

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 19, 2017**

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

	Mon.	Feb. 20	8:00 am	Joseph Loughlin
	Tues.	Feb. 21	8:00 am	Don Abruzzo
	Wed.	Feb. 22	8:00 am	John R. Simpson
	Thurs.	Feb. 23	8:00 am	NO MASS
	Fri.	Feb. 24	8:00 am	Barbara & Ray McEnroe
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	Jane Wells
	Sat.	Feb. 25	8:00 am	Elizabeth Brizzie
			4:30 pm	Diana Kelly
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Pine Plains	Sun	Feb. 26	8:00 am	People of the Parish
			10:45 am	Robert Keefe

“OUR FRIENDS”

Dear Friends:

There is no question that popularity in pets has increased very much in the last few decades. It is amazing to read about the number of dollars we spend in our country taking care of our dogs and cats and other animals.

We see all kinds of new businesses dedicated to the care and feeding of animals. I remember reading that, in the U.S., 300 million dollars is spent every year on costumes for animals on Halloween.

We see a large growth in the use of animals for helping us. There is the longtime use of “seeing-eye” dogs for the blind. But now we have therapy dogs for all kinds of issues.

I always remember how much my mother loved her little poodles, especially “Coquette”. Coquette was kind of a therapy dog, providing companionship for my mother for so many years. My mother loved animals, and loved taking care of them. One thing I have always noticed is how much children love animals. Children are so entranced by animals and want to spend hours playing with them. How many young people I have known have grown up to be veterinarians because of this very human love of animals.

When we reflect on animals we know that they are creations of God and that God created them as a blessing for us. St. Francis of Assisi showed us how much animals can mean to us. It is so very meaningful to take time to consider how God has blessed this earth with so many wonderful creations.

I sometimes think that animals like dogs and cats bring out the best in us. They pull us away from the coldness of modern life, and they call us to acts of compassion. When we take care of animals and watch over them, it gives us a valuable lesson on giving of ourselves. We must care for all of God’s creations, including animals and all humans.

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.

2017 CARDINAL’S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - As of February 10th, our parish has received \$10,730. in pledges/gifts from 22 families. Our parish goal is \$41,500. It is our belief as Catholics to care for one another. Though we must ‘pray as if everything depends upon God,’ it has been said, we must also ‘work as if everything depends upon us.’ I ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge or a one-time donation in an amount you can afford. I thank you for your consideration and generosity.

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, Al Blackburn, Ann Marie Russolillo and Dominic Nannetti.

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ST. PATRICK'S POT LUCK - We are planning to have our traditional St. Patrick's "pot luck" and "bake sale" on Sunday, March 19th, from 1 pm to 3 pm in the gym. Please consider joining us for a pleasant afternoon with good food, good company and good music. There are sign-up sheets in the back of Church for the "Pot Luck" as well as for those willing to bake for our "Bake Sale". "Irish Step Dancers" are especially welcome. Please plan on joining us.

FOUR LOVES - The English novelist and spiritual writer C.S. Lewis explores the many dimensions of love in his book, *The Four Loves*. Lewis's categories are useful for reflecting on the meaning of love and its connection with stewardship - the practice of grateful love - in our lives.

Romance is the kind of love most associated with February. Hearts and red roses are our culture's most common symbols of romantic love. It's this love, in its most authentic form that is fundamental to the commitment of marriage and parenting.

Affection is the fondness of familiarity that exists in extended families and among colleagues. It's the natural bond of pleasant community that helps us experience our solidarity with all humanity.

Friendship, according to Lewis, is the strong, platonic bond that exists between people who freely choose one another's company. At its best, like all true love, friendship is self-sacrificing and supportive.

Unconditional love, which the Greeks called *agape*, is what we translate from the Latin as charity. This is the love that brings forth caring whatever the circumstances and whomever the object. It's charity, St. Paul tells us, that is the greatest and most enduring of the theological virtues.

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them"
~ Mother Teresa~

CAMP VERITAS 2017 - Camp Veritas is a one-week play and pray sleep away summer camp for teens going into 7th to 12th grades. It will be held at three USA locations in 2017; July 16-22 at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY, July 23-29 at Summit Lake Camp in Emmitsburg, MD and August 13-19 at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY. Enrollment opens 1/1/17 and the enrollment price for each week is \$450.00 per camper. Early bird rates (if paid in full by 4/1/17) are \$400 for all sites. There is no additional charge for the dance and basketball program options (at Mount Saint Mary College only). Volunteers (must be over 18 years old) are needed and free! More details can be found at www.campveritas.com.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, February 11-12, 2017, we collected \$1,387.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$544.13 for Utility & Energy. I thank you for your 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 and Nathan Tong. 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 & Carol Cayea
For the healing of Mary DiPerna.*