

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT March 17, 2019

### PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR

<b>Amenia</b>	Mon.	March 18	8:00 am	William E.P. Murphy
"	Tues.	March 19	8:00 am	Gregory Lynn McEnroe
"	Wed.	March 20	8:00 am	Vincent Massarelli
"	Thurs.	March 21	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	March 22	8:00 am	William Morrison
<b>Pine Plains</b>	"	"	12 noon	Elizabeth Brizzie
<b>Amenia</b>	Sat.	March 23	8:00 am	Robert Reda
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Margaret Monaghan
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<b>Pine Plains</b>	Sun	March 24	8:00 am	People of the Parish
<b>Amenia</b>	"	"	10:45 am	Rudy Eschbach

### "FORGIVENESS & FAITH"

Dear Friends:

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.*

*This very familiar prayer we say at every Mass just before we offer each other the sign of peace. It is a foundational part of our prayer life. But recently I really noticed how powerful a few of the words are.*

### "LOOK NOT ON OUR SINS"

*I think of not only my sins but the sins of the Church. The past years have really brought to bear the sins of the institutional Church. Sure, you and I have our individual sins, and they harm the Church. But there are the terrible sins that have been perpetrated by priests, bishops and even Cardinals. These sins are hard to comprehend. Sometimes it feels that all we can do is plead, "Look not on our sins." This is why we need Lent, to come to grips with the reality of the sins of the Church, and our sins.*

### "BUT ON THE FAITH OF YOUR CHURCH"

*This is another plea for help. We are struggling so much with our sins and we look to God for help. And we look to God and offer our faith. No matter our sins, we still have our faith. We must hold on to that faith for that will help us to keep going. And if we put together the faith of the whole Church, that would be a powerful force. A powerful force for forgiveness and a powerful force for peace.*

*As I was thinking these thoughts, I saw the Ash Wednesday message from Cardinal Dolan. He mentioned the same prayer. I can see why. It is a prayer in preparation for Communion, where we know we are sinners as we receive Jesus, but we plead for Him to look at our faith.*

*Fr. Wilson*

**MINISTRY FOR HOLY WEEK** - Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and Ushers are very important to our Church and are especially needed during Holy Week. There are sign-up sheets posted in the Sacristy of both Churches. Please place your name on the list if you are available to serve. Thank you in advance for being part of our Holy Week Liturgies.

**2019 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL** - As of March 8, 2019, we have received **\$9,460.00** in pledges from **31** families. We need the support of all of our families in order to make our goal of \$39,500.00. I ask those of you who have not yet responded to prayerfully consider making a pledge or one time donation in an amount you can afford. No amount is too small.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH :** Gerhard Herron, Margaret Wilcox, Evan Ciovacco, Lydia Casey, 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, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Mike Butts, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Averie Burke, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Joseph Licurse, Renee Cobuzzi, 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, Flo Vinchiarello, Cecilia Cummings, Mary Wilkinson, Evelyn Tompkins, Mary Simmons, Marlena Mittell, Marjorie Arni, John Haggerty, Teal Burns, Jane Bly and Robert Bartolomeo.

### **SOUP, SALAD AND STATIONS " POT LUCK"**

Soup, Salad and Stations " Pot Luck" will be held on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6 pm in the gym of the Parish Center. Let's break bread together before praying the Stations of the Cross at 7:30 pm at Immaculate Conception. We ask that you bring a meatless soup or salad to be shared. Please come and bring a friend!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN AMENIA** - The Altar Rosary Society will be conducting the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:30 pm at Immaculate Conception Church. Please join us for this Lenten Devotion. For your convenience, confessions will be available immediately afterwards.

**WHAT TO DO WHEN GOD FEELS DISTANT** - There are times when God seems so close that we are filled with a glorious feeling of love. At other times, God can seem distant to us.

***Look for a cause.*** Sometimes we cause distance to crop up between us without even realizing it. We may have become overly-confident of our spiritual strength and yielded to temptation. Or, we neglected prayer or Sunday Mass.

***Pray your way back.*** Distance can lead to discouragement, but don't let that keep you from prayer. Reaching out to God is the surest way to find your way back. Enlist the help of the Saints or the Blessed Mother.

***Meditate on what you know.*** Regularly repeat God's promises of salvation, Jesus' pledge of eternal love, memories of God's past blessings, anything that reminds you of His love. Focus on these beautiful thoughts over and over.

***Seek Reconciliation.*** A common cause for distance is unconfessed sin. Are you weighed down by a fault or sin you are avoiding facing? Consider making a full Confession and seek the Sacrament regularly. Perform an act of penance, such as fasting, to take focus off yourself. Then you will find He has been beside you all along.

**A SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON THE SEX ABUSE CRISIS** - You are invited to take part in a guided discussion on the sex abuse crisis, an overview of Archdiocesan policies and procedures, a Q&A session, as well as the opportunity to brainstorm solutions. Participant suggestions will be compiled and submitted. Complementary lunch provided. This event will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 10:30 am – 4 pm at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, 201 Seminary Ave in Yonkers, NY. RSVP required by March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please email Alexis.Carra@archny.org

**SUNDAY COLLECTION** - Last weekend, March 9-10, 2019, we collected \$4,453.34 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$1,027.34 for the Bishops Overseas Appeal. We also collected \$1,396.50 for Ash Wednesday. I thank you for your presence, your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

**LOVE & STEWARDSHIP** - "Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18), the First Letter of John continues. This is a good time of year to pray over and think about how love in all its forms can be made more visible and effective in our lives of discipleship. One of the greatest gifts you can give is to help someone else know they are loved by God. You can do that with the simplest gestures of charity shared: a smile, an invitation, a few hours of time, a donation of food or clothing or monetary support in Christ's name.  
*(Stewardship in Motion)*

**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.

### **† Sanctuary Light †**

*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week  
at Immaculate Conception Church and St. Anthony's  
was donated by Patty Barron  
In Memory of Robert Reda*

**CONVERT YOUR HEART DURING LENT** - When we were young Catholics, Lent meant giving something up and welcoming it back at Easter. Now we know that Lent is so much more. Lent is about conversion. Each year we have the chance to leave behind old ways of living to embrace new life. The goal is not just to abstain from sin during Lent but to root it out of our lives forever.

**The moment of truth.** Conversion begins with accepting responsibility for our failures. Start by taking an honest look at your life and identify all the ways that sin keeps you from living the way Jesus taught us to live. Know that it may take courage to face your shortfalls.

**The moment of cleansing.** There can be no healing or conversion when you harbor unconfessed sin. Make a full Confession to a priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tell him everything. Don't worry if you have been away for a while. The priest will be happy to guide you and to welcome you back to God's friendship.

**The moment of conversion.** There can't be just one moment of conversion. It is necessary to convert our hearts every day. Daily prayer, frequent confession, and regular reception of the Holy Eucharist will keep our hearts filled with God's love. Then we can embrace new life at Easter.