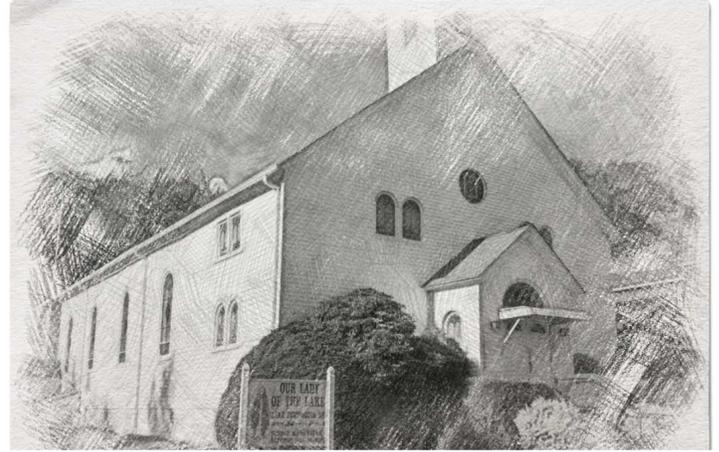


Saint Francis Xavier Parish

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 26, 2020



St. Francis Xavier Church

151 Bridge St., Narrowsburg

Masses

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

Confessions

Saturday	4:00pm
	Or by appointment

Religious Education

Sunday	9:45-11:00am
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Our Lady of the Lake Church

Rt. 52, Lake Huntington

*Our Lady of the Lake Church
is closed for the winter season*

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 priests.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Arrangements should be made at least 6 months prior to wedding date. Marriage Preparation Conferences must be attended. 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 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: TUESDAY-FRIDAY 10:00AM-3:00PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT**

TELEPHONE: (845) 252-6681

FAX: (845) 252-6519

WEB ADDRESSES: www.sfxnarrowsburg.com

www.ollhuntington.com

EMAIL: sfxnarrowsburg@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE: (845) 252-6681

EMAIL: sfxololre@gmail.com

Dear Parish Family,

I saw about 10 minutes of a show that was new to me, "Invested in You" with Charles Payne and his guests. It seemed to be an economic forum with people in their 20's up to middle age. A question I heard one of them ask right away was (and I paraphrase), "What is the best way to assure financial stability for your later years?" The answer basically was: save & invest, especially with a 401k. Charles Payne, at one point, asked the crowd, "I wonder if any of you actually believe that Social Security will be there for you and will be able to provide this?" There was no show of hands! This brought me back to the year 1960!

I just got my latest Social Security Administration (SSA) annual statement. Yes, priests pay income tax, Social Security and Medicare like everyone else. I began working when I was 11, but not until I was 16, in 1964, did I make enough that I had to pay what we call FICA, although I predate Medicare. To be honest, I never paid much attention to all this until 14 years ago, 1960, when I turned 60. Then I heard that I could start collecting full benefits at 66. I didn't know what a full benefit would translate to monthly. I also saw that in two years, at 62, I could start but would lose some of the benefit. Most people I asked were collecting somewhere between \$1,400 and \$1,800 a month, and from that Medicare costs are also deducted, hardly enough for most people to live on, but it's a lot more than we put into the program. If you are curious, by using a "nutshell" example and \$1,600 as the monthly benefit and filing at 62, a person's monthly benefit gets reduced about \$480 a month. It may seem like a lot. But, let's say they collect SSA \$\$\$ until age 78, they actually wind up with \$215,040 in total. Filing at 67, will give them \$211,200, and waiting until 70 would give them the highest monthly amount, but lowest total payout of \$190,464. Also, SSA claims that all benefits may be reduced to 80% by 2035. So, SSA will not offer great future financial stability. They say 50% file at 62 for these reasons.

With the annual March for Life last Friday, I look forward to hearing about my old youth group's trip there this year, and I recall attending a benefit for Good Counsel Homes around this time years ago. Good Counsel was co-founded for homeless pregnant women by Christopher Bell. He is a familiar face to many Catholics in the NY Archdiocese. To my surprise, I saw many people there from the media who embraced the Catholic Church's pro-life position and were adamantly opposed to what Saint John Paul II coined as the "culture of death." Some well-respected and influential people used this term throughout the night when speaking to us. Two of them had been part of President Reagan's Administration: Peggy Noonan and Ambassador Faith Whittlesey. Another was Larry Kudlow, popular television economist of CNBC, now Director of the National Economic Council under President Trump. There was also Maggie Gallagher, a prolific writer on "the Family."

One of the ideas that was promoted was how the "culture of death" has devastated our country, morally and economically. Speaking about the above problem we are having funding our Social Security System, I was surprised that President George Bush was quoted as saying that we are lacking 40,000,000 people in our work force to fund the system and support the benefits of those who are retired and are dependent on Social Security. It was also cited that this was roughly the number of children we had put to death by abortion since 1973 (the total now is almost 62 million). We have done this to ourselves. We have no one to blame for it. We are suffering the effects of our being a sinful nation. God is not punishing us. We must take the blame for having strayed from his ways and his laws. This is merely cause and effect. This is just one occurrence of how choosing our ways over God's can be devastating!

George Sim Johnston, a catechist in our Archdiocese, wrote

a book review of, *Original Sin: A Cultural History*, by Alan Jacobs, entitled *Paradise Lost, Again and Again*. I found it on catholiceducation.org. Looking at "the Fall" in the *Book of Genesis*, he shows the flip-side of our choice in living:

Whatever your belief about the devil, his offer to Adam and Eve is something to think about: If you eat the fruit, he says, *you shall be gods*, knowing good and evil. In other words, you can create your own reality. Why not enjoy a radical autonomy wherein the truth is determined not by the nature of things but by your own individual will?

Doesn't this somewhat pinpoint our inbred resistance to God's Will in this national stance that we have chosen to take on life?

In his book, *The Spirit and the Bride*, Abbot Vonier describes the Holy Spirit's presence and action in our lives, though we may be completely unaware. He says,

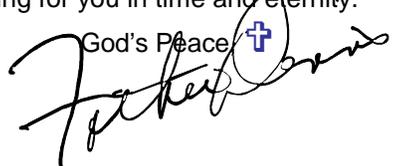
It is the Christian's happy lot to be at all times in immediate contact with the Spirit; he has the Spirit in himself, and wherever he looks within the immense boundaries of the Church he sees the Spirit. The Church is the home of the Spirit and there is nothing so near, nothing as present on the earth, as is the Spirit. The Spirit is invisible; but this does not mean that the Spirit is not manifest. For this is the special characteristic of the Spirit in the New Dispensation [Covenant or New Testament] that He is a most evident power, not a hidden, imperceptible force.... Of the Spirit it is said ... that He is shown forth like a mighty wind, that He is seen as a burning fire, that He is anything but a hidden God.... The Spirit is the true theophany [appearance of a god in a visible form] after Christ's Ascension until He returns again from heaven in the glory of the Father. [And, it] is in His own person that He manifests Himself.

Unlike the Son's first coming, where "Jesus did not show Himself in His power during His life on earth," Vonier says, "the Spirit at once shows His fullest measure of presence." He says, "With the coming of the Spirit, He arrives with glory, with power; there is no lack in the signs of His presence." He insists that the coming of the Spirit is always complete!

I don't know about you, but it seems to me we are missing a whole lot! If everything Abbot Vonier is saying about the Holy Spirit is true—and it is—and the Spirit has literally interleaved his life with ours and they are truly intermingled, we have not done a good job of identifying the Spirit's presence. We have hardly tapped into his power. We have made little sense of this gift of God in our lives. For the most part, people have mostly chosen to ignore or disregard the influence of the Spirit in their lives—the Spirit who is our only hope to necessarily reproduce the life of Christ in us—our only hope of happiness.

In his book, *Time Management for Catholics*, Dave Durand, speaks about Catholic "big picture principles" and applying them to our lives. These, of course, must be what have come from the "Master!," and with good reason. There will come a time in each of our lives (even if it happens only at the end) when much of what we have done, or have had as our priorities, will be meaningless and insignificant unless they have been centered in Christ. His advice: "*Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven*" (Mt 6:20). And he asks, by the way, "Where is your treasure?"

We each might be asked, "What did we do to protect the sacredness of human life that was not even given a chance to begin?" If so, what can we do now? Why not do it for God? For ourselves? It will help the Church in its vocation crisis. Yes, it will even help you and others when it is time to collect Social Security. It will be a blessing for you in time and eternity.

God's Peace 


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ATTENTION

The new 2020 Prayer Lists will be cleared after this week. Please add your loved ones names to the new Prayer Lists at the back of the church. Thank you!

Below is a required announcement that must run several times a year.

Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by priest, deacon, religious or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212-371-1000 x 2949. She may be reached via e-mail at victimassistance@archny.org. Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, www.archny.org. In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

Cualquier persona que necesite reportar algún incidente de abuso sexual de un menor por un sacerdote, diacono, religioso/a, o laico sirviendo en la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York, se le pide que por favor contacte a la Hermana Eileen Clifford, O.P. al (212) 371-1000 extensión 2949. Ella también pueden ser contactada vía correo electrónico: victimassistance@archny.org. Para más información pueden visitar la página en la red del la Arquidiócesis: www.archny.org. De acuerdo con las normas de la Arquidiócesis respecto al abuso sexual de menores, esta información se provee para asegurar que nuestro niño os permanezca seguros.

PTAF Winter Festival



Come join other Sullivan County teens at The Villa Roma, next Sunday, January 26 from 12:00-3:00pm for tubing and skiing!

St. Blaise Bishop & Martyr



Next Saturday, February 1st and next Sunday, February 2nd, we will offer the Blessing of the Throats at all of the Masses.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 25th

SFX 4:30pm - Brett Hubert
 Requested by His Family
 -Ken Russell
 Requested by Lillian Russell

Sunday, January 26th

(NO MASS at OLL)
 SFX 8:30am - Our Parish Family
 SFX 11:00am - Our Parish Family

Monday, January 27th

NO MASS

Tuesday, January 28th

SFX 8:30am - A Special Intention

Wednesday, January 29th

SFX 8:30am - Available or Our Parish Family

Thursday, January 30th

SFX 8:30am - Available or Our Parish Family

Friday, January 31st

SFX 8:30am - Available or Our Parish Family

Saturday, February 1st

SFX 4:30pm - Available or Our Parish Family

Sunday, February 2nd

(NO MASS at OLL)
 SFX 8:30am - Available or Our Parish Family
 SFX 11:00am - Available or Our Parish Family

Collection

January 18/19, 2020

First Collection

St. Francis Xavier \$727.00

Second Collection

(Capital Improvements)
 St. Francis Xavier \$310.00

Other

St. Francis Xavier \$20.00

Total

\$1,057.00

Thank you!

READINGS



Isaiah 8:23-9:3

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

By the Sisters of Life

Heavenly Father, we ask You to bless our family.

Open our hearts to receive Your love. May our home be another Nazareth, so that our family may be a place where Your peace and love abides.

Open our eyes to recognize the gift and beauty of life, so that we may find joy in Your presence among us.

Grant us pure hearts seeking holiness, generous hearts full of Your love, merciful hearts ready to forgive and tender hearts full of kindness.

May our family be a sanctuary of life and love,
 a beacon of hope
 drawing others to to your Son, Jesus Christ.
 Amen.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Holy Family of Nazareth, pray for us.

Please Pray for our Parish Family

This list will be cleared at the end of January. Please see the new 2020 lists at the back of the church.

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, Henrietta Pierce, Ella Dorothy Neidert, Ed Coates, Howard Van Jones, Dolores Nelson, Emerson “Bucky” Misner

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, Stanley Javitz, Dorothy Schlegel

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