

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3rd, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Dec. 4	8:00 am	Charles Renner
"	Tues.	Dec. 5	8:00 am	Martha Flanigan
"	Wed.	Dec. 6	8:00 am	William McEnroe & Fay Family
"	Thurs.	Dec. 7	8:00 am	NO MASS
Pine Plains	"	"	7:00 pm	James V. & Elizabeth A. Moriarty
Amenia	Fri.	Dec. 8	8:00 am	Mary Fitzpatrick
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Mattie Norene Norman
Amenia	"	"	7:00 pm	Lilian K. McEnroe
Amenia	Sat.	Dec. 9	8:00 am	Ray Proper, Sr.
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Theresa Walsh
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Pine Plains	Sun	Dec. 10	8:00 am	Teresa Schell
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

"ADVENT"

Dear Friends:

Here we are in Advent again. The Church tells us Advent is the time that we look for the Coming of the Lord. We look for the Coming of the Lord in the celebration of the Nativity on Christmas Day. We look for the Coming of the Lord at the end of time. We look for the Coming of the Lord into our earthly lives in the sacraments and in our prayer.

But there is another coming. It's the coming of stress. "It's coming." The stress of taking care of all the activities that are coming our way. The coming of the shopping requirements that not only boost our economy, but also push us sometimes to the brink of exhaustion. There is the stress of social engagements (office parties, school concerts, family celebrations) that push our calendar into overdrive. The stress of staying on a real spiritual journey when it seems the whole world isn't interested in God.

People joke with me that I only work "one day a week," sort of implying that Sunday Mass is all I do. Most of you know that is not the case. I have my own stresses, and Advent increases those a great deal. There are confessions, special celebrations and other commitments (in addition to funerals, social events, and my own personal responsibilities). On top of all of that, I want to make this the best possible Advent and Christmas experience. That's stress.

How do we handle it? I don't have all the answers, but I do have some ideas. First thing is concentrate on today's tasks. Looking ahead to what is happening next week or next month is not helpful. Second thing, don't sweat the details. A lot of those details take care of themselves and sometimes the little things are not that important. Third, stay spiritual. The prayer life and the sacraments can often really help energize our life.

There is a saying, keep "Christ in Christmas." It is also really great to keep Christ in Advent and keep God in your daily 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.

NYC BUS TRIP - The New York City Bus Trip which is scheduled for Saturday, January 6th, 2018, will include a tour of Old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Mass at the Church of the Epiphany, and of course dinner at Paesano's and dessert at Ferrara's in Little Italy! Please consider joining us for a day of fun, food and fellowship! More details to follow.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH : 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, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Linda Sartori, Helen McGhee, Richard Valinski, Mary Murphy Adamitis, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, Jeff Moissonnier, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Michael Kain, Shirley Remsburger, Susan Moody, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Jack Silvernale, Mike Butts and Mary Ann Mullen, Alan Carroll, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Eileen Murphy Ehlers, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Luz Pelkey, Averie Burke, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Mary Fitzgerald Roth, Kathryn Garzetta, Joseph Licurse, Barb King, Delora Brooks, June Heckelman, Baby Hans Pedersen, Teresa Pelkey, Renee & Al Cobuzzi, Joanne Balek, John Bray, Kevin Flanigan, Karen Grimaldi, Frances Anello and Colton Culligan.

THE MEN'S GROUP - The Men's Group will meet on Monday, December 4th, at 6:45 pm in the Chapel in Amenia. New Members are most welcome.

THE LIVING NATIVITY - Our Annual Living Nativity will be held on Sunday, December 10th following the 10:45 am Mass. There will be animals, free hot dogs, hot chocolate, a bake sale, a cash and carry table, and craft vendors. Please mark December 10th on your calendar and come join us and bring a friend!

CALLING ALL BAKERS and VOLUNTEERS - There is a sign-up sheet in the back of Church for those willing to bake for the "Bake Sale" at the Living Nativity on December 10th. We are also in need of volunteers to help out at the Living Nativity. Please call the office (373-8193) if you are willing to lend a helping hand. We are counting on your support to make this fundraiser a success. Thank you.

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**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FEAST DAY** - Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass schedule is as follows:

**Thursday, December 7** - 7:00 pm in Pine Plains  
**Friday, December 8** - 8:00 am in Amenia      12 noon in Pine Plains      7:00 pm in Amenia

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MARIAPOLIS LUMINOSA NATIVITY DISPLAY - Each Christmas, throughout the month of December, Mariapolis Luminosa in Hyde Park displays over 200 Nativity scenes from 50 countries at the Chiara Lubich Conference Center. People come yearly to see this beautiful event and have said their visits have made their Christmas season more meaningful. There will be musical performances by the Poughkeepsie New Yorkers, Evergreen Chorus, St. Kateri and St. Martin de Porres Music Ministries the weekends of Dec. 9 & 10 and Dec. 16 & 17. Come listen and sing along to your favorite holiday tunes. A Baby Jesus Craft Workshop for children ages 4 and up will take place on Saturday, December 16th at 2 pm. The display runs from December 8th to January 7th from 1 pm to 5 pm. Suggested donation is \$5.00. For more info, go to www.focolare.org/mariapolisluminosa or call 845-229-0230 ext. 127. Stop by and visit the Ave Art Center and gift shop too!

ADVENT WREATH SYMBOLS - *The Evergreen Wreath* - The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God (the Alpha and Omega). The evergreen is chosen as the base because God is the foundation of all good. Green is the color that represents hope and new life. *Four Candles* - Represents the four (4) weeks of Advent. Traditionally, each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. The light of the candles signifies the light of Christ to mankind.

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, Michael Pomeisl and Tyler Jasmin. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, November 25-26, 2017, we collected \$4,066.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$937.55 for Periodic Literature. I thank you for your presence, generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church and I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

† **Sanctuary Light** †
*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by the DeLango Family
In Loving Memory of Joseph DeLango,
Beloved Husband, Father and Great Grandfather
We miss you.*