

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 29, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

	Mon.	Jan. 30	8:00 am	Rev. Cosimo Fazio
	Tues.	Jan. 31	8:00 am	Rev. William Delaney
	Wed.	Feb. 01	8:00 am	Agnes Mahoney
	Thurs.	Feb. 02	8:00 am	NO MASS
	Fri.	Feb. 03	8:00 am	Rudy & Mary Freudig
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	J.J. Bovitz
	Sat.	Feb. 04	8:00 am	Earl Proper
			4:30 pm	Diane McEnroe Martello
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Pine Plains	Sun	Feb. 05	8:00 am	Frank Fallon
			10:45 am	People of the Parish

"AN IMPORTANT TIME"

Dear Friends:

This week is a very special time of the year for all those who value the sanctity of all human life. There was a special Mass for Life at St. Patrick's Cathedral on last Saturday morning. A Day of Prayer for Life was celebrated on Monday, January 23rd throughout the Church. And then there will be the annual March for Life on Washington D.C. on Friday, January 27th. All of these events are at this time because they help us to recall the unfortunate events in the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision which occurred in January of 1973.

Abortion is no doubt a contentious issue. Emotions run high on both sides. But it is a discussion that needs to happen. If we, as a society, turn away from the issue, then there is something wrong. We must have an honest look at what abortion really is. It's not just a political issue. It is a human issue. What kind of society can look away when the very beginning of innocent human life is threatened? A true democracy and a truly compassionate nation must be judged on how it treats its most vulnerable and defenseless and needy citizens. How does our beloved country treat the elderly, the handicapped, the terminally ill or the unborn?

This year also marks the 100th Anniversary of New York Catholic Charities. This is another example of how the Catholic Church values life. Catholic Charities has a marvelous record of helping people in various difficult situations throughout its history. I have experienced this first hand, including my experience as a member of the Board of Directors of Dutchess County Catholic Charities. What wonderful work these committed and faithful people do all year round.

Catholic Charities is partially funded every year by the Cardinal's Appeal. This weekend we begin our process of striving to meet our parish goal for the Appeal of 2017. Please give it your most serious attention. The Catholic Church is pro-life. And the Catholic Church backs up that pro-life commitment with real and concrete actions to help every human life.

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.

IGNITE YOUNG ADULTS - IGNITE now meets at St. Columba, Hopewell Junction! Our next meeting is Thursday, February 2nd. We will meet in the Adoration Chapel from 7 to 7:30 pm, to be followed in library/meeting room behind the Chapel. Fellowship will follow at local restaurant. For more information, email IGNITE.WayTruthLife@gmail.com.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH : Ralph Cummings, Ann Bida, 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, Billy Carroll, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Baby James Ryan Farrell, Linda Sartori, Helen McGhee, Richard & Mary Ann Valinsk, Mary Murphy Adamitis, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, Barbara Moissonnier, Nina Williams, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Michael Kain, Delores DeMarinis, Shirley Remsburger, Teresa Schell, Susan Moody, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Jack Silvernale, Mike Butts and Mary Ann Mullen, John Kemmerer, Jr., Alan Carroll, Erin D-Elia, Linda Staab, Father John Durkin, Daisy Abruzzo, Richard Piccoli, Laura Galdiero, Bernard Heaney, Joseph Scutieri, Eileen Murphy Ehlers and Al Blackburn.

VINE AND BRANCHES - Last Saturday, we provided food for approximately 111 people. A special thank you to Sunday in the Country who generously donated a Turkey and the trimmings for each family who came to our food pantry this month. It was a most welcome addition to the non-perishable food we distribute. The 50/50 drawing will be held on Thursday, February 2nd. The next food distribution will be on Saturday, February 18th at 10 am in our gym.

ST. BLAISE - Friday, February 3rd is the feast day of St. Blaise. We will have blessing of throats at the 8 am Mass on Friday at Immaculate Conception, the 12 noon Mass in Pine Plains as well as at all the Sunday Masses.

FIRST FRIDAY - We will have Rosary & Benediction on Friday, February 3rd, at 7:30 pm in Amenia, Won't you consider spending a half hour with our Lord?

LIFE A BEAUTIFUL CHOICE

LIVE UNAFRAID –Christ suffered, died, and rose to free us from our fears. *“I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me”* (Galatians 2:20b).

“We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary.” (Pope (Emeritus) Benedict).

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN JOINING A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND? As we return to the Ordinary Time of the Church calendar, we find ourselves between Scripture readings that focused on the birth of Jesus (and refer to places like Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Jordan River and Cana) and those that focus on His Passion and death (and places like the Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Bethany, Mt. Tabor, the dessert regions and of course the city of Jerusalem. These are places and events that we have heard about for years and may have even wondered what it would be like to visit.

If you have ever thought about this, then you might be interested in joining St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in a pilgrimage in October 2017 (12th through 23rd). You can call the Parish Secretary (845-635-1700 or email at secretary.ststanislaus@gmail.com) for a brochure to find out the details and costs and to be informed about an informational meeting that will be scheduled around the beginning of Lent where you can ask questions and express any concerns you might have.

Feel free to pass this information on to friends and relatives, even if they do not live locally or to call and speak with Fr. Backes. A trip to the Holy land will give you an entirely new perspective about your faith and can be a life-changing experience.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, January 21-22, 2017, we collected \$3,959.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection. I am so very thankful for your continuing generosity and steadfast commitment to the Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families

