer, and all those who have gone before us.

**For those Serving in the Military:** SGT Vaughn Schlott USMC (TX)