

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME January 26, 2020

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Jan. 27	8:00 am	Mario Grandinettie
"	Tues.	Jan. 28	8:00 am	Florence Vinchiarello
"	Wed.	Jan. 29	8:00 am	Katherine Blinn
"	Thurs.	Jan. 30	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Jan. 31	8:00 am	Barbara & Ray McEnroe
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Jack Sarles
Amenia	Sat.	Feb. 1	8:00 am	Elizabeth Brizzie
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Richard V. Kain

Pine Plains	Sun	Feb. 2	8:00 am	Inga Holzhauer
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

"THE SUPER BOWL"

Dear Friends:

For those of you who don't like sports-oriented spiritual discussions, I guess maybe you should move onto something else or maybe read on and see if my words are somewhat interesting.

There is no doubt that the Super Bowl (the championship of professional football) has become a cultural phenomenon. The Super Bowl is almost always the most watched TV program year after year, by a large margin. Last year's Super Bowl was the highest-rated prime time telecast of 2018 and had an adult rating of 33.6. The second rated show after that was, yes, the NFL NFC Championship game with a 13.5 rating. A "This is Us" episode was next, at 11.6, and aired after the Super Bowl.

So, as most of you know, the popularity is there, year after year. I sometimes joke that the 4 greatest moments in my life were my ordination to the priesthood and the 3 Denver Bronco Super Bowl Championships (not really, but close).

So what does the Super Bowl have to do with our spiritual life? Well I think it does, as long as you throw out the commercials and the violent nature of the game.

Football, like many sports, emphasizes the gifts of certain people to play in certain positions. Different people have different gifts. A quarterback has different gifts than a defensive end. The Church has different people with different gifts and the task of the community is to place those people in the right places. It doesn't always work out but it is a worthwhile goal.

Football is a team game, some say the ultimate team game. Players have to work together very closely to make a play happen. And the Church is a team effort. People in the Church have to work together to a common goal. Some people say that Football is an excellent preparation for life in that it helps people to work together as a team.

However, the real point of the Super Bowl is to have fun and enjoy the game. I hope that we all can have fun watching the Super Bowl this year.

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.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – To the people of St. Anthony's in Pine Plains, I ask for help. We are in the process of "un-restricting" a restricted fund known as the "Bell Fund". It seems no one is sure what the "Bell Fund" was for. So I am asking the Archdiocese to begin the process of making the funds free to use for our purposes. If anyone knows or remembers anything about the "Bell Fund", please contact me as soon as you can. ~ Fr. Wilson ~

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, Flo Vinchiarello, 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 and Kristin Paraszti.

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VINE & BRANCHES - Last weekend we provided food for approximately 31 people thanks to your food and monetary donations. Once again, I thank you for supporting our food closet.

RELIGIOUS ED RECONCILIATION - Our 2nd graders are scheduled to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, February 1st at 10:00 am at Immaculate Conception Church. Please keep the following children in your prayers: Amelia Anderson, Natalie Butler, Alexandra Connolly, Kaitlyn Enes, Matthew Enes, Riley Jones, Brooke Kain, Adrian Maxwell, Natalie Rahgo, Zoey Runge, Lucas Sartori, Liam Todriff and Riley Whalen.

PUERTO RICO – There have been tragic results of the earthquakes in Puerto Rico. The Archdiocese is going to help, and invites us to participate. We are sending parish funds to help, so there is no need for a special collection. But if you want to help please write a check made payable to Archdiocese of New York and leave it in the collection or give it to me. You may also send a gift directly to Archdiocese of New York at 1011 First Ave, Finance Office Rm 1940, New York, NY 10022. The Archdiocese would like to receive donations by February 5th. Thank you, Father Wilson

LOVE FOR THE UNBORN AND OUR ETERNAL REWARD - In Luke Chapter 14:12-14, Jesus tells us that the good we do for those who cannot repay us in this world is the most beneficial, because He assures us that we will “be repaid in the resurrection of the just.”

Congressman Henry Hyde, one of the greatest pro-life advocates ever to serve in Congress, expressed this idea when he said: “When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face the awesome moment, the final judgment...those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there’ll be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world, but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world...and they will plead for everyone who has been in this movement. They will say to God, “Spare him, because he loved us.”

The unborn are even less able to repay us than the beggars and the crippled and the lame and the blind (to whom Jesus referred). At least, these poor people know that we love them and are able to say “Thank you.”

The child in the mother’s womb not only has no voice whatsoever, but cannot even tell you “Thank you”. Indeed, love and action for the unborn is the most selfless form of love. In this world, nothing comes from them in return.

CAMP VERITAS 2020 - Camp Veritas is a one-week play-and-pray sleep away summer camp for teens going into 7th to 12th grades. It will be held at five locations in 2020; June 29-July 4 at Clongowes Wood College in Ireland; July 19-25 at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY; July 26-Aug. 1 in Emmitsburg, MD; Aug. 2-7 in Lake Placid, FL and August 16-22 at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY. Enrollment opens 1/1/2020 and enrollment price for each week is only \$400 per camper. Early bird rates (before 4/1/20) are \$400 and \$450 after that. More details can be found at www.campveritas.com.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - If you need a copy of your financial statement for 2019, please call the office.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, January 18-19, 2020, we collected \$2,454.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$937.19 for Utility and 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.

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, Tyler Jasmin and Austin Cummings. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers especially during these tumultuous times.