

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 24, 2019

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR

Amenia	Mon.	Feb. 25	8:00 am	People of the Parish
"	Tues.	Feb. 26	8:00 am	Jeremiah Carroll
"	Wed.	Feb. 27	8:00 am	Sarah & Anthony Marano
"	Thurs.	Feb. 28	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	March 1	8:00 am	Anthony Mottola
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	James V. & Elizabeth A. Moriarty
Amenia	Sat.	March 2	8:00 am	Daniel Kenny
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Joseph B. McEnroe
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Pine Plains	Sun	March 3	8:00 am	Elizabeth Brizzie
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

"SUFFERING AND TRIALS"

Dear Friends:

The question of suffering has been a problem since the beginning of time. Questions such as "why is there suffering in the world?" or "How does a loving God allow suffering in our world?" have perplexed every human being, since, well, forever.

I have thought about it myself. I always remember St. Pope John Paul II and his attempt to explain human suffering in the context of Christian life. He made two points: (1) That human suffering unites the person with Christ on the Cross in a very real and redemptive way, and (2) That human suffering allows others to provide redemptive and healing actions toward the person who is suffering. These actions bring both the sufferer and the helper closer to Jesus Christ.

I have found this helpful. But it might be good to look at other saints and how they looked at suffering.

St. John of the Cross tells us: "The soul in the darkness groans under its chains, motionless, helpless, until the spirit is softened, humbled, purified, made so subtle, so simple, that it can in some way, become one with the spirit of God, in accordance with the extent and degree of the union of love to which mercy wishes to raise it."

Thus suffering, in a mystical way, can purify a person to become better, holier, and more humble.

St. Teresa of Avila points out that suffering can help us in eternity:

"I would willingly endure all the sufferings of this world to be raised a degree higher in heaven, and to possess the smallest increase of the knowledge of God's greatness."

Similar to suffering, trials may come into our life as moments of temptation and events that may threaten our faith. St. Augustine explains to us: "Is not the life of man upon the earth a trial? Who would want troubles and difficulties? You command us to endure them, not to love them. No person loves what he endures, though he may love the act of enduring."

St. Therese of Lisieux, in her beautiful and simple way, tells us: "We are too little to be able to rise above difficulties. Well, then, let us pass beneath them quite simply."

Fr. Wilson

FIRST FRIDAY - We will have Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction on Friday, March 1st, 2019, at 7:30 pm in Amenia, Please consider spending a half hour with our Lord.

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, Evan Ciovacco, Lydia Casey, Evelyn Bouffard, Mark Hamm, Grover Williams, Stephanie Merenda, Carol Wilson, Dawn Hazel Burrows, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Linda Sartori, Mary Murphy Adamitis, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, Jeff Moissonnier, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Mike Butts, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Luz Pelkey, Averie Burke, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Joseph Licurse, Renee Cobuzzi, Joanne Balek, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjan, Ralph Locantore, Fred Arni, Brandon Rojas, Leah Rost, Susan Consentino, Pat Boice, Arietta Carroll, Flo Vinchiarello, Cecilia Cummings, Dolores Russo, William Edwards, Mary Wilkinson, Evelyn Tompkins, Mary Simmons, Marlana Mittell, Marjorie Arni, John Haggerty and Teal Burns.

VINE & BRANCHES - The winner of the 50/50 was Christopher Willig. The split was \$74.00. Last weekend, we provided food for 20 families and approximately 96 people thanks to your generous food donations and purchasing 50/50 tickets.

2019 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - By now I am sure you have received a letter from Cardinal Dolan asking for your support of the vital ministries, programs and services provided through the Appeal each year. Our parish goal for Immaculate Conception/St. Anthony's is \$39,500.00. As of February 14th, our parish has received \$7,360.00 in pledges/gifts. We are off to a good start. Please be aware that mailings are going out from our parish for those who have not yet contributed. Also, we are going to conduct an "In Pew" campaign on the weekend of March 2nd and 3rd. Thank you for your support.

ASH WEDNESDAY - The Mass schedule for Ash Wednesday, March 6th, is as follows:

8:00 am in Amenia - 12 noon in Pine Plains - 7:00 pm in Amenia

12th ANNUAL MASS IN HONOR OF ST. COLETTE - The 12th Annual Mass, blessing with her relic and devotion to Saint Colette, patroness of couples seeking to conceive, expecting mothers and sick children, will be held on Thursday, March 7th, at 7:00 pm. (Snow Date – Friday, March 8th) at the Monastery of Saint Clare, 70 Nelson Avenue in Wappingers Falls, NY. The Poor Clares are accepting special intentions for these favors. For directions to the Monastery of St. Clare visit www.poorclaresny.com, email claresny@gmail.com or call 845-297-1685.

"We must not be surprised when we hear of murders, killings, of wars, or of hatred...if a mother can kill her own child, what is left but for us to kill each other?" ~Mother Teresa~

LET US BUILD A CULTURE OF LIFE - The devastation of the Reproductive Health Act offers an opportunity for new growth and revitalization in our pro-life efforts within each parish of the Archdiocese. Sr. Virginia Joy, SV, Director of the Respect Life Office, and Sr. Pia Jude, SV, will be hosting a meeting for all parishes in Dutchess County area to discuss ideas of how the Holy Spirit can be at work in moving us forward in building a culture of life. If you are interested in offering your time, talent, or treasure to assist in pro-life works, please come out on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 7 pm at Regina Coeli Church in Hyde Park, NY. The meeting will take place in the school gym.

ST. PATRICK'S POT LUCK - We are planning to have our traditional St. Patrick's "pot luck" and "bake sale" on Sunday, March 17th, from 12 noon to 2:00 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 call the office if you can lend a hand with the bake sale, decorating, set-up or clean-up.

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Almighty God we ask Your divine mercy and protection to envelop our loved ones in all branches of the service. Give them courage and strength against all enemies, both spiritual and physical, and hasten their safe journey back to their families. Lord, please watch over 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 who are presently serving in the Military.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, February 16-17, 2019, we collected \$3,235.29 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$901.29 for Utility & Energy. 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 - God looks at us with a father's love. He sees us as He created us to be – His beloved children who deserve another chance. When you're tempted to focus on another's faults, ask God to help you see everyone as He does with love.