

# Saint Francis Xavier Parish

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2019



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

**ABBY RODDEN, PARISH SECRETARY**

**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:30AM-11:30AM OR BY APPOINTMENT**

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## St. Francis Xavier Church

151 Bridge St., Narrowsburg

### Masses

Saturday	4:30pm
Sunday	11:00am
Daily (Wednesday & Friday)	8:30am
Daily (Tuesday & Thursday)	6:30pm
Holydays of Obligation	As announced

### Confessions

Saturdays	4:00pm
	Or by appointment

## 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

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 12, 2019**

Dear Parish Family,

I know some of you have heard this story before. I had just arrived at the minor Seminary, Saint John Neumann in the Bronx. I think it was Saturday, January 24, 1987, early in the morning, that we had our first Mass there. Father James Halligan, our Spiritual Director, was the celebrant. It was all low-key. There was no music. Much of New York was probably still asleep. Many of us were probably half asleep, including the Rector, but not for long. Father Halligan began his homily:

You've heard the saying, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." St. John Chrysostom said that, "The road to Hell is paved with the skulls of priests!" He was talking about priests who would not preach the Gospel or the teachings of the Church or who would not follow them either.

You all want to be priests, right? Do you realize that depending on where you are sent within the Archdiocese that up to 70% of the people listening to you may not accept what you are teaching?

So, you can preach and teach as you should, and not be as popular as others, but you will be doing the right thing. Or, you can hang out with the "right people" and be found in the best of circles. You can become chummy with all of them. You'll be going around with them saying, "I'm OK!" "You're OK!" "We're all OK!" And you'll all be going to Hell!

What a Preacher Bomb! What a shocker! But, he was good at this. What I wrote above may not be verbatim; but, I can assure you, it's pretty accurate. It sure got our attention!

I went back to the sacristy right after Mass to see Father Halligan. I knew him well. He had been my Confessor/Spiritual Director for 11 years now down on Wall Street, after I came back to the Church. "Father," I said, "How unfair! All these years and you waited until now to tell me this? You waited until I gave up my career, my apartment—everything!" He said, "What are you so excited about?" It's what you told us St. John Chrysostom said "The road to Hell is paved with the skulls of priests!" Taking off his vestments, he remarked, "Is that what I said? The real quote was: 'Hell itself is paved with the skulls of priests!'" That was certainly no better!

After searching, I found not a single writing of Chrysostom's containing the quote; but, legend has it: he said it! Search online and you may find the actual quote most cited is "The road to hell is paved with the skulls of erring priests, with bishops as their signposts." You might also see he was not alone. Saint Athanasius is remembered saying, "The floor of hell is paved with the skulls of bishops" and Saint John Eudes with, "The road to hell is paved with the skulls of bishops."

It doesn't matter whether any of this is true or not. It was still a good lesson! The simple fact is that throughout the history of the Church, there were times when the priesthood was in need of reform. For example, before and around the time of the Council of Trent (1545-1563), Protestant and Catholic Reformers identified the lack of a well-trained clergy, sexual license, absenteeism, and simony (the selling of an office for profit) as the greatest scandals within clerical life. The council responded to this, dictating that "it is of the highest import for the salvation of souls that parishes be governed by worthy and qualified men." This is just one case of many.

I say this on Good Shepherd Sunday at a time when still more news continues to break on "the scandal." And, I am sure you are bothered and tired of hearing, as I am, what continues to show up in headlines and the subject of TV news anchors. It's been a small percentage of priests and our Archdiocese just released names of all our priests last week. Thursday Pope Francis enacted new law. It gets lots of attention—maybe it should because none of it should have happened at all. The majority of priests have been faithful, but all of them, and the Church itself, suffer under this disgrace. Still, you don't hear of the good that is being done by the bulk of them.

## **MOTHERS DAY FATHER DENNIS M. DINAN**

Today we hear Jesus proclaim, "*My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish*" (Jn 10:27-28). What we do not hear is what precedes this in the discourse, "*I am the Good Shepherd*" (Jn 10:14, emphasis is mine). If Jesus is calling himself this, then he is implying there are bad shepherds too, hardly coincidental. The evangelist says this took place during the Feast of the Dedication of the Temple, the Festival of Lights, or Hanukkah as we know it. Tradition has it; a key reading at this feast was from the prophet Ezekiel 34, which condemns the false shepherds of Israel, and it does not apply only to those who heard Ezekiel's preaching. Obviously, Jesus is using this to address the shepherds in his midst. So, there would have been no doubt as to what Jesus was speaking about. The prophet Ezekiel begins, "*Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel.... Thus says the Lord GOD: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who have been pasturing themselves!*" (34:2). It's worth reading the whole chapter, but I'll simply show how the case against the bad shepherds is built:

*As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have been given over to pillage, and because my sheep have become food for every wild beast, for lack of a shepherd; because my shepherds did not look after my sheep, but pastured themselves and did not pasture my sheep.... I swear I am coming against these shepherds. I will claim my sheep from them and put a stop to their shepherding my sheep so that they may no longer pasture themselves. I will save my sheep, that they may no longer be food for their mouths. I myself will look after and tend my sheep (34:8, 10-11).*

This is good for us to hear. Bad shepherds were always around, and likely will always be. Consider the hand-picked twelve of Jesus. All abandoned him. Although, one returned later to the Cross. Another killed himself. Another completely denied Jesus. The rest all waited until the coast was clear.

Jesus wants to make perfectly clear to us, and the people of all generations, that regardless of the historical facts of badness, he is The Shepherd—the one prophesied to come. He is the one (the Word) speaking through Ezekiel: "*I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal*" (Ezek 34:15-16). This prophetically tells the ministry Jesus actually performed.

Jesus is assuring us! All other shepherds are instruments he chooses to "*feed his sheep.*" Each shepherd can choose to shepherd rightly or not. There will always be those who view the call as a means to personal gain—not hard to do. Still, there are consequences! As was said above by the Lord: "*I swear I am coming against these shepherds*" (Ezek 34:10). There will be judgment. Jesus said, "*Things that cause sin [scandal] will inevitably occur, but woe to the person through whom they occur. It would be better for him if a millstone were put around his neck and he be thrown into the sea than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin*" (Lk 17:1-2). Different words, but Father Halligan and others spoke a "like" message.

We need to pray. We need to ask God to show us all the beauty and transforming power of his Church, which has been buried by scandal. We need to stand fast! We have a Good Shepherd. We are the sheep of his flock. He assures us, no matter what, "*No one can take [us] out of [his] hand*" (Jn 10:28). He has claimed his sheep and now takes up his rightful place with them. He insists, "*My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one*" (Jn 10:29-30). Those listening to Jesus, "*picked up rocks to stone him*" (Jn 10:31). Let's, you and me, hear the Shepherd's voice and follow him.

God's Peace

Happy Mothers Day!!!

Come join us for...  
**PTAF Day!**

Sponsored by Pallottine Teenage Federation  
*A day full of faith & fun!*  
 June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
 at the Vincent Pallotti Center-  
 25 Resident Road, Monroe, NY 10950

County Themes- Through the Decades! :

Dutchess: 1920s



Rockland: 1940s



Sullivan: 1950s



Orange: 1960s



Westchester: 1980s



Manhattan: 1990s



Staten Island: 2030 (future)



Board: Prehistoric



- Registration at 9:00am, event starts at 10:00am
- Admission is \$10
- Hot dogs, snacks & drinks will be sold
- Mass starts at 4:00
- Pie Eating contest - Water Balloon - Slip&Slide - County Games
- PTAF's Got Talent: Winner will get \$50 off any retreat
- PTAF Idol Contest: Winner will get half off of PTAF Conference in December, sing a solo and the national anthem

**MARCH FOR LIFE** MONDAY JUNE 3, 2019 ALBANY NY

PLEASE JOIN US IN A PRAYERFUL RALLY AT THE NYS CAPITAL

LET US TOGETHER SUPPORT THE UNBORN!

**YOU ARE INVITED!**

FREE TRANSPORTATION VIA AIR CONDITIONED BUS.

ALL EVENTS ARE WITHIN ONE BLOCK ...EASY WALK FOR ELDERS OR SMALL CHILDREN.

SCHEDULE: 700 AM MASS AT ST. PETER'S, 10 LIBERTY ST. MONTICELLO

COFFEE AND BAGELS PROVIDED AFTER MASS

730 AM BOARD BUS IN FRONT OF CHURCH

800 AM DEPART FOR ALBANY

11 AM PRAYER AT THE CHILDRENS' MEMORIAL, EMPIRE PLAZA

11:30 PEACEFUL MARCH TO THE CAPITAL BUILDING

12:30 RALLY FOR LIFE AT THE CAPITAL BUILDING

WE WILL DEPART ALBANY AFTER THE RALLY AT ABOUT 300 PM

ONE STOP ALONG THE THRUWAY FOR FOOD

RETURN TO MONTICELLO APPROX 6 PM

PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILE TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED, YOU MUST RESERVE YOUR SEAT BY APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>. SO THAT WE CAN MAKE APPROPRIATE PLANS.

CONTACTS: ONEIDA MUSA 845-796-0228

JANE CUTITA 845-292-4647

LINDA GUINAN 845-292-0709

WE WILL GRATEFULLY ACCEPT ANY FREE WILL DONATIONS TO COVER OUR COSTS

THE MEMORIES LAST ALL YEAR.  
 BUT THE RELATIONSHIP? ALL ETERNITY.  
**CAMP VERITAS**  
 2019



A WEEK LONG "PLAY AND PRAY" PILGRIMAGE & SUMMER CAMP FOR TEENS ENTERING GRADES 7-12.

Daytime activities include swimming, soccer, basketball, volleyball, laser tag, dodgeball, and much more! Evening activities include Mass, praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, testimonies, and talks. Spiritual staff include Diocesan clergy, Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Renewal, Salesian Sisters, Carmelites, Legionnaires, Sisters of Life, Dominicans, and more!

2019 DATES

July 21-27 at Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY \*  
 July 28-August 2 at Lake Placid Camp & Conference Center, Lake Placid, FL  
 July 28-August 3 at Summit Lake Camp, Emmitsburg, MD  
 August 11-17 at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY

\*Optional Basketball and Dance Programs Available at Newburgh, NY location.

RATES

Regular rate is \$450 per week, includes food and lodging. Early bird rate (if paid in full by April 1, 2019) is \$400. Volunteers (18 years of age and older) are FREE!

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1, 2019 AT  
[WWW.CAMPVERITAS.ORG](http://WWW.CAMPVERITAS.ORG).

*Bringing Jesus to Planned Parenthood Through Mary*



**Come and pray the Rosary to end abortion**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays at 1:00pm**

**Outside Planned Parenthood**

**14 Prince St., Monticello**

**(Meet at The Church of St. Peter, Monticello**

**following the 12:15pm Mass)**

**For more information, please call**

**Jane @ 845-292-4647**

# Mass Intentions

**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**

SFX 4:30pm -Our Mothers Day Intentions

**Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

OLL 8:30am -Abbie Pearson

Requested by Barbara Gabriel

-Dolores Manaseri & Christopher Manaseri

Requested by The Manaseri Family

SFX 11:00am -The Deceased Members of the Billott & Smith Families

Requested by Pat Feagles

**Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

**NO MASS**

**Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

SFX 6:30pm -Our Mothers Day Intentions

**Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

SFX 8:30am - Our Mothers Day Intentions

**Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

SFX 6:30pm - Our Mothers Day Intentions

**Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

SFX 8:30am - Our Mothers Day Intentions

**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

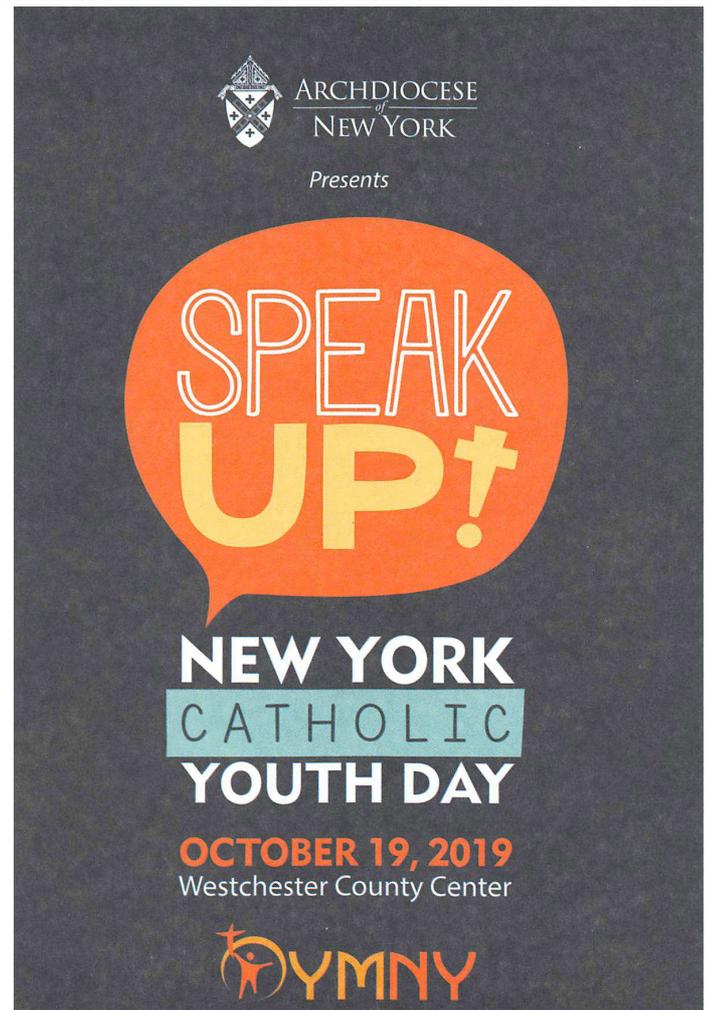
SFX 4:30pm - Our Mothers Day Intentions

**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

OLL 8:30am -Our Mothers Day Intentions

SFX 11:00am -George J. Johnson

Requested by Eleanor Johnson



## Collection

May 4/5, 2019

**1<sup>st</sup> Collection**

St. Francis Xavier	\$999.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$265.00

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Repairs & Maintenance)**

St. Francis Xavier	\$294.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$174.00

**Total**

**\$1,732.00**

***Thank you!***

### **Please Pray for our Parish Family**

**For the Sick:** Christina Hubert, Peggy Lee Romano, Barbara Walter, Lydia Newton, Connie Moser, Elizabeth Stoddard, Pam Kocher, Judy Tufo, Vincent Gentile, Kathleen Jamieson

**For the Deceased:** Mary Weiden, Muriel Maers, Stan Rembish, Eugene Harrison, Terry McCarthy, John Werner, Lillian Yacino

**For those Serving in the Military:** Justin Warnick, Joseph A. Choffo IV