

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 10, 2019

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR

Amenia	Mon.	March 11	8:00 am	Janet Whalen
"	Tues.	March 12	8:00 am	Robert Cooper
"	Wed.	March 13	8:00 am	Gregory L. McEnroe
"	Thurs.	March 14	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	March 15	8:00 am	Robert Reda
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Jane Wells
Amenia	Sat.	March 16	8:00 am	William Morrison
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Elizabeth Riva

Pine Plains	Sun	March 17	8:00 am	Gerry Solazzo
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

"OUR LENTEN JOURNEY"

Dear Friends:

As you read this, we have entered into our journey of Lent, as this bulletin is dated the 1st week of Lent. And no doubt you have begun your commitment to sacrifice something for the 40 days of Lent.

Many of you have made the popular choices in Lenten sacrifices. These include no candy, no alcohol, no red meat and other laudable choices. Then there are others who choose to avoid things like cursing or gossip. All of these things are very good.

Some others make a choice to save a few dollars here and there and donate it to charity. This is especially good because it is in line with one of the three foundations of Lent, the giving of "alms" to the poor. The other two are prayer and fasting.

But there is another option for your Lenten spiritual exercises. This option is what I call "personal behavior" commitments. This would include the aforementioned avoidance of "cursing" and gossip.

There are many other options in this new area of Lenten practices.

Perhaps it would be good to try interpersonal improvements. What is that? That is trying, during Lent, to improve the way we deal with people. This would involve a new effort to be kind and thoughtful. Also, it could be a conscious attempt to treat someone who irritates you with a special effort at patience and charity.

Another option would be to become during Lent an Apostle of Mercy. What does that mean? That means to practice forgiveness in the Lenten season. It means to not only forgive those who have wronged you recently, but to forgive those who wronged you in the past. It is often difficult to grow spiritually when there is resentment or anger in our hearts. Real forgiveness is often the key to releasing our hearts from this poison of resentment. It just may be that living true forgiveness for 40 days is the real key to a meaningful Lent.

Fr. Wilson

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY - The Altar Rosary Society will meet on Monday, March 11th, at 7:00 pm in the Chapel of Immaculate Conception. All are welcome to join them in saying the Rosary.

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.

2019 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - As of March 1, 2019, we have received **\$8,660.00** in pledges from **28** 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.

FRIDAY ABSTINENCE - Just a reminder, that as Catholics, we are asked to abstain from eating meat and meat products on all Friday's during Lent.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN AMENIA - Fr. Wilson will be conducting the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 8th, 2019 at 7:30 pm at Immaculate Conception Church. Please join us for this Lenten Devotion. For your convenience, confessions will be available immediately afterwards.

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**FAST AND FEASTING FOR LENT**

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|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Fast from Worry</i>     | - | <i>Feast on Trusting God</i> |
| <i>Fast from Grudges</i>   | - | <i>Feast on Forgiveness</i>  |
| <i>Fast from Fear</i>      | - | <i>Feast on Faith</i>        |
| <i>Fast from Gossip</i>    | - | <i>Feast on Kind Words</i>   |
| <i>Fast from Self-Pity</i> | - | <i>Feast on Gratitude</i>    |
| <i>Fast from Negatives</i> | - | <i>Feast on Positives.</i>   |

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THREE PILLARS OF LENT - Fasting, Prayer and Almsgiving. St. Augustine described fasting and almsgiving as "the two wings of prayer," because they are signs of humility and charity.

ST. PATRICK'S POT LUCK - Our traditional St. Patrick's "pot luck" and "bake sale" will be held on Sunday, March 17th, from 12 noon to 2:00 pm in the gym. If you wish to join in the festivities, please place your name on the sign-up sheets in the back of Church as we need a head count to set-up and order supplies. Please call the office if you can lend a hand with the bake sale, decorating, set-up or clean-up.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP - We ask that you remove all wreaths, blankets, flowers etc. from the graves during the Season of Lent.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT - Our Lady of Lourdes High School will host an Open House Information Night on Wednesday, March 27th at 6 pm. They offer a rigorous College Prep curriculum that provides exciting and innovating learning experiences for their students. All interested students and their families in grades 7th through 10th are invited. Information on the school's academic programs, athletics and student life along with admission and application requirements will be discussed. Faculty, staff, students, club moderators and coaches will be on hand to answer questions. If you need additional information, please call the school at 845-463-0400, ext 109.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, March 2-3, 2019, we collected \$3,812.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$656.74 for Periodic Literature. 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.

CORRECTION TO LENTEN MORNINGS OF REFLECTION - The Sisters of Charity will be offering Lenten Mornings of Reflection on Thursdays, March 14 and 21 at 10 to 11:30 am at their Convent located at 135 Sisters Hill Road in Standfordville. If you are planning to attend, please contact Sr. Margaret Ellen Burke, SC the Presenter at **(845) 868-1902** instead of the previously listed number (845-800-1902) which was incorrect.

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.

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.

