

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 2019

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Dec. 2	8:00 am	James Killmer, Jr.
“	Tues.	Dec. 3	8:00 am	Howard Wilson
“	Wed.	Dec. 4	8:00 am	Charles Renner
“	Thurs.	Dec. 5	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	Fri.	Dec. 6	8:00 am	Martha Flanigan
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	Katherine Blinn
Amenia	Sat.	Dec. 7	8:00 am	Barbara & Ray McEnroe
“	“	“	4:30 pm	Elizabeth Riva

Pine Plains	Sun.	Dec. 8	8:00 am	Mary J. Drohosky
Amenia	“	“	10:45 am	People of the Parish

“ADVENT”

Dear Friends,

One of the many ways to look at this beautiful season of Advent is to go “back to the basics.” And one of the basic parts of Advent is the Advent Wreath and Candles.

The wreath and candles are a very helpful part of our Advent journey. First, the wreath itself. It is made of various evergreens, which signifies continuous life, eternal life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

The candles have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet signifies a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice.

The first candle, which is purple, represents hope. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle,” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It also represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is sometimes called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. The color pink (or rose) is a liturgical color for joy. The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful feel in the soon arrival of Christmas Day.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance. The final candle, the “Angel’s Candle” symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good will toward men.”

Every holy season in our faith is a sacred time set aside so that we can focus on our faith. Life today can be so stressful and so all-consuming that we can easily lose our faith focus. Advent is a special holy time made for us so that we can come back to God and rediscover our relationship with Jesus Christ and our hope to see Him in heaven.

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.

PRAYER – THE ANTIDOTE FOR HOLIDAY STRESS - Please join us for Morning Prayer & Guided Meditation on Saturday, December 14th at 10:00 am at St. Anthony’s in Pine Plains. Give yourself the gift of prayer and let the Prince of Peace fill you with Peace.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH : Gerhard Herron, Evan Ciovacco, Lydia Casey, Mark Hamm, Grover Williams, Stephanie Merenda, Carol Wilson, Dawn Hazel Burrows, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Linda Sartori, 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, 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, Teal Burns, Jane Bly, Jennifer Boice, Nora Miller, Allen McPeck, Diana LaCurto, Genevieve Minischetti, Anita Nichols, Kathleen McGuire, Loretta Heller, Scott Traver, Douglas Wilson, Donna Whalen, Stephen Bida, Leah Eurvard, Meghan King, Christine Darby, Peter Hill, Patricia Macura, Jerard Kain, Margaret Gregoire and Kyleigh Cummings

MEN'S GROUP - The Men's Group will meet on Monday, December 2nd, at 6:45 pm in the Chapel in Amenia. New Members are most welcome.

VINE & BRANCHES - THE 50/50 drawing for the Vine & Branches will be held on Thursday, December 5th. Last weekend we provided food for approximately 42 people thanks to your generous food and monetary donations.

FIRST FRIDAY - There will be Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction on Friday, December 6th at 7:30 pm in Amenia. Please consider spending a half hour with our Lord.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD - Come explore the richness of our Advent readings and delve into the mysteries God wants to share with us. In Church 30 minutes before each liturgy in Amenia (4:00 pm Saturday and 10:15 Sunday) December 8 (only), December 14/15 and December 21/22) join us as we reflect on the Bible in Advent. .

THE GIVING TREE - Due to many families struggling during the holidays, the giving tree will be for the benefit of our Vine & Branches Food Closet. Your donations will enable us to give extra food items to those families in our community who need extra help. You can make a difference.

OUR ANNUAL LIVING NATIVITY - Our Living Nativity will be held on Sunday, December 15th, 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 15th 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~

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - There is a sign-up sheet in the Sacristies in Amenia and Pine Plains for the Christmas Schedule for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers and Ushers. Please place your name on the schedule for the time you are available to serve. You are most needed and greatly appreciated.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, November 23-24 2019, we collected \$5,277.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$988.82 for Catholic Charities Campaign for Charity and Justice. 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.

ADVENT WREATH - The Advent Wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. . Traditionally, each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. The light of the candles signifies the light of Christ to mankind.



The lighting of the first candle symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.