

## FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD January 13, 2019

### PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

<b>Amenia</b>	Mon.	Jan. 14	8:00 am	Arietta Carroll <i>(Living)</i>
"	Tues.	Jan. 15	8:00 am	Lawrence McEnroe, Sr.
"	Wed.	Jan. 16	8:00 am	Eugene Ketchum
"	Thurs.	Jan. 17	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Jan. 18	8:00 am	Janice Adrian
<b>Pine Plains</b>	"	"	12 noon	Bishop Robert Brucato
<b>Amenia</b>	Sat.	Jan. 19	8:00 am	Evelyn Heinzinger
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Mae Kain
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<b>Pine Plains</b>	Sun	Jan. 20	8:00 am	Gerry Solazzo
<b>Amenia</b>	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

### "MERCY"

Dear Friends:

*Sometimes when you talk about God's mercy, it becomes kind of an abstract theological concept that doesn't connect with our spiritual minds and hearts. Perhaps that is what Pope Francis was trying to overcome when he declared a special "Year of Mercy" a few years ago.*

*But mercy is at the heart of a mature Christian life. Pope Francis called his book in 2016 "The Name of God is Mercy."*

*Here are some of the reflections from that book that I hope will make God's mercy and forgiveness more a reality in your spiritual lives.*

*The Pope speaks about Justice and Mercy. God is just; He is always fair and judges with fairness. However, if we are judged based solely on justice or fairness, we could not make it. We are all guilty of sin. But God is merciful and that gives us a chance, not because of justice but because of God's real forgiveness. Through God's forgiveness we experience love, and love is at the root of true justice.*

*The Pope points out that we are sinners – everyone is a sinner. But not everyone is "corrupt." The "corrupt" person sees no need for forgiveness, no need for repentance. The "corrupt" person has no need for humility, no need of eternal help. The "corrupt" person has a false sense of self-sufficiency.*

*As opposed to the "corrupt" person, the sinner, even a serious sinner can avoid corruption. Think of the "good thief" on the cross with Jesus. He was a "great" sinner, but Jesus understood his humility, and Jesus said he would gain eternal blessings.*

*As the Pope told us the "Name of God is Mercy", he also tells us that the face of the Father's mercy is the face of Jesus Christ. Mercy, the forgiveness of God that the history of the human race has been searching for, became alive and visible in Jesus of Nazareth.*

*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.

**NEWLY BAPTIZED** - The following children were born into the new life of Christ in the waters of Baptism at Immaculate Conception Church:

Andrew Joseph House, Jr., son of Andrew House and Amanda Bocknik was baptized on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and Daniel Alexander Figueroa-Urrutia, son of Marco Figueroa and Aracely Urrutia, was baptized on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

We pray that Our Lord, Jesus Christ, will look lovingly on these children, watch over them and fill them with peace and joy.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH :** Gerhard Herron, Margaret Wilcox, Evan Ciovacco, Lydia Casey, Evelyn Bouffard, Mark Hamm, Grover Williams, Stephanie Merenda, Carol Wilson, Dawn Hazel Burrows, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Linda Sartori, Mary Murphy Adamitis, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, Jeff Moissonnier, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Michael Kain, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Mike Butts, Mary Ann Mullen, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Luz Pelkey, Averie Burke, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Kathryn Garzetta, Joseph Licurse, Delora Brooks, June Heckelman, Teresa Pelkey, Renee Cobuzzi, Joanne Balek, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Helen Murphy Riley, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjana, Ralph & Kathy Locantore, Fred Arni, Brandon Rojas, Leah Rost, Genevieve Minischetti, Susan Consentino, Pat Boice, Deborah McGovern, Arietta Carroll, Flo Vinchiarello, Cecilia Cummings, Mary Simmons, Dolores Russo, William Edwards, Mary Wilkinson, Evelyn Tompkins, Anthony Mottola and Marlana Mittel.

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**ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY** - The Altar Rosary Society will meet on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm in the Chapel of Immaculate Conception. All are welcome to join us in praying the Rosary.

**VINE & BRANCHES** - The winner of the 50/50 was Candy Swart. He split was \$44.00. The next food distribution will be on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am in our gym. My thanks to all of you who purchase 50/50 tickets for the benefit of the food closet, and to our volunteers who come each month to help distribute the food.

**ENGAGED CATHOLICS** - "A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime!" Catholic Engaged Encounter is an intensive marriage preparation retreat that will help you prepare for your life as husband and wife. The weekends are held at the beautiful and peaceful Mount Alvernia Retreat House in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. Interested in attending or do you know someone who might be? For more information or to register, call Vinny and Angela at (845) 298-4772 or visit our website: [www.engagedencounter.org](http://www.engagedencounter.org). Find our official "You Tube" channel by searching for "Catholic Engaged Encounter" using [www.youtube.com/c/engagedencounter](http://www.youtube.com/c/engagedencounter). Look for our official heart logo and our new "Got Marriage Prep?" and CEE: Marriage Preparation Endorsed by the Church videos. Congratulations on your engagement

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED** - Fr. Wilson is looking for someone to help with the Altar Linens in Pine Plains. If you are able to help out, please give him a call.

**WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD?** Once you have come to know God, and what he has revealed about himself, he must come first in your life. *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind"* (Matthew 22:37). This is not oppressive. On the contrary, if we love someone, we make changes so they can have a meaningful part of our lives. Their joys and sorrows become our own, and vice versa. This is true of God, whose very nature is to love.

Jesus said, *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments"* (John 14:15). If we truly love him, we would do what he tells us to do: *"Love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends"* (John 15:12-13). God loved us enough to create us, suffer and die for us, rise from the dead for us, redeem and forgive us. How can we ignore a love like that? (*Growing in Faith*)

**SUNDAY COLLECTION** - Last Monday and Tuesday, December 31-January 1<sup>st</sup>, we collected \$2,174.00 in our Holy Day Collection, the Solemnity of Mary. We collected \$5,407.00 in our January 5-6, 2019 Sunday collection and \$1,139.00 in the Special Collection for Catholic Communications and Catholic University. I thank you for your presence, your amazing 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 and Tyler Jasmin. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers

**PINE PLAINS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES** - The Pine Plains Council of Churches is sponsoring a unity service for the greater Pine Plains area on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm at the Pine Plains Methodist Church located at 3023 Church Street. Please consider joining us as we pray for unity among the Christian congregations.

*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week  
at Immaculate Conception Church  
was donated by Virginia Bida  
for a speedy recovery  
for George Rusk.*