

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)
April 28, 2019**

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR

Amenia	Mon.	April 29	8:00 am	Deborah Fontaine
“	Tues.	April 30	8:00 am	Barbara Hosier
“	Wed.	May 1	8:00 am	Katherine Blinn
“	Thurs.	May 2	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	Fri.	May 3	8:00 am	Mary Hardisty
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	Santino Delfino (<i>Living</i>)
Amenia	Sat.	May 4	8:00 am	Fr. Robert Kennedy
“	“	“	4:30 pm	Antonia & John Sferratore and Mary, Sam & Marjorie Crodelle
Pine Plains	Sun.	May 5	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia “	“	“	10:45 am	Margaret and Cecilia Harding

“EASTER BLESSINGS”

Dear Friends:

A Happy and Blessed Easter to you all! It was so fantastic to share this Festival Day with all of you at our Easter Masses. What a Joy it was for me to experience Easter with you, as we rejoice in the Risen Christ and His love for us. I say this many times, but although my family is far away, I am so blessed to spend this holiday with 500 of the nicest people in the world.

However, sadly, we soon learned of the tragic explosions in Sri Lanka. The suicide bombers targeted Christian Churches and hotels. It was horrifically timed for Easter celebrations, and apparently Catholic Churches were the prime focus. Extreme Muslim terrorists are suspected. Over 300 people were killed.

I lived and worked with a Sri Lankan priest for 4 years, so I am somewhat aware of the deep faith and strong family ties of the Sri Lankan people. Our hearts go out to all these people as they struggle with this terrible event.

Many people are not aware that persecution of Christians is a serious and worldwide problem. I recently heard a discussion on how Christian Coptic Churches in Egypt are consistently under harassment. We know from Fr. Godfrey that attacks on Christians in Nigeria are routine and bombings of Churches are frequent.

It is also problematic that Christian worship and Catholic Masses are banned in countries like Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia. In some countries, if a Muslim converts to Christianity, he or she can be sentenced to death.

Persecution of any religion is wrong. Religious freedom is a fundamental part of our American life. And as citizens of the United States, we must continue to speak out against religious persecution, and especially violence against any believers of any faith. And we must continue to pray without ceasing for the victims of senseless violence and their families and work for peace and understanding.

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.

MOTHER'S DAY CARDS - Mother's Day cards for the living and deceased are available at the entrance of the Church. You may leave your donation in the collection basket or at the parish office.

LOURDES VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE - Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience will be held at St. Christopher's Church, 7411 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 7 pm. The experience will consist of Lourdes Water, Grotto Rock, Eucharistic Blessing and Candelight Rosary. A Plenary Indulgence granted by Papal Decree. For more information contact the Parish Office at 845-758-3732.

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

VINE & BRANCHES - The Vine & Branches 50/50 drawing will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2019.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - Our 2nd Grades will be receiving the Holy Eucharist for the very first time on Saturday, May 4th, at 10:00 am Mass at Immaculate Conception Church. Please keep these children in your prayers: ***Reilly Demczar, Jack Elliott, Nolan Howard, Michael O'Connor and Braelyn Paraszti.*** As you receive communion, Jesus shares His love with you in a very special way. May He guide and bless you today and every day.

FIRST FRIDAY - We will have Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction on Friday, May 3rd, at 7:30 pm in Amenia, Please consider spending a half hour with our Lord.

EASTER HOLY WATER - The Silver Holy Water receptacle is on the altar for you to take Holy Water home. Please bring your own container.

MANY THANKS - First I want to thank all those who helped make our liturgies last week so prayerful and inspiring, that is, our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and Ushers. I especially want to thank our Choir Director, Regina Syversen, Anthonette Syversen and Erik Syversen who played the organ and all the Choir members who sang so beautifully during Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Many thanks to those who decorated the Churches - they looked great! I want to thank all our parishioners who participated in the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent, received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter and joined us on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday - you filled the Church. I just want to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude for your presence and overwhelming generosity in the collections this past weekend.

BACKGROUND OF THE DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION - The message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. The message of mercy is that God loves us - all of us - no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for Mercy . God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful to others. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION for 2019-2020 -. 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.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, April 20-21 2019, we collected \$5,757.70 in our Regular Sunday Collection, \$6,592.35 in our Easter Collection and \$1,001.00 for the Holy Land Collection. 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.