

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**June 17, 2018**

**PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:**

<b>Amenia</b>	Mon.	June 18	8:00 am	Philomena Ketchum
"	Tues.	June 19	8:00 am	John Monette
"	Wed.	June 20	8:00 am	Father's Day
"	Thurs.	June 21	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	June 22	8:00 am	Ursula M. Robertson
<b>Pine Plains</b>	"	"	12 noon	Michael Mallozzi
<b>Amenia</b>	Sat.	June 23	8:00 am	Father's Day
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Walter Shannon
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<b>Pine Plains</b>	Sun	June 24	8:00 am	Irma Maschi
<b>Amenia</b>	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

**"FREEDOM PART II"**

*Dear Friends,*

*Last week we talked about freedom, how important it is to Americans and to Christians. As Americans, we cherish our freedoms, especially the freedom to practice our religion.*

*I also discussed how freedom often comes down to having the freedom to choose. In our country, we can spend our day as we choose, doing the things we want to do.*

*I mentioned also "free will", the gift that God gave us so that we can make decisions that would help us to please God and to make our world a better place.*

*But there is another side to this "free will" gift that God gave us. That is that this free will can be used to make wrong choices. Humans are free to do bad things. And they do many bad things, as we can see from the daily news, and our daily life.*

*People might ask: "why do people do bad things? why do they hurt other people?" One answer, as we have seen, is that people are free to – they freely choose to do bad things. And that is affected by the original sin that we all have inside of us. That is the "dark" side of the free choice we are given.*

*But one of the great "bright" sides of this freedom is that we have the freedom to love. We can make a free and beautiful choice to love. And that is what God calls us to do. To live a life in harmony with God, to live the way God wants us to live, is to choose love.*

*This might be one of greatest results of our God-given freedom. The freedom to love. That might be the greatest freedom of all.*

*St. Therese of Lisieux puts it more elegantly than I every could:*

*"Love can accomplish all things.  
Things that are most impossible become easy where love is at work"*

-or-

*"Our Lord does not so much look at the greatness of our actions, or even their difficulty,  
as the love with which we do them"*

*Fr. Wilson*

**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, 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, Kathryn Garzetta, Joseph Licurse, Delora Brooks, June Heckelman, Teresa Pelkey, Renee & Al Cobuzzi, Joanne Balek, Frances Anello, Irene Smith, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Helen Murphy Riley, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjana, Lisa Missailidis, Lori Downing, Anthony Mottola, Ann Liberatore and Ralph Locantore.

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**VINE & BRANCHES** - The winner of the 50/50 was Christopher Willig. The split was \$121.50. My sincere thanks to everyone who purchases 50/50 tickets for the benefit of our food closet.

**WHY DO WE CALL OUR PRIESTS, "FATHER"?** - According to Our Sunday Visitor Catholic Encyclopedia, those in the early Church who gave special witness to the faith were called "Father." In fact, St. Paul said, *"For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel"* (Corinthians 4:15-16). The practice of addressing priests this way was brought to the U.S. in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Irish immigrants who called their priests, "Father." Today this title reminds us that we are all united as a family under Christ, His Gospel, His Church, and His representatives on earth.

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**FATHERS DAY PRAYER**

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; May they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own Fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; May they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.

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**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.

**MANY THANKS** - Nicholas Lopane, a young man in our Parish working toward earning the rank of Eagle Scout, chose for his project to re-landscape the area around the Statue of the Blessed Mother located on the side of Immaculate Conception Church, as well as repair the stone bench in front of the statue. Special thanks to Nick for a great job – it really looks wonderful.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION** - Last weekend, June 9-10, 2018, we collected \$3,559.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$1,266.05 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.

*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week  
at Immaculate Conception Church  
is in Loving Memory of Joseph DeLango  
celebrating his First Anniversary in Heaven  
Your family loves and misses you.*