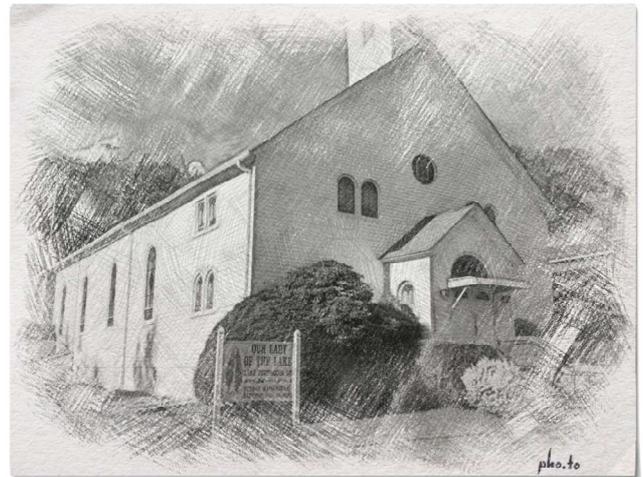


Saint Francis Xavier Parish

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 28, 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,

56 years ago, the title of a new book seemed to have caught the attention of so many, in academia, in the news, on the streets. It was definitely recommended reading for us in a Catholic university where I was studying. It was, *Whatever Became of Sin?*, by psychiatrist Karl Menninger, M.D., of the world famous Menninger Clinic.

After 42 years, an article appeared in *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care*, Jul-Sep 2005 by Norman L. Keltner, "Whatever Became of Sin? Revisiting Menninger's Question." It did as the topic suggests. Menninger's own words served as an introduction, "First I must return to ... review the events in the recent rapid decline and disappearance of the word "sin," not because any particular word is so important in itself, but because its obsolescence may be a clue to fundamental changes in the moral philosophy of our civilization."

MR. KELTNER'S INITIAL COMMENTARY ON THIS IS SELF-EVIDENT, THAT "THOUGH I AM SURE DR. MENNINGER FOUND THE CULTURE OF HIS DAY DESERVING OF SUCH A WARNING, THOSE DAYS SEEM RELATIVELY TAME WHEN COMPARED TO TODAY." WE, IN TURN, CAN POINT TO THE "RELATIVELY TAME" ASPECT OF MR. KELTNER'S "TODAY" IN 2005 AND DRAW THE SAME CONCLUSIONS ABOUT OUR "TODAY" IN 2019.

Looking at his world in 1973, Dr. Menninger began—as a Doctor! Not a Theologian!—with the generalities of the theme that for all our great achievements, something is wrong! For all our technological advances, the skies darkened, lakes turned colors, fish died, wildlife disappeared, poisonous wastes polluted the environment, generalized anxiety appeared, youth rejected their heritage, households began arming themselves in case of attacks by a neighbor.

He pointed to an obvious shift in our existence. Namely, we live in a miracle world, but we are no longer comforted, we are no longer amazed, we are not amused by the fact that anything can happen because success seems to come at the expense of destruction and a loss of moral integrity. Things are wrong!

All this before even mentioning *personal* "SIN," a word which came as a warning by prophets of old. That's SIN with an "I" in the middle of it. Is no one any longer guilty of anything? We know that wrong things are being done. We know that weeds are being sown with the wheat. Anxiety and depression, we know are extensive. We are surrounded by corruption on all sides. We even have guilt feelings! But has no one committed any sins? Where indeed did sin go? What became of it?

Somehow the whole concept of wrongdoing has been softened. Wrongdoing is frequently covered up or excused, referring to "wrong choices" we made, and leaving it at that. I am not saying that this is something unfamiliar to us. No, it's something that has been with the human race all along. It just shows up from time to time under a new guise. For example, remember back a few years, a new word came into our vocabulary. Caught in what most of us were taught were out-and-out lies, politicians and others responded regretfully to the American people through the agencies of the media saying, "I misspoke!" We have heard this repeatedly ever since.

More recently, from a website/blog called "Ken's Zen" (no longer posted and/or can be found) came a write-up about Menninger's book saying, "it is probably even more relevant in our post-modern world [than when] Menninger penned it especially given our current state of affairs where everyone is a victim and no one wishes to be held accountable for their own actions." This was the upshot of Menninger's thesis, "that individuals abrogated their responsibilities to the state and thus sin became crimes for which no one seemed to be responsible." So Menninger concluded that we must "return to responsibility for our own actions and to a renewed recognition of sin. Because there is sin. And we must face up to it." Ken recapped that, "Even the near blind can see where our overly-permissive society has led us and so it does not come as a surprise that Menninger's ideas are being revisited."

This resembles Saint Augustine's reflection on the words of Psalm 51, "*I acknowledge my transgression.*" The Church read this three Sundays ago in the *Office of Readings*. He says, "If I admit my fault, then you will pardon it. Let us never assume that if we live good lives we will be without sin; our lives should be praised only when we continue to beg for pardon. But men are hopeless

creatures, and the less they concentrate on their own sins, the more interested they become in the sins of others. They: seek to criticize, not to correct. Unable to excuse themselves, they are ready to accuse others." Those last four lines! Don't we see this day in and day out now? One huge symptom of this is that Communion lines are very long, but Confession lines are almost non-existent in some places.

All of this?: A long preface to looking at our First Reading today. It affirms that there is sin, even if we can't face up to it. In this one instance, God spoke to Abraham about "sin crying out" to him (see Gen 18:20-21). I believe that there is more than meets the eye here. It is one of four examples where Sacred Scripture speaks about "sin crying out for vengeance." Three have to do with a particular sin somehow oppressing innocent people—blood of the innocent, poor being messed with, people being defrauded—all recognizable, but at the same time is not being acknowledged by people or society.

In the 50's, a classic work, *Seeds of Contemplation*, by Thomas Merton appeared (out of print for some time now). One of the short chapters or reflections is entitled, "The Moral Theology of the Devil." It might contain part of the answer for us. It is certainly worth reflecting on:

The devil makes many disciples by preaching against sin. He convinces them of the great evil of sin, induces an emotional crisis which persuades them that God ignores their sins, and after that he lets them spend the rest of their lives meditating on the intense sinfulness and evident reprobation of other men.

The moral theology of the devil starts out with the principle: "Pleasure is sin." Then he goes on to work it the other way: "All sin is pleasure."

After that, he points out that pleasure is practically unavoidable and that we have a natural tendency to do things that please us, from which he concludes that all our natural tendencies are evil and that our nature is evil in itself. And he leads us to the conclusion that no one can possibly avoid sin, since pleasure is inescapable.

After that, to make sure that no one will try to escape or avoid sin, he adds that what is unavoidable cannot be a sin. Then the whole concept of sin is thrown out the window as irrelevant... [And there we are duped!]

God did not create us to live like this, but for "greatness." This is reality. To paraphrase Saint Augustine here, "no matter what slime or sin you have been involved with, you are called to the heights, i.e. contemplation." We shouldn't settle for less.

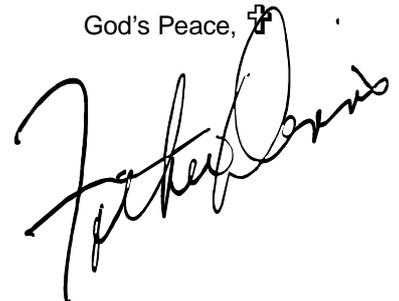
We have expectations of growth with all living things. To plant a seed for some tree, and not see anything after some time, we would be correct to assume that something is wrong!

There are assumptions we also must make about growth in human development. Therefore, if we are not growing during our lives into something that resembles the *transforming union* with God that he created us for, we are being held back!

"Whatever became of sin?" Society refuses to use the word anymore. With all too many people, wrong has become right. We need to know about sin—our sin and the sin around us. Then we can move on to reality. There's too much at stake!

Lord! Teach us to Pray! Help us to get out of this mess!

God's Peace, ✠



**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.

**St. Anthony's of Yulan invites you
to join them on a bus trip to see a
performance of
"Jesus"**

Wednesday, August 28

6:00am-Leave St. Anthony's
10:00am-Arrive at theater
2:00pm-Leave theater
2:45-Arrive at Shady Maple for Lunch
4:30-Leave Shady Maple
7:30pm-Arrive back at St. Anthony's

Adults (13+)-\$122

Youth (10-12)-\$96

Children (3-9)-\$88

Cost is calculated on a minimum of 30 passengers.

The cost includes: Ticket to the show
Lunch at Shady Maple
Bus Transportation
Tax & Gratuity

***Final count and payment
due by August 1, 2019.***

For reservations please call Kathleen Johnson at 845-798-2998

***Bus will pick up/drop off at St Francis,
Narrowsburg***

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 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

Monday, July 29th

NO MASS

Tuesday, July 30th

SFX 6:30pm -Our Parish Family

Wednesday, July 31st

SFX 8:30am -Our Parish Family

Thursday, August 1st

SFX 6:30pm -Ronald Roach
Requested by Peg & Irv Corkett

Friday, August 2nd

SFX 8:30am -Marion Daub & Frederick Daub
Requested by Denise Daub

Saturday, August 3rd

SFX 4:30pm -Marie Porter
Requested by The Family
-Thomas Mattimore
Requested by The Family

Sunday, August 4th

OLL 9:00am -Ray Ritz
Requested by The Gutzzeit Family

SFX 11:00am -Our Parish Family

Collection

July 20/21, 2019

1st Collection

St. Francis Xavier	\$1,208.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$512.00

2nd Collection (Capital Improvements)

St. Francis Xavier	\$536.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$200.00

Other (R & M)

St. Francis Xavier	\$60.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$5.00

Total

\$2,521.00

Thank you!

Readings

Genesis 18:20-32
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

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