

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29th, 2020

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Nov. 30	8:00 am	Maureen Tyree
"	Tues.	Dec. 1	8:00 am	George Hazel
"	Wed.	Dec. 2	8:00 am	Albert Noletti
"	Thurs.	Dec. 3	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Dec. 4	8:00 am	Charles Renner
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Santino Delfino <i>(Living)</i>
Amenia	Sat.	Dec. 5	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Lou Cascio
Pine Plains	"	"	6:15 pm	Richard Caza

Pine Plains	Sun	Dec. 6	8:00 am	Roger Gregoire
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

"A THEOLOGY OF THANKSGIVING"

Dear Friends:

I am not a theologian. There are theologians who are much more qualified than I am to talk about anything. But I still know a few things. So today I present to you a "Theology of Thanksgiving."

I feel very strongly about Thanksgiving because I feel that it is at the heart of the Christian faith. To give just one example, the word we use to describe the Mass is "the Eucharist," which means Thanksgiving in Greek.

One would think that an attitude of thankfulness would be understood and praised among everyone. I, myself, have for a long time assumed that being grateful and thankful is the best way to live.

But, I see sometimes that is not the case. It is more than just the modern reluctance to write thank you notes, or to say "thank you" as much as possible. There seems to be, today, an attitude of entitlement and "I deserve that" kind of thinking that is troubling.

Sadly, I recently read of a modern celebrity who has a "I deserve this" kind of thinking. This person criticized those who think it is good to be "selfless" and being "grateful" is to be avoided at all costs.

As I said this philosophy of "I deserve this" runs against the attitude of thankfulness. This feeling of entitlement leads to resentment and a breakdown in relationships. People who feel entitled become angry when other people are successful, even within their own family.

Here you can see the comparative beauty of living as a thankful person. Being thankful means that happiness and peace is a real possibility. Everything we receive is a blessing, and we even find joy in another person's success.

This Thanksgiving holiday is different than most. Our celebration is curtailed by caution and worry. The pandemic affects so much of what we do. It is hard to really celebrate Thanksgiving this year while being so concerned with so many issues.

It might be hard to be thankful this year. So many are suffering, so many are stressed out. But we still have our faith and we still have life. Let's be thankful for what we have. Let's be thankful for Jesus Christ who gave us the gift of eternal life.

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, Grover Williams, Stephanie Merenda, Carol Wilson, Dawn Hazel Burrows, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Sonja Kelly, Mike Butts, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Joseph Licurse, Joanne Balek, Michael Engel, 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, Marjorie Arni, Teal Burns, Jane Bly, Jennifer Boice, Nora Miller, Allen McPecki, Anita Nichols, Kathleen McGuire, Loretta Heller, Douglas Wilson, Donna Whalen, Stephen Bida, Leah Eurvard, Meghan King, Patricia Macura, Jerard Kain, Kyleigh Cummings, Caroline McEnroe, Patty Cassidy, Baby Gemma Dadone, Joe Gatto, Joan Moriarty, Michael Tozzi, Daniel Briggs, Brett Porter, Alice Phillips, Carl Stahovic, Carol Jayne, Vincent Pinelli, Pat McElduff and Barbara Watson.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED IN OUR PARISH: Donald MacArthur, Roger Gregoire, William Dota, Richard J. Cantele, Sr., Patrick Henry Flynn, Donald McGinness and Susan Macura

CHRISTMAS MASS - In keeping with social distancing at the Christmas Eve Masses at 4 pm at Immaculate Conception and 6:00 pm in Pine Plains, we will restrict attendance by giving out tickets. You may pick-up the tickets after Mass or at the Parish Office, Monday to Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. You are encouraged to attend the other Masses so we can all enjoy Christmas safely.

MAKE DISTRACTIONS A PLUS IN PRAYER - There is no better way to build a relationship with Jesus than through prayer. Relying on His strength during difficult times is how we get through them. Yet when we become distracted during prayer, we can become discouraged and give up. Try these ideas for turning distractions into blessings:
Gently return - Start your prayer by placing yourself in the presence of God. When you wander, gently bring yourself back.

Practice recall - St. Frances de Sales said, "When your mind wanders or gives way to distractions, gently recall it and place it once more close to its Divine Master. If you should do nothing else but repeat this during the whole time of prayer, your hour would be very well spent and you would perform a spiritual exercise most acceptable to God."

Turn distractions into prayer - If you start thinking about people and events unrelated to your prayer, pray about them and then return to the original subject of your prayer.

Pray out loud - *When distractions overwhelm you, pray out loud.*

ROSE THRIFT SHOP - The Rose Thrift Shop, located in the basement of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, will have their **'BAG SALE'** on Wednesday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 5th, from 10 am to 2 pm. The shop will close for the season at the end of business day on Saturday, December 5th. Our thanks to everyone who supported the shop throughout the year. We will re-open in the Spring.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, November 21-22, 2020, we collected \$4,716.99 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$532.00 for Campaign for Charity and Justice (Catholic Charities) I am so very thankful to all of you for your steadfast commitment to our Church during these difficult financial times. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families with good health.

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...

MEANING OF ADVENT WREATH - The Advent Wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. The Advent Wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God.



The lighting of the first candle symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.