

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 15, 2019

### PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

<b>Amenia</b>	Mon.	Dec. 16	8:00 am	Charles Goggins
“	Tues.	Dec. 17	8:00 am	People of the Parish
“	Wed.	Dec. 18	8:00 am	Peter Bailey
“	Thurs.	Dec. 19	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	Fri.	Dec. 20	8:00 am	Peter Bailey
<b>Pine Plains</b>	“	“	12 noon	Margaret Sicord
<b>Amenia</b>	Sat.	Dec. 21	8:00 am	Richard Delgado
“	“	“	4:30 pm	Lillian McEnroe

---

<b>Pine Plains</b>	Sun.	Dec. 22	8:00 am	Albert Nolletti
<b>Amenia</b>	“	“	10:45 am	People of the Parish

---

### “SILENCE”

Dear Friends,

*Recently, I had put my cell phone on a table and forgot about it. I had to go on some important errands and left it on the table. I suddenly realized I was “phone-less.” It was a strange feeling. I couldn’t call anyone, and I couldn’t receive any important calls. I was dis-connected.*

*Has that ever happened to you? I’m sure it has. But it’s not so bad a thing. Maybe moments like that can help us find that beneficial quality of “silence” in our lives.*

*That reminds me that in the seminary we had a time period called the “great silence.” It was enforced between the hours of around 10 pm to 6 am. Quiet was seen as essential to not only a good “studying” environment, but a prayerful atmosphere. It’s not easy. I also remember when we had a silent retreat at the seminary and no talk was allowed for 5 days. Some of the seminarians were absolutely ready to explode – they needed to talk to somebody.*

*But silence is so helpful. It can calm our nerves, it can help us to focus. Silence can even help us to be a better person, and more successful in life. So many people in our world are looking for peace. What better place to find peace than in the silence of our hearts?*

*There is a beautiful magazine printed by the Sisters of Life called “Imprint.” In the latest issue, they present some ways to cultivate a silent heart:*

- 1. Turn off the radio in your car and say a prayer.*
- 2. Try fasting from social media on Sundays.*
- 3. Go for a walk without the cell phone. Check out the world around you.*
- 4. Listening: when you are talking with a friend, try listening more than anything else.*
- 5. Try a silent retreat!*
- 6. When you are waiting in line, forget looking at the phone and lift your heart to God.*

*Maybe following these ideas will make your Advent time a very special one.*

*Fr. Wilson*

**RECONCILIATION MONDAY** - In preparation for Christmas, you are welcome to come celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) at Immaculate Conception in Amenia on Monday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 5 pm to 8 pm. **St. Anthony’s in Pine Plains has been changed from Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> to Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, between 7 pm to 9 pm.**

*Jesus gave us a great gift when He created the Sacrament of Confession (John 20:23).  
Remember you are just one Confession away from coming home.*

**CONFESSION** - Confession is available every Saturday afternoon from 3:45 pm to 4:15 pm at Immaculate Conception in Amenia.

**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, 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 and Roger Gregoire and Kyleigh Cummings

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

**SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR CHRIST THE KING SEMINARY** - Fr. Godfrey will be arriving Amenia on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, and will be staying with us through Christmas. We will have a second collection next weekend, Dec. 21-22, for the benefit of Christ the King Seminary in Nigeria.

---

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



---

#### Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2019

4:00 pm - Amenia  
6:00 pm - Pine Plains  
10:00 pm - Amenia

#### Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2019

8:00 am - Pine Plains  
10:45 am - Amenia

---

**OPEN YOUR HEART TO THE CHRISTMAS PROMISE** - This time of year reminds us of our hope for a future of peace. But we cannot achieve this peace on our own. We must open our hearts to the promise of Christmas.

*“One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again (Isaiah 2:4). Violence flourishes if the world accepts it as inevitable. The world can change if the love of the Christmas Child takes root in our hearts. Peace flows from hearts that love.*

*“The poor will eat their fill; those who seek the Lord will offer praise” (Psalm 22:27). Peace spreads more easily when all have enough. These days the poor are everywhere and people are struggling to hold onto hope. If we each make our holiday charitable efforts a year-round habit, perhaps the words of the psalmist will come true.*

*“The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). This Christmas we can once again rekindle our own sense of innocence and hope.*

**SUNDAY COLLECTION** - Last weekend, December 7-8, 2019, we collected \$4,012.86 in our Regular Sunday 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.

**MANY THANKS TO THE AMENIA LIONS CLUB** - I want to thank the following men who donated their time and talent to give our gym a new look: Ray Killmer, Blake Hale, Kenny Elliott and Eric Eschbach. My sincere thanks for an outstanding job! *“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” [Elizabeth Andrew]*

**MEANING OF ADVENT WREATH** - The 3<sup>rd</sup> candle is traditionally pink or rose and symbolizes Joy with the “Shepherd’s Candle” reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

**WELCOME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS** - Most of us don't have to look very far to find someone in our own family or circle of friends who don't attend Mass on a regular basis. Most people can't even explain why they stopped coming to Church. Perhaps the demands of life just get in the way. Our journey of faith has many ups and downs, but whatever the reason for staying away, please know that our door is always open and a warm welcome awaits your return. Christmas is a wonderful time to come back to our Lord. God's love and mercy is available to everyone. Should you know someone who has been away from the Church, why not invite them to join you and your family for Christmas Mass.