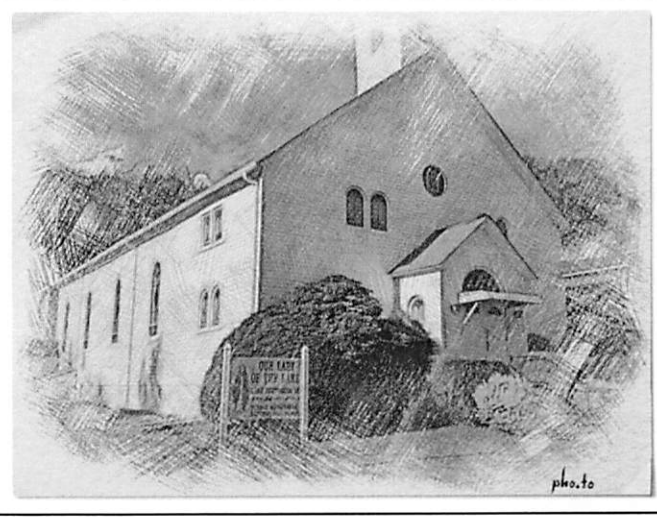


Saint Francis Xavier Parish

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 18, 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

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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,

We live on earth but the Bible tells us that we are citizens of heaven from whence will come our savior Jesus Christ who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious (heavenly) body (Philippians 3:20-21). This explains why we are reminded of the vanity of this earthy life (Ecclesiastes 1) and encouraged to seek the things of heaven (Colossians 3:1-2). This then implies that we are only pilgrims on earth (CCC 954), pilgrims who have to struggle to reach their heavenly home. We have to struggle because this world is full of imperfections. The Church affirms this by referring to us as “Church Militant”. This phase (Church Militant), as Philip Kosloski explains, “refers to our task of being ‘soldiers of Christ’ in the spiritual realm. This concerns our need to battle our sinful passions as well as the spiritual presence of evil in the world (<https://aleteia.org/2017/10/22/the-visible-church-on-earth-is-only-one-part-of-a-much-larger-reality/>).

Biblical history shows that people who decided to walk by faith (as we heard last Sunday) faced difficulties. They faced difficulties because they dared to be different, daring to stand for God and for the truth. Today’s first reading narrates the predicaments of the prophet Jeremiah in the hands of the leading men (princes) of Judah. They interpreted Jeremiah’s truth-saying as detrimental to their society. Their interest was in preserving the city of Judah, a city destined by God to be destroyed. This truth did not augur well with them. Their solution was not to seek the face of God but to eliminate the harbinger of truth; as if the elimination of Jeremiah will eliminate the coming doom. They tried to cure the symptoms but ignored the real sickness. The sickness was their unfaithfulness to the covenant relationship with God. What God expected of His people is faith in Him, a return to a faithful keeping of the covenant.

The God of the covenant, however, is faithful; even “if we are faithless, he remains faithful – for he cannot deny himself” (2 Timothy 2:13). This is why he sent his Son Jesus Christ to restore the broken relationship. This Jesus, has come “to undo the work of the devil” (1 John 3:8). The undoing of the work of the devil is what Jesus explains in today’s Gospel reading as setting “the earth on fire”. By setting the world on fire, Jesus gets engulfed in the fire. This is the baptism (immersion) that Jesus agonizingly wanted to accomplish. This baptism is his suffering and death on the cross in order to undo the works of the devil. Jesus, however, was not consumed in the fire; on the third day, he came out gloriously as the risen Lord and Savior of humanity. The glorious and eternal life that Jesus has gained for us by dying and rising from the death becomes a reason why we

should not give up the fight against evil, even when we are down pressed or thrown into the cistern like Jeremiah was, we ought to stand our ground.

We are not alone in the struggle against evil. Jeremiah had Ebed-melech (a court official) who stood for him as a brother. The letter to the Hebrews tells us that “we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses” (Hebrew 12:1). As the Church teaches, there is the triumphant (glorious) Church; these are our witnesses and our “supporters club” as we play the “game of life”.

To win the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith, and finally receive the crown of righteousness from God (cf. 2 Timothy 4:7-8), we have to keep “our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith” (Hebrew 12:2). For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:3). As we consider what Jesus had to endure, we should not grow weary and lose heart. We ought to only “rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us” (Hebrew 12:2). We ought to reject the falsehood that modernity presents to us as the ideal; life without God is a meaningless rubble.

We should know that the devil will not seat back and watch. The book of Revelation tells us that the dragon, having been outwitted by God and thrown down to the earth, was angry and is now waging war against the offspring of the woman, on those who keep the commandments of God and bear witness to Jesus (Revelation 12:13-17). We are the offspring of the woman, those who bear witness to Jesus. And since our enemy “the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8), we ought to “put on the full armor of God, so that [we] can take [our] stand against the devil’s schemes” (Ephesians 6:11). Yes, “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). In all of these struggles against evil, “we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us” (Romans 8:37).

God hears our cry; He will draw us out of every pit of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp. It is He who sets out feet upon the mountain, making our steps firm, as the Psalmist affirms (Psalms 40). Our God shall put a new song into our mouth, a hymn of thanksgiving.

Brethren, we can win the battle of live through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). As the sheep of His flock, we should listen to and follow his voice; it is the only voice that speaks of peace.

Peace be with You!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 17th

SFX 4:30pm -Our Parish Family

Sunday, August 18th

OLL 9:00am -Stan Rembish

Requested by The Rosary Society at
Lake Huntington

SFX 11:00am -George Johnson

Requested by Eleanor Johnson

Monday, August 19th

NO MASS

Tuesday, August 20th

SFX 6:30pm -Our Parish Family

Wednesday, August 21st

SFX 8:30am -Our Parish Family

Thursday, August 22nd

SFX 6:30pm -Our Parish Family

Friday, August 23rd

SFX 8:30am -The Putz & Connolly Families

Requested by Wendell & Lillian Putz

Saturday, August 24th

SFX 4:30pm -Our Parish Family

Sunday, August 25th

OLL 9:00am -Ray Ritz

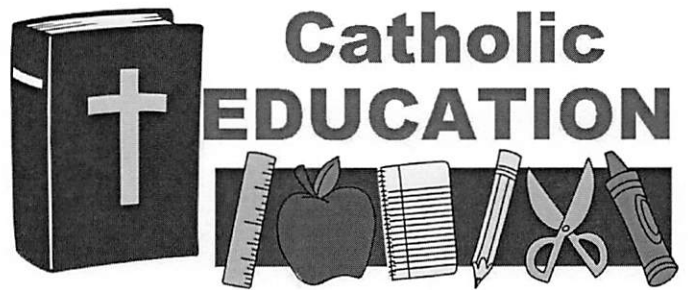
Requested by The Manaseri Family

SFX 11:00am -Mr. & Mrs. F J Smith Jr.

Requested by The Smith Family

-Robert Johnson

Requested by Eleanor Johnson



Catholic EDUCATION

The 2019-20 Religious Education year is upon us. Please register your children, grades K-8, using the registration forms found in the back of the church. If your children were enrolled last year, please use the Returning Enrollment form. Forms may be dropped in the Weekly Collection or submitted September 8th. Please do not submit payment until September 8th. Classes will begin September 8th at St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall and run from 9:50-10:50 at which time there will also be a Parent Meeting.

We are in need of Religious Education Teachers. So, please consider helping us so we can continue the Religious Education Program. Contact Paddy McCarthy (845-932-8639) if you are interested.

Readings

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

Hebrews 12:1-4

Luke 12:49-53

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, Carmen Hamstrom, Joseph R. Gonzalez