

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 22, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

	Mon.	Jan. 23	8:00 am	Emma Proper
	Tues.	Jan. 24	8:00 am	Jane Cayea
	Wed.	Jan. 25	8:00 am	Lawrence McEnroe, Sr.
	Thurs.	Jan. 26	8:00 am	NO MASS
	Fri.	Jan. 27	8:00 am	Lillian Storin
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	James V. & Elizabeth Moriarty
	Sat.	Jan. 28	8:00 am	Katherine Blinn
			4:30 pm	Gisela Stefury
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Pine Plains	Sun	Jan. 29	8:00 am	People of the Parish
			10:45 am	Fay Family

“AMERICA”

Dear Friends:

As you read this message, Donald Trump will already have been inaugurated as President on January 20th. As I write this, I hope that it will be a peaceful transfer of power. That is one of the great and important hallmarks of American democracy: that an orderly and proper change of presidents is a key to a vital democracy.

The history of the relations between the Catholic Church and American governments is a fascinating story.

At the beginning of our nation, the Catholic Church was a tiny and somewhat insignificant part of America. The Archdiocese of New York, founded in 1808, was the whole State of New York and consisted of perhaps 4 parishes.

The early Church in the United States was primarily an “Immigrant Church.” The Church was made up of small and politically weak communities, such as the Germans, the Irish, and the Italians. Most in the elite positions of American government regarded the Catholic Church as a minor “player” in politics, and were suspicious of the Pope and his influence in American affairs.

As Catholics became more numerous, their political power became stronger. Many Catholics had proven their loyalty to America in two World Wars, and American politicians realized this was a new and very powerful group.

The Church in the 1950’s became more and more “legitimate” as a part of American political society. American Catholic Bishops proclaimed their devotion to the United States at every opportunity. Then came the election of John F. Kennedy, the first Catholic president, in 1960. American Catholics had “arrived.”

Here in 2017, things are more complicated. Catholics have become “assimilated” into society and have moved all over America. What is clear is that Catholics have become more American. But what I wonder is, how can we bring our faith to change society for the better?

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.

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 Remsburg, 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, Richard Piccoli, Laura Galdiero, Bernard Heaney, Joseph Scutieri, Eileen Murphy Ehlers, Charlie Guarnieri and Al Blackburn.

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RELIGIOUS ED RECONCILIATION - Our 2nd graders will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, January 28th, at 10:00 am at Immaculate Conception Church following a breakfast in their honor. Please keep the following children in your prayers: Evan Arnold, Emma Bailey, Luke Blackburn, Amelia Bopp, Braeden Duncan, Kaitlin Hammond, Madelyn Jones, Daniel Lynch, Alexa Rahgo, Leidy Roque and Leah Vinchiarello.

HUDSON VALLY CASH COALITION and AARP TAX AIDE OFFERS FREE TAX PREPARATION: The Hudson Valley CASH Coalition (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) and AARP Tax Aide Foundation offer FREE tax preparation assistance for low to moderate income families and seniors. Certified volunteer tax preparers ensure those who may be eligible for tax credits and refunds including Earned Income Tax Credit, receive these valuable credits. There are many sites throughout the Hudson Valley including libraries, community center, parishes and at the Catholic Charities office in Poughkeepsie offering this free service. No age restrictions and AARP membership not required. To schedule an appointment call 2-1-1 or 1 (800) 899-1479 today!

LET GOD LOVE YOU - Have you ever seen a parent scoop up a child and hug him closely as if he couldn't get enough of that beloved child? That's how God feels about you. He loves you dearly. Open your heart to him. God is always ready to forgive. We are the ones who forget to ask. Meet him in Confession regularly. As a loving Father, he waits for our next visit and longs for our love. Don't miss a chance to meet him at Mass and in daily prayer. And, as a good Father, he waits for the day when all his children will come home to him and rest forever in his arms.

PINE PLAINS FOOD LOCKER - The food item needed for January for the Pine Plains food locker is coffee and/or tea bags. Items can be left in the basket on the table at the head of the stairs.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, January 14-15, 2017, we collected \$4,101.50 in our Regular Sunday Collection, \$1,255.07 for Utility & Energy. 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

WHY DO WE LIGHT VOTIVE PRAYER CANDLES IN CHURCH? Lighting a candle in prayer is a symbol full of meanings. A person can only pray for so long. Lighting a candle serves to prolong that prayer beyond our presence in the church. The candle remains behind and symbolizes the desire for the prayer to continue. So when we light candles in prayer, our intentions remain present even when we are gone. Prayer is not self-centered, it is God centered. Many times we offer our prayers for other people and causes. The candle will not be a substitute for the prayer of your heart, but an accompaniment. Next time you pass the candle rack, why not light a candle for a special intention, for someone you want to pray for or in thanksgiving for the many gifts God has blessed you with.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY - Please keep the following service men and their families in your prayers: Timothy Walsh, Joshua O'Hara, Connor Washburn, Sam Kent, Jordan Paraszti, Gavin Carroll, Richard C. Belliveau, Jimmy Darnell, Mike Mazza and Nathan Tong.