

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT APRIL 2, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

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|--------------------|--------|---------|----------|----------------------------|
| | Mon. | April 3 | 8:00 am | Katherine Blinn |
| | Tues. | April 4 | 8:00 am | Ida & Wilfred Cayea |
| | Wed. | April 5 | 8:00 am | Beatrice Minge |
| | Thurs. | April 6 | 8:00 am | NO MASS |
| | Fri. | April 7 | 8:00 am | Barbara & Ray McEnroe |
| Pine Plains | " | " | 12 noon | James & Elizabeth Moriarty |
| | Sat. | April 8 | 8:00 am | Odet Noletti |
| | | | 4:30 pm | John Casey |
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| Pine Plains | Sun | April 9 | 8:00 am | People of the Parish |
| | | | 10:45 am | Sally Quinn |

"YOUR LENT"

Dear Friends:

How's your Lent going? If you are like, I think, 80% of practicing Catholics, you are having some success and some failure. We have many ideas and hopes that we want to put into reality. We do some, we don't do others. We want to sacrifice but then we fall short. That is the way of being human, falling down and getting up again.

I am very impressed when I hear of the rigorous fasting and sacrifice of the Muslims during Ramadan, the month of fasting during daylight hours. Faithful Muslims fast from daybreak to sunset. It must be quite a challenge.

During our video last Thursday night, we learned about a retreat in Ireland to the island in Lough Derg, where believers practice extreme acts of penance. They neither eat nor sleep the first day of the retreat, and once there they remain barefoot in the cold Irish weather for the 3 day pilgrimage. A series of prayers, gestures, walking and kneeling are all conducted in silence. Most of us watching the video thought "Wow, that's too much for me!"

Then I think of the Trappist Monks around the world who live a very sacrificial life 24 hours a day, all year round. They are restricted to the monastery for the entirety of their lives. I was told that the monks have access to computers once a month, for a ½ hour.

We might respond, isn't this all a bit much? Surely, God didn't require us to be so isolated, so sacrificial, so removed from the world and its problems.

One response I would have to that is that vocations are different for different people. Not everyone is called to the same life. We can do what we are able to do, and we follow God in the way that is best suited to our own personality and abilities.

Another response would be to point out that we are called to do the best we can. We do the best we can in our career, in our family life, in our athletic workouts. Why not do the best we can in our spiritual life?

Fr. Wilson

2017 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - As of March 24th, our parish has received **\$26,550.00** in pledges/gifts from **63** families. Our parish goal is \$41,500. My sincerest thanks to those of you who have responded so generously to the Appeal. I ask those of you who have not yet responded, to prayerfully consider making a pledge or one time donation in an amount you can afford. Thank you.

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, Shirley Remsburger, Teresa Schell, Susan Moody, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Jack Silvernale, Mike Butts and Mary Ann Mullen, Alan Carroll, Erin D-Elia, Linda Staab, Father John Durkin, Daisy Abruzzo, Richard Piccoli, Laura Galdiero, Bernard Heaney, Joseph Scutieri, Eileen Murphy Ehlers, Ann Marie Russolillo, Dominic Nannetti, Ray Proper, Sr., Santino Delfino, Joe Kain and Jerry Carroll.

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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.

MEN'S GROUP - The Men's Group will meet on Monday, April 3rd, at 6:45 pm in the Chapel of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. All are welcome.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE IN PINE PLAINS - Communal Penance Service will be offered on Tuesday, April 4th, at St. Anthony's from 7 – 9 pm. We will begin at 7 pm with scripture readings followed by contemplation and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please take advantage of this opportunity for spiritual growth.

VINE & BRANCHES - The drawing for the 50/50 will be held on Thursday, April 6th. The next food distribution will be on Saturday, April 22nd, at 10 am in our gym instead of April 15th.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - This coming Friday, April 7th, the Stations of the Cross will be held at 7:00 pm at St. John the Evangelist, 39 East Main Street, Pawling. Please consider joining us for this Lenten devotion.

HOLY WEEK WITH JESUS AND THE APOSTLES – Join us for Morning Prayer and Guided Meditation on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, at 10 am each day at St. Anthony's, that is, April 13, 14 and 15.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DURING LENT – THE CROSSES OF FAITH

When I survey the wondrous cross, O Lord, I am captivated by the great price you willingly paid for me. This great love demands my soul, my life, my all. I admit that I am not always willing to take up my cross daily and follow you. In my times of selfishness, give me selflessness. In my times of self-preservation, give me a spirit of self-sacrifice. Teach me to take up the crosses of faith, recklessly abandoning my old self, and wholeheartedly follow you. Amen.

IN HONOR OF THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA - St. Joseph's in Millbrook invites you to join us on Thursday, May 4th, at 7:00 pm, for an evening of prayer and reflection on Our Lady's Message: Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Recitation of the Holy Rosary for Peace Reflection by Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, March 25-26, 2017, we collected \$4,442.40 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$956 for Catholic Relief Services. I thank you for your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church and 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 and Mark Hall. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers.