

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

APRIL 9, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

	Mon.	April 10	8:00 am	Katherine Blinn
	Tues.	April 11	8:00 am	Margaret Sicord
	Wed.	April 12	8:00 am	Barbara & Ray McEnroe
Amenia	Thurs.	April 13	8:00 am	NO MASS
		"	7:30 pm	People of the Parish (Holy Thursday)
Pine Plains	Fri.	April 14	8:00 am	NO MASS
		"	12 noon	NO MASS
	Sat.	April 15	8:00 am	NO MASS
		"	4:30 pm	NO MASS

Amenia	Sat.	April 15	8:00 pm	Easter Vigil (Special Intention)
Pine Plains	Sun	April 16	8:00 am	Special Intention
Amenia		"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

"THE LOVE IN YOUR LIFE"

Dear Friends:

I went to a Day of Recollection at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York. We have these days every Lent and Advent for priests in the Archdiocese. We have the opportunity for prayer, listen to an effective speaker, and go to confession. We also have lunch and a chance to enjoy fellowship.

The speaker this time talked about the Sacrament of Penance and the priesthood. But one thing he said stuck with me. He said the first major step in deepening a solid relationship with Christ is not repentance from sin, as important as that is. The first major step is a real understanding of how much God loves us and how much Jesus loves us.

It seems kind of simple, but it is not. I have always thought a fundamental understanding of Christian theology has to start out with the fact that, as John 3:16 tells us, "God so loved the world." When that says "God loved the world" that means God loves us, you and me.

If you understand intellectually that God loves you, you are on the right road to getting other parts of the theology of the Christian faith.

Why was the Virgin Mary conceived without sin? Because God loves us and wanted Mary to be the proper vessel to show us that love in Jesus. Why did Jesus perform miracles? To show us how much God loves us –He wants to heal us. Why did Jesus suffer and die on the cross? Because God wanted to show His love by offering us freedom from sin and death. Why did God create us? So that we could love Him and receive His love.

In my homily last Sunday, I talked about the Lazarus story, where Jesus resurrected His friend. I explained how the Gospel showed us how much Jesus loved and cared for His friends, Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus. But it is revealing to deeply feel and understand that Jesus loves us just as much as He loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus.

Fr. Wilson

RECONCILIATION MONDAY - In preparation for Easter, reconciliation will be offered on Monday, April 10th, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Immaculate Conception. Jesus gave us a great gift when He created the Sacrament of Confession (John 20:23). Remember you are just one Confession away from coming home.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN AMENIA - Fr. Wilson will be conducting the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 14th at 7:00 pm in Immaculate Conception Church.

HOLY WEEK WITH JESUS AND THE APOSTLES – Join us for Morning Prayer and Guided Meditation on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, at 10 am each day at St. Anthony's, that is, April 13, 14 and 15.

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 DeLuca, 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 Remsburger, 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, Joe Kain and Jerry Carroll

EXPERIENCE HOLY WEEK - This week we have the great privilege of standing with Jesus as He undergoes His passion. On Holy Thursday, we join Jesus at table and as He washes His apostles' feet, institutes the priesthood, and offers the First Eucharist. On Good Friday, we can accompany Him along the way of the cross and stand by Him on Calvary. At the Easter Vigil, we can celebrate His victory over death as we light a new fire. Come join us this holy week as we celebrate each liturgy with love and gratitude. "Jesus, thank you for enduring so much just to win our salvation. Help me to stand with you all week long."

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**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE**

|                              |          |                                                                        |                       |
|------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Reconciliation Monday</u> | April 10 | Confessions from 5 pm to 8 pm                                          | Amenia                |
| <u>Holy Thursday</u>         | April 13 | 7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper<br>Adoration for one hour afterwards | Amenia                |
| <u>Good Friday</u>           | April 14 | 3:00 pm Liturgy of the Passion<br>7:00 pm Stations of the Cross        | Pine Plains<br>Amenia |
| <u>Holy Saturday</u>         | April 15 | 8:00 pm Easter Vigil<br>This Mass is approx. 1-1/2 hrs.                | Amenia                |
| <u>Easter Sunday</u>         | April 16 | 8:00 am Mass<br>10:45 am Mass                                          | Pine Plains<br>Amenia |

*As there will be larger crowds at many of these Masses, I ask for patience and understanding.*

*Finally, I must again ask for your continued generosity in your Easter donation. Like most parishes, we depend on this collection to help with our budget.*

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CELEBRATE DIVINE MERCY - The celebration of the hour of great mercy will be celebrated at St. Columba Parish on Sunday, April 23rd at 3 pm. The devotion will include Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and Veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy. A priest will be available for confession at 2:30 pm and will be available throughout the duration of the celebration. Please join us in prayer, adoration and reflection as we pray...Jesus I Trust In You! Come and give thanks to God for His great gift of Mercy upon the whole world this Special Day! Ask for Mercy. Receive Mercy. Be Merciful!

2017 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - As of March 31st, our parish has received **\$28,200** in pledges/gifts from **69** families. Our parish goal is \$41,500. 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.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, April 1-2, 2017, we collected \$4,026.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$922 for our Religious Education. I thank you for your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church and pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

† **Sanctuary Light** †
*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
 at Immaculate Conception Church
 was donated by Denise & Bob Conway
 In Loving Memory of the Marano, Ketchum, Eckardt & Conway Families*