

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 22, 2019

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Dec. 23	8:00 am	Martha Flanigan
"	Tues.	Dec. 24	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	"	"	4:00 pm	"Special Intention"
Pine Plains	"	"	6:00 pm	"Special Intention"
Amenia	"	"	10:00 pm	"Special Intention"
Pine Plains	Wed.	Dec. 25	8:00 am	"Special Intention"
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	"Special Intention"
"	Thurs.	Dec. 26	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Dec. 27	8:00 am	Martha Flanigan
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Elizabeth Brizzie
Amenia	Sat.	Dec. 28	8:00 am	Richard Delgado
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Deceased Members of Mahoney & Proper Family
Pine Plains	Sun.	Dec. 29	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	Alan Carroll

"CHRISTMAS OCTAVE"

Dear Friends,

A very Merry Christmas to everyone. I hope and I pray that your Christmas time is very peaceful, fruitful and fun!

I would like to share with you a Christmas "Octave" so that perhaps the Christmas event and its meaning will be deeper than before. There are themes for each day to reflect on, and you can then say your own prayer or perhaps say an Our Father or Hail Mary.

Day 1: Gratitude

This Christmas we are invited to gaze with Mary and Joseph at the Infant in the Manger – God Almighty – and allow our hearts to be filled with Thanksgiving.

Day 2: Reverence

Reverence is found in the heart that approaches another with hush and awe. Reverence is in the wonder that Joseph and Mary found in The Infant Christ.

Day 3: Communion

When families attend Mass, looking together upon Christ in the Eucharist, conflict melts away and deep communion is formed.

Day 4: Trust

When the angel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Savior, Mary had to trust in the faithfulness of God. She continued her life of trust, trusting Joseph to stay with her and trusting in the promises of her Son.

Day 5: Forgiveness

One can imagine the struggles that others put Joseph and Mary through, like misunderstanding Mary's pregnancy and the threats to Jesus' life. Yet Joseph and Mary refused to give into sin and darkness and chose forgiveness.

Day 6: Peace

The birth of Jesus must have been filled with disorder, with animals and a manger. Yet deep peace reigned at that moment.

Day 7: Silence

The scriptures record not a single word from Joseph. Surely he had much to say, but the Holy Spirit preferred to teach us the value of silence through him.

Day 8: Celebration

No matter who or where we are, we can still celebrate. And at Christmas time, we celebrate that Love has entered the world and will never leave us.

Fr. Wilson

P.S. Finally, my dear brothers and sisters, I ask all of you to be as generous as you can in your Christmas gift to the Church. As expenses rise substantially in the winter months, I again find myself asking for your help. You have been so generous in the past, and I am so very grateful for your continued support and commitment to our Parish.

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, Kyleigh Cummings Rose M. Curcio and Caroline McEnroe.

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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.

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**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

**NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

**New Year's Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019**

4:30 pm - Amenia

**New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

12 noon - Pine Plains

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VINE & BRANCHES - The winner of the 50/50 was Christopher Willig. The split was \$74.00. Many thanks to all those who donated food and purchased 50/50 tickets for the benefit of our food closet. We could not do this without you.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, December 14-15, 2019, we collected \$4,171.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$1,100.93 for Retired Religious. We also collected \$529.00 in our Immaculate Conception 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.

MEANING OF ADVENT WREATH - The fourth and last purple candle, often times called the "Angels Candle" represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Sing "O Come, O come Emmanuel" at the top of our voice. Pray with enthusiasm at Mass. Spend time with family and friends. Write a list of all the things in your life for you which you are grateful. Welcome our Savior with a peaceful, joyful heart.

*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Denise & Bob Conway
In Loving Memory of Bertha Conway and Eugene & Philomena Ketchum*