

Saint Francis Xavier Parish

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020



St. Francis Xavier Church

151 Bridge St., Narrowsburg

Masses

Saturday	4:30pm
Sunday	8:30am
	11:00am
Daily (Tuesday-Friday)	8:30am
Holy Days of Obligation	As Announced

Confessions

By appointment ONLY

Our Lady of the Lake Church

Rt. 52, Lake Huntington

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

REV. DENNIS M. DINAN, PASTOR

ABBY RODDEN, PARISH SECRETARY

HOURS: TUESDAY-FRIDAY 10:00AM-3:00PM

Because of social distancing measures throughout New York State, the office will not be open for walk-ins until further notice.

Meetings over the phone with Fr. Dennis or Abby can be arranged in advance.

We can be reached by mail, email or phone during office hours.

TELEPHONE: (845) 252-6681

FAX: (845) 252-6519

WEB ADDRESSES: www.sfxnarrowsburg.com www.ollhuntington.com

EMAIL: sfxnarrowsburg@gmail.com

Dear Parish Family,

Last week, we spoke about our duty to bring our faith into the “public square” and for the lay faithful to act as a “leaven” in society. Saint Peter called us to live our faith in such a way, publicly, so as to be able to tell others of the reason of our “hope”-ful way of living. We are living in the Kingdom! Jesus told us, *“The kingdom of God is among you.”* (Lk (17:21). We saw that this is not just a nice thing to do, but also what we were called to by the Lord himself. In the *Gospel of Matthew*, Jesus tells us, *“The kingdom of heaven is like yeast [leaven] that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened”* (13:33). Jesus used simple everyday examples and images like this to clearly get his message across. He calls us things like salt, light, soil, and leaven because these all produce certain effects. Likewise, we are called to affect others in the way we season, shine, nourish, and transform our culture. As for yeast or leaven, there is power to transform within yeast. We don’t see what it does until it is kneaded into dough. Invisibly, it transforms the loaves so they can bake properly. Jesus is telling us that we have a power within us that is capable of transforming our world and society. Saint Paul tells us it is the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead (Rom 8:11). God shared this power with us at our Baptism and Confirmation.

This week, celebrating the Lord’s Ascension, we heard the last words Jesus spoke before being *“lifted up.”* We can see how Jesus speaks about this power and how he expected it to be used. They clearly show, in some way, we all have a duty that we simply cannot blow off for others to do. He told his disciples *“You will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”* (Acts 1:8). This was repeated in the *Gospel of Mark* in a slightly different way, *“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age”* (Mt 28:18-20).

Today, in our First Reading (Acts 1:12-14) we see the group returned to Jerusalem and waited for the Holy Spirit as Jesus instructed them. So, we know that they took the words of Jesus, not only literally, but also sort of like this was his *“Last Will and Testament.”* They, and likewise their disciples, brought the Good News that Jesus proclaimed to all the then-known parts of the world. Over the centuries, the command of Jesus has not been interpreted differently. To add to this what the Church has said on the subject, Pope Paul VI gave us an Apostolic Exhortation, *On Evangelization in the Modern World*. In it, he claimed that the work of bringing the message of Jesus Christ to every person is the “essential function of the Church” (14). As the thought of evangelization might frighten us, we must remember that the Apostles gathered in the upper room in fear and trembling until the Holy Spirit was given to them. This is where they received the courage for such an undertaking. We have received the same Spirit. We have received the same gifts they did. Still, Pope Paul VI describes it as “the delicate, difficult, unpopular mission of revealing that Christ is the Savior of the world. [And also] It [is a task that] must be undertaken by the people.”

Something we might miss, but should not, is that in the First Reading we see the Apostles praying before this whole enterprise begins. In the Gospel (Jn 17:1-11a), we also see Jesus praying to the Father for them (the Apostles, specifically). What we do not see is that only a few verses later, Jesus is praying for us too! Obviously, we must do our

part. We must pray, asking how Jesus wants us to fulfill our part of the Mission God assigned to us. This should be ongoing, not a one-shot deal, because our duty remains throughout our lives in some way according to God’s will. As we seek advice from others throughout our lives, we need to seek it from the best Source. We need to discern God’s plan for us. He knows! We can also choose good Spiritual reading. God often speaks to us in this way. He can also speak to us through spiritual people.

Let me tell you about something that recently happened to me. I began to read a book called *A Travel Guide to Heaven*. The author is Anthony DeStefano. I know him from Staten Island. It’s not a theological book; however, it is filled with theology. In the Introduction (or what he calls the “Flight Plan”), he tell us that the idea of writing this came to him because of the distorted image people have of heaven. He says, although “the general public believes in heaven, not many people seem bubbling over with excitement about it.” Many people seem “not to be thinking about it at all.” Or, their ideas have become “stale.” He also speaks attending fifteen funerals after 9-11 in seven months. In all of the sadness and grief, the words preached, he felt, “did not resonate with the mourners who heard them.” As a preacher, I can agree with him. I have to accept my share of that. Basically, he is saying, “Heaven has not been made very attractive to us”—not farfetched! The words of Pope Benedict given to us from his Encyclical, *Spe Salvi*, or “in hope we were saved,” taken from the *Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans* (8:24) seem to agree with DeStefano. On the same subject, he Holy Father says,

Faith is the substance of hope. But then the question arises: do we really want this—to live eternally? Perhaps many people reject the faith today simply because they do not find the prospect of eternal life attractive. What they desire is not eternal life at all, but this present life, for which faith in eternal life seems something of an impediment. To continue living for ever—endlessly—appears more like a curse than a gift. Death, admittedly, one would wish to postpone for as long as possible. But to live always, without end—this, all things considered, can only be monotonous and ultimately unbearable.

True! We are called to evangelize. We are called to bring the Gospel message to every single person. How do we do this? Jesus did not say “how.” He just said, “Go, and do it.” He left the details to us, or Pope Paul. He gave us imaginations! Ultimately, the message is that Jesus has gone to heaven to prepare a place for us. He won this for us as a pure gift by suffering and dying for us. It is a place reserved for each one of us. The only way it will not be filled is if we chose not to go. We do that if we chose not to follow Jesus and the teachings he left for us with his Church. Some are found in Sacred Scripture. Some are found in our 2000 year Tradition. Some are pronounced by the Teaching Authority of the Church. It’s not always a picnic, but a great investment of our time and effort in return for what it promises. Let’s just say that this is a “kernel” of all that the Gospels proclaim. If everyone heard it, initially, it would be enough—for starters! The problem is that we need to muster the ambition to get in touch with every soul and communicate this. It should begin with those near at hand; but necessarily, it cannot stop there. We may not feel ready or qualified, but Chesterton also said, “If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly.” We have to start somewhere!

God's Peace ✕


SFX Weekly Sunday Collection

Our weekly collection for those attending Saint Francis Xavier Church is used for the day-to-day operation of the parish and its programs. You may set up a one-time or recurring donation to our parish.



[Make a Donation](#)

OLL Weekly Sunday Collection

Our weekly collection for those attending Our Lady of the Lake Church

[Make a Donation](#)

Repair & Maintenance

The Repair & Maintenance Collection is always the 2nd collection on the 1st Sunday of each month.



[Make a Donation](#)

Monthly Archdiocesan (Please Specify)

Archdiocesan Collection is always the 2nd collection on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

[Make a Donation](#)

Capital Improvements

The Capital Improvements Collection is always the 2nd collection on the 3rd Sunday of each month.



[Make a Donation](#)

Mass Intentions

The usual offerings for Mass Intentions called in or arranged with our Parish Office. These are generally \$15 for Masses in the archdiocese of New York.

[Make a Donation](#)

Mothers Day Novena

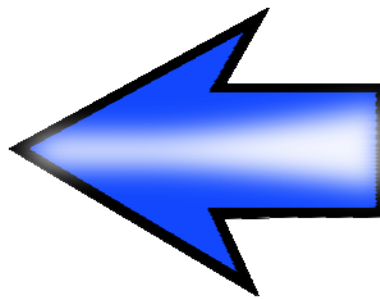
Usual free-will offering for Masses that will be said in the Month of May for our Mothers, living and deceased.



Fathers Day Novena

Usual free-will offering for Masses during the Month of June that will be said for our Fathers, living and deceased.

WeShare



We Share is now up and running so that you can make contributions to the church here at any time for the collections you've done in the past.

There are donation buttons for each weekend collection, Archdiocesan special collections, Mother's Day Intentions, and the Cardinal's Appeal, and more.

Fr. Dennis will be saying Mass for your Mother's Day intentions next weekend and throughout the month of May at available Masses. Please send them in via mail, email, or call the office.

To donate, please go to:

<https://sfxnarrowsburg.weshareonline.org/>

We realize these are difficult times for many, and we would like to thank those that are still able to support the church.



Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Narrowsburg, NY

With all public gatherings cancelled, I think you will agree how difficult it is, among other things, not to gather each weekend for Sunday Mass. Though we cannot gather in person, we are united with Christ in prayer. Know I am praying for you and your families.

In the meantime, as we face this health crisis together, I need to ask you for your continued, generous financial support for our parish. I encourage you to set up a recurring donation using our online giving platform as your donations are still needed. Will you make the commitment to support your parish during this unprecedented time through online giving today?

May God Protect and Bless You All,
God's Peace +

If you have already signed up to give a recurring gift online, thank you. If not, please sign up today. Your participation in supporting your parish is still needed!

- 1 Visit www.sfxnarrowsburg.com and click **Give Online**.
- 2 Select the collection of your choice.
- 3 Set up your donation amount, payment type, and frequency.

Once your account information is added, donations will automatically deduct from your account. It's that easy!

Please contact our office with questions at 845-252-6681.

Mass Intentions

Masses are NOT public at this time.

Saturday, May 23rd

SFX 4:30pm - Our Parish Family

Sunday, May 24th

SFX 8:30am - Our Parish Family

SFX 11:00am - Barbara J. Walter

Requested by George Walter

Monday, May 25th

NO MASS

Tuesday, May 26th

SFX 8:30am - Available or Our Parish Family

Wednesday, May 27th

SFX 8:30am - Available or Our Parish Family

Thursday, May 28th

SFX 8:30am - Available or Our Parish Family

Friday, May 29th

SFX 8:30am - Available or Our Parish Family

Saturday, May 30th

SFX 4:30pm - Available or Our Parish Family

Sunday, May 31st

Pentecost Sunday

SFX 8:30am - Our Parish Family

SFX 11:00am - Our Parish Family

Fr. Dennis will be saying Mass daily. Please mail, email, or call the office to request your Mass Intentions.



Please go to the following link and sign up for Flocknote! (Please use a cell number)

Flocknote allows parishioners to stay in touch and learn about important updates regarding the ongoing cancellations.

<https://signup.flocknote.com/>



Saint Francis Xavier, pray for us

READINGS



Acts 1:12-14

1 Peter 4:13-16

John 17:1-11a

Please Pray for our Parish Family

For the Sick: David Meyer, Ed Coates, Ella Dorothy Neidert, Dolly Marinelli, Elizabeth Stoddard

For the Deceased: Dorothy Schlegel, Peggy Lee Romano, Carmen T. Holstrom, Joseph Ramon Gonzalez, Andrew Kimmel, Grace Kimmel, Madeline LoBasso, Margaret Corkett, Joseph Barca, Emerson "Bucky" Misner, Maria Frangipane

For those Serving in the Military: Justin Warnick

Faith Forward

Returning to Public Worship

Executive Summary

The Archdiocese of New York is a large, diverse community of 2.81 million Catholics. We serve the city in Manhattan, Staten Island and the Bronx, plus Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, Westchester, Ulster, Rockland and Putnam counties. Since our founding in 1808, our mission has been to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, aware of the local area and the world, the spiritual and the material, the present and the future. We do this through ministry, service, prayer, education, and community, working with pastors, deacons, religious men and women, catechists, teachers, parish staff and volunteers at our nearly 300 parishes.

The lifeblood of the archdiocese's mission stems from the Mass and the sacraments. It is here that our people are inspired to serve their brothers and sisters in the broader community, and are sent forth to engage in evangelization and charitable works.

Since the outset of the COVID-19 crisis in the New York region, our churches have been closed to public worship. This was, indeed, a sad but necessary step to take for the health and safety of our parishioners and local communities. And it has worked.

Healthcare and government officials have now announced a phased plan to begin to reopen. To date, the "NY Forward" plan does not outline a process by which houses of worship will reopen their doors.

The Catholic community in New York is eager to resume public worship in a safe and responsible manner and in coordination with state and local government and health officials. Our people believe that worship is an essential service. To that end, we are proposing a phased plan which follows the latest guidance from the CDC and which, at the same time, respects our traditions. We believe that public worship can continue to take place safely in an era of social distancing.

Our plan includes the following policies and procedures:

- Churches will be regularly sanitized and disinfected. Signage will be placed on entrance doors instructing anyone with fever or flu-like symptoms not to enter the church. Parishioners must wear masks.
- Attendance at each individual Mass will be limited to no more than 25 percent of a church's occupancy permit.
- No physical contact during the Sign of Peace will be permitted.
- Parish safety committees and ushers will be trained to receive parishioners and escort them to suitable seating arrangements set up for social distancing for the protection of priests and parishioners. Ushers will wear masks and not make physical contact when greeting parishioners. Orderly arrivals and departures will be coordinated by ushers and parish security teams.
- Pews will be prepared to safeguard parishioners and will follow published protocols (see enclosed sample seating arrangements) based on:
 - Singles
 - Couples
 - Families with one child
 - Families with more than one child
- Frequently touched surfaces in the church (pews/pew tops, door handles, microphones, etc.) will be cleaned and sanitized per CDC recommendations after every liturgy. Restrooms will be cleaned between Masses.
- Hand sanitizer dispensaries will be available at all church entrances.
- At arrival and departure times, entrance doors will be propped open to limit contact with door handles. Where possible, pedestrian movement patterns will be instituted that will minimize the potential for close contact between parishioners, including dedicated access ways for entrance and departure. Signage will be used in implementing these measures.
- Utilization of lower church/parish center facilities for additional Masses if the Church is full, and live video display of services will be continued in order to alleviate any overflow in attendance.
- Holy water and baptismal fonts will be emptied.
- Additional Mass times may be added at the pastor's discretion.
- Worship aids will be discouraged. Online worship aids will be encouraged. If paper worship aids are used, they should be limited to one page, and attendees should be directed to take them with them after Mass. If worship aids are left in a pew, they must be collected and destroyed after each Mass.

- No paper bulletins will be distributed. Instead, parish bulletins/news will be posted to the parish website or emailed to parishioners.
- Non-essential gatherings will be suspended, including Children's Liturgy of the Word, post-Mass social gatherings/refreshments, etc.
- Communion will be distributed only via the Host; the Precious Blood will not be offered.
- A cantor will be permitted, but large choirs will not be used.
- Collection baskets will not be passed from person-to-person. Baskets with long handles will be allowed. Ushers taking the collection will wear masks and gloves. Large baskets may be placed at church exits for people to drop envelopes or donations. Ushers must immediately sanitize their hands after the collection.
- Offertory counters will wear gloves and masks, and practice social distancing.
- There will be no greeting of people after Mass.
- Tables and chairs in gathering areas will be put into storage so as not to invite people to use them.
- Baptismal pools or those with fonts that flow into a basin will be emptied after each use.

More detailed information regarding these policies may be found in the accompanying document, "Returning to Public Worship: Guidelines for Sacramental Celebrations."

By taking these steps, we are confident that we can assure our parishioners of their safety when attending church. For this reason, we are proposing that the Archdiocese begin its phased plan for reopening churches in tandem with the "NY Forward" Phase 2, which will coincide with the reopening of other professional and retail services.

The Archdiocese looks forward to working with state and local officials to realize its goal of bringing the Mass and sacraments back to the Catholic community responsibly and expeditiously.