

Saint Francis Xavier Parish

The Most Holy Trinity

June 16, 2019



REV. DENNIS M. DINAN, PASTOR

ABBY RODDEN, PARISH SECRETARY

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:30AM-11:30AM OR BY APPOINTMENT

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St. Francis Xavier Church

151 Bridge St., Narrowsburg

Masses

Saturday	4:30pm
Sunday	11:00am
Daily (Wednesday & Friday)	8:30am
Daily (Tuesday & Thursday)	6:30pm

Confessions

Saturdays	4:00pm
Or by appointment	

Our Lady of the Lake Church

Rt. 52, Lake Huntington

Masses

Sunday	9:00am
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Confessions & Daily Mass

At St. Francis Xavier

Dear Parish Family,

All through college, then working on Wall Street, later in Engineering, and even later staying in touch with this stuff through books, I have listened to the “experts,” Management Consultants, gurus, and others for the secrets of how to make things work—how to motivate people to accomplish things—how to lead projects and companies to success. One of the common understandings or universal instructions has been to have people work towards a common purpose—seek to have persons united & working towards a common goal.

It is fascinating that we have a God who gives us the best example of how this works. Our God is three persons living in unity—always hard to describe, but always recognizable when described. In the first few centuries of the Church, because even Sacred Scripture itself and the words of Jesus sometimes lead to ambiguity, many theories abounded trying to describe this God. There were many who began with a false knowledge, but defended themselves and their beliefs, basing them on Sacred Scripture confusedly, resulting in conclusions that Jesus was inferior to the Father. We can make sense of this since some of the images which were taken from Scripture were misleading, such as, “*the Father is greater than I*” (Jn 14:28), and “*they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ*” (Jn 14:28). There are other passages which are confusing because they differ with the above, now claiming equality, such as “*The Father and I are one*” (Jn 10:30) or “*Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me*” (Jn 14:11). The Spirit too was included in this as someone the Father would send, but then Jesus told us that he would also send the Spirit. He then spoke once again that he and the Father would send the Spirit into the world. Again, we find ambiguity!

All of this had to be examined. Christians met with added difficulties in having to combine Hebrew and Greek heritages with their mode of thought, as well as the development of the whole Christian notion of God. And so, before all of this was resolved, and the Church had a doctrinal teaching on the Triune God, there were movements (heresies) purporting that: the Son is a creature; the Son is not of God; the Son was made from nothing; and, there was more than one God. It was a mess. And yes, they all claimed to be following an authentic interpretation of Sacred Scripture. This is where the Church sought to intervene and provide the true understanding of what we should and must believe about the Most Blessed Trinity.

In the Seminary, I read a theological treatise called, *The Way to Nicea*, by a Jesuit Priest, Father Bernard Lonergan, a great disciple of the thought of Saint Thomas Aquinas. A quick summary of this work would be that he provided a deeper meaning of the phrase, coined by Saint Anselm centuries before: “*faith seeking understanding*.” Although the expression is normally associated with individuals, Father Lonergan showed that this had meaning in relation to the Church, mainly in the process that is involved in Church’s development of its theology (dogma). And that is what we are celebrating in the Church today: the dogma that has come down to teach us about the Trinity. You surely will find some of this familiar.

And so, at the time of the Council of Nicea, 325 A.D., the Church took to resolve these issues. Some of the things declared were: the Son is begotten of the Father before all ages; the Son is true and perfect God; and the Son is begotten by the will of the Father. It also put forward the following rule which can be applied to each of the persons of the Trinity,

such that: “what is said of the Father is also to be said of the Son, except that the Son is Son and not Father (etc., etc. etc. carrying this thought to all three persons).”

This does not exactly clear things up for the average person. But we know the mind of the Church, because in its wisdom it has had us repeat, or rather *Profess our Faith* each week as we gather to worship. We say,

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

We conclude with,

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

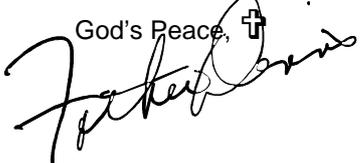
Here we see how the Church can receive and can teach an advanced understanding of an always believed (though implicit) revealed Truth. The concept of *consubstantiality* (one in substance) is grasped in the images: sun and light (neither one could be/exist without the other). Our natural reason can only supply part of the jump required to go from analogy to the notion of the Trinity. The true interpretation far exceeds these *human-like analogies* and metaphors. Our belief then is rooted in Sacred Scripture, and we apply its words to the analogies since Scripture reveals to us the mystery of the Trinity.

These, in a nutshell are our beliefs in the Trinity. This is the God who lives in unity—who works toward a common purpose, part of which is ours—our salvation. He also wants us to be united with him and in him, so much so that...

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

We must be thankful for such a wondrous and gracious God, who not only thinks of us, but had made us part of the fabric of his very life. He should be the very center of our lives. It seems, however, that he has made us the center of his life. That is not exactly true, but when we see how he operates, it would be very easy to conclude this—one God, three persons—living & working in unity—and, as far as we are concerned always working for our good.

God's Peace, ✠


Happy Fathers Day!!!

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*Come and Pray the Rosary to end abortion
2nd & 4th Fridays at 1:00pm
outside Planned Parenthood
14 Prince St., Monticello
Gather at St. Peter's Church, Monticello
following the 12:15pm Mass*

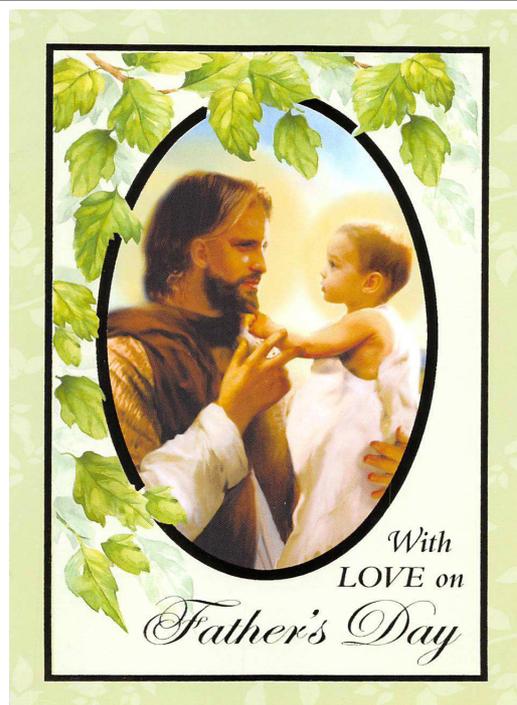
*For more information, please call:
Jane at 845-292-4647*

For anyone struggling with divorce or separation

There is a free “webinar-like” support and sharing group sponsored by the *St. Raymond Nonnatus Foundation for Freedom, Family, and Faith*. This group meets every first Tuesday of the month from 8-9pm. There is prayer, reflection, guidance by Church teachings, and it is attended by a Mercedarian friar from the Order of Mercy and the organization’s director. The group allows for listening and (optional) sharing guided by an experienced facilitator.

To learn more or sign in, visit the website: www.nonnatus.org or call, text, or email the director of the foundation at 215-870-9913/director.srnf@gmail.com.

Happy Father's Day!



Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 15th

SFX 4:30pm -Edward Schultz
Requested by Dorothy Schultz

Sunday, June 16th

OLL 9:00am -Father's Day Intentions
SFX 11:00am -Father's Day Intentions

Monday, June 17th

NO MASS

Tuesday, June 18th

SFX 6:30pm -Father's Day Intentions

Wednesday, June 19th

SFX 8:30am -Father's Day Intentions

Thursday, June 20th

SFX 6:30pm -Father's Day Intentions

Friday, June 21st

SFX 8:30am -Father's Day Intentions

Saturday, June 22nd

SFX 4:30pm -Father's Day Intentions

Sunday, June 23rd

OLL 9:00am -Barbara Barber
Requested by Mary Jane Nober
SFX 11:00am -Muriel Maers
Requested by Betty Kelly
-Sal Indelicato Sr.
Requested by Patricia Fries

Collection

June 9, 2019

1st Collection

St. Francis Xavier	\$971.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$444.00

2nd Collection (Black & Indian Mission)

St. Francis Xavier	\$224.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$194.00

Other (R & M)

St. Francis Xavier	\$55.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$15.00

Total

\$1,903.00

Readings

Proverbs 8:22-31
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

WELCOME BACK
to all of our
summer residents!



Please Pray for our Parish Family

For the Sick: Christina Hubert, Peggy Lee Romano, Barbara Walter, Lydia Newton, Connie Moser, Elizabeth Stoddard, Pam Kocher, Judy Tufo, Vincent Gentile, Kathleen Jamieson

For the Deceased: Mary Weiden, Muriel Maers, Stan Rembish, Eugene Harrison, Terry McCarthy, John Werner, Lillian Yacino, James Lingle, Patricia Lyons, Emory Robert Kaub, Muriel F. Edwards, Andrew Casimir

For those Serving in the Military: Justin Warnick, Joseph A. Choffo IV