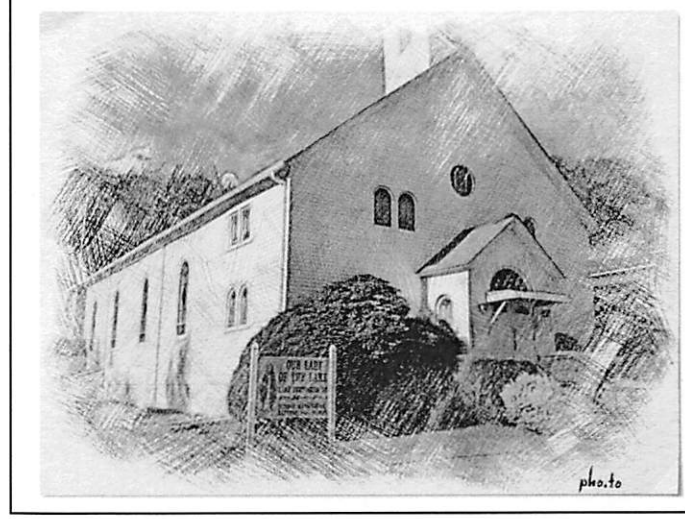


# Saint Francis Xavier Parish

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 15, 2019



## St. Francis Xavier Church

151 Bridge St., Narrowsburg

### Masses

Saturday	4:30pm
Sunday	11:00am
Daily (Tuesday & Thursday)	6:30pm
Daily (Wednesday & Friday)	8:30am

### Confessions

Saturday	4:00pm or by appointment
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## Our Lady of the Lake Church

Rt. 52, Lake Huntington

### Masses

Sunday	8:30am
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### Confessions & Daily Mass

At St. Francis Xavier

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Regularly scheduled on available Sundays of each month after our last Mass. Arrangements are made by contacting the Rectory. One Godparent is required and must be 14, confirmed, a practicing Catholic, and obtain a Sponsor Certificate from their parish. Only one male and one female Godparent is permitted. Parents should be registered in the parish and meet with the priest.

#### SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Arrangements should be made at least 6 months prior to wedding date. Marriage preparation courses must be completed. Either the Bride or the Groom must be a registered parishioner or be associated with the parish. They must meet with the parish priest before a wedding date can be scheduled.

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades K-8 meet at 9:50am on Sundays. Contact the Religious Ed Office to register children. We ask families to be registered & involved parishioners. Children must be baptized. Parents & children are expected to attend Mass each week.

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

**ABBY RODDEN, PARISH SECRETARY**

**OFFICE HOURS:** MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00AM-1:00PM  
OR BY APPOINTMENT

**TELEPHONE:** (845) 252-6681

**FAX:** (845) 252-6519

**WEB ADDRESSES:** [www.sfxnarrowsburg.com](http://www.sfxnarrowsburg.com)

[www.ollhuntington.com](http://www.ollhuntington.com)

**EMAIL:** [sfxnarrowsburg@gmail.com](mailto:sfxnarrowsburg@gmail.com)

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE:** (845) 252-6681

**EMAIL:** [sfxololre@gmail.com](mailto:sfxololre@gmail.com)

Dear Parish Family,

Today's Gospel passage presents us with three stories to portray what God is willing to do in order to bring us back to him. Even if it means risking the safety of ninety-nine sheep, he will go in search of **one lost sheep**; even it means sweeping the whole house, he will search for **the lost coin**. God has not yet given up on us, our loved ones, and our society. Even if we have gone far from home, God is willing to welcome us back and **restore our dignity** like that of the prodigal son.

I shall elaborate more on the third parable, since it sums up the other two. The third story is often referred to as "the parable of the prodigal son". Recently, however, authors are focusing more on what the father did, rather than what the 'wayward' son did. Thus, the passage can be termed: "the parable of the merciful father". In fact, today's liturgy invites us to reflect on the mercy of God and the need to repent and change our ways. The father who was generous enough to welcome back the prodigal son is the figure of our heavenly Father.

The liturgy presents sin as the abandoning (rejecting) of God as Father. Reasons why God is rejected can be deduced from the readings. In the first reading the Israelites rejected God and opted for an Idol (the golden calf). As the Psalmist says, "they exchanged God who was their Glory for the image of an ox that eats grass" (Psalms 106:20). The main problem they had was leadership; Moses was away. **The lack of good leadership can be the bane of societal evil.** After Joshua died, God raised up judges to lead Israel in the path of God; but when any judge died, "the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshipping them; they refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways" (Judges 2:19). Do our leaders lead us to God or away from God? Do politicians lead us in godliness or have they given themselves as "instruments of evil to serve sin" (Romans 6:13)?

In the second reading (1 Timothy 1:12-17), St Paul narrated to Timothy how he arrogantly blasphemed and persecuted Christ (cf. Acts 9). St Paul explains that he acted "out of ignorance in [his] unbelief". Many people today blaspheme against God and against all forms of sacredness. Sometimes, these sins are due to ignorance of what is good or evil, lack of moral formation. Such formation is made difficult in our society where moral relativism has become "the new dictatorship" (cf. Chris Stefanick, *Absolute Relativism*, 2011). As Pope Benedict XVI notes, "we are building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consist solely of one's own ego and desires" (*Mass for the election of the Roman Pontiff*, 18 April 2005).

The Gospel presents us with two wayward sons who had no time for their father. The eldest was always in the fields working and the youngest wanted to leave home and be master of his life. For the eldest son, all that mattered was being legally right. As he reminded his father, "I served you and not once did I disobey your orders". **When you serve**

**without love**, Mother Theresa avers, **you become a slave**. The eldest son's flaw was the absence of love; he didn't love his father nor his brother. When our actions do not spring from love, Jesus will say to us, "depart from me, you doers of iniquity" (Matthew 7:23). The prodigal son, on the other hand, had a misinformed sense of freedom; he probably thought that being under the care of his father was slavery and thus opted to go far away. How many times have we thought of God as an obstruction to our freedom? Without God, what we have is "a fatal understanding of freedom which actually undermines man's freedom and ultimately destroys it" (Pope Benedict XVI, *Christmas greetings to the college of cardinals*, 2010). As we read, the prodigal son lost himself and everything; he even longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any". Away from his father, he lost his sonship, dignity, and sustenance.

Like the Israelites, Paul, and the sons in the Gospel, "all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Roman 3:23). While "the wages of sin is death" (Roman 6:23), sin is not man's greatest problem. The greatest problem is our refusal to acknowledge that we have sinned. When Moses stood and pleaded with God on behalf of the Israelites, God "relented in the punishment he threatened to inflict on his people". St Paul, despite his shortcomings, "was mercifully treated" and even considered trustworthy for ministry. The prodigal son was restored back to "sonship"; he who was lost is found and he who was death has come back to life.

Do not be like the eldest son in the gospel reading; he would not give others a chance to change and he himself will not change. He justified himself and even tried to blame his father. How many times have we blamed God for our unfulfilled and sad lives? That you justify your actions does not make you justified; it only makes you feel comfortable under your skin. You shall not be truly free until the Son sets you free (John 8: 36). **Trying to explain away your sin does not make it less a sin.**

Like the prodigal son, you need to courageously and humbly say, "I shall go to my father and say, '**I have sinned against heaven and against you**'". You can also imitate king David saying, "Have mercy on me, O God...in your compassion blot out my offence". God will not spurn a contrite and humbled heart.

**Come to Jesus**; in him "we have redemption...the forgiveness of our trespasses" (Ephesians 1:7). As St Paul noted, "Christ came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). He alone can give you a new heart and make you a new creature (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17).

**When last did you go for confession?** Jesus is waiting for you in the person of his priest. Go and unburden your load. **Come to me**, Jesus is saying, "and **I will give you rest**" (Matthew 11:28).

Peace be with you!



Will I choose to love the least?



And the King will answer:  
"In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this for one of the least  
of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE™**

**SEPTEMBER 25th to NOVEMBER 3rd**

**GOSHEN PLANNED PARENTHOOD**

7 Coates Drive, Goshen Campaign hours: 7 AM - 7 PM  
Campaign Manager: Veronica Murphy-DeWitt 845-551-8560 or 40DaysforLife.com/Goshen

**NEWBURGH PLANNED PARENTHOOD**

136 Lake Street, Newburgh Campaign hours: 7 AM - 7 PM  
Campaign Manager: Wendy Wood 845-820-4366 or 40DaysforLife.com/Newburgh



**FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE**

**What is Mental Health First Aid:**

Mental Health First Aid is a free in-person training for anyone who wants to learn about mental illnesses and addictions, including risk factors and warning signs. The course is an 8-hour training that teaches a 5-step action plan to help a person in crisis connect with professional, peer, social and self-help care.

Using scenarios and role playing, participants are given the opportunity to practice their new skills and gain confidence in helping others who may be developing a mental health or substance use challenge, or those in distress.

**Audience:**

Mental Health First Aid is appropriate for a variety of professionals working in primary and behavioral healthcare integration settings and for people with no prior training or experience with mental health or substance use. This event is open to the public but is also a great fit for hospital employees, EMS workers and anyone else that is interested in learning ways to support those in crises.

**September 23  
September 24  
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Catskill Regional Medical Center  
In The RISE Building  
88 Harris Bushville Road  
Harris, NY 12742

**Course Facilitator**

Stephanie Parenti  
Population Health Specialist  
Community & Population Health  
Improvement  
HealthConnections

To reserve your spot please call  
1-855-321-2762.



**Fall  
SULLIVAN COUNTY PTAF  
HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**St. Peter's - Liberty**

**Sunday - September 22, 2019  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Come join in all the Fall games!**

**Pumpkin Decorating, Pie Eating Contest  
and Much More!!!**

**PLEASE BRING SOCKS, HATS, GLOVES AS A DONATION**



Those who want to win the world for Christ must have the courage to come into conflict with it. -Blessed Titus Brandsma

**FEARLESS**

**PROUD.  
BOLD.  
CATHOLIC.**

**FALL 2019 EVENTS**

**September 27-29, 2019, at St. Mary's Catholic Church  
42 Goshen Avenue, Washingtonville, NY**

**December 6-8, 2019, Kennedy Catholic High School  
54 Route 138, Somers, NY**

Hosted by *Fearless Ministries, Inc.* and open to teens in grades 8-12. Activities include basketball, laser tag, frisbee, soccer, games and activities, Mass, praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, testimonies by guests including the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Renewal, diocesan clergy, and others! Retreat opens Friday evening and closes Sunday morning. \$45 Student Fee/Volunteers (18+ years) attend for FREE. Pre-Registration is REQUIRED. Parishes registering groups/classes must contact us in advance at 845.663.1689.

**FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:**

**[www.fearlessretreats.com](http://www.fearlessretreats.com)**

*Please Post and Announce!*  
**Town of Lumberland Cultural Series**  
Proudly Presents



**THE ARMONIA BAND**

*In a program entitled:*

**"Rock-n-Roll Dance Party"**

**ROCK, CLASSIC ROCK, COUNTRY, MOTOWN, POP, FUNK AND REGGAE**

**~ SUNDAY ~  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2019  
3:00 P.M.**

**LUMBERLAND  
TOWN HALL  
1054 PROCTOR ROAD  
GLEN SPEY, NY**

*Join us for a "Meet the Artists" Reception  
following the concert. Refreshments will be served.*

**TICKETS AT THE DOOR: ADULTS \$10, CHILDREN \$5 (12 and under).**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (845) 856-6372**

**A heart felt THANK YOU goes out to all who donated so generously to help Fr. Joel on his mission of purchasing a car back in Nigeria.**

**It has been wonderful having him at our parish this summer, and we hope the funds will help him to better serve the Nigerian people in his parish and beyond.**

## Mass Intentions

**Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**  
SFX 4:30pm -Our Parish Family

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**  
OLL 8:30am -Our Parish Family

SFX 11:00am -Our Parish Family

**Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**  
NO MASS

**Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**  
NO MASS

**Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**  
SFX 8:30am -Our Parish Family

**Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**  
NO MASS

**Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**  
SFX 8:30am -Our Parish Family

**Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**  
SFX 4:30pm -Our Parish Family

**Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
OLL 8:30am -Our Parish Family  
SFX 11:00am -Our Parish Family

## Collection

September 7/8, 2019

### 1<sup>st</sup> Collection

St. Francis Xavier	\$1,257.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$242.00

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (St. Joseph's Seminary)

St. Francis Xavier	\$596.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$119.00

### Other (R & M)

St. Francis Xavier	\$60.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$5.00

**Total**  
**\$2,279.00**  
*Thank you!*

## \*Please note\*

There will be  
**NO MASSES**  
**Tuesday, September 17**  
**&**  
**Thursday, September 19**

## Religious Education

Classes for children in grades K-8 have begun.  
Classes run from 9:50am-10:50am in the parish  
hall at St. Francis Xavier Church.  
Please find the registration forms and the yearly  
calendar at the back of either parish church.

## Readings

Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

## Please Pray for our Parish Family

**For the Sick:** Christina Hubert, Lydia Newton, Jane Cutita, Bonnie Feeler, Judy Tufo, Connie Moser, Elizabeth Stoddard, Pam Kocher, Vincent Gentile, Kathleen Jamieson, Peter O'Leary Jr., Jessica Hartley

**For the Deceased:** Mary Weiden, Muriel Maers, Stan Rembish, Eugene Harrison, Terry McCarthy, John Werner, Lillian Yacino, James Lingle, Patricia Lyons, Peggy Lee Romano, Emory Robert Kaub, Muriel F. Edwards, Andrew Casimir, Barbara Walter, John Hartley, Eileen Dempsey, Christopher Kells

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