

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER April 23, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	April 24	8:00 am	Martha Flanigan
“	Tues.	April 25	8:00 am	Ralph Vinchiarello
“	Wed.	April 26	8:00 am	Thomas James, Jr.
“	Thurs.	April 27	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	Fri.	April 28	8:00 am	Ethel Wilson
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	Prima Maschi
Amenia	Sat.	April 29	8:00 am	Raymond D. Ottavio
“	“	“	4:30 pm	William V. McEnroe

Pine Plains	Sun	April 30	8:00 am	Victor Cooke
Amenia	Sun	April 30	10:45 am	People of the Parish

“PARISH FAMILY”

Dear Friends:

I don't know about you, but whenever I journey through the great Christian holidays of the year, I think of the past and of my family. On Holy Days like Easter, I think of my beloved family, especially those who have gone to be with the Lord.

The first one I always think of is my mother. We were so close. I am always amazed how smart my Mom was. She always seemed to have the right answer for everything. And she was always very honest with me, very willing to tell me off when it was needed. No matter what happened, she was always there for me.

I think then of my Dad, who was always kind of distant. As a youth, I never really thought about what kind of Father I had. But as I look back I know that I wish I was closer to him. He tried to be a better Father, but it seemed to be beyond his reach.

I think then of my Grandmother (my mother's mom) who was always around when I was young. She was a wonderful lady who lived a very long and blessed life. She had a great sense of humor (as did my whole family).

There are others I think about: Aunt Susie, Grandpa Jim, Uncle C.J. Wonderful people, all of them. Yes, Holidays, or should I say Holy Days, are often about family. Not only our real family, but our family of God. Family is so important to us, but we also have our family in the Church.

I would hope that every Catholic parish is like a big family. When a parishioner goes to meet the Lord, we all feel it. We go through the year, like a family, coming together every Sunday and other special days. But as we continue to celebrate the Easter season, we as a big parish family, pray for those gone before us and pray that our belief in the resurrection of Jesus grows stronger every day.

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 April 13th, our parish has received **\$32,560.** in pledges/gifts from **79** families. Our parish goal is \$41,500. My sincerest thanks to those of you who have responded so generously to the Appeal. The Appeal is a vital source of funding for the many programs and ministries throughout the Archdiocese, from providing meals to those families in need to caring for the sick and educating our youth. 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, 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 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 Kainm Jerry Carroll and Lenny Furnari.

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EASTER HOLY WATER – The Silver Holy Water receptacle in the front of the Church is for you to take Holy Water home. Please bring your own container.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION for 2017-2018 - Please try and register your children in our Religious Education Program for next year (beginning in September) as soon as possible. All children must be registered by May 7th, as the books must be ordered by May 31st. Our program helps parents pass on the Catholic Faith to their children. You may either mail or drop off your registration form to the parish office. If your child is entering 1st grade in September, please call the office at 373-8193 and we will mail the registration form to you. Our program meets on Sunday mornings from 9:15 am to 10:30 am.

MANY THANKS - I want to thank all those who helped make our liturgies last week so prayerful and inspiring, that is our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and Ushers. I especially want to thank our Choir Director, Regina Syversen, and all the Choir members who sang so beautifully during Holy Week and Easter Sunday. A special thanks to those who gave of their time and talent and decorated the Churches - they looked great! I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all our parishioners who joined us on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

BACKGROUND OF THE DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION - The message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. The message of mercy is that God loves us - all of us- no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for Mercy . God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B – Be merciful to others. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C – Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

PINE PLAINS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SCHOLARSHIP - The Pine Plains Council of Churches offers a scholarship to a graduating High School senior who is actively affiliated with a Pine Plains Council Church. Applications are available at Stissing Mt. High School Guidance Office or from Fr. Wilson. Submission deadline is May 19, 2017.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, April 15-16, 2017, we collected \$4,112.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection, \$6,212 for our Easter Collection and \$967.00 for the Holy Land. 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 Hall. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers.

† **Sanctuary Light** †
*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Susan Vinchiarello
In Loving Memory of Ralph Vinchiarello*