

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 24, 2020



“UPDATES”

Dear Friends:

Before I begin my sermon on this weeks readings, I need to discuss some important topics that affect all of us.

First, I just want to thank all of you again for your generous support in these difficult days. Your financial help has been nothing less than outstanding and I find it inspiring and heartening.

Second, I want to let you know what is happening in our parish now. The Church in Amenia is open during the day, from approximately 9:00 am to 6:00 pm for your personal prayer (if you are in Church, needless to say, you should practice social distancing). The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available in Amenia on Saturdays from 3:45 pm to 4:15 pm in the Chapel.

Third, we continue to offer food through our food pantry on the third Saturday of the month, from 10:00 am to 10:30 am. The food is given out with all precautions taken.

Fourth, opening up the Church for regular celebrations is coming soon. Please pay close attention to our website for further information. Church celebrations will be very much affected by our precautions against the virus. For one thing, people will have to be seated a good distance away from one another within the Church. The Church mass schedule may change as well. I ask you to be very patient with us, as you always are.

RELECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE 7th SUNDAY (JOHN 17:1-11)

This Gospel is the prayer of Jesus to the Father at the Last Supper. In it is stated the central theme of John's Gospel: eternal life consists in knowing the Father and the Son he sent.

Jesus uses some fascinating images in His prayer. He states to the Father that we belonged to the Father, and the Father gave them to Jesus. Jesus goes on to say that He would pray for the “ones you have given me.” We see how closely Jesus identifies with His people. We belong to Him. We are His. Not in a possessive or dominating way, but in a way marked by faithfulness and love. When Jesus says that we have been given to Him, it ultimately means that Jesus will be with us forever, no matter what.

Fr. Wilson

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION for 2020-2021 - As our Religious Education Program has been cancelled since Sunday, March 15th, due to the coronavirus, our Registration for 2020-2021 could not be handled as usual. Due to these unforeseen circumstances, this year the Registration for our Religious Ed Students is being done primarily by mail. Letters were sent out to each of our families on April 15th. We ask that you register your child/children by **June 15th**, as books and supplies need to be ordered. If you know of anyone who has a child entering first grade, please ask them to call the office at 373-8193 and we will mail them a registration form. Our program helps parents pass on the Catholic faith to their children which is so very important.

2020 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - As of May 15th, our parish has received **\$25,700.00** in pledges/gifts from **73** families. Our parish goal is **\$42,000**. I sincerely ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge or a one-time donation in an amount you can afford. Not all offerings are equal, but all sacrifices are..

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, 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, John McKee, Kathleen Herron, Roseann Roux, Catherine DiRe, Michael Gaddis, Baby Gemma Dadone and Joe Gatto.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED IN OUR PARISH: Linda Sartori, Fr. John Bida, Peggy Ackerman, Rose Marie Mina Murdock, Calvin Brendaline and Thomas Jackson.

WHY DOES GOD LET US SUFFER? When we watch a loved one suffer – or suffer ourselves- hearing “it’s God’s will,” can feel unsatisfying. The implication is that God directs us like chess pieces, and bad things result. In fact, germs, atmospheric conditions, human error, or just plain chance account for what is often outside of our control. It helps to remember that God is always present, He wills our good, and evil is not of His doing.

God is always present. Our Father loves us deeply, cares about our concerns right down to the hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30). He urges us to respond well to a world we can’t control. If we let Him, God will enable us to learn and grow through our experiences, no matter how overwhelming or unpleasant.

God wills our good. It is not God’s will that we suffer. The ways of the world aren’t always in harmony with His will. However, His plan for us will bring us the ultimate good. He loves us with true love and wants us prepped and ready for Heaven.

God doesn’t make evil. What we see as evil in the world, God can use for good. When we cooperate with Him, suffering becomes meaningful, struggle worthwhile, victory affirming, and even the acceptance of what we cannot overcome life-giving, as they were for Jesus. (*Growing in Faith*)

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: 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.

“Almighty and eternal God, protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties.
Protect them with the shield of your strength and keep them safe from all evil and
harm. May the power of your love enable them to return home in safety, that with
all who love them, they may ever praise you for your loving care. We ask this
through Christ our Lord.” Amen

SUNDAY MASS - Please see your Television Guide for the Easter Sunday Masses being offered on EWTN, Catholic Faith Network, Heart of the Nation (Channel 82) at 8 am and WPIX (Channel 11) from St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - This past week, we received \$3,927.00 in donations for our Church and \$115.00 for Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. I am so very thankful to all of you who continue to support our Church during these difficult financial times. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families with good health..

HONOR THE MEMORY - Gracious God, on this Memorial Day weekend, we remember and give thanks for those who have given their lives in the service of our country. Though their names may fade with the passing generations, we must never forget the sacrifices they made to ensure our freedom.

