

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 13th, 2020

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Dec. 14	8:00 am	Thomas Carberry
"	Tues.	Dec. 15	8:00 am	Lawrence C. Hardisty Jr.
"	Wed.	Dec. 16	8:00 am	Charles Goggins
"	Thurs.	Dec. 17	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Dec. 18	8:00 am	Theresa Thompson
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Bonfiglio Guglielmetti

Amenia	Sat.	Dec. 19	8:00 am	Denise Kurish
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Lilian McEnroe
Pine Plains	"	"	6:15 pm	Fr. John Conti

Pine Plains	Sun	Dec. 20	8:00 am	Roger Gregoire
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

"Saint Nicholas"

Dear Friends:

Before I was a priest, back in the 1980's I worked at a church in New Jersey named after St. Nicholas. I learned that the parish was the "Italian" Church of the Palisades Park community, for the "Irish" Church was down the road. When I was there, there weren't many Italians left, but the Italians (and Yugoslavians) still there called the Parish "San Nicola de Bari."

Saint Nicholas is one of the more popular saints in the early church. He was born in 270 A.D. in a Greek Seaport. Accounts of his life are very unclear, as there is no real historical records of him. It was said he worked many miracles, and he died December 6 (his feast day) in 343 A.D. He was a bishop of Myra.

Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is known as "Nicholas the wonder worker". His reputation became very well known in the church, and his legendary habit of secret gift-giving gave rise to the traditional model of Santa Claus ("Saint Nick"). The name Santa Claus evolved from St. Nicholas' nickname in Dutch, Sinter Klaas, a shortened form of Sint Nikolaas (Dutch for St. Nicholas). Apparently, in 1809, the writer Washington Irving helped popularize the Dutch stories when he referred to St. Nicholas as the "patron Saint of New York."

There are some popular stories of the life of St. Nicholas. One told how St. Nicholas helped an impoverished father and his three daughters. The father didn't have any money for their marriage dowries, which in that era was necessary to wed. When the Saint heard of their plight, he threw three bags of gold into their window.

How did he become "St. Nicholas of Bari"? His remains were first put in a sarcophagus in the Greek city of Myra, in a church named after him. When the city was captured by the Muslim Turks, a group of Italian merchants removed the remains and brought them to Bari in Italy. They are now enshrined in the Basilica di San Nicolain Bari. His reported that more churches have been named for Saint Nicholas than any other Saint with the exception of Mary the Mother of Jesus.

Fr. Wilson

RECONCILIATION MONDAY & TUESDAY - In preparation for Christmas, you are welcome to come celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) at Immaculate Conception in Amenia on Monday, December 21st, between the hours of 5 pm to 7 pm and at St. Anthony's in Pine Plains on Tuesday, December 22nd, between 5 pm to 7 pm. Confession is also available on Saturday's from 3:45 – 4:15pm.

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, Joseph Licurse, Joanne Balek, Michael Engel, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjani, 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 Kim Noone.

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

FEAST DAY: December 14 – St. John of the Cross (1591). As a Carmelite, St. John led a reform in the Order to encourage more prayer and simplicity. Briefly jailed over a misunderstanding, some of his best spiritual writing came from this experience.

HOLIDAY ADVICE: The holiday season is an important time in the Church but, in the midst of a pandemic, it can also be a time when health worries, money worries, family worries, and every kind of worry intrudes. Instead try to follow this advice from St. Paul, *“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”* (Philippians 4:8)

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - There will be a sign-up sheet in the Sacristies in Amenia and Pine Plains for the Christmas Schedule for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers and Ushers. Please place your name on the schedule for the time you are available to serve. You are most needed and greatly appreciated.

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.

The Schedule is as follows: Christmas Eve – 2pm (Amenia), 4pm (Amenia), 6pm (Pine Plains), 10pm (Amenia)
Christmas Day – 8am (Pine Plains), 10:45am (Amenia)

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, Garrett Cummings and Austin Cummings. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, December 5 & 6, 2020, we collected \$4,636.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection. The Utility Collection raised \$751.00. I am so very thankful to all of you for your steadfast commitment to our Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families with good health.

WEEK THREE - JOY: - The third Sunday of Advent we are invited to reflect on the joy we have access to because of our faith in Jesus. One of the defining characteristics of Christ-followers is their joyful demeanor. Let’s not allow the struggles of this year steal from the great joy we have because of Jesus.



“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.” Phillippians 4:4-5

*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Laurie & Larry Hardisty
In Memory of Lawrence C. Hardisty, Jr.*