

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 11, 2016

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Mon.	Dec. 12	8:00 am	Laszlo Paraszti
Tues.	Dec. 13	8:00 am	Marty Noletti, Jr.
Wed.	Dec. 14	8:00 am	Salvatore Garzetta
Thurs.	Dec. 15	8:00 am	NO MASS
Fri.	Dec. 16	8:00 am	Lawrence C. Hardisty, Jr.
Sat.	Dec. 17	8:00 am	Ursula Robertson
		4:30 pm	Charles Goggins

Pine Plains	Sun	Dec. 18	8:00 am	People of the Parish
			10:45 am	Kenneth Whelan, Sr.

"WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO FOR CHRISTMAS"

Dear Friends:

I may be wrong, but it seems like the idea that we all should be better persons during Christmas time has kind of disappeared. Maybe it's just me, but I do remember a consistent theme in Christmases past was to be a kinder and more thoughtful person in the Christmas season. I don't see that so much anymore.

It is obvious that we should be kinder and better people all year round. That is what Jesus calls us to do, whether it is December or July. But we can use Christmas as a motivation to improve, and that would no doubt make us feel more joyful on Christmas Day.

But how can we be better people? I just had a few ideas come to me recently. With your patience and understanding, I would like to offer a couple of ideas. Please remember that I am not all-wise or all-knowing, so take these suggestions with a grain of salt.

There are two qualities of people that make life difficult. The first type of person is who I would call "demanders." These are people who are always ready to demand something. Ready to demand that they be heard. Ready to demand that their needs be satisfied. Eager and ready to demand that everyone listen to them and agree to what they want. "Demanders" are very hard to deal with.

The other quality is what I would call "complainers." These are people who constantly point out what needs to be improved, what needs to be changed, and how incompetent anyone in charge is. Nobody wants to be near "complainers" for long.

I hate to say it, but both of these people rarely offer any help to deal with whatever problems that they have identified.

The question is, are we one of these people? If so, Christmas would be a good time to change.

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 19th, between the hours of 5 pm to 8 pm and at St. Anthony's in Pine Plains on Tuesday, December 20th, between 7 pm to 9 pm.

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.

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, Joseph Scutieri, Eileen Murphy Ehlers and Charlie Guarnieri.

VINE & BRANCHES - The winner of the 50/50 was Patti Cassidy. The split was \$85.00. The next food distribution will be held on Saturday, December 17th, 2016 at 10:00 am in our gym. All food donations are much needed and greatly appreciated.

PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE - All children and adults are invited to bring an ornament to the 10:45 am Mass next weekend, Sunday, December 18th and place it on the Christmas tree in Church. The idea being that each family will be represented on our Parish Tree.

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY - The next Altar Rosary Society meeting will be held on Monday, December 12th at 7 pm in the Chapel of Immaculate Conception. The members who volunteered to straighten up the vestibule of the Church will meet 1 hour prior to the meeting, that is at 6 pm.

ORIGIN OF "THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" - Most of us are familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from any practice of their faith by law – private or public. The Twelve Days of Christmas was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person.

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The other symbols mean the following:

2	Turtle Doves	=	The Old and New Testaments,
3	French Hens	=	Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues,
4	Calling Birds	=	The Four Gospels and /or the Four Evangelists,
5	Golden Rings	=	The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
6	Geese A-Laying	=	The six days of Creation,
7	Swans A-Swimming	=	The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Seven Sacraments
8	Maids A-Milking	=	The eight Beatitudes,
9	Ladies Dancing	=	The nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit,
10	Lords A-Leaping	=	The Ten Commandments
11	Pipers Piping	=	The eleven Faithful Apostles,
12	Drummers Drumming	=	The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, December 3-4, 2016, we collected \$4,459.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$1, 277.10 for Utility & Energy. 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.

MEANING OF ADVENT WREATH - The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

Sanctuary Light †

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