

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

## DECEMBER 25, 2016

### PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Mon.	Dec. 26	8:00 am	John & Agnes Mahoney and Earl & Elizabeth Proper
Tues.	Dec..27	8:00 am	Catherine Neenan
Wed.	Dec .28	8:00 am	Robert Schneider
Thurs.	Dec. 29	8:00 am	NO MASS
Fri.	Dec. 30	8:00 am	Harrison Hardisty
Sat.	Dec. 31	8:00 am	Bernard Parker
		4:30 pm	Jerry Henry

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<b>Pine Plains</b>	Sun	Jan. 1, 2017	8:00 am	People of the Parish
			10:45 am	Philip Wathley

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### "CHRISTMAS DAY"

*Dear Friends:*

*Finally, the day is here! Christmas. Many of us look forward to this day, especially our children. I remember as a child having a hard time sleeping on Christmas Eve, I was so excited for the day to come. I must confess to you my dear readers, that I was mostly excited about what Santa was bringing (maybe it was the same for you).*

*But as we journey through the years of life, Advent and Christmas become routine. The planning, the shopping, the cards, the parties. It's kind of like a yearly merry-go-round that we jump on, then the merry-go-round gets going faster and we want to get off. Even one of our altar servers, a young person, said to me "I don't know what happened to December. It's going by so fast."*

*All of our activities become routine and repetitive. They easily lose their meaning. And we wonder, what is all this about? What's the point?*

*So often we find meaning in the "romantic" qualities of Christmas. The lovely lighted trees, the carols, the decorations. We also find some encouragement from the "romantic" qualities of Christmas such as well-wishing our fellow man, extra good deeds, and special concerns for the poor. All of these things are good and commendable and wonderful.*

*But, is it just a nice time of year? Are we happy because others are happy? What is the real reason for rejoicing? For me, one of the most important things to really reflect on today is the fact that our God decided to become one of us. Just to think of it is amazing. God decided to become just like us, even to the point of becoming a little, vulnerable defenseless baby. Just like we were, once. Our loving God became one of us, and experienced everything that we do – the sadness and joy, the frustration and disappointment, the distress and anxiety of human life. Our loving God chose to experience all that for one simple reason: Because He loves us and wanted to heal and save us. Reflect on that for a minute. May each and everyone of you and your families experience the special joy of Christmas this year.*

*Fr. Wilson*

***"Mankind is a great, an immense family...  
This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas."  
(Pope John XXIII)***

**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, Charlie Guarnieri and Al Blackburn.

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**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.

**DEC. 30 – THE HOLY FAMILY** - The Holy Family (1<sup>st</sup> Century). On the feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. By their love and support of one another, the Holy Family is a model for all Christian families.

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**NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

**New Year's Eve, Saturday (12/31/16)**  
**4:30 pm in Amenia**

**New Year's Day, Sunday (01/01/17)**  
**8:00 am in Pine Plains**  
**10:45 am in Amenia**

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**NEW YEAR'S PRAYER** - God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time. (*Loyola Press*)

**NEW YORK CITY BUS TRIP** - On Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Chris Ferreri of our parish is planning a bus trip to various sites in New York City. If you are interested in attending, please contact Chris as soon as possible at (845) 373-9192 or [ctmnferreri@optonline.net](mailto:ctmnferreri@optonline.net) as seating is limited.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION** - Last weekend, December 17-18, 2016, we collected \$3,089.81 in our Regular Sunday Collection. 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

**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.

**† Sanctuary Light †**  
*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week  
at Immaculate Conception Church  
In Loving Memory of the Conway, Eckardt, Marrano & Ketchum Families*