

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 5, 2020

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Jan. 6	8:00 am	John & Agnes Mahoney
"	Tues.	Jan. 7	8:00 am	Josefina Lopez
"	Wed.	Jan. 8	8:00 am	Peter Bailey
"	Thurs.	Jan. 9	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Jan. 10	8:00 am	Howard (Windy) Milton
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Msgr. James White
Amenia	Sat.	Jan. 11	8:00 am	Fr. George Hommel
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Mary Hardisty & Lawrence C. Hardisty, Jr.

Pine Plains	Sun	Jan. 12	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	Carol Wagner

"THE PASSING OF TIME"

"Grow old along with me!

The best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made.

Our times are in his hand who says

"A whole I planned, youth shows but half; Trust God: see all, nor be afraid!"

~Robert Browning~

Dear Friends:

We mark the passage of time in different ways, with birthdays and holidays. One definite marker is the New Year celebrations. New Year's is a real marker in our awareness of time. One of the nuisances of the changing of the year is remembering to write the right year on our various documents,. Do you ever get mixed up with that?

The Church certainly helps us along in our awareness of the passage of time. Every year we journey from Lent to Easter to Advent and Christmas. And of course there is the "Ordinary Time" phase, which is a lot of time. During the "seasons" we are educated in the basic mysteries of our faith, and we can grow in the Lord with the passage of time.

The Church is also a real blessing in celebrating the beginning of life (baptism) youth (confirmation) adulthood (marriage) and sadly, the end (funerals). These are profound and meaningful moments which should be celebrated. They, too, are part of the passage of time.

I'm sorry to note there is a sadness to the passage of time. Our homes and our cars start to break down as the years pass. They have to be maintained and fixed. Our bodies, unfortunately, start to break down over the years: we can't do what we used to do, and small pains and aches become bigger.

One of the blessings in my job is that I am able to watch your children grow up. It is just great to see our young people change and mature and turn into Christian young adults.

You see, the passage of time is not all bad. There are many blessings along the way. Our friendships mature and grow. We become wiser and smarter in regards to life. Our joy becomes deeper, and we learn the real meaning of self-sacrifice. Actually, growing old can be a great thing.

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.

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 and Caroline McEnroe.

+++++

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - The Altar Rosary Society is planning a Luncheon Buffet at the "Ponds" in Ancramdale on Sunday, January 12th, at 2:00 pm. The cost is \$30.00 per person and includes coffee, tea, soda, tax and gratuity. Please call Margaret Gregoire at 518-789-3337 if are planning to attend.

CHRISTMAS IS OUR EPIPHANY - "Epiphany" is defined as a sudden revelation or insight. The celebration we call "The Epiphany" commemorates the moment when three foreign kings visited the newborn Jesus and experienced the revelation that He was a divine king.

The visit of the Magi was prophesied in the Old Testament. *"The kings of Tarshish and the Islands shall offer gifts, the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay Him homage, all nations shall serve Him"* (Psalm 72:10-11). *"Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord."* (Isaiah 60:6). St. Matthew recorded that they brought three gifts:

Gold – the gift for a king, Frankincense – the gift for a priest, and Myrrh – a burial ointment.

The kings witnessed to the presence of the Messiah on Earth, and the fulfillment of God's promise of a Savior. Christmas is our reminder that God is always faithful. Christmas is our epiphany into God's eternal love.

VITA - Please join St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Church in Millbrook on Thursday, January 16th, at 7:00 pm in their Parish Hall in welcoming inspirational pro-life speaker Theresa Bonopartis, Director of Lumina and Co-developer with The Sisters of Life of Entering Canaan. Please also join them if time permits at 6:45 pm for the Rosary for Life in the Church. For more information, please call (845) 677-3422.

GOD WATCHES GOOD EFFORTS WITH LOVING EYES - We start the New Year with the best of intentions, but life can get in the way of success. Household expenses leave little for charity, work encroaches on family time, daily tasks distract from prayer time, and healthy habits fall away. It can be discouraging when we stumble, but it's important to keep trying. God watches our efforts with loving eyes.

God knows our limits. Our Father understands that we are weak and that we struggle. Even Peter, Jesus' close friend, promised devotion but later denied knowing Him (*John 13:37-38*). Not only did Jesus forgive him, He made Peter the first head of His beloved Church.

Don't let fear of failure keep you from trying again. *"Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you"* (Isaiah 41:10). The key is to get back to the plan.

We aren't meant to do it alone. Jesus is the source of our true strength and wants to help us get it right. *"Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me"* (John 15:4). *"Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from His mighty power"* (Ephesians 6:10). (*Growing in Faith*)

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Approximately **630** people attended our Christmas Masses and we collected \$14,045.00 in our Christmas Collection. Your presence was most inspiring and I want to thank all of you for your amazing generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church. Last weekend, December 28-29, 2019, we collected \$3,618.00 in our Regular Sunday collection. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: . Timothy Walsh, Joshua O'Hara, Connor Washburn, Sam Kent, Jordan Paraszti, Gavin Carroll, Richard C. Belliveau, Jimmy Darnell, Mike Mazza, Nathan Tong, Mark Hall and Tyler Jasmin. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers