

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 2, 2020

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Feb. 3	8:00 am	Florence Vinchiarello
“	Tues.	Feb. 4	8:00 am	Katherine Blinn
“	Wed.	Feb. 5	8:00 am	Margaret Sicord
“	Thurs.	Feb. 6	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	Fri.	Feb. 7	8:00 am	Martha J. Flanigan
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	Jack Sarles
Amenia	Sat.	Feb. 8	8:00 am	Fr. James P. Connolly
“	“	“	4:30 pm	Diane McEnroe Martello

Pine Plains	Sun	Feb. 9	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia	“	“	10:45 am	George Pimm

“ KOBE BRYANT 1978 – 2020 ”

Dear Friends:

We are all mourning the loss of basketball great Kobe Bryant in a helicopter accident on Sunday, January 26th. It appears that Bryant's daughter, Gianna, who was 13, also was killed in the crash along with 7 other people.

It is a tragedy, a very sad event that affected all of us in this country and beyond. Needless to say, we are praying for Bryant's family and for the families of the other victims. We can feel the sadness in our hearts.

Kobe was considered one of the greatest basketball players of all time. He won 5 NBA championships in a 20 year career with the Los Angeles Lakers. As a Denver Nugget fan, I was often frustrated by Kobe Bryant and his skills against my team. One thing I always noted with Bryant was how he could make any shot from anywhere under great pressure, often at the most important moments in the game.

But one thing many don't realize was that Kobe Bryant was a lifelong Catholic. His faith helped him in several difficult moments. He married in 2001 in a Southern California parish.

But he would have some difficult times in his marriage. In 2003, he was arrested after he was accused of raping a woman in a Colorado hotel room. Bryant said the encounter was consensual. Criminal charges were dropped. Bryant apologized and he realized he had to change his life.

Bryant said the one thing that really helped him to grow out of that process was to talk to a priest. He said "I'm Catholic, my kids are Catholic, so I had to talk to a priest." The priest encouraged him to move on and trust in God and God will take care of it. He said that was the turning point.

Singer Cristina Ballestero encountered Bryant at Holy Family Cathedral in Orange, California. At communion, she noted, that Kobe Bryant respectfully waited for Cristina to receive communion before him. She said it was a sign of respect.

Staff at Our Lady Queen of Angels in Newport Beach confirmed that Kobe and daughter Gianna attended Mass before the fatal crash on Sunday.

Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in Peace. Amen.

Fr. Wilson

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – To the people of St. Anthony's in Pine Plains, I ask for help. We are in the process of "un-restricting" a restricted fund known as the "Bell Fund". It seems no one is sure what the "Bell Fund" was for. So I am asking the Archdiocese to begin the process of making the funds free to use for our purposes. If anyone knows or remembers anything about the "Bell Fund", please contact me as soon as you can. ~ Fr. Wilson ~

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, 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, Douglas Wilson, Donna Whalen, Stephen Bida, Leah Eurvard, Meghan King, Christine Darby, Peter Hill, Patricia Macura, Jerard Kain, Margaret and Roger Gregoire, Kyleigh Cummings, Caroline McEnroe, Kristin Paraszti and Patty Cassidy.

MEN'S CLUB - The next Men's Club meeting will be held on Monday, February 3rd, at 6:45 pm in the Chapel of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. New members are most welcome.

VINE & BRANCHES - THE 50/50 drawing for the Vine & Branches will be held on Thursday, February 6th. The next food distribution will be on Saturday, February 15th, at 10:00 am in the gym. All food and monetary donations are much appreciated.

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

HOW CAN I FIT MORE PRAYER INTO MY BUSY DAY? "Pray constantly" sounds challenging but it doesn't have to be. Actually, busy days offer many great opportunities for prayer if we know where to look.

Consider these suggestions:

Pray throughout the day. Consider praying the Rosary on the way to work, saying grace before lunch, offering a quick "I love you," or praying for guidance for important decisions. Even job-related tasks can become "prayers in action."

Fifteen minutes a day. Good friends know text messages can't replace being together. It's the same with God. He loves us and wants our company. Aim for 10-15 minutes of daily prayer. Thank God for your blessings, meditate on Scripture, offer Him your day, or simply enjoy His company.

It's the love that counts. For her love and humility, Jesus commended a poor but generous widow for her small donation (Mark 12:43-44). Sometimes, we have little time or energy for "good prayer." Remember, what pleases God is not the elegance or number of our prayers, but the love with which we offer them.

PUERTO RICO - We will be accepting donations for Puerto Rico up until February 5th. Checks should be made payable to the Archdiocese of New York and can be placed in the collection basket, given to Fr. Wilson, dropped off at the office or mailed directly to the Archdiocese at 1011 First Avenue, Finance Office, Room 1940, New York, NY 10022. To date, the Parish donated \$500.00 to Catholic Charities for Puerto Rico and received \$300.00 in donations from our Parishioners which also will be sent to Catholic Charities for Puerto Rico.

SIGHT & SOUND THEATER BUS TRIP - Church of St. Christopher & St. Sylvia Teen Fusion Youth Group is planning a bus trip to the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA for the production of ***Queen Esther***. Experience one of the most riveting Bible stories of the Old Testament as it comes to life with magnificent sets, special effects and live animals. This trip is open to **all** and would make a wonderful family outing during Holy Week (School Recess). The bus will depart St. Christopher School, 30 Benner Road, Red Hook on Wednesday, April 8th at 5:30 am and will return approximately 8:30 pm. Cost is \$125.00 per person (age 13 and up) or \$100 (age 12 & under). Please contact their rectory office at 845-758-3732 or email: **rectory@stchrisredhook.org** to reserve your seat. Payment in full is due no later than February 28th.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - If you need a copy of your financial statement for 2019, please call the office.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, January 25-26, 2020, we collected \$4,496.33 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.

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, Tyler Jasmin and Austin Cummings. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers especially during these tumultuous times.