

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 18th

SFX 4:30pm –All Members of the Hubert Family - Living & Deceased
Request by Dorothy Schultz

Sunday, December 19th

OLL 9:00am – Our Parish Family or Available

SFX 11:00am –Maria Biella (L)
Request by SFX Parish

Monday, December 20th

SFX 8:30am –Our Parish Family or Available

Tuesday, December 21st

NO MASS

Wednesday, December 22nd

SFX 8:30am – Our Parish Family or Available

Thursday, December 23rd

SFX 8:30am – Our Parish Family or Available

Friday, December 24th

NO 8:30am MASS

SFX 4:00pm – Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
OLL 6:00pm – Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

Saturday, December 25th

SFX 11:00am –Christmas Day Mass
NO 4:30pm MASS

Sunday, December 26th

OLL 9:00am – Our Parish Family or Available

SFX 11:00am – Our Parish Family or Available

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT BEHOLD!!

“Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.”

Isaiah 7:14



Last Week's Collection Third Sunday of Advent December 12, 2021

Weekly Collection

St. Francis Xavier \$ 768.00
Our Lady of the Lake \$ 191.00

Retirement Fund for Religious

St. Francis Xavier \$ 290.00
Our Lady of the Lake \$ 109.00

Other:

Heating & Energy \$ 160.00
Immaculate Conception \$ 52.00
Christmas Flowers \$ 35.00

Collection Total \$1,605.00

Thank you!

Attendance

SFX: 31+41=72 +OLL: 31=103

Saint Francis Xavier Parish Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19, 2021



Source https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fra_Angelico_-_Visitation_-_WGA0480.jpg

Artist: Fra Angelico (circa 1395–1455)

St. Francis Xavier Church
151 Bridge St., Narrowsburg

Our Lady of the Lake Church
6590 State Route 52,
Lake Huntington (Cochecton)

Masses

Saturday 4:30pm
Sunday 11:00am
Tuesday through
Friday 8:30am
Holydays as announced

Masses

Sunday 9:00am

REV. DENNIS M. DINAN, PASTOR

TELEPHONE: (845) 252-6681
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Confessions

Saturdays 4:00pm
or by appointment

Rosary: Friday after 8:30am Mass

PARISH OFFICE SCHEDULE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19TH

MON, TUES, THURS, CLOSED
WED 9AM-2PM
FRI TBD

OR BY APPOINTMENT:
(845) 252-6681 option 9
to leave a message for Father Dennis

Please Pray for our Parish Family

For the Sick: David Meyer, Ed Coates, Michael Harter, Marilyn, Dolly Marinelli, Dennis & Eileen Falk, Patricia Dempsey, Neba Ricardo, Alison Greenfield, Jim Schalk, Bob Drollinger, Walter Maers, Carol A. Pagnozzi, Eddie Negron, Tim Stein

For the Deceased: Peggy Lee Romano, Carmen T. Holstrom, Joseph Ramon Gonzalez, Hilda Bielfeld, Andrew Kimmel, Grace Kimmel, Madeline LoBasso, Margaret Corkett, Joseph Barca, Emerson “Bucky” Misner, Maria Frangipane, Elizabeth Stoddard, Victor Rodriguez, Father John Bida, Margaret Klotz, William Pammer, Francis Clark, James Clark, Alice Herrmann, George F. Wagner Jr., Dottie Schlegel, Karen Bernas, William Jay Everett, Ella Dorothy Neidert, Dominic Winum, Patricia Prendergrast, Marguerite Daley, Toya Espinosa, Wasy Puszkydsa, Mary Reda, Marian Reda, Ronald Scheuren, Beverly Zeman, Jack Kelly, Elizabeth McMurray, Mark Yewchuk
For those Serving in the Military: Lauren Warnick, Justin Warnick, Thomas Muller

Dear Parish Family,

Only 5 days away, are we finding that it's going to be a "Merry Christmas?" I remember last year, with all the special Masses, the people were too fearful. There's still some of that around. I did a search for "Cancelling Christmas" and you would think it's what many people would want us to do. Are we acting with the attitude of the people of that first Christmas toward the Christ child? With disputes over Christmas worshipping, gatherings, displays, music, greetings, etc., it seems many have "No room for baby Jesus." Saint John recalls that on first Christmas, "He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him" (Jn 1:10-11). Then, "there was no room for them in the inn" (Lk 2:7). In many ways, do you think we are finding less and less room for him in our society and in our lives?

Saint John Paul II told us: the birth of Christ marked a point in time which was "the turning point of the whole story of creation." It's true—I mentioned it last Sunday at Mass. Everything and all "time" in that story before then, is referred to as "B.C." or "before Christ" and everything following, like our time 2021, is referred to as "A.D.," short for "Anno Domini," or "in the year of Our Lord," all based on this one historical event. All of this sits squarely within the whole of time that God created, the time he has given to each of us. Can we make room for him in our time? Does he have any meaning in our life's time? If not, is the world revolving around something else in our life?

As per Saint Augustine, the Incarnation shows us God's model of humility. This is intended to both tutor us and so destroy this condition of pride. He asserts that pride is the greatest obstacle at work in keeping us from God. Still, Saint Augustine claims that there is no pride that cannot be healed by the humiliation of the Son of God. Christ's humility is our healing remedy.

We hear in today's Gospel, "Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times" (Mic 5:1). Yes, Jesus was born in the humblest of places. Father Nivard Kinsella, in *Unprofitable Servants: Conferences on Humility*, Chapter XVI, tells us though that, "Neither the lowly external conditions of his life, nor the material poverty constituted the humility of Our Lord." It sounds strange, but he adds that, "Neither was it the humiliation of his death, that of a criminal, that was the essence of Christ's humility."

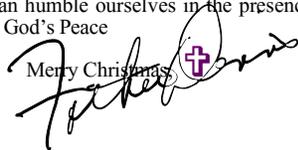
He further explains that "as God, Christ could not have humility." He is just what he is! Being a man, however, "even though he knew himself to be the Son of God, he could!" Christ's humility, Father Kinsella says, rests in the fact that "He freely chose to submit himself to these things, and accepted them although there was no need for him to do so." It is as if he said, "I have chosen to come into a sinful world, 'in the condition of a sinner, among sinful [people].'" And hence, "I will suffer as a sinner: 'As I have taken this condition on myself I will accept its consequences.'" Once decided, he never objected, never succumbed to dissatisfaction, never gave up. "He went ahead through his whole life, right up to the end, allowing the malice of men, their thoughtlessness and their obtuseness, to work against him." Isn't this how he is still willing to deal with us? Here Father Kinsella quotes Saint

Bernard, "He who alone was without a wound disdained not to wear the bandages of the wounded." And Father asserts, "It is not enough to examine his actions, the poverty and hardship of his lot, his subjection to his creatures, his obedience to Mary and Joseph." No, Christ's reaction to all things is found in the "unifying element" of his life, his humility "an accepting, an enduring, a passion" freely chosen. "His attitude to the providential working out of the Divine Plan in his life shows the essential humility of Christ."

Our Second Reading from the *Letter to the Hebrews*, speaks of this attitude and puts words in the Lord's mouth for us to hear. "When Christ came into the world, he said: ... Behold, I come to do your will, O God." The same words are repeated again, "Behold, I come to do your will." And then we are told, it is "By this 'will' we have been consecrated" (Heb 10:5-10). It also shows, we owe him everything, we merit nothing, and we can do nothing of ourselves. We must accept all things as coming to us from the hands of our heavenly Father. Do we believe this?

The Gospel today ends with Elizabeth speaking to Mary, saying "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled" (Lk 1:45). These words also apply to us. Do we believe the words spoken to us by Elizabeth? Do we believe the words of salvation? Do we believe what Christ did for us? Do we see how essential it was? Do we believe that our whole lives must depend on God and what he sends us? Even the Apostles had difficulties. They were all infected by pride, desirous of superiority. When Jesus caught them disputing about it, he concluded that they had not learned the essential lesson. Taking a child, he taught them, "Unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 18:3). And what does childishness require? Humility! This is what Jesus taught, "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 18:4). We must realize that we are as completely dependent on God as children are on their parents.

How can anyone say, "There is no room for Jesus" this Christmas? How can anyone adopt the notion that we need not celebrate Christmas? We must celebrate! We must celebrate Christmas not just on December 25th, but every day of the year. We must celebrate or perish! Shall we be numbered among those to whom he came, "[Who] did not know him ... his own people [who] did not accept him" (Jn 1:10-11). Remember, however, "To those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God" (Jn 1:12). This is our ticket for entrance to the Kingdom. What will it be? Father Kinsella tells us, "The efforts to practice [the way of humility] will show us the depths of conversion it implies, for our pride and self-sufficiency go very deep." Let us pray as in one of the Collects from an old Mass, "For Humility," "O God who resists the proud and gives grace to the humble, grant us the virtue of true humility, of which Thy only Son showed himself an example to the faithful...." Hopefully, we will respond to the grace given. Saint Bernard says, "How can we do other than humble ourselves in the presence of a humble God?" God's Peace

Merry Christmas


Holiday Mass times, weather cancellations, ministry updates, & more delivered to your phone

TO SIGN UP, TEXT SFXN TO 84576

Or sign up online at:

sfxnarrsburg.flocknote.com

Text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View privacy policy & conditions at flocknote.com/text

REMEMBER-ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22ND:

From October 2021 through June 2022
Each 22nd of the month

www.prayfordobbs.com



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.

Reconciliation Monday Monday, December 20, 2021

All parishes in the Archdiocese of New York will have priests available to hear confessions from 11am-1pm and from 6pm-8pm.

Confessions will be heard at Saint Francis Xavier rectory from 11am-1pm and 6-8pm



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

DECEMBER 24TH

SFX -4PM Christmas Eve Vigil
OLL -6PM Christmas Eve Vigil

DECEMBER 25TH

SFX - 11AM Christmas Day Mass

(NO 4:30PM MASS AT SFX ON DECEMBER 25TH)