

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 22, 2018

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	July 23	8:00 am	Mary & Emile Brunese
"	Tues.	July 24	8:00 am	Katherine Blinn
"	Wed.	July 25	8:00 am	Margaret Sicord
"	Thurs.	July 26	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	July 27	8:00 am	J. Chester & Frances Maroney
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Dr. John Walters (Living)
Amenia	Sat.	July 28	8:00 am	Barbara P. and Ray McEnroe
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Sally Quinn

Pine Plains	Sun	July 29	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	Manny Alvarez

"RECONSTRUCTION"

Dear Friends:

On September 23rd, at the 10:45 am Mass, we will celebrate, with Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the 150th Anniversary of Immaculate Conception parish. The parish was founded in 1868, the same year that Ulysses S. Grant was elected President for his first term. That gives us a great idea of how long this wonderful Church has been in existence.

I have been reading Ron Chernow's great biography of U.S. Grant, a remarkable figure in the crisis of our democracy in the Civil War of 1861 to 1865. Grant was the indispensable commander of the Union forces towards the end of the war. He led the union forces to victory after victory, finally ending the conflict at Appomattox in 1865, with the surrender of General Robert E. Lee of the Confederates.

Grant was a national hero, adored by the grateful public after the war. His cool personality and quiet demeanor made him even more popular as people realized how unpretentious and humble he was. After the shocking tragedy of Abraham Lincoln's assassination, the nation looked to Grant to heal the people. Then came the disastrous presidency of Andrew Johnson, and Grant was elected easily in 1868 as president.

But the nation was still broken. Grant began enforcing what was called "Reconstruction," the program to bring black people into the political life of the south.

I was surprised to see how difficult it was to bring African-Americans, freed from slavery, into full American citizenship. The southern states, and eventually the northern states, grew weary of putting into effect changes in American life. U.S. Grant tried so hard to put into effect structures that would bring African-Americans into the political mainstream. In some ways, the struggle was more difficult than the Civil War.

Reading about U.S. Grant educated me on how hard it has been for African-Americans to be a part of American life. The struggle continues. We, the Catholic Church and individual citizens, must continue to work to help all Americans feel at home in this country.

Fr. Wilson

SAVE THE DATE – Please save the date of Sunday, September 23rd, 2018, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our Church. We will begin with the 10:45 am Mass. As we gather together to give thanks to God for our Church, Cardinal Dolan has agreed to celebrate Mass with us on this very special occasion. A barbecue will follow in the gym. I hope you can join us.

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, Mary Murphy Adamitis, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, Jeff Moissonnier, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Michael Kain, Susan Moody, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Jack Silvernale, Mike Butts and Mary Ann Mullen, Alan Carroll, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Luz Pelkey, Averie Burke, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Kathryn Garzetta, Joseph Licurse, Delora Brooks, June Heckelman, Teresa Pelkey, Renee & Al Cobuzzi, Joanne Balek, Frances Anello, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Helen Murphy Riley, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjana, Lisa Missailidis, Lori Downing, Anthony Mottola, Ann Liberatore, Ralph & Kathy Locantore, Fred Arni, Brandon Rojas, Jennifer McRoberts and Leah Rost.

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2018 PINE PLAINS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - The Pine Plains Community Vacation Bible School will be held from Monday, August 13 through Friday, August 17th from 9 am to 12 noon at the Episcopal Church of the Regeneration at 18 Pine Street in Pine Plains with registration on Monday, Aug. 13 from 8:45 am. While you can fill out a registration form on the first day your child attends the VBS, bringing a filled-in form with you will make the registration process more efficient. Registration forms will be available in the back of Church. Please speak with Fr. Wilson or call the office should you need additional information.

WHY IS A CATHOLIC FUNERAL IMPORTANT ? Although no one enjoys dwelling on death, most of us will mourn and bury loved ones in our lifetimes. Friends may counsel us to skip the Church funeral and just "get it over with," but our faith provides the strength we need to deal with death. The Church has created Rites to help us face the difficulties and reality of death. Every baptized Catholic has a right to a Catholic funeral. The Rites of a Catholic Funeral include Prayers after Death, Prayers in the Presence of the Body, the Scripture Prayer Service at the Wake, the Funeral at Church, and the internment Prayer Service at the cemetery. Together these services not only make up the total Catholic Funeral Service, but also provide the Church's special prayers for the deceased. The Rites also support families and friends who are grieving for their loved one.

Catholics are entitled to a Catholic Funeral whether they are frequent or infrequent Mass attendees.

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 and Tyler Jasmin. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers.

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

REQUIRED ANNOUNCEMENT ON CHILD PROTECTION - Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by priest, deacon, religious or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212-371-1000 x 2949. She may be reached via e-mail at victimassistance@archny.org. In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, July 14-15, 2018, we collected \$3,506.25 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$1,103.00 for Summer Maintenance. I thank you for your presence, your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

ONE MINUTE MEDITATION - Be meek not weak. Meekness can be mistaken for weakness, but nothing could be further from the truth. Being "meek of heart" means being in control of your emotions rather than letting them control you. Today, pray for the courage to be meek of heart.

*"If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you.
But if you do not forgive others, neither will your father forgive your transgressions"
(Matthew 6:14)*