

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 8, 2019

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Dec. 9	8:00 am	Pete Bailey
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	Katherine Blinn
Amenia	“	“	7:00 pm	Philomena Ketchum and Bertha Conway
“	Tues.	Dec. 10	8:00 am	Laszlo Paraszti
“	Wed.	Dec. 11	8:00 am	Janet & Mara Anne Mahar
“	Thurs.	Dec. 12	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	Fri.	Dec. 13	8:00 am	Peter Bailey
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	Alicia Rivera Espinosa
Amenia	Sat.	Dec. 14	8:00 am	Dorothy McMahon
“	“	“	4:30 pm	Lou Cascio
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Pine Plains	Sun.	Dec. 15	8:00 am	Gerry Solazzo
Amenia	“	“	10:45 am	Lawrence C. Hardisty, Jr.
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“ADVENT”

Dear Friends,

As we experience Advent, we become aware that it is a time to look for the coming of the Lord. The scriptural readings are presented to us in such a way as to draw our minds and hearts to look for the “Advent”, the coming of Jesus Christ into our lives.

I find that one of the best ways to better understand this is to look at the prayers of the Church in conjunction with the scriptures. One of the best examples is one version of the penitential rite (used at the beginning of the Mass).

The first invocation:

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God’s Kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

This refers to the coming of the Lord in history: the birth of the Savior on Christmas Day. This is what we anticipate during this season as we count the days to Christmas (and as we count the weeks with the Advent candles).

The second invocation:

Lord Jesus, you come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

Here you have a second “coming” of Christ that we look forward to in Advent. This is the coming of Christ in the present time. Jesus comes to us in the sacrament when we celebrate them. Jesus also comes to us through the word of God and in our prayer with scripture. This is also the coming of Christ that perhaps we don’t think of during this holy season.

The third invocation:

Lord Jesus, you will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

This invocation refers to the coming of Jesus in the future. Sometimes we look at this coming with fear, fear of the final judgment and the “end of time”. However the prayer reminds us that Jesus will come “with salvation for your people.” Our fears over the future must be met with the understanding that Jesus is coming to save us, to give us life.

Fr. Wilson

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FEAST DAY – In Honor of the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we will have the following Masses on Monday, December 9th.

8:00 am in Amenia - 12 noon in Pine Plains - 7:00 pm in Amenia

RECONCILIATION MONDAY & TUESDAY - In preparation for Christmas, you are welcome to come celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) at Immaculate Conception in Amenia on Monday, Dec. 16th between the hours of 5 pm to 8 pm and at St. Anthony’s in Pine Plains on Tuesday, December 17th, between 7 pm to 9 pm.

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, 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

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - If you haven't already signed up to serve as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Altar Server or Usher at the Christmas Masses, please consider placing your name on the list in the Sacristy. Your ministry is very important to our Christmas Liturgy.

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY - There will be no Altar Rosary Society Meeting on Monday, December 9th. The Rosary Altar Society will however be saying the Rosary at 6:30 pm on Monday evening, December 9th, before the 7:00 pm Mass in Amenia.

ADVENT IS PREPARING FOR SOMETHING WONDERFUL - Advent is a gift from the Catholic Church to let us know something wonderful is going to happen at Christmas. Yet in our impatience to get to that something wonderful, we can forget that the wait can be wonderful, too. Try taking it one week at a time and wait, hope, prepare, rejoice at the miracle of Christ's wonderful birth...

Week Two - Hope. This week remember that God keeps his promises in ways more glorious than we can imagine. *"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"* (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Week Three – Prepare. Look for ways to prepare your heart for Christmas. Go to Confession to ready your soul for God's grace. Reconcile with anyone you need to in order to increase your peace.

Week Four – Rejoice. Sing "O Come, O Come Emanuel" at the top of your voice. Pray with enthusiasm at Mass. Spend time with family and friends. Write out a list of all the things in your life for which you are grateful. Welcome our Savior with a peaceful, joyful heart.

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 7/8 , December 14/15 and December 21/22) join us as we reflect on the Bible in Advent.

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.

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!

CALLING ALL BAKERS AND VOLUNTEERS - We are in need of baked goods for our "Bake Sale" at the Living Nativity. There is 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.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, November 30 – December 1, we collected \$4,098.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$1,466.00 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.

"WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" - Leo Gafney's new book, **Who Do You Say That I Am** can be ordered from Amazon or from the publisher, 23rd Publications. From the publisher's catalog, "Leo Gafney calls us into life-changing conversations with Jesus in the gospels. He asks believers to put themselves into the story and encounter Christ's teachings anew."

MEANING OF ADVENT WREATH - The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. This week remember that God keeps his promises in ways more glorious than we can imagine.

*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Norm and Carol Cayea
for Jerry Kuttles for strength and comfort in the loss of Dorothy McMahon*