

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 5, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

	Mon.	Feb. 6	8:00 am	Joseph Dobek
	Tues.	Feb. 7	8:00 am	Rev. Bernard McDonald
	Wed.	Feb. 8	8:00 am	Martha Flanigan
	Thurs.	Feb. 9	8:00 am	NO MASS
	Fri.	Feb. 10	8:00 am	Katherine Blinn
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	James & Elizabeth Moriarty
	Sat.	Feb. 11	8:00 am	Theresa Walsh
			4:30 pm	William McEnroe & Fay Family
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Pine Plains	Sun	Feb. 12	8:00 am	People of the Parish
			10:45 am	George Pimm

"RELAX"

Dear Friends:

In our society in 2017, it seems everyone is upset about something. Anger and outrage are everywhere, and no one seems to be experiencing any inner peace or freedom from stress. If we look at any modern TV show, or check out any websites on the internet, it is likely we too will lose our sense of balance and serenity.

Sure, we can get upset about many things. There is certainly plenty of problems in the world. That's partly the result of a 24-hour news cycle that bombards us with the latest issues in which we can lose our sleep over. Injustice is out there, as always: and injustice must be exposed and dealt with. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ consistently spoke out against injustice. We must do the same.

But our efforts at changing the world must always come from an internal sense of peace and confidence. Any effort to effect change in society will only come when we are always committed to change and improve ourselves. And any desire to change society must be accompanied by a very healthy and vital sense of humility. How can we demand change of others when we refuse to change ourselves? Humility, true humility, is essential to any effective and engaging personality. To put it another way: We may take our favorite cause seriously, but we should never take ourselves seriously.

But inner peace should always be part of our life in Christ. Outrage and anger have their place, but we cannot be consumed by them. If we do not have any inner peace, where are we to go for rejuvenation and recharging?

Jesus Christ was concerned with social justice and society's problems. But he was also concerned with teaching, healing, love, and prayer. These are all part of a balanced and giving life. If we are called to imitate Jesus Christ (which we are) we need to be balanced like Him. Jesus Christ was filled with inner peace and He showed everyone the way to peace. That is what we should do.

Fr. Wilson

CONFESSION - Confession is available every Saturday afternoon from 3:45 pm to 4:15 pm at Immaculate Conception in Amenia. Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing by which we receive God's merciful forgiveness for our personal sins and experience the powerful love of God.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - If you need a copy of your financial statement for 2016, please call the office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH : Ralph Cummings, Ann Bida, Gerhard Herron, Margaret Wilcox, Janet Stiles, Evan Ciovacco, Lydia Casey, Evelyn Bouffard, Mark Hamm, Grover Williams, Stephanie Merenda, Carol Wilson, Dawn Hazel Burrows, Rudy Eschbach, Billy Carroll, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Baby James Ryan Farrell, Linda Sartori, Helen McGhee, Richard & Mary Ann Valinsk, Mary Murphy Adamitis, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, Barbara Moissonnier, Nina Williams, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Michael Kain, Delores DeMarinis, Shirley Remsburger, Teresa Schell, Susan Moody, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Jack Silvernale, Mike Butts and Mary Ann Mullen, John Kemmerer, Jr., Alan Carroll, Erin D-Elia, Linda Staab, Father John Durkin, Daisy Abruzzo, Don Abruzzo, Richard Piccoli, Laura Galdiero, Bernard Heaney, Joseph Scutieri, Eileen Murphy Ehlers and Al Blackburn.

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A SHOUT-OUT - First of all, let me begin by saying how very proud I was of our 2nd graders (Evan Arnold, Emma Bailey, Luke Blackburn, Amelia Bopp, Braeden Duncan, Kaitlin Hammond, Madelyn Jones, Daniel Leach, Alexa Rahgo, Leidy Roque and Leah Vinchiarello) who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation last Saturday. Many thanks to Marilyn Tyree, our 2nd grade teacher, who not only prepared the children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation but together with Ken Pomeisl, our 9th grade teacher, and our Confirmation Candidates (Emelin Argueta, Justin Calabrese, Holly Jasmin, Madeline Lazarus and Emily Simmons) prepared and served breakfast to our 2nd grade students, which has become a long standing tradition in our Religious Ed Program. A special thanks to our Religious Ed Coordinator, Virginia Bida, who was instrumental in making things run smoothly. My sincere thanks to all for a job well done!

MEN'S GROUP - The Men's Group will meet on Monday, February 6th, at 6:45 pm in the Chapel of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. All are welcome.

ESCAPE THE GLOOM OF WINTER - Immerse yourself in God's healing light and warmth during Morning Prayer & Guided Meditation on Saturday, February 11th, at 10 am at St. Anthony's in Pine Plains.

WHY DO WE SAY "GOD IS LOVE?" - Love is an exchange between persons. In Scripture – God's inspired word – God's love for us is compared to the love between family members: a father for his son, a mother for her children, a husband for his wife. We say "*God is Love*" (1 John 4:8), because he himself is an external exchange of love (CCC 221). Throughout the Old Testament, God continually showed his people, Israel, proof of his love. He never stopped saving them, forgiving them, and providing for them. God does the same for us today. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus showed us the Father's love in words and deeds. He taught us to call God, "Our Father", forgave people's sins, healed their sickness, and fed them. Christ expressed this love perfectly on the Cross. "*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends*" (John 14:13).

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, January 28-29, 2017, we collected \$3,512.90 in our Regular Sunday Collection. I am so very thankful for your continuing generosity and steadfast commitment to the Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: . Timothy Walsh, Joshua O'Hara, Connor Washburn, Sam Kent, Jordan Paraszti, Gavin Carroll, Richard C. Belliveau and Jimmy Darnell. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers.

ONE MINUTE MEDITATION - As followers of Christ, our primary job is to love. "Keep the joy of loving God in your heart and share this joy with all you meet especially your family. Be holy – let us pray." (*Mother Teresa of Calcutta*)

† **Sanctuary Light** †
*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Norm & Carol Cayea
For the healing of Gene Turner*