

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME July 16, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	July 17	8:00 am	Joseph DeLango
	Tues.	July 18	8:00 am	Philomena Ketchum
“	Wed.	July 19	8:00 am	Marco A. Sartori
“	Thurs.	July 20	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	Fri.	July 21	8:00 am	Jane Wells
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	Chauncey & Burke Bilski
Amenia	Sat.	July 22	8:00 am	Emile & Mary Brunese
“	“	“	4:30 pm	Jerry Henry

Pine Plains	Sun	July 23	8:00 am	Regina Castelli
Amenia	“	“	10:45 am	People of the Parish

“FREEDOM, PART II”

Dear Friends:

Last week I talked about July 4th and our freedoms in this country, especially our freedom of worship. Many people might not realize that our religious freedoms have been consistently threatened since the founding of our country. It is important that every one of us, as committed Catholics, continue to stand up for our freedoms as followers of Jesus Christ.

But there are other freedoms that we have to protect and develop. These freedoms have to do with our faith and its growth in our hearts and minds. Remember, freedom is what Jesus died to give us. On the cross, Jesus died so that we could be free from sin and death. And Jesus told us, in John 8, that he came to give us the truth, “and the truth will make you free.” Jesus also said to us, in Luke 4, that he has come “to set free those who are oppressed.”

What gets in the way of our pursuit of freedom? We know in our hearts that Jesus wants us to be free. One thing that has troubled Catholics since the beginning of time is the problem of “scrupulosity.” Those troubled by this problem have an intense preoccupation with sin and the ability to be forgiven. Even if a scrupulous person goes to confession, he or she feels no forgiveness. It is a lack of trust in the sacrament, and a lack of confidence in the Mercy of God. This person is not free. Freedom will come when, somehow, the scrupulous person learns to trust in the power of Jesus Christ. This person must come to know that God wants him or her to be truly free.

There are many other such barriers to freedom in our life in Christ. I could think of many. One obvious example in our modern world is addiction. Addiction to drugs, pornography, gambling or sex are destroyers of freedom. They take away our ability to experience the freedom of Jesus Christ. Do you feel free in your life in Christ? Remember, He came to set you free, free forever.

Fr. Wilson

2017 CARDINAL’S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL IS WINDING DOWN - My sincere thanks to the **103** families who have pledged or made a donation to the Cardinal’s Appeal. To date, we have received **\$37,659.00** and are only **\$3,841** short of our goal of **\$41,500**. To those of our parishioners who have not yet contributed, I ask that you consider supporting this Appeal. It’s not necessarily the large donations that enable us to reach our goal. Perhaps the true measure of success is when all our families are able to make a contribution to the Cardinal’s Appeal regardless of the amount.

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, 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, Joseph Scutieri, Eileen Murphy Ehlers, Ann Marie Russolillo, Dominic Nannetti, Ray Proper, Sr., Santino Delfino, Hilda Delgado, Luz Pelkey, Diana McPadden, Averie Burke and Ricky McGhee.

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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.

RELIGIOUS ED REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER - If you have not yet registered your child/children for the 2017-2018 Religious Ed program, please return your registration papers to the office as soon as possible as classes have to be formed. If you misplaced your papers, call the office at (845) 373-8193, Monday through Thursday, and another set will be mailed to you.

VINE AND BRANCHES - The winner of the 50/50 was Patty O'Neil. The split was \$94.50. Special thanks to all those who purchase 50/50 tickets for the benefit of the Vine and Branches Food Closet.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - This summer St. Anthony's Church will be hosting Vacation Bible School for the children in Pine Plains. The dates are August 14 to 18 from 9 am to noon. For more information call 845-373-8193.

RECONNECT WITH FAITH THIS SUMMER - The lazy days of summer can make it tempting to be lazy about prayer and worship but the slower pace of summer makes it a great time to reconnect with the one who loves you most.

Make Mass. There's no vacation from Mass, even though we are on vacation. In fact, admiring churches in new places and participating in different parish customs can freshen our own outlook.

Summer Reading. Give "beach reading" a new meaning. Read a spiritual book, whether a classic or a more contemporary religious book.

Serve. Parish ministries usually suffer during the summer because of vacations. If you are unable to serve in your ministry, try your best to get a replacement.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, July 8-9, 2017, we collected \$5,099 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$1407 for Utility and Energy. I thank you for your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church and pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

ONE MINUTE MEDITATION - The road to Heaven is hard but we don't have to travel alone. Jesus knew we would need a community where we could find support so He gave us the Church.

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.

† Sanctuary Light †
*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Patty Barron
In Memory of Marco Sartori*

