

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 17th, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Dec. 18	8:00 am	Ray Proper, Sr.
"	Tues.	Dec. 19	8:00 am	John Macura
"	Wed.	Dec. 20	8:00 am	John & Agnes Mahoney, Elizabeth & Earl Proper
"	Thurs.	Dec. 21	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Dec. 22	8:00 am	Micha J. Carroll
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Santino DelFino (Living)
Amenia	Sat.	Dec. 23	8:00 am	Jody Kain
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Lawrence C. Hardisty, Jr.

Pine Plains	Sun	Dec. 24	8:00 am	James & Elizabeth Moriarty
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	People of the Parish
<u>Christmas Eve Masses</u>				
Amenia	"	"	4:00 pm	Special Intention
Pine Plains	"	"	6:00 pm	Special Intention
Amenia	"	"	10:00 pm	Special Intention

"PEACE"

Dear Friends:

As I look at media all around me, on TV, in papers, in other places, it seems that our beloved country is in conflict. I always try to remember that the media, whether on cable or online or in print, loves conflict and controversy. Whatever is the most contentious will always be emphasized.

But perhaps conflict is a little more evident today. I don't see it in my sheltered world, but I sense that there is something out there. People seem on edge, and tempers seem to be very short.

Maybe it is the fact that our society is moving so fast, and changing so fast. The world we live in is a high speed merry-go-round and sometimes we just want to get off.

I recall reading recently that people were worried about Thanksgiving dinners and political arguments. Myself, I don't remember any specific arguments at the Thanksgiving dinners in my lifetime. It seems, however, that political fights are a part of American life in our seasonal celebrations.

But, as Christian Catholics committed to the peace of Jesus Christ, it is probably better to bring a message of reconciliation and calm to our social situations. That may seem somewhat impossible, but it is a goal that we always should shoot for. As Catholics, we should not be trying to fight with people at every opportunity.

As apostles of peace, our first priority should be forgiveness. That is a great challenge. But the way to realize a lasting peace is to live the mercy of God in our daily lives. God forgives us – we know that. Jesus Christ forgives us – we know that. But we can't forgive others?

The path to peace is forgiveness. We can't change the world overnight, but we can change our little corner of it. How about forgiving someone every day in the season of Advent? What better way to prepare for the Christ Child on Christmas? Do you want peace in your heart? Let go of your anger and resentment and live forgiveness.

Fr. Wilson

P.S. Finally, my dear brothers and sisters, I ask all of you to be as generous as you can in your Christmas gift to the Church. As expenses rise substantially in the winter months, I again find myself asking for your help. You have been so generous in the past, and I am so very grateful for your continued support and commitment to our Parish.

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.

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.

WELCOME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS - Most of us don't have to look very far to find someone in our own family or circle of friends who don't attend Mass on a regular basis. Most people can't even explain why they stopped coming to Church. Perhaps the demands of life just get in the way. Our journey of faith has many ups and downs, but whatever the reason for staying away, please know that our door is always open and a warm welcome awaits your return. Christmas is a wonderful time to come back to our Lord. God's love and mercy is available to everyone. Should you know someone who has been away from the Church, why not invite them to join you and your family for Christmas Mass.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017

4:00 pm - Amenia
6:00 pm - Pine Plains
10:00 pm - Amenia

Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25, 2017

8:00 am - Pine Plains
10:45 am - Amenia

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.

NYC BUS TRIP - Our Annual New York City Bus Trip is scheduled for Saturday, January 6th, 2018. Please refer to last week's insert for details. You can sign-up for the trip by contacting Chris Ferreri at 845-373-9192 or email him at ctmnferreri@optonline.net.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, December 9-10, 2017, we collected \$3,849.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection, \$1,230.28 for Retired Religious and \$1,061 for Immaculate Conception Holyday. 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.

THIRD ADVENT CANDLE - The third candle is traditionally pink or rose and symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

† Sanctuary Light †
*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Patty Barron
In Loving Memory of Ray Proper, Jr.*