

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
February 25, 2018

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Feb. 26	8:00 am	Mary Monette
"	Tues.	Feb. 27	8:00 am	Sarah & Anthony Marano
"	Wed.	Feb. 28	8:00 am	Sr. Teresita Fay
"	Thurs.	Mar. 1	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Mar. 2	8:00 am	Michael DeCarlo
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Rev. John Irwin
Amenia	Sat.	Mar. 3	8:00 am	Patrick Hannon
"	"	"	4:30 pm	William McEnroe

Pine Plains	Sun	Mar. 4	8:00 am	Joseph Michetti
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish

"LONGEVITY"

Dear Friends:

If you are reading this, you are probably in Church, or reading this after Church. A few of you may read this after receiving the bulletin in the mail and I say hello to you wherever you are. But most of you are in Church and I thank God for you, I'm so happy you made it to celebrate Mass with us.

If you are a faithful Mass attender, I have some good news for you. A number of studies have shown associations between attending religious services and living a long time. A comprehensive study published in 2016 found that women who went to any kind of religious service more than once a week had a 33% lower chance than their secular peers of dying during the 16 year follow-up period. Another study found that regular Church attendance resulted in worshippers who were 55% less likely to die during the 18 year follow-up period than people who didn't attend religious services.

What are the factors that go into this advantage? Researchers say factors related to Churchgoing (social support, optimistic attitudes, self-control and a sense of purpose) may account for the long-life benefits.

Is it only these factors? It might also be the values in a religious tradition, values like compassion, gratitude, charity and harmony that contribute to longevity. Religion may help us live longer by telling us that you are not in the world alone and that you are part of a power larger than oneself.

So, many might ask, can you get this life prolonging benefit by just praying by yourself, with no participation in an organized religious community? This is an important question, because many people today have stayed "spiritually oriented" without being part of an organized religious community.

It seems that researchers feel that it is healthier to be part of a worshipping community. Tyler VanderWeele of Harvard tells us; "Maybe it would be worthwhile to consider communal participation."

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.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK - Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and Ushers are very important to our Church and are especially needed during Holy Week. There are sign-up sheets posted in the Sacristy of both Churches. Please place your name on the list if you are available to serve. Thank you in advance for being part of our Holy Week Liturgies.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH : 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, Linda Sartori, Helen McGhee, Mary Murphy Adamitis, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, Jeff Moissonnier, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Michael Kain, Shirley Remsburger, Susan Moody, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Jack Silvernale, Mike Butts and Mary Ann Mullen, Alan Carroll, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Eileen Murphy Ehlers, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Luz Pelkey, Averie Burke, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Mary Fitzgerald Roth, Kathryn Garzetta, Joseph Licurse, Barb King, Delora Brooks, June Heckelman, Baby Hans Pedersen, Teresa Pelkey, Renee & Al Cobuzzi, Joanne Balek, Frances Anello, Colton Culligan, Irene Smith, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Peter Bartolomeo, Robert Bartolomeo and Helen Murphy Riley.

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MEN'S GROUP - The Men's Group will meet on Monday, March 5th, at 6:45 pm in the Chapel of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. New members are welcome.

VINE & BRANCHES - The drawing for the 50/50 will be held on Thursday, March 1st, 2018. Last Saturday, we provided food for approximately 63 people. The next food distribution will be on Saturday, March 17th, at 10 am in our gym. All food and monetary donations are much appreciated.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN PINE PLAINS - We will have the Stations of the Cross at St. Anthony's Church on Thursday, March 1st, at 7:30 pm. Confessions will be heard afterward.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN AMENIA - Fr. Wilson will be conducting the Stations of the Cross with the Men's Club on Friday, March 2, 2018 at 7:30 pm at Immaculate Conception Church. Please join us for this Lenten Devotion. For your convenience, confessions will be available immediately afterwards.

A LENTEN OPPORTUNITY - Please join us for the Third Week of the Gospel of Mark presented by Sr. Jean Flannelly which will be held at St. Anthony's on Saturday, March 3rd, from 10 to 11:30 am and at Immaculate Conception on Saturday, March 3rd, from 2:30 to 4:00 pm.

EVANGELIZATION - Dorothy Day once wrote, "*You may be the only Gospel someone else ever sees.*" She was trying to say that the way we "act" can open or close a person to Jesus. St. Francis of Assisi also said, "*Preach the Gospel, and, if necessary, use words.*" Let us be people who, first of all, evangelize by being good and kind and holy people.

***Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people,
a heart that forgives the worst,
a mind that forgets the bad,
and a soul that never loses faith in God.***

BREAKFAST AT ST. ANTHONY'S - All are invited to a great breakfast after the 8:00 am Mass on Sunday, March 4th. All baked goods are welcome.

ST. PATRICK'S POT LUCK - We are planning to have our traditional St. Patrick's "pot luck" and "bake sale" on Sunday, March 18th, from 12 noon to 2 pm in the gym. Please consider joining us for a pleasant afternoon with good food, good company and good music. There are sign-up sheets in the back of Church for the "Pot Luck" as well as for those willing to bake for our "Bake Sale". Please call the office if you can lend a hand with the bake sale, decorating, set-up or clean-up.

PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND - A Pilgrimage is being planned to Ireland from September 8-15th, 2018. Cost is \$2,695 based on double room occupancy. For single room occupancy add \$350.00. Includes: R/T air from NY JFK on Aer Lingus/Land Travel by luxury coach/Good 3 & 4 star hotels with private bath/Breakfast & Dinner daily. Touring includes the breathtaking Ring of Kerry on Dingle Bay, Town of Killarney, Galway, the wild region of County Connemara, Mayo countryside, Knock Shrine and much, much more. For more information go to www.syversentouring.com/porter or call Suzan Porter at 914-456-3819.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, February 17-18, 2018, we collected \$3,865 in our Regular Sunday Collection, \$970.22 for Utility & Energy and \$1,275.13 for Ash Wednesday. I thank you for your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.