

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 10, 2019

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR

Amenia	Mon.	Feb. 11	8:00 am	Laszlo Paraszti
"	Tues.	Feb. 12	8:00 am	Al Cobuzzi
"	Wed.	Feb. 13	8:00 am	Charles Moore
"	Thurs.	Feb. 14	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Feb. 15	8:00 am	Catherine & Wallace Schaffer
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Rev. Rufino Lecumberri
Amenia	Sat.	Feb. 16	8:00 am	Lawrence Farnham
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Richard V. Kain

Pine Plains	Sun	Feb. 17	8:00 am	Angela & Rita Cutone
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

"SAINT AGATHA"

Dear Friends:

February 5th is the feast day of Saint Agatha, a virgin martyr of Sicily. It is thought she was born around 231 A.D. in either Catania or Palermo.

She apparently was a very beautiful girl, but she dedicated her life to God. She became a consecrated virgin and devoted herself to Christ and to the Church.

However, many men were attracted to her, and one man, because of his high social standing, thought he could convince her to marry him. She resisted his entreaties, so he had her arrested.

This was the time of persecution of Christians and so it was apparently acceptable to persecute Agatha. As she was tortured, she maintained her faith in Jesus Christ.

Despite imprisonment and assaults, Agatha stayed faithful. The treatment she received was unspeakable. She eventually died from her treatment around the year 251.

She is the patron saint of Sicily, breast cancer patients, Palermo, rape victims and wet nurses. As I reflect on her story, I also see St. Agatha as a possible intercessor for victims of assault and abuse. These are modern problems in our society, but sexual abuse has been around since the beginning of time. The story of St. Agatha is a story of resistance to sexual assault, and we pray that Saint Agatha help heal all those who are survivors of sexual assault.

A year ago, on February 5th, I was in Catania, Sicily, to celebrate the feast of Saint Agatha at the Cathedral of Saint Agatha. It was a marvelous occasion. The streets were packed with people and there was a huge Mass in the Cathedral. The relics of Saint Agatha were brought out, and thousands of people cheered in the streets of the city. There were fireworks and music and cheering. It was a great experience for me to see this kind of Catholic religious celebration. Let us pray that some day we can experience stronger and deeper religious devotion in our own country.

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.

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY - The Altar Rosary Society will meet on Monday, February 11, 2019, at 7:00 pm in the Chapel of Immaculate Conception. All are welcome to join us in praying the Rosary.

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, Susan Consentino, Pat Boice, Deborah McGovern, Arietta Carroll, Flo Vinchiarello, Cecilia Cummings, Dolores Russo, William Edwards, Mary Wilkinson, Evelyn Tompkins, Mary Simmons, Marlena Mittell, Marjorie Arni and John Haggerty.

SICK LIST - With respect to those who are on the above sick list, I ask that you review the names, and if the person has recovered from their illness, injury or medical emergency to please call the office and have their name taken off the list. Should their circumstance change, just let us know and we will be happy to put their name back on the list. Thank you for your cooperation.

RELIGIOUS ED RECONCILIATION - Our 2nd graders will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, February 9th, at 10:00 am at Immaculate Conception Church following a breakfast in their honor. Please keep the following children in your prayers: **Reilly Demczar, Jack Elliott, Nolan Howard, Michael O'Connor and Braelyn Parazti**. A special thanks to Marilyn Tyree, their teacher for preparing these children to make their first Confession. We also want to thank Ken Pomeisl and his 9th grade Confirmation Candidates for serving the 2nd graders breakfast prior to their receiving the Sacrament. This practice is a long standing tradition in our Religions Education Program.

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**A VALENTINE PRAYER**

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*I want to thank you for the precious gift of love you have given to the world and to me. Thank you for blessing me every day with this love and the power and strength that I get from you every single day. Without your love for me I can't be ...I can't function...I can't even breathe...because I need your love to sustain me. It's like food and medicine for my soul, Lord.*

*Please continue to let me feel your comforting love in my life and Lord, I give myself over to you to perfect in me this gift of love...that I may be able to express it and share it with others. Lord...I have not always been good at this...forgive me. Lord...some people are harder to love than others...but I want to be like your Son Jesus...so please continue the work you are doing in my heart so my heart will be like yours. In Jesus name I pray.*

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FORGIVENESS IS A GIFT FOR YOU - Right or wrong, when we hold onto an injury, we get trapped in the pain of it indefinitely. Forgiving frees us to move on. Forgiveness is something we do for ourselves:

Start with a sign. Even if you are the one injured, let the other person know you are ready to forgive by offering something tangible: flowers, a card, a hug. *"Come now, let us set things right, says the Lord"* (Isaiah 1:18).

Separate the offense from the offender. God doesn't abandon us when we sin. He loves us no matter what and asks that we do the same for each other.

Forgive and forget. You can't have one without the other. Forgiveness entails cancelling a debt, whether by God or another person. *"(Love) does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things..."* (1Corinthians 13:5-8).

Celebrate. A mended relationship is stronger than one that has never been tested.

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 2-3, 2019, we collected \$4,626.25 in our Regular Sunday Collection. 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.