

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME November 5, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Nov. 6	8:00 am	Joan Post
	Tues.	Nov. 7	8:00 am	Mary Lyman
“	Wed.	Nov. 8	8:00 am	Lawrence C. Hardisty, Jr.
“	Thurs.	Nov. 9	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	Fri.	Nov. 10	8:00 am	John Macura
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	Elizabeth Brizzie
Amenia	Sat.	Nov. 11	8:00 am	Katherine Blinn
“	“	“	4:30 pm	Joseph & Lena Carberry

Pine Plains	Sun	Nov. 12	8:00 am	Angelo Cutone & Fiorento Liberta
Amenia	“	“	10:45 am	People of the Parish

“ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS”

Dear Friends:

As I sit here writing our weekly reflection, I am looking forward to celebrating All Saints and All Souls. When you read this, those days will be gone as we move on into November. But these days are worth thinking about a little longer.

One thing that we all encounter is the big celebration of Halloween. It has become a commercial enterprise; as we all know, a part of the ever-present advertising and merchandising calendar. But, as many of us know, Halloween originated as a celebration of “All-Hallows Eve,” the night before All Saint’s Day. Hopefully, this Halloween somehow will remind us of the presence of the Saints in our devotional lives.

All Saints is a very special day for several reasons. One aspect that many people don’t realize is that All Saints is a celebration of all the Saints, including those that are “uncanonized.” What does that mean? All of those “saints” that have never been officially recognized by the Church. Just think of those people you have known in your lives that are just so good and so kind. You know they are a saint. They might be included under “All Saints.” I know my mother should be in there somehow.

The other aspect of All Saints is that it reminds us that the saints are not just reliable helpers and “prayers” for us in heaven. One thing I have always found so inspiring is studying the lives of the saints. I recommend it to anyone. Pick any saint you want, from St. Francis to St. Teresa of Calcutta. Pick up a fine biography of any saint and see how they struggled and persevered. Read about St. Therese of Liseaux or St. Bernadette and the story of Lourdes. The saints are not statues. They are really human beings, just like you and me. They have all the blemishes, misgivings and mistakes that we have. And yet they made it into heaven. With their help, maybe we can make it into heaven too.

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.

WHY DO CATHOLICS HONOR SAINTS IN OUR CHURCHES ? Saints are spiritual role models whose examples we can follow to Heaven. Viewing statues and images of them in our churches helps us to recall their heroic virtue and faithful love for God. The statues, and the saints themselves, are not meant to be objects of worship. Instead, we recognize the good these holy people did and honor their examples. Just as in praising a painting we honor the painter, in praising the saints, we honor God who made them.

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, Baby James Ryan Farrell, Linda Sartori, Helen McGhee, Richard & Mary Ann Valinsk, Mary Murphy Adamitis, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, Barbara 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, Laura Galdiero, Eileen Murphy Ehlers, Dominic Nannetti, Ray Proper, Sr., 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 Cobuzzi, Joanne Balek, John Bray, Kevin Flanigan, Karen Grimaldi and Jody Kain.

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CHILDREN'S CHOIR - All children are invited to participate in the Children's Choir which will sing at the 4 pm Christmas Eve Mass. All are welcome. Practice will be held after the 10:45 am Mass on Sundays and will last approximately 20 minutes. Choir practices will begin on Sunday, November 5th.

MEN'S GROUP - The Men's Group will meet on Monday, November 6th at 6:45 pm in the Chapel in Amenia. New Members are most welcome.

SAVE THE DATE - The Altar Rosary Society is planning a Luncheon at "The Ponds" in Ancramdale on Sunday, December 3rd, at 2 pm. All are invited. More details to follow.

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**GOD LOVES US AS WE ARE** - Most of us care about how we come across to other people. Choices about how we live, work, or dress can be influenced by a desire for others' approval. While it is only human to want to be liked, it's important to remember that God's opinion matters most. The best part? God always loves us.

*His Love never changes* - Human standards change over time. Someone considered "in" today, can be "out" in no time. God's love is unchanging and unending.

*Friends come and go* - Sooner or later, friendships change or friends may move on. But Jesus said, "...behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). God never leaves.

*He loves us for who we really are* - There's nothing God doesn't know about us, and he adores us anyway. Go figure.

*If God likes you, others may too* - To please God, we have to fill ourselves with love for him and other people, and that makes us even nicer to be around.

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SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, October 28-29, 2017, we collected \$4,327.70 in our Regular Sunday Collection. I thank you for your presence, 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 Patty Barron
In Memory of Ralph Cummings