

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 4, 2018

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Feb. 5	8:00 am	Diane McEnroe Martello
"	Tues.	Feb. 6	8:00 am	Ray Proper, Sr.
"	Wed.	Feb. 7	8:00 am	Martha J. Flanigan
"	Thurs.	Feb. 8	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Feb. 9	8:00 am	Margaret Irene Moore
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	James V. & Elizabeth A. Moriarty
Amenia	Sat.	Feb. 10	8:00 am	Michael Murphy
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Kathryn Finkle

Pine Plains	Sun	Feb. 11	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	George Pimm

"WHAT IS THE CHURCH FOR"

Dear Friends:

Sometimes I wonder to myself about deep and real questions and their answers. One question that comes up occasionally is "What is the Church for?" What is the purpose of the Church?

There are many answers, many good answers. The Church is here to make the world a better place. The Church is to bring the Gospel to the world. The Churches' purpose is to help people to get into heaven. These are all good answers. And they help us to see what we are doing when we participate in the life of the Church.

There are what we call the "models" of the Church. These were defined by Cardinal Avery Dulles in 1974. One model he identified was the "institution" model. This model focuses on the administrative functions of the Church. In this model the Church is analyzed by its structure, with the Bishops, the Clergy and the laity and how they work together.

Another model that is very interesting is the "servant" model. This model emphasizes service. The mission of the Church is service, compassionate service. This model shows the importance of institutions of service (hospitals, schools, charities) and how they make the world better. We all should be people of service in the Church.

There is the model of the Church as "Herald." This emphasizes the Church as preaching the Word of God. The primary purpose of the Church in this model is to evangelize, to take the Good News and pass it on.

My favorite model of the Church is Church as Sacrament. Sacraments are at the center of our Christian life. The sacraments are the visible form of the invisible Grace of God. The Church itself is a visible form of God's work on this earth.

The model of Church as Sacrament appeals to me because the sacraments are what have given me so much life and joy in my priesthood. It is through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, that I have felt God's presence so clearly. May all the sacraments continue to draw us closer to God and to each other.

Fr. Wilson

ANNOUNCEMENT - I will be gone on retreat to Sicily/Malta from Thursday, February 1st to Friday, February 9th. Fr. Godfrey will be here for the week.

SECOND COLLECTION - The second collection today is for Fr. Godfrey's mission in Africa. Please make your check payable to "Immaculate Conception" or "Christ the King Seminary."

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH : 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, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Linda Sartori, Helen McGhee, Mary Murphy Adamitis, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, Jeff Moissonnier, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Michael Kain, Shirley Remsburger, Susan Moody, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Jack Silvernale, Mike Butts and Mary Ann Mullen, Alan Carroll, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Eileen Murphy Ehlers, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Luz Pelkey, Averie Burke, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Mary Fitzgerald Roth, Kathryn Garzetta, Joseph Licurse, Barb King, Delora Brooks, June Heckelman, Baby Hans Pedersen, Teresa Pelkey, Renee & Al Cobuzzi, Joanne Balek, Frances Anello, Colton Culligan, Irene Smith and Michael Engel

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION - The Peter's Pence envelope which you received in your collection packet was incorrectly dated February 4th. The Peter's Pence Collection will be taken on the weekend of Saturday, February 10th and Sunday, February 11th. Thank you for your cooperation.

NEWLY BAPTIZED - Hannah Maren Burns, daughter of Mark Burns and Jennifer Dalton Burns, was baptized on January 27, 2018 at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. We pray that Our Lord, Jesus Christ, will look lovingly on this child, watch over her and fill her with peace and joy.

WHAT TO DO WHEN GOD FEELS DISTANT - There are times when God seems so close that we are filled with a glorious feeling of love. At other times He can seem distant.

Look for a cause. Sometimes we cause distance to crop up between us without even realizing it. We may have become overly-confident of our spiritual strength and yielded to temptation. Or, we neglected prayer or Sunday Mass.

Pray your way back. Distance can lead to discouragement, but don't let that keep you from prayer. Reaching out to God is the surest way to find your way back. Enlist the help of the saints or the Blessed Mother.

Meditate on what you know. Regularly repeat God's promise of salvation, Jesus' pledge of eternal love, memories of God's past blessings, anything that reminds you of His love. Focus on these beautiful thoughts over and over.

Seek Reconciliation. A common cause for distance is unconfessed sin. Are you weighed down by a fault or sin you are avoiding facing? Consider making a full Confession and seek the Sacrament regularly. Perform an act of penance, such as fasting, to take the focus off yourself. Then you will find He has been beside you all along.

CATHOLIC SHRINES IN FRANCE JUNE 25 - JULY 6, 2018 - Fr. John F. X. Palatucci, administrator of St. John the Evangelist and St. Charles Borromeo parishes, is leading a beautiful 12-day pilgrimage to various Catholic shrines in France including Lourdes, Lisieux, Nevers, and Caen. We'll also visit Paris and the landing site of the Allied Forces in Normandy Beach. If interested, please contact Catholic Heritage Tours at 800-290-3876, or visit the pilgrimage website at catholicheritagetours.com \FJPF. Or you may call Fr. Palatucci at 914-584-5562 for more information.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - If you need a copy of your financial statement for 2017, please call the office.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, January 27-28, 2018, approximately 312 people attended Mass and we collected \$4,294 in our Regular Sunday Collection. I thank you for your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church and 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, Jimmy Darnell, Mike Mazza, Nathan Tong, Mark Hall, Michael Pomeisl and Tyler Jasmin. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers.

† Sanctuary Light †
*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Denise & Bob Conway
In Memory of Sid Byron*