

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME January 14, 2018

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Jan. 15	8:00 am	Lawrence C. Hardisty, Jr.
"	Tues.	Jan. 16	8:00 am	Eugene Ketchum
"	Wed.	Jan. 17	8:00 am	Ray Proper, Sr.
"	Thurs.	Jan. 18	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Jan. 19	8:00 am	Emil Eugene Rusie
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Frank Forlini
Amenia	Sat.	Jan. 20	8:00 am	William McEnroe & Fay Family
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Ray Proper, Sr.

Pine Plains	Sun	Jan. 21	8:00 am	Alice Filippini
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

"SUNDAY MASS"

Dear Friends:

I have to join Cardinal Dolan in his article from Catholic New York on January 4th, 2018. As we consider our New Year's resolutions for 2018, I suggest, like the Cardinal, to commit to attending Mass every Sunday.

Sure, we all know, it is a rule. The rules of the Church state that every Catholic is required to attend Mass every Sunday (unless of course one might miss because of illness or travel difficulties or the required care of a child). But we shouldn't do it just because it is a rule.

There are so many good reasons to go to Church. There is the fellowship, the friendship and support we receive from our fellow believers. As Christians, we do not do our faith alone. We need others to care for us, and so we can care for them.

We receive the word of God from the bible, the words we need to grow. We are urged to deepen our faith by the words of the sermon. How can we grow in the faith unless we learn as much as we can?

Then there is the Eucharist. Unless we are sick, the Church is the only place we can get the Eucharist. We can't get it at home, nor at the mall, nor at the golf course. In the Eucharist we receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We receive the life of God into our very selves. Where else can you do that? Why would you miss that?

As the Cardinal noted, we are speaking to you, dear reader, who is a person who attends Church. That is true. But perhaps you are attending Church for the first time, or you have missed a lot of Masses due to disinterest, or indifference. I hope this may serve as a motivation for you to restore your active faith.

If you are a faithful Mass goer, perhaps this will prompt you to "witness" to others to help them return to Church. At the least I hope this article will strengthen your resolve to make Sunday Mass a true priority in your life. I hope you will always treasure the Mass as I do.

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.

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 winner of the 50/50 was Frank Foley. The split was \$88.50. The next food distribution will be on Saturday, January 20th, at 10 am in our gym. Thanks to all of you who purchase 50/50 tickets, donate food to our food closet and volunteer to distribute the food. We could not do it without you.

LET GOD LOVE YOU - Have you ever seen a parent scoop up a child and hug him closely as if he couldn't get enough of that beloved child? That's how God feels about you. He loves you dearly. Open your heart to him. God is always ready to forgive. We are the ones who forget to ask. Meet him in Confession regularly. As a loving Father, he waits for our next visit and longs for our love. Don't miss a chance to meet him at Mass and in daily prayer. And, as a good Father, he waits for the day when all his children will come home to him and rest forever in his arms.

PINE PLAINS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - The Pine Plains Council of Churches will host a Unity Prayer Service on Sunday, January 21st, at 4 pm at the Pine Plains Presbyterian Church located on Church Street. Please join in feeling the "oneness" with our fellow Christian neighbors as we pray for continued unity in Christ.

WHY DO CATHOLOCS DO THAT? Why do we cross our forehead, lips and chest before hearing the Gospel at Mass?

This gesture of signing ourselves with the Cross is a way of praying, "***May the Lord be in my mind, on my lips and in my heart.***" It is said prior to the reading of the Gospel as a way of prayerfully inviting Christ to come to us in these ways as His sacred Word is proclaimed. The hearing of the Gospel must change our minds, it must be proclaimed by our lips, and it must affect our heart. By heart we especially mean our will, affections, emotions and passions.

So the next time you sign yourself with the Cross before the Gospel be mindful that it's more than just an external gesture, it is also a prayer and an invitation to Christ.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, January 6-7, 2018, we collected \$4,814.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$762.21 for Catholic Community & Catholic University. 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 Denise & Bob Conway
In Loving Memory of Eugene Ketchum*