

# Saint Francis Xavier Parish

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

Peace



REV. DENNIS M. DINAN, *PASTOR*

ABBY RODDEN, *PARISH SECRETARY*

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### **Our Lady of the Lake Church**

Rt 52, Lake Huntington

#### Masses

Sunday 8:30am  
Holydays of Obligation As Announced

#### Confessions & Daily Mass

At St. Francis Xavier

### **St. Francis Xavier Church**

Bridge St., Narrowsburg

#### Masses

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

#### Confessions

Saturday 4:00pm  
Or by appointment

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 9, 2018

FATHER DENNIS M. DINAN

Dear Parish Family,

Seriously now, how many of us have sat down to read and benefit from the *Book of the Prophet Baruch*? How many Catholics even know there is a Prophet Baruch? Still, the Church gives us our First Reading today from this. The Prophet Baruch came after Jeremiah, who we heard from last week. Baruch was a Jew, part of the Diaspora (dispersion, living “outside”), separated from his homeland, Jerusalem, during the Babylonian Exile. Hence, the background setting is the mourning and suffering of that period. Besides the physical anguish, there was also the spiritual longing for Jerusalem, which the Jews considered their only true home.

Is this not the same story of the human race? Did not sin separate us from our homeland? We were not made for a life of suffering! We cry out each day at the end of our Rosary (or we should), “Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.” The *Book of Revelation* calls us, the Church, the “New Jerusalem.” So! We are the “new Jews,” flung into a *Diaspora of Sin*—amid death, hunger, anguish, pain, anxiety, sickness, distress, grief, worry, sorrow, trouble, regret, unhappiness, sadness, aggression, discontent, hostility, wretchedness, dissatisfaction, injustice, restlessness, and the list can go on! We were not made for this! I ended the list there, though, so to tie in easily with what Saint Augustine said about this last human condition (restlessness) that we suffer in “our exile.” In the opening lines of his *Confessions*, he says, “O Lord, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” This is reality—our plight!

Our response is like that of Saint Augustine’s. We also say, to paraphrase him, “How can we rest in God, unless we seek him? How can we seek and find him, unless he had first sought us?” He assures us, as did Jesus with his words, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Mt 7:7). Likewise, the Prophet Baruch instructs us, as he did the old city, “Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: Wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God’s worship” (Bar 5:1-4). This was like a preview of what was to happen. God promised. God is faithful! And, we heard last Sunday in the Second Reading, this has already happened, “[Jesus] has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever (and ever). Amen” (Rev 1:6). This is a reality! “Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth ... who loves us ... has freed us from our sins by his blood” (Rev 1:5). Therefore, we can and we must seek him, who has first sought us.

We already have our place assigned. All he asks is that we follow as disciples and we are faithful in living according to his commands. Assuredly, Jesus will be faithful, as he pledged to the Church in Philadelphia (in below quote). His promise rings true of the splendor that God promised through the Prophet Baruch, “Because you have kept my message of endurance, I will keep you safe in the time of trial that is going to come to the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming quickly. Hold fast to what you have, so that no one may take your crown. The victor I will make into a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never leave it again. On him I will inscribe the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God, as well as my new name” (Rev 3:10-12). For this, we should long. This is our only true home.

Last month, our teenage leaders offered a new PTAF retreat experience for teens. Along with the flyer came the message, “We have worked very hard to make it meaningful and insightful.” It was called “Journey With Me.” The flyer said, “Come, Take a Walk with Me; Life is a Journey. Take It!”—simplified, but not dissimilar to what Jesus did and taught. The evangelists often describe Jesus’ mission in this way, “*He resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem*” (Lk 9:51). As disciples we must follow in his footsteps (as is depicted many times with his footprints in the sand). We must be “*resolutely determined to journey*” to the New Jerusalem. Advent is merely a stop on the journey each year. It is where we “*prepare the way*” (Lk 3:4). We wait! We expect! It is where God confirms his faithfulness to us each year. It is where promise and fulfillment always meet. It is where the rubber of Christianity meets the road—the road of the journey!

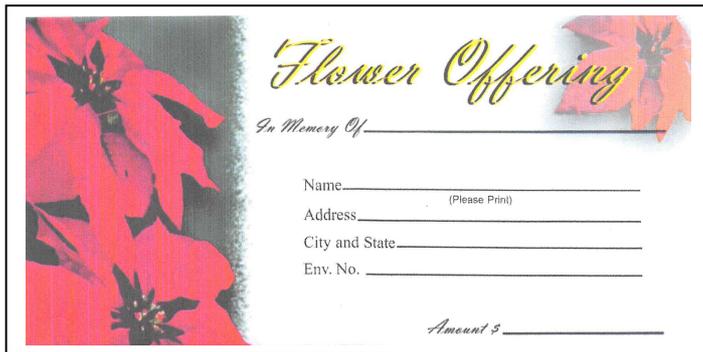
Father Raneiro Cantalamessa, the Capuchin preacher of the pontifical household, once zeroed in on a contrast we encounter at this time of year. He said that, “Contemporary society (is) careening frenetically to the rhythm of [the times], ignoring all the warnings that come not only from the Church but from many people who feel a responsibility for the future.” For us, however, the season of Advent, he said, “has something very important to say to us about our lives.” And so, he says, as we travel on the journey, the Church in her Liturgical Calendar, “Invite[s] us to stop for a moment and reflect and ask ourselves some essential questions: ‘Who are we? From whence do we come? And, above all, where are we going?’” And we know who we are. We have heard it at Mass on Sunday many times throughout the year in the first Preface of Sundays in Ordinary Time, “[Jesus] has called us to the glory that has made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart.” It’s all here! It just has not yet been realized by everyone, though it will be by those who are faithful and wait. Father Cantalamessa said, “Life is a waiting room of expectation, which for the Christian is dynamic in awaiting the one who has already come” We have come from God, and we are going to God. We are going to the “New Jerusalem,” our only true home! It is why we plead with Our Lady, “After this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb!” We have this spiritual longing! She responded to this: she has shown us!

We will continue to be shown this “Blessed Fruit” veiled in the Church, the Eucharist, in Scripture, and in his indwelling. Father said, we are “awaiting the one who has already come.” Saint John assures us, from a voice he heard from the throne in heaven, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as their God)” (Rev 21:3). Once again, we find promise and fulfillment. God is faithful. He will come through. And, Saint John said he saw the last promise fulfilled too. He said, “I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Rev 21:3). Our home is secure! Jesus, source of all our happiness will be ours forever!

In our Second Reading, Saint Paul confirms this too. “I am confident of this,” he says, “that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil 1:6). Our ticket, he implies, is our “partnership with the Gospel.” And, who wants to be a partner and not profit from it? Who wants to remain in exile after being freed? Today’s Gospel indicates Pilate and Herod did—present to and unmoved by the coming and going of Jesus! That was the existing society, careening frenetically to rhythms of the time!

God’s Peace, ✚  
*Father Dennis*

## SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER & OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CHURCHES



*Flower Offering*

In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_

Env. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Offering envelopes for our Christmas Flowers are available at the back of the church.

Offerings may be made in the memory or honor of a loved one.

### Reconciliation Monday

Monday, December 17

St. Francis Xavier Rectory Chapel

4:00pm-6:30pm

*Please come to the front door of the Rectory  
151 Bridge St., Narrowsburg*



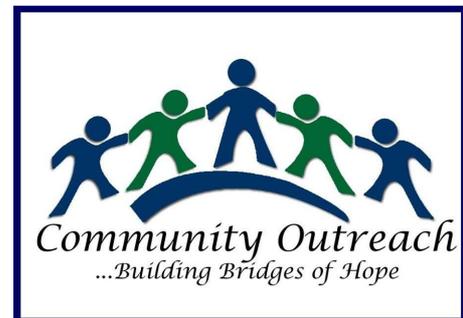
**The Ecumenical Food Pantry is holding an "Open Your Hearts" Toy Drive this Christmas season. Donation boxes will be located at the back of both St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady of the Lake Churches for your *new and unwrapped gifts*.**

**You may also make monetary donations by using the already addressed envelopes provided at the back of the church, which can be dropped in the collection basket or mailed. Please make checks out to the Ecumenical Food Pantry and write "Toy Drive" on the memo line.**

**The deadline for donations will be December 20th. For more information please call Joanne Letendre at 252-3971.**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

## St. Francis Xavier Outreach Program



The holidays are quickly approaching and many families in our parish and community are in need. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to our Outreach Program. Donations help to provide local families a joyous Christmas they may not otherwise have. Donations can be placed in the collection basket or sent to:  
PO Box 8 Narrowsburg NY12764

## Parish Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve SFX-4:00pm

OLL-6:30pm

Christmas Day SFX-10:00am

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Vigil Mass-Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary**

11:00am -Anthony Francis Molinaro  
Requested by Lorenzo Molinaro  
4:30pm -Bob Wiggins  
Requested by Lillian Russell

**Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Holyday-Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary**

8:30am -Matt Ryno  
Requested by His Family  
11:00am -Dr. Robert Lucas  
Requested by Patty Moser & Judy Stringer  
-Betty Creamer  
Requested by Wendell & Lillian Putz  
-Ernie Bendana  
Requested by Wendell & Lillian Putz

**Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am -Maria Meyer  
Requested by Bob & Rose Meyer

**Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am -Dr. Robert Lucas  
Requested by Patty Moser & Judy Stringer

**Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am -Our Parish Family

**Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

7:00pm -Our Parish Family

**Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

4:30pm -Fr. William Scully  
Requested by His Friends

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am -Our Parish Family  
11:00am -Nicholas Junjulas  
Requested by Christina & Butch Passarella  
-Betty Creamer  
Requested by Wendell & Lillian Putz

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Baruch 5:1-9

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Luke 3:1-6

**Collection**

December 2, 2018

***1<sup>st</sup> Collection***

Our Lady of the Lake	\$360.00
St. Francis Xavier	\$1,095.00

***2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Repairs & Maintenance)***

Our Lady of the Lake	\$99.00
St. Francis Xavier	\$298.00

***Other (Flowers)***

Our Lady of the Lake	\$150.00
St. Francis Xavier	\$235.00

**Total**  
**\$2,237.00**  
**Thank you!**

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Baptisms are regularly scheduled on available Sundays of each month after the 11:00am Mass. One Godparent is required and must be 14, confirmed, a practicing Catholic, and have obtained a sponsor certificate from their parish. Only one female and one male Godparent are permitted. Parents should be registered parishioners and must meet with the priest beforehand. Arrangements can be made by contacting the rectory.

**Sacrament of Matrimony**

The bride or the groom must be a practicing Catholic that is a registered parishioner or otherwise associated with the parish. A Pre-Cana wedding preparation course and a meeting with the priest is required. Arrangements should be made at least six months prior to the wedding date.

**Please Pray for our Parish Family**

**For the Sick:** Peggy Bayly Lohmann, Dennis Falk, Barbara Walter, Gloria Saures, Ed Brennan, Amy Ernano, Clayton Snow, Barnabas O'Driscoll, Sean Sweeney, Jose Mabama, Ron Burke, Charlotte Mills, Carol Mash, Mary Cauvaris, Barbara Smith, Janine Perry, Hilde Bielfeld, Rosemary Barile, Christine Mary Faggione, Tracy Larssen, Septemberr Totten, Helene Indelicato, Madeline Sheans, Peggy Lee Romano, Mary Weiden, Mary Tresh, Ida Alvarez, Mildred Meyer, Kenneth "Boomer" Meyer, and all those struggling with any kind of illness and suffering.

**For the Deceased:** Theresa Delaney, Helen Bunis, Maria Meyer, Pat Noble, Joseph Meyer, Gloria Ackermann, Eileen Dempsey, Martin Ferrick, Jacoba "Cobi" Campfield, George Johnson, Josephine Kelly, Joanne Barnes Brennan, Dr. Robert Lucas, Daniel Kelly, Fr. William Scully, Jean Salmeri, Barbara Smith, Mary Ann Janowsky, Helen Guttzeit, William Ackerman, Lewis Meckle, Alix Fils-Aime, Elizabeth Creamer, and all those who have gone before us.

**For those Serving in the Military:** SGT Vaughn Schlott USMC (TX)