

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT April 7, 2019

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR

Amenia	Mon.	April 8	8:00 am	People of the Parish
“		Tues.	April 9	8:00 am David Pinkins (<i>Living</i>)
“	Wed.	April 10	8:00 am	Deirdre Thompson Epstein
“	Thurs.	April 11	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	Fri.	April 12	8:00 am	Anna Finkle
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	Elizabeth Brizzie
Amenia	Sat.	April 13	8:00 am	Katherine Blinn
“	“	“	4:30 pm	Jerry Terachter

Pine Plains	Sun	April 14	8:00 am	James A. Smith, Jr.
Amenia	“	“	10:45 am	People of the Parish

“DEFEAT”

Dear Friends:

“Stoicism” to me has always seemed to be an admirable philosophy. Stoicism seems to be a way of dealing with the difficulties of life. It supports a calm and rational way of dealing with life and its ups and downs. The philosophy extols being peaceful and resolute in life, avoiding useless complaining.

The philosophy reminds me of the brilliant “Serenity Prayer”, where we pray to deal with what we can change and to be at peace with what we cannot change, and we pray for the wisdom to know the difference. In my opinion, it is a commendable philosophy of life, and helps us to deal with difficult realities of life.

As we journey through the season of Lent, we look at ourselves and try to reform, repent and get closer to Christ. We also journey with Christ and experience with Him the ups and downs of the Gospel. “Stoicism” and the Serenity Prayer are helpful in this journey, for they help us to walk in the difficult steps of Christ as we get closer to Good Friday.

As we look forward to the Passion and Crucifixion of Christ, we can see it as a “defeat”, a sad loss of all our hopes and dreams. Certainly you can assume the apostles and disciples felt the same way, as they ran away to hide in fear and confusion,

Stoicism and the Serenity Prayer can help us here, for they advise us to persevere in disappointments and discouragements. These philosophies tell us to be strong in the face of adversity and that certainly would have helped the apostles and disciples during and after the passion.

But, the real answer to the defeat of Christ on the Cross is to understand that it was not a defeat but a victory. In the case of the Passion of Christ there is no defeat at all. As we struggle with life and as we struggle with the coming sorrow of the Passion, we gain real strength not only with a philosophy but with the firm unshakeable belief that Christ was victorious and He is alive today and is always with us.

Fr. Wilson

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY - The Altar Rosary Society will meet on Monday, April 8th, 2019 at 7 pm in St. Anthony’s Rectory in Pine Plains.

RECONCILIATION MONDAY & TUESDAY - In preparation for Easter, Reconciliation will be offered on Monday, April 15th, from 5 pm to 8 pm at Immaculate Conception Church and on Tuesday, April 16th, from 6 pm to 8 pm at St. Anthony’s Church.

Reconciliation is also available every Saturday afternoon from 3:45 pm to 4:15 pm at Immaculate Conception.

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.

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, 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 Niranjani, 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN AMENIA - The Men's Club will be conducting the Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 5th, 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION for 2019-2020 - This year registration will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2019 from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Please try and register your children in our Religious Education Program for next year (beginning in September) as soon as possible. All children must be registered by May 5th. Our program helps parents pass on the Catholic Faith to their children. You may either mail or drop off your registration form to the parish office. If your child is entering 1st grade in September, please call the office at 373-8193 and we will mail the registration form to you. Our program meets on Sunday mornings from 9:15 am to 10:30 am.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION - The Pine Plains Council of Churches annually offers a scholarship to a graduating Stissing Mt. High School senior who is actively affiliated with a Christian Church, or to any graduating senior who is actively affiliated with a PPCC member church. Applications are available from Fr. Wilson and must be returned no later than May 20, 2019.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DURING LENT – THE CROSSES OF FAMILY

Families are full of love, laughter and a great deal of joy. Families, however, are also full of bickering, bemoaning and occasional strife. Bless me, O Lord, as I carry the crosses of family life. Heavenly Father, you know the crosses I carry in this part of my life; sustain my joy and renew my patience when it is lacking. Give me all that I need to lovingly care for the members of my family: spouse and children, parents and grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. Let my family be a cord not quickly broken. Amen

2019 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - As of March 29, 2019, we have received **\$20,555** in pledges from **68** 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.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HIGH SCHOOL 60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - Calling all Alumni and Friends! You are invited to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes High School on Saturday, May 4th, from 4 – 8 pm. Join us as we transform the OLL Courtyard into a charming Kentucky Derby-themed Garden Party. Enjoy cocktails and southern fare, raffles, silent auction, music and fun! The Derby will be broadcasted during the event, and be sure to wear your best Hat in honor of this long standing Derby Tradition. To purchase tickets, or if you need additional information, please call Danielle Riley at 845-463-0400 ext. 1148.

WHY DO CATHOLICS OFFER THE SIGN OF PEACE? During the Mass, we offer the Sign of Peace in preparation for receiving Communion. After His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples in the Upper Room. Although His friends had abandoned him, Jesus forgave them, saying: *"Peace be with you"* (John 20:19). When we offer each other the Sign of Peace, we imitate Christ. The Sign of Peace is also a sign of spiritual unity. Just as Jesus reconciled with His disciples, we are called to reconcile with each other.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, March 30-31, 2019, we collected \$3,881.00 in our Regular Sunday. 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.

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
was donated by The Altar Rosary Society
For the Healing of Marjorie Arni*