

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

## January 3, 2021

**PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:**

<b>Amenia</b>	Mon.	Jan. 4	8:00 am	Theresa Thompson
“	Tues.	Jan. 5	8:00 am	Thomas Carberry
“	Wed.	Jan. 6	8:00 am	Thomas Carberry
“	Thurs.	Jan. 7	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	Fri.	Jan. 8	8:00 am	Theresa Thompson
<b>Pine Plains</b>	“	“	12 noon	Dominic Scagnelli
<b>Amenia</b>	Sat.	Jan. 9	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	“	“	4:30 pm	Mario Penagos
<b>Pine Plains</b>	“	“	6:15 pm	Katherine Blinn

---

<b>Pine Plains</b>	Sun	Jan. 10	8:00 am	People of the Parish
<b>Amenia</b>	“	“	10:45 am	Florence Vinchiarello

---

**“GOOD NEWS”**

*Dear Friends:*

*At a time of unending bad news, we all need some good news. We are all on edge, stressed out by the virus and the economic problems. It may be hard to find any good news, so I'm going to try very hard in the next few moments to give you some hope for the future.*

*I must take time to thank all of our volunteers - Ushers, Lectors, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers and others for their help during Christmas time that is so needed. Also very welcomed was the music provided by the Syversens.*

*As you will see later in this bulletin, you were very generous this Christmas in the collection. I am so grateful for your help, as our bills never take a holiday. I also am extremely thankful for your gifts to me – I appreciate each and every one of them. I want to say a big Thank You to all who helped decorate the Amenia and Pine Plains Churches.*

*One thing that I must comment on was how well everyone handled the restrictions imposed on us by the virus. I had instituted “ticket” only entrance to the two of the most crowded Masses. I was hesitant about doing this but I didn't want to risk over crowding. The great result (due to your cooperation) was that no person was turned away. Every Mass had room to respect social distancing. I am so grateful to all of you.*

*You will see later on in the bulletin how we helped the needy in our food closet in December. I am on the Board of Catholic Charities of Dutchess County, and I learned of their efforts during the time of Covid-19: provided \$61,285 in rent relief, \$32,000 in debit cards, \$30,000 grocery cards and \$2,500 Stewart's cards. A special program of Catholic Charities assisted 30 households with Central Hudson bills. If you would like to donate to Catholic Charities, please contact me.*

*I share this good news not only to counter all the bad news we get every day, but also as a reminder that good things happen when we work hard for the Lord. The ultimate “good news” is, of course, the Gospel. We can't forget that God the Father loves us, Jesus has saved us, and the Holy Spirit is always with us.*

*.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.

**A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER** - Lord, I stand on the threshold of a New Year. Make me big enough to honestly admit my mistakes, smart enough to accept flattery without it making me arrogant, tall enough to tower above deceit, strong enough to live by love, brave enough to welcome criticism, generous enough to share my resources with joy, compassionate enough to understand others who fail, humble enough to be thoughtful of my neighbor, and above all, willing to be led in the way of Your Will for me. Amen.

**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 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 Stahovec, Carol Jayne, Vincent Pinelli, Pat McElduff and Kim Noone

+++++

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED IN OUR PARISH:** James T. Metz

**MEN'S GROUP** - The Men's Group will meet on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm in the Church of Immaculate Conception, Amenia. New members are most welcome.

**VINE & BRANCHES** - On December 19<sup>th</sup>, we provided food for 18 families/76 people at our food closet. I want to extend a special thank you to everyone who donated food last month. Feeding the hungry is one of the corporal works of mercy.

**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, We 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.

**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** - Last weekend, December 26-27, 2020, we collected \$2,741.67 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$12,388.00 in our Christmas Collection. I want to thank all of you for your amazing generosity and steadfast commitment to the Church. I pray that our Lord will bless you all with peace, joy and good health throughout the coming year.

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