

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
November 18, 2018

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Nov. 19	8:00 am	Mary Hardisty
"	Tues.	Nov. 20	8:00 am	Catherine & William Schaffer
"	Wed.	Nov. 21	8:00 am	Lawrence C. Hardisty, Jr.
Pine Plains	Thurs.	Nov. 22	9:00 am	Thanksgiving
"	Fri.	Nov. 23	8:00 am	Mary Hardisty
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Robert Wilkinson
Amenia	Sat.	Nov. 24	8:00 am	Mary Hardisty
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Joseph & Lena Carberry
Pine Plains	Sun	Nov. 25	8:00 am	John Orlandi, Sr.
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

"CYNICISM VERSUS HOPE"

Dear Friends:

It is one of the greater battles we fight, not only in society and the world, but also in Church. It kind of comes down to whether a person decides to give up and despair of the fate of the world, or go in and help make the world a better place.

It seems hard to believe, but there are quite a few cynics in the priesthood. There are priests who see corruption everywhere, and sadly see widespread hopelessness in any improvement in the Church. I know some of these priests. They seem to have lost the zeal for saving souls. When you add the crisis of clergy abuse in the Church, it only serves to make these priests more filled with despair.

I always found the definition of a "cynic" in the dictionary very revealing. It states a cynic is a "person who believes peoples' motives are bad or selfish." It comes down to not believing people are trustworthy – all of people's good actions are suspect. Everything somebody else does has an "ulterior" or negative motive. In the cynical world, no one does anything for good and noble reasons; everything is done for selfish and dishonest reasons. It, to me, is a terrible world to live in. It is not the way of Christ.

The way of Christ is hope. Sometimes people think of hope as "optimism." Optimism is a good thing, but to me it is kind of just an attitude. Hey, I think things are going to get better, so I'm optimistic. But we need more than attitudes – we need hope.

Hope is not just an attitude, it is a way of life. With hope we can confidently face the future not only thinking things will get better but we know they will because we have Christ with us. Even better, hope can combat cynicism, for with hope we believe in the goodness of other people. And through hope we believe that other people can get better, that they can become more trustworthy. Believing in the goodness of people is the greatest weapon against cynicism.

Fr. Wilson

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS - There will be a Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9 00 am on Thursday, November 22nd, at St. Anthony Church in Pine Plains. Let us come together in prayer and give thanks for the many blessing we have received.

***I want to wish each and every one of you a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving
to you and your family
from all of us here at Immaculate Conception and St. Anthony's***

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, 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 Niranjani, Ralph & Kathy Locantore, Fred Arni, Brandon Rojas, Leah Rost, Genevieve Minischetti, Susan Consentino, Pat Boice, Deborah McGovern, Arietta Carroll, Flo Vinchiarello. Cecilia Cummings and Mary Simmons.

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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.

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE - The Presbyterian Church located at 3039 Church Street in Pine Plains will be hosting an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Prayer Service at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 21st. All are welcome to join together in prayerful thanksgiving.

CELEBRATE THANKFULNESS ALL YEAR ROUND - Thanksgiving, when we thank God and share gratitude with family and friends, is a good time to strengthen the atmosphere of gratitude in our homes. Try these ideas for fortifying your family's culture and practice of gratitude:

Establish traditions modeling gratitude to God. A common practice is to offer thanks before meals as Jesus did (Matthew 15:36). Or, gather as a family at bedtime and give thanks for the day. Encourage each person to mention something specific for which he or she is thankful. Praise God for his goodness.

Choose a scripture reference that expresses your family's love and gratitude – "The Lord is my strength and my shield, in whom my heart trusts" (*Psalms 28:7*). "Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose love endures forever" (*1 Chronicles 16:34*). "And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (*Colossians 3:17*).

Don't forget to thank God in the hard times as well as the good times – That's modeling true gratitude.

SAVE THE DATE - Don't miss a golden opportunity to prepare for Christmas on Saturday, December 1, 2018 from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. Mark your calendar and plan on joining us for an afternoon of Reflection – Our Advent Journey to Christmas. More details to follow.

ST. DENIS CHRISTMAS SILVER TEA & CRAFT FAIR – St. Denis' Christmas Silver Tea & Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, December 1st from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. at 604 Beekman Road in Hopewell Junction.

ADVENT CANDLE SETS - The Advent sets and candles are available in the back of Church. Advent sets (Wreath & Candles) are \$10.00, Candles only \$5.00. You can give the money to Fr. Wilson.

OUR ANNUAL LIVING NATIVITY - Our Living Nativity will be held on Sunday, December 9th, following the 10:45 am Mass. There will be animals, light refreshments, a bake sale, a cash and carry table, and craft vendors. Please mark December 9th on your calendar and come join us and bring a friend!

BAKERS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - We are in need of baked goods for our "Bake Sale" at the Living Nativity. There will be a sign-up sheet in back of Church for those willing to bake for this fundraiser. We also need volunteers to help out at the Living Nativity. Please call the office if you are willing to lend a helping hand. "*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.*" ~Elizabeth Andrew~

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, November 10-11, we collected \$3,802.55 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$1,321.00 for Utility & Energy. 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.

*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by the DeLango Family
In Loving Memory of Joseph DeLango
Celebrating his birthday in Heaven*