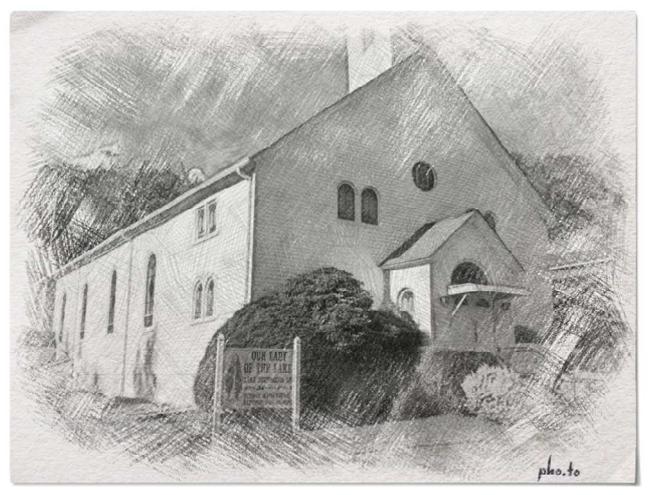


Saint Francis Xavier Parish

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 21, 2019



St. Francis Xavier Church

151 Bridge St., Narrowsburg

Masses

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

Confessions

Saturdays 4:00pm
Or by appointment

Our Lady of the Lake Church

Rt. 52, Lake Huntington

Masses

Sunday 9:00am

Confessions & Daily Mass

At St. Francis Xavier

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.

REV. DENNIS M. DINAN, PASTOR

ABBY RODDEN, PARISH SECRETARY

**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00AM-1:00PM
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

Dear Parish Family,

"*There is need of only one thing.*" (Lk 10:42). What does it mean to us that, "Truly, only one thing is necessary?" We each have heard the words—the same words spoken to Martha, the sister of Lazarus and Mary. They came from the mouth of Jesus in today's Gospel. Just that should be concern in itself. This must be an individual thing. It must be akin to finding my "treasure," for Jesus tells us, "*Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.*" (Mt 6:21) The "one thing" needed, should be our treasure!

The book, *The Road Less Travelled*, by M. Scott Peck, M.D. comes to mind. The first line of the book is, "Life is difficult." Besides the problems of life, one aspect of this is "difficult choices," and where they lead us. Once this is accepted, he says, "The fact that life is difficult no longer matters." We just get on and live it as it happens, knowing that things are not going to unfold according to our personal needs and wishes.

Difficult choices might need be guided by the wisdom found in the paraphrased words of Jim Elliot, the missionary, "He's no fool who gives up all that he cannot keep for that which he cannot lose." These can make the answer to our dilemmas with choices: simple—difficult, but simple. Many times that's how we must choose, even in spite of uncertainties. Jim Elliot also said, "The man who will not act until he knows all will never act at all." These are choices such that they can completely eliminate any other choices, as is reflected in Robert Frost's poem, *The Road Not Taken*, that we all seem to know something about:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, as just as fair
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that, the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
two roads diverged in a wood, and I --
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Aware of the many choices demanded on the road of life, we can learn to see "big things" as Big, and little things" as Little. The "sighs" have a part of it too, as does wondering of the possibilities of the "road not taken." Both were desirable, but not possible. Happy are we if the "*only one thing*", and not another, has kept us on our journey with its tough choices.

We make such decisions in faith, while Saint John of the Cross insists we walk in the darkness of faith, sometimes the faith of unknowing, unseeing. He says we are going to a place we've never been, and so must go by a road we've not travelled. Like Abraham we can't see our destination. Is the road "less traveled by" what Jesus describes: "*How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few*" (Mat 7:14)? We will not pass this way again. We must take opportunities as they present themselves now. Yet, with the road sometimes very dark, the way unclear and obscured, we can easily question it all, or stop to reconsider the "road not taken." Sometimes, news from the "road not taken" reaches us even if we do not look back at it or reassess our travels.

It may involve people, opportunities, or whatever we left behind. We might see there was success, fortune, and fame left

behind. It could be someone with whom we worked, shoulder-to-shoulder. Then, maybe our attention is drawn back to our "road not taken." We question why God led us away from all that. No doubt, our life would be quite different now! Yet, Phillip Keller, in *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, insists that "One of the fallacies that is common among Christians today is the assertion that if a man or woman is prospering materially it is a significant mark of the blessing of God upon their lives. This simply is not so." He insists we avoid the trap of those in the *Book of Revelation's* Church in Laodicea. The Lord tells them,

For you say, 'I am rich and affluent and have no need of anything,' and yet do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I advise you to buy from me gold ... that you may be rich, and white garments to put on ... your shameful nakedness ... and ointment [for] your eyes so that you may see (Rev 3:15-18).

Amazingly, the "*only one thing*" we need, doesn't really get described. Besides the above references, Scripture only says, "*One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek: To dwell in the LORD'S house all the days of my life, To gaze on the LORD'S beauty...*" (Ps 27:4). Beyond that, the Mystics make successful attempts and here Saint John of the Cross stands out. He describes it as *transformation*, the makeover or "*thing*" we were created for in, *The Living Flame of Love*. He says it's about this *Living Flame* who waits to transform us, as he transformed Mary, listening at his feet. But ... the preparation necessary ... all the things along the way ... the darkness ... the struggles. It's all necessary. But, we should not be too concerned. The Shepherd knows his sheep! The Bridegroom loves his Bride! There may be no greater love we experience than when the Living Flame begins his greatest work with us. Saint John says:

This flame of love is the Spirit of its Bridegroom, who is the Holy Spirit. The soul feels him within itself not only as a fire that has consumed and transformed it but as a fire that burns and flares within it.... And that flame, every time it flares up, bathes the soul in glory and refreshes it with the quality of divine life.

Such is the activity of the Holy Spirit in the soul transformed in love: The interior acts he produces shoot up flames, for they are acts of inflamed love, in which the will of the soul united with that flame, made one with it, loves most sublimely. Thus these acts of love are most precious; one of them is more meritorious and valuable than all the deeds a person may have performed in the whole of life without this transformation, however great they may have been. The same difference lying between a habit and an act lies between the transformation in love and the flame of love. It is like the difference between the wood on fire and the flame leaping up from it, for the flame is the effect of the fire present there.

We are called to be like Mary, but we all seem to resort to being like her sister Martha. We are impatient! If we wait, one instant with this Living Flame is more valuable than all we could accomplish in dozens of lifetimes! The Lord had to awaken her, as he must with us, and enlighten her, "*Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing*" (Lk 10:41-42). She listened. She changed. There's evidence! The Church celebrates her feast each year and the great mystery is: it does not even celebrate Mary's. Martha is a winner to follow! Yes, we who also lose our focus and get our priorities mixed up. We still can choose the "*better part*." Let's work together doing that.

God's Peace ✠
Father Dennis

churchWIDE
RUMMAGE SALE

Join our local Catholic Daughters
for a Parish Yard Sale:

St. Francis Xavier Church
Saturday, August 10
9am-3pm

Come to sell or to buy!

For more information, or to sign up to have
your own sale table, please contact
Helen Barr at 570-588-2019.

No Masses

Please be aware that

there will be

NO DAILY MASSES

Monday, July 22nd

through

Friday, July 26th

Our regular Mass schedule will

resume on

Saturday, July 27th

This weekend's 2nd Collection
is for Capital Improvements for our
Parish Churches.

Urgent Message

from our
Parish Food Pantry



Our Parish Food Pantry is in *desperate* need of donations. We are reaching out to our generous parish family for help.

Monetary donations can be put in envelopes labeled “food pantry” and dropped in the collection basket or mailed to PO Box 54, Narrowsburg, NY 12764 (please make checks out to “Ecumenical Food Pantry”). *Food donations* can be dropped at the church during Mass, or to the rectory office during office hours.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Letendre at (845) 252-3971.

Thank you!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 20th

SFX 4:30pm -Walter & Florence Hubert
Requested by Their Children
-Jean Caputo & Ann Pagnozzi
Requested by Paul & Carol Pagnozzi

Sunday, July 21st

OLL 9:00am -Stanley Rembish
Requested by The Bosco-Pigott Family
-Theresa Whittaker
Requested by Theresa & Brian Herbert

SFX 11:00am -Gene, Tim, & Dan Kelly
Requested by Betty Kelly

Monday, July 22nd

NO MASS

Tuesday, July 23rd

NO MASS

Wednesday, July 24th

NO MASS

Thursday, July 25th

NO MASS

Friday, July 26th

NO MASS

Saturday, July 27th

SFX 4:30pm -Johanna & Charles Barnes
Requested by Their Children

Sunday, July 28th

OLL 9:00am -Barbara Walter
Requested by Helene Indelicato

SFX 11:00am -Thomas Jo Greer

Requested by Wendell & Lillian Putz

Collection

July 13/14, 2019

1st Collection

St. Francis Xavier	\$1,046.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$464.00

2nd Collection

(Black & Indian Mission)

St. Francis Xavier	\$324.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$198.00

Other (Air Conditioning)

St. Francis Xavier	\$65.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$20.00

Other (R & M)

Our Lady of the Lake	\$40.00
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Total

\$2,157.00

Thank you!

Readings

Genesis 18:1-10a
Colossians 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42

Please Pray for our Parish Family

For the Sick: Christina Hubert, Lydia Newton, Kenneth "Boomer" Meyer, Jane Cutita, Bonnie Feeler, Judy Tufo, Connie Moser, Elizabeth Stoddard, Pam Kocher, Vincent Gentile, Kathleen Jamieson, Peter O'Leary Jr.

For the Deceased: Mary Weiden, Muriel Maers, Stan Rembish, Eugene Harrison, Terry McCarthy, John Werner, Lillian Yacino, James Lingle, Patricia Lyons, Peggy Lee Romano, Emory Robert Kaub, Muriel F. Edwards, Andrew Casimir, Barbara Walter, Jessica Hartley, Eileen Dempsey, Christopher Kells

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