

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 27, 2016

## PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Mon.	Nov. 28	8:00 am	Kevin Cassone
Tues.	Nov. 29	8:00 am	Molly, Sadie & Elizabeth Dunn
Wed.	Nov. 30	8:00 am	Louis W. Imperato
Thurs.	Dec. 01	8:00 am	NO MASS
Fri.	Dec. 02	8:00 am	Margaret Sicord
Sat.	Dec. 03	8:00 am	Katherine Blinn
		4:30 pm	Patrick Caldarelli

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<b>Pine Plains</b>	Sun	Dec. 04	8:00 am	People of the Parish
			10:45 am	Mary Monette

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## “ADVENT”

*Dear Friends:*

*This weekend marks the end of the liturgical year and the beginning of a new year. It is also the end of the Year of Mercy. I hope that most of us had a beneficial Year of Mercy, as we all strived to be more merciful. But our vocation to be merciful to others, and to be apostles of Mercy, doesn't depend on any calendar or holiday. For us Christians, forgiveness is a way of life. Forgiveness has to be worked on every day.*

*As we look to Advent, God gives us more opportunities to be forgiving and also more chances to receive forgiveness. There will be confessions offered by several priests at our Mission on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> in our Church in Amenia (at 7 pm). There is also the evening of reconciliation on December 19<sup>th</sup> (Monday), with confession available from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Amenia, and confessions offered on December 20<sup>th</sup>, in the evening, at Pine Plains (times to be announced). May you be able to experience the peace of forgiveness this Advent season.*

*I have often enjoyed Advent much more than Lent in the Church year. Advent is shorter and less stressful. And the conclusion of Advent (Christmas) is much simpler than the conclusion of Lent (Holy Week).*

*Advent seems to be more joyful, with all of the wonderful hymns, the decorations, and the emphasis on “good will.” But one of the difficulties of Advent is the ever-present struggle with Christmas obligations. Every year we complain about the Christmas stress, and every year it seems to get worse. Maybe this year can be different.*

*I hope and I pray that this Advent and Christmas time will be a special one for all of you this year. Maybe at least we can concentrate on getting along with everyone a little more, and complaining a little less. May every family of Immaculate Conception and St. Anthony be very blessed at this time of year.*

*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.

**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.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH :** Ralph Cummings, Ann Bida, Gerhard Herron, Margaret Wilcox, Janet Stiles, Evan Ciovacco, Lydia Casey, Evelyn Bouffard, Mark Hamm, Grover Williams, Stephanie Merenda, Carol Wilson, Dawn Hazel Burrows, Rudy Eschbach, Billy Carroll, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Baby James Ryan Farrell, Linda Sartori, Helen McGhee, Richard & Mary Ann Valinsk, Mary Murphy Adamitis, Andrea Scholmeyer, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, Barbara Moissonnier, Nina Williams, Judy Carroll, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Michael Kain, Delores DeMarinis, Shirley Remsburger, Teresa Schell, Susan Moody, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Jack Silvernale, Mike Butts and Mary Ann Mullen, John Kemmerer, Jr., Alan Carroll, Erin D-Elia, Linda Staab, Father John Durkin, Daisy Abruzzo, Richard Piccoli, Laura Galdiero, Bernard Heaney and Joseph Scutieri.

**VINE & BRANCHES** - The 50/50 will be held on Thursday, December 1st. The next food distribution will be on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am in our gym. Last Saturday, we provided food for approximately 128 people. All food items are much needed and greatly appreciated especially as the Christmas season is fast approaching.

**FIRST FRIDAY** - We will have Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:30 pm in Amenia, Please consider spending a half hour with our Lord.

**ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH** - St. Anthony's is going to have breakfast after the 8 am Mass on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Any and all Breakfast items would be appreciated. All are welcome to join us.

**THE LIVING NATIVITY** - Our Annual Living Nativity will be held on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> following the 10:45 am Mass. There will be animals, light refreshments, a bake sale, a cash and carry table, and craft vendors. Please mark December 11<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and come join the festivities and bring a friend!

**CALLING ALL BAKERS and VOLUNTEERS** - There is a sign-up sheet in the back of Church for those willing to bake for the "Bake Sale" at the Living Nativity on December 11<sup>th</sup>. We are also in need of volunteers to help out at the Living Nativity. Please call the office (373-8193) if you are willing to lend a helping hand. We are counting on your support to make this fundraiser a success. Thank you.

**THE GIVING TREE** - Due to many families struggling during the holidays, the giving tree will be for the benefit of our Vine & Branches Food Closet. Your donations will enable us to give extra food items to those families in our community who need extra help. You can make a difference.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION** - Last weekend, November 19-20, 2016, we collected \$3,093.55 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$796.30 for Thanksgiving-Human Development. I am so very thankful for your continuing generosity and steadfast commitment to the Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families. I am also so impressed that you made it to Church in spite of the harsh weather.

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY** - Please keep the following service men and their families in your prayers: Timothy Walsh, Joshua O'Hara, Connor Washburn, Sam Kent, Jordan Paraszti, Gavin Carroll, Richard C. Belliveau, Jimmy Darnell, Mike Mazza and Nathan Tong.

**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.

