

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 10th, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Dec. 11	8:00 am	Jody Kain
"	Tues.	Dec. 12	8:00 am	Ralph Cummings
"	Wed.	Dec. 13	8:00 am	Ray Proper, Sr.
"	Thurs.	Dec. 14	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Dec. 15	8:00 am	Lawrence C. Haridisty, Jr.
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	William Fletcher
Amenia	Sat.	Dec. 16	8:00 am	Jody Kain
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Charles Goggins
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Pine Plains	Sun	Dec. 17	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	Johnny Keefe

"BECOME A SAINT"

Dear Friends:

So you are thinking of what to do during Advent. Maybe you have made some commitments. It could be that you are doing random acts of kindness at least once a day. Maybe you are checking out giving more time to prayer. Perhaps you considered spending more quiet time, moving into a reflective place during all the noise and craziness of the season.

Well, how about becoming a saint? Many Christian thinkers and writers have said that the Christian life could be summed up in one goal: becoming a saint. An old Italian priest used to repeat over and over again to everyone: "Fatti Santo." "Become a Saint." Perhaps that should be our goal - your goal and mine.

It is too fantastic? Is it just too much to ask? Is it too far beyond your reach? Not if you look at the lives of the saints, and look at them honestly.

Sometimes we read the lives of saints and we see miracles and superhuman acts of virtue. We see saints as people different than us, kind of like superhumans with superpowers. That's why when we read lives of the saints, it is important to read real honest and authentic accounts, so we can see their faults and doubts and mistakes.

You might have recently read of Mother Teresa and how she became a saint. She has told us about her difficult periods where she struggled in many different ways. There is St. Jeanne Jugan, founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor, who was actually kicked out at one point from her own Order. The great St. John of the Cross was even confined and imprisoned by his own Order!

My point here is that if they can do it, you can do it. It is easy to be discouraged in this life in this world. There are so many distractions and so many things to stop us from fulfilling our vocation: to become a saint. But we can do it, with the immense power of God's grace. The season of Advent might be just the time to begin the journey to sainthood.

Fr. Wilson

RECONCILIATION MONDAY & TUESDAY - In preparation for Christmas, you are welcome to come celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) at Immaculate Conception in Amenia on Monday, Dec. 18th, between the hours of 5 pm to 8 pm and at St. Anthony's in Pine Plains on Tuesday, December 19th, between 7 pm to 9 pm.

NYC BUS TRIP - The New York City Bus Trip which is scheduled for Saturday, January 6th, 2018, will include a tour of Old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Mass at the Church of the Epiphany, and of course dinner at Paesano's and dessert at Ferrara's in Little Italy! Please consider joining us for a day of fun, food and fellowship! More details to follow.

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, John Bray, Kevin Flanigan, Karen Grimaldi, Frances Anello, Colton Culligan and Irene Smith.

CHRISTMAS MINISTRY SCHEDULE - If you haven't already signed up to serve as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Altar Server or Usher at the Christmas Masses, please consider placing your name on the list in the Sacristy. Your ministry is very important to our Christmas Liturgy.

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY - The Altar Rosary Society will meet on Monday, December 11th, at 7:00 pm in the Chapel of Immaculate Conception. New Members are most welcome.

VINE & BRANCHES - The winner of the Vine and Branches was Patty Cassidy. The split was \$103.50. The next food distribution will be on Saturday, December 16th, at 10 am in our gym. All food and monetary donations are most welcomed and greatly appreciated especially during the holiday season.

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**ADVENT IS PREPARING FOR SOMETHING WONDERFUL** - Advent is a gift from the Catholic Church to let us know something wonderful is going to happen at Christmas. Yet in our impatience to get to that something wonderful, we can forget that the wait can be wonderful, too. Try taking it one week at a time and wait, hope, prepare, rejoice at the miracle of Christ's wonderful birth...

***Week Two - Hope.*** This week remember that God keeps his promises in ways more glorious than we can imagine. *"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"* (1 Corinthians 2:9).

***Week Three – Prepare.*** Look for ways to prepare your heart for Christmas. Go to Confession to ready your soul for God's grace. Reconcile with anyone you need to in order to increase your peace.

***Week Four – Rejoice.*** Sing "O Come, O Come Emanuel" at the top of your voice. Pray with enthusiasm at Mass. Spend time with family and friends. Write out a list of all the things in your life for which you are grateful. Welcome our Savior with a peaceful, joyful heart.

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MARCH FOR LIFE - The March for Life on Friday, January 19th, 2018 in Washington, D.C. will truly be an unforgettable, inspiring, joy-filled adventure for hundreds of thousands of prolife persons of all ages (mostly under 35). Buses will leave St. Columba Church, Hopewell Junction, after the 4:30 am Mass. The cost is reasonable \$35/Adult; \$25/child. Call George Morton (845) 226-6896) before December 25th to reserve your seat. (Seats are limited so please call soon). Since 1974, millions have said, "Thank God I participated in the March for Life!" And you will too!

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, Mark Hall, Michael Pomeisl and Tyler Jasmin. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, December 2-3, 2017, we collected \$4,447.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$1,256.27 for Utility & Energy. I thank you for your presence, generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church and I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS - To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.

MEANING OF ADVENT WREATH - The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

† Sanctuary Light †
*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Larry, Mary and Laurie Hardisty
In Loving Memory of Lawrence C. Hardisty, Jr.*