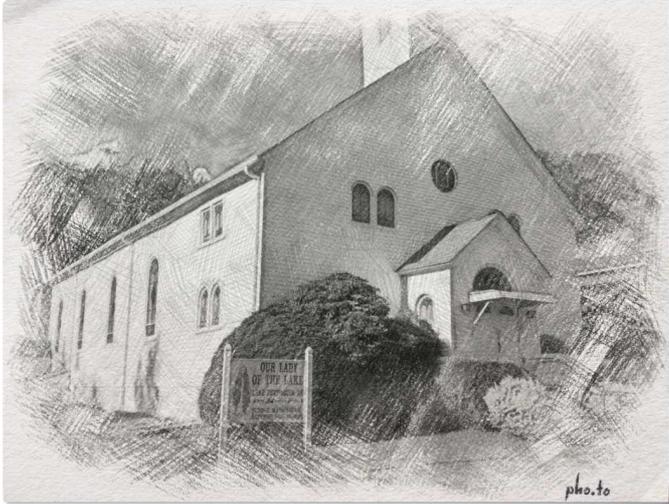


Saint Francis Xavier Parish

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 24, 2019



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

151 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

REV. DENNIS M. DINAN, PASTOR

ABBY RODDEN, PARISH SECRETARY

**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:30AM-11:30AM
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

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.

Dear Parish Family,

Bluntly, spiritual writer Thomas Merton, in his essay "The Moral Theology of the Devil," speaks of people that he says,

Develop a notion of the spiritual life which is a kind of hypnosis of evil. The concepts of sin, suffering, damnation, punishment, the justice of God, retribution ... are things over which they smack their lips with unspeakable pleasure. And this is because they derive a deep, subconscious comfort from the thought that many other people will fall into the hell which they themselves are going to escape. And how do they know they are going to escape it? They cannot give any definite reason except for the fact that they feel a certain sense of relief at the thought that all this suffering is prepared for practically everyone but themselves.

Might not this be an appropriate place to point out Jesus' words from today's gospel, "*Judge not, and you shall not be judged*" (Lk 6:37)? I heard this first, this way, from the *Douay-Rheims Bible* that I grew up using. I really didn't get the gist of what Jesus said. Besides it being a fast and useful way to tell the "better-than-thou" people, "to get off my back!," I simply thought that "judging" was an uncharitable act, for which we can all be guilty—rather unchristian conduct which can drift to becoming seriously sinful. It might be lumped with other hard-hitting gems from Jesus like, "*I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna*" (Mt 5:22). It might also fit in with Jesus' description of the Final Judgment, where a lack of charity or anything else will have consequences, because he claimed, "*What you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me*" (Mt 25:45).

We can all benefit from the works of Saint Thomas Aquinas and his *Theory of Knowledge*. He drew heavily on the writings of Aristotle and also from Plato, reconciling their conceptions of the soul with Sacred Scripture. Learning and knowing are both "human acts" which use body and soul, namely the intellect, will, imagination and memory. Saint Thomas taught that we know only what we have experienced. A truth derived from this is that we can only love what we know. Greater love springs from greater knowledge. Think of the opposite, where many relationships begin with sexual intimacy. Normally, these fail since they lack the time to grow in knowledge, along with prematurely sharing that which is supposed to unite and grow their love, which hasn't yet developed, a contradiction in itself.

Saint Thomas says we begin our lives with a "*tabula rasa*," (Latin: for *clean slate*), i.e. we begin with no built-in mental content, just "blank." Knowledge is built up gradually from our experiences and sensory perceptions of our outside world. Take the example of a baby. Among other things, the baby comes to love its mother as it comes to know its mother—beginning in the womb. From there, this love grows not only as a baby, but all through life. Yes, this even works with "love at first sight!" The person we have loved (known & experienced innately) in our dreams has shown up and we "know" him or her. In the end, we were created, "to know, love, and serve God in this world and be happy with him in the next." In heaven, we will continue to do the same in a supernatural manner. The process never stops: We can only love God if we know him. Love always depends on our degree of knowledge. And, we will want to serve God to the extent that we love him.

Related to this is our knowledge of others. Since we only know what we have experienced personally, we really only know those things about others which we can relate to our own personal experience and knowledge. For example, we can empathize with people and show true compassion for them only when we have "walked in their shoes." This is not simply pity or kindness. We've been there; and so, we can be there for them. I tell people, "Do not tell a person who has lost a child that you understand, unless you have lost one also." Or else, I can assure you: you'll be more of a hindrance than a

help. You'll be acting blindly! Jesus himself insists, "*The blind cannot guide*" (Mt 15:14). Join a "12-Step" program and who will they recommend as a sponsor for you? It won't be some good guy or gal just sitting in on meetings. No, it just may be a former wretch who went through recovery. He or she will be someone to whom you cannot lie—who came through denial & powerlessness to hope & faith—made one of those fearless moral inventories—came clean—admitted to God, to others and themselves their wrongs—amended—and continue the process. They "*perceived the wooden beam in their own eye*" (Lk 6:41) and took it out. Now, they can "*see clearly to remove the splinter in a brother's or sister's eye*" (Lk 6:42). Now, from personal experience, they truly can act as a sponsor. Based on the same principle, they can know and understand in others what they know and have experienced in themselves.

Still, it can be very easy to see the faults of others very clearly, and yet we do not see ourselves in the same category or having the same difficulties. Getting down to the crux of the matter, we must be careful since this is where joining the "better-than-thou" crowd begins—where we can be quick to sling mud or "*throw the first stone*" (Jn 8:7). We must realize: it is to us—we're all guilty—that Jesus addresses the words of today's gospel, "*Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned*" (Lk 6:37). But, we're not like them! Look at them! We're sure of this. What we don't realize is: it is obscured from sight. This is the heart of the problem! It must be shown: our knowledge comes from our experience. We cannot come to know aside from this. So, we cannot know what is going on in other people's lives unless we have had at least similar experiences. If not, our judgments amount to no more than guesses. As a result, guaranteed, much more often than not, we will be wrong.

Also, knowledge can be either conscious or subconscious. Besides acting deliberately, we act involuntarily, impulsively, spontaneously and instinctively also. This uses subconscious knowledge, hidden from us. Eye doctors speak of "scotoma," a "yellow spot" that diminishes sight in the field of vision. Psychologists also tell of "psychic scotoma," which suggests the content of something repressed from consciousness. These are simply analogies to show we are all subject to acting without "seeing clearly." Contemporary theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar says, "Sin obscures sight." This can be an appalling tragedy. Our fallen condition and orientation can blind and mislead us regarding our own sin. Our pride acts as the "yellow spot" of our self-criticism and judging, our downfall! This is what Merton was getting to in his quote above!

If we see the faults of others, we must remember: we might be right about what we perceive, but we can also be very wrong. Chances are, if we can recognize similarities in our own lives then, most likely, we are dealing with the same or similar faults. If we have done little or nothing to correct or overcome our own faults, we are not in a position to criticize or judge others. Hopefully, prudence should counsel us to keep our mouths shut! If we have made some or much progress with these faults, then we know that we are not in a position to criticize anyone. We can, however, be a friend. In a non-judgmental way, we can reach out as a friend. Still, friendship and respect might dictate that we wait until others are ready to ask for help. It will be our friendship that will ensure the trust they will need to do so. However, just the fact that we can see the faults in others can be a "red flag" for us, a sign that Jesus is speaking to us, "*Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned*" (Lk 6:37). Caution! Unknowingly, we might be judging ourselves, and condemning ourselves! This can be one of the most difficult passages in the message of the gospel to grasp. The problem is really us! Even so, we do not see it that way.

God's Peace 
Father Dennis

Discovering Christ



The series begins Sunday!

Curious about the meaning of your life?

Seek answers at Discovering Christ, a (FREE) 7-week experience that includes a great (FREE) dinner, an engaging Bible-inspired message, and discussion. Seven Sunday evenings, from February 24-April 14, from 5:00-7:30pm at St. Peter's Church in Liberty.

For more information, please go to: discoverchristssullivanco.org

Fr. Dennis will be attending the Discovering Christ series, and will be happy to offer a free ride to anyone who may be interested. We already have a group of around 10 parishioners signed up. If you would like to attend, please speak with Fr. Dennis *today*. Please remember, this series is **FREE and includes a dinner. Don't miss out!**



CHRIST LIFETM
CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION

Coming to Sullivan County, NY

FEBRUARY 2019

FREE MEAL * INSPIRING TALKS * DISCUSSION * GROWTH



ask.
seek.
knock.

discovering
CHRIST
a seven-week experience

The DISCOVERING CHRIST series is comprised of 7 sessions plus a retreat!

Weekly Sessions: 5-7:30 p.m.
St. Peter's School Cafeteria, Liberty, NY

February-April 2019

- ♦ February 24-What is the Meaning of Life?
- ♦ March 3-Why Does Jesus Matter?
- ♦ March 10-What Does Jesus Want us to Know?
- ♦ March 17-Why Do I Need a Savior?
- ♦ March 24- Why is the Resurrection Important for Us?
- ♦ March 31- Retreat Day: The Holy Spirit (2 p.m.-7 p.m.)
- ♦ April 7-New Life in the Spirit: Being a Catholic Disciple
- ♦ April 14-Believing and Belonging: Why We Need the Church

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO VOLUNTEER OR REGISTER WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!

CONTACT US AT DISCOVERCHRISTSULLIVAN@GMAIL.COM
OR 845.663.1689 FOR INFORMATION.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 23rd

4:30pm -Ann Pagnozzi
Requested by Paul & Carol Pagnozzi
-Helene Luning
Requested by Helene Indelicato

Sunday, February 24th

8:30am -Frank Kutcher
Requested by Mary Jane Nober
11:00am -George Attianese
Requested by Michael Attianese
-Mary Weiden
Requested by Helene Indelicato

Monday, February 25th

NO MASS

Tuesday, February 26th

8:30am -Muriel Maers
Requested by Her Family

Wednesday, February 27th

8:30am -Phyllis LaBriola
Requested by Christina & Frank
Passarella

Thursday, February 28th

8:30am - Our Parish Family

Friday, March 1st

8:30am -Our Parish Family

Saturday, March 2nd

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

Sunday, March 3rd

8:30am -Bruce Meyer
Requested by Mary Jane Nober
11:00am - Mary Weiden
Requested by Wendell & Lillian Putz
-Muriel Maers
Requested by Her Family

Collection

February 16/17, 2019

1st Collection

St. Francis Xavier	\$821.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$288.00

2nd Collection (Capital Improvements)

St. Francis Xavier	\$356.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$210.00

Total

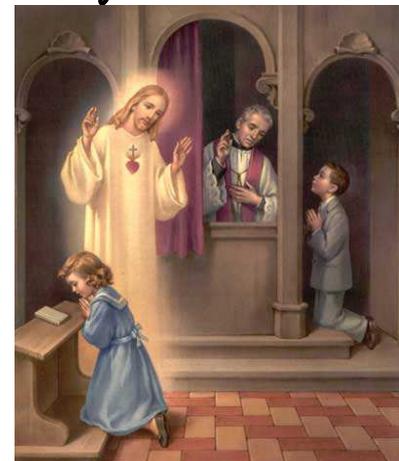
\$1,675.00

Thank you!

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9,12-13, 22-23
1 Corinthians 15:45-49
Luke 6:27-38

Congratulations



**to our Religious Education students
making their First Penance Today!**

Please Pray for our Parish Family

Please see the new prayer list sign-up sheets at the back of the church.

For the Sick: Christina Hubert, Peggy Lee Romano, Barbara Walter, Floyd Campfield, Lydia Newton, Kenneth "Boomer" Meyer

For the Deceased: Mary Weiden

For those Serving in the Military: