

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 2, 2020

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Aug. 3	8:00 am	Peter Bailey
"	Tues.	Aug. 4	8:00 am	Cynthia Goggins
"	Wed.	Aug. 5	8:00 am	Lois Kain
"	Thurs.	Aug. 6	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Aug. 7	8:00 am	Albert Nolletti
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Margaret & Cecelia Harding
Amenia	Sat.	Aug. 8	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Edward Brodeur
Pine Plains	"	"	6:15 pm	Kathryn Finkle

Pine Plains	Sun	Aug. 9	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	Lorraine O'Hara

"LIFE AND THE CORONAVIRUS"

Dear Friends,

I have to apologize just a little bit. When people ask me about the crisis of the coronavirus and my life, I respond by sharing the three things I love so much – movies, restaurants, and sports. And I say that the virus took them all away! Woe is me! Don't you feel sorry for me?

I apologize because that was kind of selfish of me. I talk about the virus and how it affected me. True, we are all a little bit selfish. And it is natural to think of how this Covid-19 takes away our favorite things. I guess we all react that way. After all, we are all human.

In any crisis, human nature becomes a little less positive. People are afraid and stressed, and in those situations, they tend to think only of themselves. One could even say, in a situation of a pandemic disease, being selfish (looking out for yourself) is an effective way to stay healthy. But all of us, including myself, have to fight against this trend toward selfishness.

And now, as always, is a time for unselfish giving. And, as always, being unselfish and giving is difficult. But the stress and craziness of the virus has perhaps called us to wonder what life is all about. What is this life all about? Why are we here?

As the Catechism tell us, we are here to love and serve God in this world and to be united with God forever in the next world. And to serve God in this world means to serve God's people here and now. That is what this life is all about. And that is what we have to do here and now.

The incredible and brave actions of our healthcare workers provides a great example. We want to imitate them, to be like them. We are here to care for others. And that will keep us sane in this uncertain and fearful world.

I began this letter by confessing to you that I was selfish in thinking of only myself in what I am missing during this crisis. One thing I am glad, so very glad, to experience now is to be able to see you at Mass. That was another sacrifice that I didn't like. But now, thank God, I can see most of you every week.

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.

*"(God is) always patient, patient with us...He never tires of forgiving us if we know to turn to Him with a contrite heart."
~Pope Francis ~*

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, 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, 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, Genevieve Minischetti, Anita Nichols, Kathleen McGuire, Loretta Heller, Douglas Wilson, Donna Whalen, Stephen Bida, Leah Eurvard, Meghan King, Patricia Macura, Jerard Kain, Margaret and Roger Gregoire, Kyleigh Cummings, Caroline McEnroe, Patty Cassidy, Stephen Bida, Kathleen Herron, Michael Gaddis, Catherine DiRe, Baby Gemma Dadone, Joe Gatto, Raymond Proper, Jr., Joan Moriarty, Michael Tozzi and Daniel Briggs.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED IN OUR PARISH: Thomas Carberry and Theresa Thompson.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION for 2020-2021 - Please call the office at 845-373-8193 if you have not yet registered your child in our 2020-2021 Religious Ed Program as we need a head count to order books and supplies. The office is open Monday to Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. If you misplaced your registration form, please email us at icspamen@optonline.net and I will email the form to you. Our Religious Ed Program is really essential in helping parents pass on the Catholic faith to their children.

WHERE IS GOD IN THE PANDEMIC AND PROTESTS? Sr. Jean Flannely and Lisa Shay will be offering a 3-part discussion series on "How do we bring our faith to bear on contemporary issues"? over Zoom, beginning Sunday, August 9th between 4-5 pm. RSVP to Lisa.Shay@gmail.com for Zoom invite.

WHOM DO YOU WANT TO PLEASE? It is human nature to want the good opinion of other people. Toddlers and children seek parents' approval as a measure of their growth. Teens want approval from peers, coaches, teachers, colleges. As adults, though, it's important to shake off the habit of trying to please or impress others when God's opinion is what matters in the end. "*Am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men?*" Galatians 1:10).

Whose standard is it anyway? Others tend to judge you from their own perspectives, their own interests, and through their own filters. People see only your actions. God sees your heart.

Don't defend yourself. Make consistently good choices and you won't have to defend or explain. Regularly read Scripture to remember how to please God. Follow the Commandments and the Beatitudes. If people legitimately criticize you, gratefully receive their feedback. Reject the backbiters.

Be your own master. Don't let an employer, a friend, or a relative gain too strong a hold on you. Make your own decisions and choices without pressure. Otherwise you will find yourself suspending your better judgment in favor of theirs.

Stay who you are. Don't try to appear better than those around you or to hide the real you. God loves you just as you are. (*Growing in Faith*)

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HIGH SCHOOL VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE- SATURDAY, AUGUST 8th @ 10 AM: Exceptional Academics. Extraordinary Futures! Come and experience all the great things that are happening at Our Lady of Lourdes High School! We offer a rigorous College Prep curriculum that provides exciting and innovative learning experiences for our students. Join us at our Virtual Open House to hear from our administration and faculty, take a virtual tour and participate in our live Q & A. We look forward to seeing you on August 8th. You must register on our website at www.ollchs.org. If you need additional information, please contact Kathleen Powers at 845-463-0400 ext, 1009 or at powers.kathleen@ollchs.org.

SOME THINGS TO KNOW - "The Archdiocese of New York takes stewardship of your donations seriously. If you have knowledge of or reason to suspect misconduct, please report your concerns via a toll-free hotline at 877-820-0541 or on the internet at <http://www.reportlineweb.com/ADNY>.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, July 25-26 2020, , we collected \$3,730.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection. I am so very thankful to all of you for our steadfast commitment to our Church during these difficult financial times. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families with good health.

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 and Tyler Jasmin. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayer