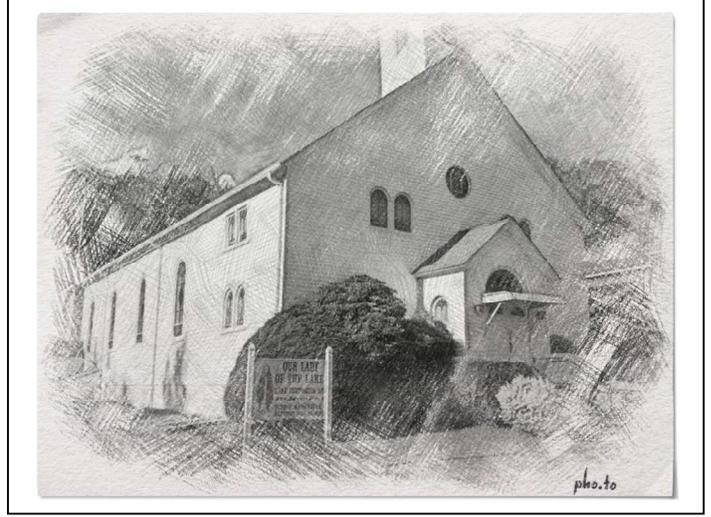


Saint Francis Xavier Parish

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 3, 2019



St. Francis Xavier Church
151 Bridge St., Narrowburg

Our Lady of the Lake Church
Rt. 52, Lake Huntington

Masses

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

Masses

Sunday 8:30am
Holydays of Obligation As Announced

Confessions

Saturday 4:00pm
Or by appointment

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 J. DENAN, PASTOR

ABBY RODDEN, PARISH SECRETARY

**OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY-FRIDAY 9:00AM-2:00PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT**

TELEPHONE: (845) 252-6681

FAX: (845) 252-6519

WEB ADDRESSES: www.sfnarrowburg.com

www.ollhuntington.com

EMAIL: sfxnarrowburg@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE: (845) 252-6681

EMAIL: sfxololre@gmail.com

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 FATHER DENNIS M. DINAN

Dear Parish Family,

"Before the Lord the whole universe is as a grain from a balance, or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook the sins of men that they may repent" (Wis 11:22-23). So begins our readings for this week. We could easily break these sentences down into curricula structure with material that would be sufficient teaching material for two courses. The first, on simply a physical or metaphysical level, would be a study of the universe with a comparison to a few key ancient and medieval philosophers' insights into the nature and essence of God. The second would deal with life itself, and would be more of a comparison between the life of God and our lives, or even all other life on the earth or in the universe, if there is such.

I find it odd that at the same time I stumbled onto this reading this week, I remembered that I recently had been talking to others about a fascinating book that I had to tear myself away from, some time ago, because it demanded more of a commitment from me than I was capable of giving, serving as a parish priest. The book is *Rare Earth: Why Complex Life is Uncommon in the Universe*, by Peter D. Ward. It is scientific, but it doesn't have the boredom of a chemistry class. Yet, it touches on things you'd find in the *Periodic Table of Elements*. It reads a bit like a novel about how the Earth came about and why it supports life, combined with some of the complicated explanations from physics and chemistry that describe what was necessary to make it all happen. It does not talk about God, but as you read you can reflect on the intelligence that was necessary to produce all this, or you can simply give credit to science and leave all talk of "cause" out of it.

It gives a lot of essentials—which I only skim over here—beginning with the "Big Bang." From this came little more than three things—three elements: hydrogen, helium, and lithium. The hydrogen produced helium as a result of thermonuclear fusion. It was now the heaviest element in the universe. Still, almost everything we take for granted to support life on earth requires elements heavier than helium—even the elements that make up 96% of the earth's mass—oxygen, magnesium, silicon, iron and sulfur! Where did these come from? How did they come about? It's a long story and much more complex than we can explain here. The author, however, does explain the formation of the stars, planets, moon, galaxies, etc. It's really very interesting, if you enjoy this kind of stuff.

What I found most exciting is when he talked about the formation of "carbon," maybe because this has been tossed around as a "political football," like something awful! I say this because I learned that carbon was the secret to having life in the universe. No carbon—no life—for a while! Carbon had to wait for the formation of giant red stars. These had such density that their inevitable explosions (and the thermonuclear fusion that accompanied them) were powerful enough to allow three way collisions of helium atoms to form carbon atoms. From carbon, heavier atoms could be formed. This all happened because the matter from the Big Bang was being cycled/recycled in and out of stars. Don't believe it? The atoms of our bodies were once the matter of stars too! This gradually began to enrich the universe.

In my very simple summation, our sun was formed by this process and such resultant matter. While it was forming, it was surrounded by millions of miles of gas, dust and rocks. As the sun grew hotter, only certain elements could survive in certain areas orbiting the sun. Planets were formed by those elements. Those closer to the sun were too hot to end up with enough nitrogen and carbon to support life. Those too cold wound up with an abundance of these but were too unstable to form solid surfaces. The earth was the only one to have the right surface warmth (climate/temperature) where all the elements could survive. It makes sense too! Our atmosphere is a precise

mixture: 78.09% nitrogen, 20.95% oxygen, 0.93% argon, 0.039% carbon dioxide, and small amounts of other gases, which is what works out to be the best for forming hard surfaces and supporting life.

There were other amazing things in the formation of the earth. One is that we are the only planet in our solar system that has water on the surface and a temperature range that allows it to always exist. It also has linear mountain ranges. These are not as important as the process that creates them: plate tectonics. Yes, that's what causes such terrible things like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, but that is what is also responsible for acting as the planet's thermostat, by recycling chemicals which are crucial in keeping the volume of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere relatively uniform and liquid water abundant. Really amazing stuff! Plate tectonics also are the cause behind changes in our sea levels and the formation of minerals that keep the levels of carbon dioxide—yes, global temperatures—in check. They also make possible one of earth's greatest characteristics, its magnetic fields which above all protects us from deadly cosmic radiation.

The author describes in much more detail how all of this happens. All I could do here is provide a brief summary of his thoughts. All the while, however, reflecting on these things, the words of the prophet Isaiah (45:15-25) kept going through my mind. The Church uses this as a *Canticle* which we pray as part of Morning Prayer at least once each month in *The Liturgy of the Hours*. These are also the words God once spoke to his chosen people, Israel. I ask you, as I asked myself: "Can this mean anything less to us, than it did to them?"

*Israel, you are saved by the Lord, saved forever!
You shall never be put to shame or disgrace
in future ages.*

*For thus says the Lord,
the creator of the heavens,
who is God,
the designer and maker of the earth
who established it,
not creating it to be a waste,
but designing it to be lived in:*

*I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I have not spoken from hiding
nor from some dark place of the earth.
And I have not said to the descendants of Jacob,
"Look for me in an empty waste."
I, the Lord, promise justice,
I foretell what is right.*

*Come and assemble, gather together,
you fugitives from among the Gentiles!
They are without knowledge who bear wooden idols
and pray to gods that cannot save.*

*Come here and declare in counsel together:
Who announced this from the beginning
and foretold it from of old? Was it not I, the Lord,
besides whom there is no other God?
There is no just and saving God but me.*

*Turn to me and be safe,
all you ends of the earth,
for I am God; there is no other!*

What I need to do next is "wave the flag!" We are told that God no longer belongs in our society. We cannot pray to him in our schools. We cannot display religious symbols for many reasons, but especially because we do not want to cause "offense." The Ten Commandments are OUT! Yet, our children can be waltzed to the abortion clinic without our

knowledge. A process is beginning where we can be told what we can and can't eat; what we can and can't drive; how much carbon we can use. Why all this power over us? Why this grasp at power by our politicians? Must we adore their idols? Are these going to save us? Can't we see that God is in control? He has the power, but doesn't oppress us. What happened to "We the People?" I sure don't want to live like this. I want to live saying, "In God We Trust!" like the country into which I was born!

Like the prophet Isaiah said, God made the earth! He designed it to be lived in! He foresaw that we would not use it correctly. He knew we could abuse it! From the little I've read, I believe that God has already taken this into account. He is a good and loving Father who always watches out for us. He put safeguards in place. That does not mean that we can continue to abuse God's creation. No, that is sin! But we need to trust in God because it is only he who "can do all things." Now that's what we call Power! That is also why he can "overlook our sins that we may repent!"

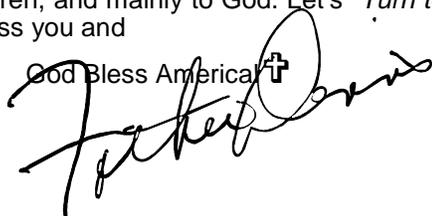
I'm sure you've probably heard me say some of the following before. Our government no longer stands with the greats like Thomas Jefferson, whose words still speak from the Memorial built in his honor: "God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"

Being a free people, we are the only ones who can secure these liberties. We do this at the voting booth. Tuesday is Election Day. We always need to respond to this! This is where we select those persons who will represent us. Besides "turning to God and being safe," we need to turn to God in our vote, not just in Presidential elections, but the local too. This is where our governing begins. He still wants us to flourish as a country, but he needs us to prepare the way for him to continue to visit us. As his disciples, we need to return to the true spirit of Patriotism by electing only true Patriots to represent us in Washington, our States, and towns. George Washington insisted, "Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports." These he said are the "great pillars of human happiness" the "great props" we should not cease to build. Regardless of party, to "subvert" these he thought was the very opposite of true Patriotism. Do you want your country back? It only works if we all get involved somehow on the local and the other levels. It demands sacrifice and vigilance. These have always been a part of the price we pay for liberty. We may even have to run for office ourselves. This letter itself is a work of vigilance! When I hear things like having problems with carbon, temperatures, etc., I need to know what I believe and why—to my satisfaction, and not be told what I should believe. I try to do my best in researching facts using authors like that of *Rare Earth* and others.

We should not be afraid of government, not in this nation! Not now! We need government! We need Big Government! I don't mean expansive, expensive government, but BIG because, as President Abraham Lincoln said at Gettysburg:

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Yeah! It has to involve all of us! We owe it to them, to ourselves, to our children, and mainly to God. Let's "Turn to God and be safe." God Bless you and

God Bless America! 

BRINGING JESUS TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD



THROUGH MARY

COME AND PRAY THE ROSARY FOR AN END TO ABORTION

2nd & 4th FRIDAYS, AT 1:00 PM

OUTSIDE PLANNED PARENTHOOD

14 PRINCE ST., MONTICELLO, NY

Gathering at: **CHURCH OF ST. PETER**
10 LIBERTY ST., MONTICELLO
 following 12:15 Mass

For more information call: Jane @ (845) 292-4647

A Letter from Purgatory

Would you like to know what I really want and desire? I need to have Masses offered for me. A Mass said for me, now deceased, is a Mass offered for my soul. This tradition of the Church dates back to ancient times where a priest offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass imploring God's mercy upon a soul in purgatory. We see this especially during the month of November. St. Gregory contributed to the spread of this pious practice. These aid me in being delivered from the time I will spend in Purgatory. Many souls lament that no one is praying for them or having Masses offered for them. Thank you for remembering me today.

Will I choose to love the least?



And the King will answer:
 "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to 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

Ends this Weekend!!!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 2nd

All Souls Day

4:30pm -All Souls Intentions

Sunday, November 3rd

8:30am -All Souls Intentions

11:00am -All Souls Intentions

Monday, November 4th

NO MASS

Tuesday, November 5th

SFX 8:30am - All Souls Intentions

Wednesday, November 6th

SFX 8:30am - All Souls Intentions

Thursday, November 7th

SFX 8:30am - All Souls Intentions

Friday, November 8th

SFX 8:30am - All Souls Intentions

Saturday, November 9th

SFX 4:30pm -Clarence & Marie Schultz
Requested by DorothySchultz

Sunday, November 10th

OLL 8:30am -Margaret Preis
Requested by Mary Jane Nober

SFX 11:00am -Jean Kerrigan
Requested by Wendell & Lillian Putz

George Johnson
Requested by Eleanor Johnson

Readings



Wisdom 11:22-12:2
2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2
Luke 19:1-10

Collection

October 26/27, 2019

Only One Collection

St. Francis Xavier \$877.00

Our Lady of the Lake \$190.00

Total

\$1,067.00

Thank you!



Christmas in November

Tricky Tray, Array of Gifts and Plants
Sponsored by Saint Francis Xavier and
Our Lady of the Lake Churches

151 Bridge Street

November 23, 2019

10am - 3pm

Linda Smith 252-7547

Elsa Grosser 932-9807



Marian Consecration

His Eminence, Cardinal Dolan, is offering an opportunity to bring to our Archdiocesan family something of a spiritual conversion; a light within the darkness of these troubled times.

All are invited in consecrating themselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, or choose from another date listed inside.

You will find FREE copies of the book, 33 Days to Morning Glory, at the back of the church.

These consecration books map out everything you need to know.

Please take one home and use it with your family.

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, Peter O'Leary Jr., Jessica Hartley, Dorothy Schlegel, Henrietta Pierce, Ella Dorothy Neidert, Ed Coates, Abby Rodden

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, Rita & Arthur Holmes, Kathleen Jamieson

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