

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME January 28, 2018

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

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|--------------------|--------|---------|----------|-----------------------------------------|
| Amenia | Mon. | Jan. 29 | 8:00 am | Jerry Henry |
| " | Tues. | Jan. 30 | 8:00 am | Ray Proper, Sr. |
| " | Wed. | Jan. 31 | 8:00 am | Ralph Cummings |
| " | Thurs. | Feb. 1 | 8:00 am | NO MASS |
| " | Fri. | Feb. 2 | 8:00 am | Eileen Ertel |
| Pine Plains | " | " | 12 noon | Fr. Andrew Apostoli |
| Amenia | Sat. | Feb. 3 | 8:00 am | William McEnroe & Fay Family |
| " | " | " | 4:30 pm | Ray Proper, Sr. |
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| Pine Plains | Sun | Feb. 4 | 8:00 am | Anthony Capaccio & Ann Marie Russolillo |
| Amenia | " | " | 10:45 am | People of the Parish |

"AUTHORITY"

Dear Friends:

It has been said that most of the scandals and disruptions in human life are caused by the desire for sex, money or power. It seems that when a human being falls from grace, it is due to one or more of those three things. In some ways that is why the classic evangelical counsels, the vows of obedience (power), chastity (sex) and poverty (money), are so effective in battling these very human problems.

The vow of obedience has been criticized as forcing people to do things they shouldn't do. This brings up to us the central understanding of obedience, in that it must be done in relation to a proper authority. But what is a proper and legitimate authority?

That is an excellent question. As Catholics, we are called to respect proper authority in our Church. This does not mean we leave behind our freedom and our conscience to do so. As free and informed mature believers, we are called to be responsive to legitimate authority. How do we get there? We first realize that the authority we respond to comes from God, not from human beings. When we are responsive to Popes, bishops or pastors, we realize that the authority comes from God. We also realize that all the leaders in the Church are imperfect people.

When talking about obedience, I have experience myself, having made a promise of obedience to my bishop. It is a little different than the vow of obedience for religious sisters or brothers or priests, but it is there and it is real. This promise of obedience is a real part of my life, but it doesn't mean that I am a robot or a slave. This promise of obedience is rooted not in force or fear, but in love and mutual respect.

All of us are subjected to authority, in our jobs, in relation to the law, and to the government. But what makes authority different in the Church is that it is based on the authority of Christ, and also based on the law of love.

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, and will take up a special collection on February 3-4. Thank you.

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.

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 : 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 and Irene Smith

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VINE & BRANCHES - The 50/50 will be held on Thursday, February 1st, 2018. The next food distribution will be on Saturday, February 17th. Last Saturday, we provided food for approximately 35 people thanks to your steadfast support to our food closet.

FIRST FRIDAY - We will have Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction on Friday, February 2nd, 2018, at 7:30 pm in Amenia, Please consider spending a half hour with our Lord.

AIM FOR PERFECT FAITH - Imagine if you had perfect certainty that God was with you in all things. Think how differently you would respond to difficulties, temptations, or hardships if you were convinced that God was in all of it and would use it for good. Worry would be a thing of the past. That's perfect faith and it is possible. Here's how:

Believe in God's love. *God is love, so to believe in God is to believe in His love. If God loves you, then He wills your good. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love"* (1 John 4:16). Perfect faith comes from believing in God's love.

Practice makes perfect. Perfect faith results when we live God's word, not just hear it. Practicing the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the two Great Commandments (love God, love your neighbor), we notice God's hand in our lives and trust in Him grows. (*Growing in Faith*)

"In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart"
~Mahatma Gandhi~

TAKE THE "ORDINARY" OUT OF ORDINARY TIME! Spend some extraordinary time with God and gain the type of peace that only Jesus can give. Join us for Morning Prayer and Guided Meditation on Saturday, February 3rd at 10 am at St. Anthony's. No experience necessary – God meets us where we are!

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

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, January 20-21, 2018, we collected \$4,394.03 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$1,296.67 for Utility & Energy. 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 Norm and Carol Cayea
For the healing of Patrick Norburry*