

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 23, 2020

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Feb. 24	8:00 am	Katherine Blinn
"	Tues.	Feb. 25	8:00 am	Margaret Sicord
"	Wed.	Feb. 26	8:00 am	Barbara & Ray McEnroe
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Elizabeth Brizzie
Amenia	"	"	7:00 pm	Sarah & Anthony Marano
"	Thurs.	Feb. 27	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Feb. 28	8:00 am	Jane Wells
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Katherine Blinn
Amenia	Sat.	Feb. 29	8:00 am	Pat LeFeure
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Deceased Members of the Harrison Hardisty Family
Pine Plains	Sun	March 1	8:00 am	Dr. John Walters
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

" BEAUTY WILL SAVE THE WORLD "

Dear Friends:

Last Sunday, I was speaking with the good people of St. Anthony's about the splendid stained glass windows in the Church. I surmised they must be from another Church of older age that perhaps was closed, since the glass is classically elegant in the "old style." I spoke of the beauty of them and suddenly I remembered a quotation in the back of my head: "Beauty will save the world." I couldn't recall who said it.

After some research, I was surprised to learn of the quote: It is from the great Russian Author Dostoevsky. It is from his novel "The Idiot" (a good title for my biography). Prince Myskin, the title character, was an epileptic nobleman who is known for his innocence. Out of the mouth of this "idiot" comes a clearer vision of beauty and reality than those around him: "Beauty will save the world."

What is even more fascinating is that St. Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI both quoted this thought during their Papacies. St. Pope John Paul II praised the enthusiasm for art and the wonder for the world and felt it can set a better path for the future of humanity. The Pope said it is a profound insight that "beauty will save the world."

Benedict XVI turned to Dostoevsky in a meeting with artists. Dostoevsky said: "Men can live without bread, but without beauty he could no longer live, because there would no longer be anything to do in the world. The whole secret is here, the whole of history is here."

Can the words of an "idiot" set the tone for our response to the modern world? In a mad world, maybe only the idiot is sane. The words of an "idiot" have become the words of a Pope!

Fr. Wilson

RESTRICTED FUNDS – SAINT ANTHONY - As you are aware, Cardinal Timothy Dolan announced the merger of the Parishes of Immaculate Conception-St. Anthony that was effective August 1, 2015. The two parishes are now one parish. Much work has been accomplished in working towards the goal.

During the process of creating one financial account, a restricted account belonging to Saint Anthony was identified. The monies in this account are known as the *Bell Fund*. There is approximately \$41,000 in this account.

After diligent research for a list of donors, we could not find any records indicating who donated these funds. Therefore, we will be running four consecutive notices in the parish bulletin to notify any parishioner of Saint Anthony, who wishes to be reimbursed for this donation. The parishioner must show proof of payment to this fund for this specific purpose no later than March 20, 2020. Thereafter, the Archdiocese of New York will petition the New York State Attorney General's Office to release these funds for use. Once released, these funds will be used to fund the pastoral and administrative activities of the merged parish.

If you donated to this fund and would like your donation returned to you, please contact Colleen Herbert at the Archdiocese of New York, colleen.herbert@archny.org or 646-794-2946 no later than March 20, 2020.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH : Gerhard Herron, Evan Ciovacco, Lydia Casey, Mark Hamm, Grover Williams, Stephanie Merenda, Carol Wilson, Dawn Hazel Burrows, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Linda Sartori, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Mike Butts, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Joseph Licurse, Joanne Balek, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjana, Ralph Locantore, Fred Arni, Brandon Rojas, Leah Rost, Susan Consentino, Pat Boice, Arietta Carroll, Cecilia Cummings, Mary Wilkinson, Evelyn Tompkins, Mary Simmons, Marjorie Arni, Teal Burns, Jane Bly, Jennifer Boice, Nora Miller, Allen McPeck, Diana LaCurto, Genevieve Minischetti, Anita Nichols, Kathleen McGuire, Loretta Heller, Douglas Wilson, Donna Whalen, Stephen Bida, Leah Eurvard, Meghan King, Christine Darby, Peter Hill, Patricia Macura, Jerard Kain, Margaret and Roger Gregoire, Kyleigh Cummings, Caroline McEnroe, Kristin Paraszti, Patty Cassidy, Stephen Bida and John McKee.

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DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT - In the back of the Church, I have placed booklets entitled "**Not by Bread Alone**" which contain stories and reflections for each day of lent, which I pray will enhance your lenten journey.

ASH WEDNESDAY - The Mass schedule for Ash Wednesday, February 26th, is as follows:

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

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† **LENTEN REGULATIONS** †

**Weekdays of Lent** - There is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** - These are days of Fast and Abstinence. Fasting means only one full meal a day may be taken. Two smaller meals can be eaten but together they should not equal another full meal in quantity. Catholics ages 18-59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

**Days of Abstinence** - All Fridays in Lent. All who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> year are bound to abstain totally from eating meat or poultry. You also cannot eat soups and gravies made from them. You can eat fish.

**Easter Duty Obligations** - After they have received their First Holy Communion, Catholics are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept should be fulfilled during the Easter Season. Catholics are also bound to confess serious (mortal) sins at least once a year, but this is not limited to the Lenten/Easter Season.

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STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN AMENIA - Fr. Wilson will be conducting the Stations of the Cross on Friday, February 28th at 7:30 pm at Immaculate Conception Church. Please join us for this Lenten Devotion. For your convenience, confessions will be available immediately afterwards.

BRING YOUR BIBLE, YOUR FAITH AND A LISTENING HEART- Do you want to do something this Lent that will make a difference in your relationship with God, yourself and your neighbor? If your answer is yes, then please consider joining us for a "Bible Study", which will be given by Sr. Jean Flannelly, at 3:00 pm on the Saturdays during Lent at the Parish Center of Immaculate Conception in Amenia. The first session will be on Saturday, February 29th.

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.

ST. PATRICK'S POT LUCK - Our traditional St. Patrick's "pot luck" and "bake sale" will be held on Sunday, March 15th, from 12 noon to 2:00 pm in the gym. If you wish to join in the festivities, please place your name on the sign-up sheets in the back of Church.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP - We ask that you remove all wreaths, blankets, flowers etc. from the graves during the Season of Lent.

2020 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - As of February 13th, our parish has received \$10,690.00 in pledges/gifts from 21 families. I want to thank you for responding so generously to the Cardinal's Appeal.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, February 15-16, 2020, we collected \$2,936.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$1,338.20 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.