

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 26, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

	Mon.	March 27	8:00 am	Daniel Kenny
	Tues.	March 28	8:00 am	Margaret Sicord
	Wed.	March 29	8:00 am	Eileen Strauss
	Thurs.	March 30	8:00 am	NO MASS
	Fri.	March 31	8:00 am	Barbara & Ray McEnroe
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Aldo Guglielmetti
	Sat.	April 1	8:00 am	Jane Wells
			4:30 pm	Andrea Schollmeyer

Pine Plains	Sun	April 2	8:00 am	Fiorento Liberta
			10:45 am	People of the Parish

"CONFESSIONS?"

Dear Friends:

Perhaps Confession is the most controversial and most misunderstood Sacrament in the Church. We are still trying to figure out its name: "Confession" or "Reconciliation" or "Penance"? There are so many jokes about confession: did you hear the one where the boy went to confession and the priest tells him to say Three Hail Marys for his penance. The boy replied "Father I only know one Hail Mary"!

But the Sacrament of Confession is, for me, one of the most liberating experiences that a human can experience. Imagine having all your sins forgiven; everything that you did that was against God's will, that hurt other people, things that we find so discouraging. To have our sins forgiven by God is such a great gift, an incredible blessing.

That is why we have "Reconciliation Monday" on April 10th, from 5 to 8 pm at Immaculate Conception in Amenia. And we also have, in Pine Plains, confessions from 7 to 9 pm on Tuesday, April 4th. We will have a communal penance service in Pine Plains beginning at 7 pm. We will read scriptures and contemplate the meaning of scripture in our life. I hope you can make it.

Did you know priests go to confession? It is true. I try to go to confession every month. It is not easy for us to go to confession. I obviously cannot go to myself. And I prefer to go to someone I don't know. Maybe you prefer to go to a priest you don't know. Then I encourage you to look up schedules in other nearby parishes (especially on Reconciliation Monday, April 10).

The experience of Lent, quite honestly, should include Confession. The sacrament goes to the heart of what it means to repent. On Ash Wednesday we were told to "Repent and believe in the Gospel". The sacrament of Confession helps us to do just that.

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.

2017 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - As of March 17th, our parish has received **\$22,325** in pledges/gifts from **50** families. Our parish goal is \$41,500. As stewards and Disciples of Christ, we recognize that all the goods and riches in our life are gifts from God. Strengthened by the Eucharist, we respond to God's generosity in our lives with gratitude by using and sharing our gifts in service of others. My sincerest thanks to those of you who have responded so generously to the Appeal. I ask those of you who have not yet responded, to prayerfully consider making a pledge or one time donation in an amount you can afford. Thank you.

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, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, Barbara Moissonnier, Nina Williams, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Michael Kain, Shirley Remsburg, Teresa Schell, Susan Moody, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Jack Silvernale, Mike Butts and Mary Ann Mullen, Alan Carroll, Erin D-Elia, Linda Staab, Father John Durkin, Daisy Abruzzo, Richard Piccoli, Laura Galdiero, Bernard Heaney, Joseph Scutieri, Eileen Murphy Ehlers, Ann Marie Russolillo, Dominic Nannetti, Ray Proper, Sr., Santino Delfino and Joe Kain.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CREED - The Class based on the Apostles' Creed will continue on Tuesday, March 28st in the Parish Center. The class will begin at 7 pm and end at 8:30 pm. If you are unable to attend you can also follow along online on your own schedule. See <http://icsaamenia.org/news> for more information or call the office at 373-8193.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - This coming Friday, March 31st, the Stations of the Cross will be held at 7:00 pm at St. Charles Borromeo, Dover Plains. Please consider joining us for this Lenten devotion.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN PINE PLAINS - We will have the Stations of the Cross at St. Anthony's Church on Thursday March 30th, at 7:00 pm. Confessions will be heard afterward.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE IN PINE PLAINS - Communal Penance Service will be offered on Tuesday, April 4th, at St. Anthony's from 7 – 9 pm. We will begin at 7 pm with scripture readings followed by contemplation and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please take advantage of this opportunity for spiritual growth.

MINISTRY FOR HOLY WEEK - As we need to type and mail the Holy Week Schedule in time for Palm Sunday, (April 9th), we would appreciate it, if you are able to serve, to place name on the list or call the office by Wednesday, March 29th. Thank you for your support.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DURING LENT – THE CROSSES OF FAMILY
Families are full of love, laughter and a great deal of joy. Families, however, are also full of bickering, bemoaning and occasional strife. Bless me, O Lord, as I carry the crosses of family life. Heavenly Father, you know the crosses I carry in this part of my life; sustain my joy and renew my patience when it is lacking. Give me all that I need to lovingly care for the members of my family: spouse and children, parents and grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. Let my family be a cord not quickly broken. Amen

ST. PATRICK'S POT LUCK - Approximately 60 people gathered in our gym last Sunday afternoon for St. Patrick's "Pot Luck" and "Bake Sale." We shared some great food, listened to wonderful Irish music provided by Jim Devine and enjoyed each other's company. A special thanks to Regina, Bernadette, Anthonette, Erik and John Syversen, who sang so beautifully and led us in singing Irish songs. I also want to thank all the bakers and cooks and a special thanks to our volunteers (Patty Barron, Mary Ellen Durkin, Maureen Moore, Peg O'Hara, Carol Cayea, Patty O'Neil) who made this day such a success. We collected \$429.75 for the Bake Sale and \$77.50 for the 50/50. The winner of the 50/50 was Fr. Wilson, who donated his winnings back to the Church.

CONGRATULATIONS - Yaritza Vega-Celso received the Holy Eucharist for the very first time on Sunday, March 12th, at the 10:45 am Mass at Immaculate Conception. Each time we receive the Eucharist, Jesus shares His love with us in a very special way. We pray that Jesus guide and bless you each and every day.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, March 18-19, 2017, we collected \$3,412.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$1,011.65 for Utility & Energy. I thank you for your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church and pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

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 and Mark Hill. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers.