

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 3, 2019

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR

Amenia	Mon.	Feb. 4	8:00 am	Al Cobuzzi
"	Tues.	Feb. 5	8:00 am	Diane McEnroe Martello
"	Wed.	Feb. 6	8:00 am	Dorothy Kaval
"	Thurs.	Feb. 7	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Feb. 8	8:00 am	Martha Flanigan
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	James V. & Elizabeth A. Moriarty
Amenia	Sat.	Feb. 9	8:00 am	Rose Fiori
"	"	"	4:30 pm	John & Florence Carroll

Pine Plains	Sun	Feb. 10	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	George Pimm

"IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PINE PLAINS PARISHIONERS"

Dear Friends:

There are occasions, unfortunately, when weather conditions will make it very difficult for me to reach the parish at 8 am on Sunday. On those occasions, I will leave a message on the phone at Amenia (845-373-8193) that Mass is cancelled due to weather. Hopefully this will be rare. The message will be left on the answering machine Saturday night. I don't like doing this, but sometimes it is prudent. Please remember, as the Archdiocese reminds us, that if you are unable to go to Mass because of the inclement weather, you are excused from the obligation to attend Mass. I apologize for any inconvenience that this will cause you. Please note that if Mass is cancelled in Pine Plains, religious education in Amenia will probably be cancelled too.

"PENNSYLVANIA GRAND JURY REPORT"

I recently read an article by Peter Steinfels in Commonweal, on the well known Pennsylvania grand jury report on sex abuse and the Catholic Church in that state. Peter Steinfels is a well-known Catholic writer who was a religion reporter and columnist for the New York Times.

Peter Steinfels does not contest that the abuses actually happened. Sadly, they did happen and the report details the abuse problem in sickening detail. But Mr. Steinfels does contest the conclusion of the report that the Bishops "did nothing" in response to the crisis. Mr. Steinfels notes that he did read all of the 1,356 page report and he did research outside of the report. And his opinion is that, in regard to the Bishops response to the problem, the report is "grossly misleading, irresponsible, inaccurate and unjust." (There is no question that some bishops did a poor job in this area in the early stages, but the report condemns them all).

Mr. Steinfels states that his opinion is bound to be questioned. It is the opinion of many that the Bishops are responsible in many ways for the cover-up of the abuse. Steinfels clearly states that the evidence in the report and elsewhere shows that the reforms set into place in 2002 have been very effective in battling this scourge of child abuse in the Catholic Church. No doubt, much work has to be done. But if we work together, we can all make the Church a safer place.

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.

MEN'S CLUB - The next Men's Club meeting will be held on Monday, February 4th, 2019, at 6:45 pm in the Chapel of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. New members are most welcome.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - If you need a copy your 2018 Financial Statement with respect to your contributions to Immaculate Conception-St. Anthony's Church, please call the office.

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, Michael Kain, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Mike Butts, Mary Ann Mullen, 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 Cobuzzi, Joanne Balek, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Helen Murphy Riley, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjana, Ralph Locantore, Fred Arni, Brandon Rojas, Leah Rost, Genevieve Minischetti, Susan Consentino, Pat Boice, Deborah McGovern, Arietta Carroll, Flo Vinchiarello, Cecilia Cummings, Dolores Russo, William Edwards, Mary Wilkinson, Evelyn Tompkins, Mary Simmons, Marlena Mittel and Marjorie Arni.

VINE & BRANCHES - The 50/50 drawing will be held on Thursday, February 7th. The next food distribution will be on Saturday, February 16th, at 10 am in our gym. All food and monetary donations are much appreciated. .

ST. BLAISE - Sunday, February 3rd, is the feast day of St. Blaise. We will have blessing of throats at all the Sunday Masses as well as the 4:30 pm Mass on Saturday evening, February 2nd.

If you are already familiar with St. Blaise, it is probably because of the blessing of the throats – a Catholic custom on his feast. According to tradition, Blaise had been a doctor before he was ordained a priest. He became the bishop of Sebaste (now in Central Turkey). During a period of persecution, he fled to a cave where he lived as a hermit. It is said that he cured and tamed the wild animals there. One day hunters discovered him and took him to the governor, who sentenced him to be tortured and killed.

One legend says that while Blaise was in prison, a mother brought him her small boy, who was choking on a fishbone stuck in his throat. Blaise prayed over the child and he was healed. Every year on St. Blaise's feast, 2 candles tied with ribbon in the shape of an X are used to bless throats. In the prayer the Church prays that those blessed may be delivered from diseases of the throat and from every other illness.

Blaise is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, saints who were patrons for almost every aspect of life. The Fourteen Holy Helpers are a group of saints venerated together in Roman Catholicism because their intercession is believed to be particularly effective, especially against various diseases.

NY POST: "CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' SECRET: LOVE" - Here is a wonderful piece on our Catholic schools which appeared in the New York Post by Bill McGurn in January 31, 2014:

" We don't speak much about love in education, not even during Catholic Schools Week. Instead, we focus on more tangible measures of success: how 99 percent of Catholic school students get their high-school diplomas; how a black or Latino child is 2.5 times more likely to graduate from college if he or she had attended a Catholic high school; how Catholic schools manage to do all this at a fraction of the cost of public schools....

Back when he was playing for the New York Jets, Damien Woody sent his children to St. Vincent's even though his family wasn't Catholic. At a Christmas concert, a fellow parent. asked him why. He answered, "My wife and I believe that a school where they love God will love my children."...

In the popular view, Catholic schools succeed because they have greater discipline. There's something to that, though it helps to remember that the Latin root for the verb "to discipline" is not "to punish" but "to teach." It's a lesson that begins with recognizing the equal and God given dignity of every human being. In short, the Gospel that commands us to love one another obliges us to treat each person we encounter as we would Christ. That's not an easy thing to ask of a school, even a Catholic school. "

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

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, January 26-27, 2019, we collected \$3,828.81 in our Regular Sunday Collection and an additional \$250.00 for Utility and Energy. A special thanks to all of you who were not able to attend Mass last week (Jan. 20th) due to the inclement weather but still put their donation envelope in this week's collection. Thank you for your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Denise Conway and Vera Wink
In Memory of Al Cobuzzi*