

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 24th, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Pine Plains	Mon.	Dec. 25	8:00 am	Special Intention
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	Special Intention
"	Tues.	Dec. 26	8:00 am	Martha Flanigan
"	Wed.	Dec. 27	8:00 am	Philomena Ketchum
"	Thurs.	Dec. 28	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	Dec. 29	8:00 am	Harrison Haridisty
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Robert & Leslie Monahan

Amenia	Sat.	Dec. 30	8:00 am	Jody Kain
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Jerry Henry

Pine Plains	Sun.	Dec. 31	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	Mary Immaculate Conception

New Year's Masses

Amenia	Sun.	Dec. 31	4:30 pm	Philomena Ketchum
"	Mon.	Jan. 1	8:00 am	NO MASS
Pine Plains	Mon.	Jan. 1	12 noon	Msgr. James Vaughey

"CHRISTMAS MEMORIES"

Dear Friends:

I'm sure you have your favorite Christmas memories. Often our memories seem somehow unimportant as they fade into the mist of yesterday. But memories are so important. So many times they are how we hold on to the people we love who are no longer with us.

So many Christmases I remember. The one where we got a reel-to-reel tape player that could record our conversations. I could hear myself arguing with my brother, who was trying to steal my new watch. That's what brothers do. My other brother tried to show me how to set the new watch and I, predictably for me, said "I want to do it myself!"

My favorite Christmas gift was the old time electric football game. The one which the field vibrates and the players move around. This was in the days before video games.

My brother Dick was always the one who gave "dumb" gifts. One year he gave me a Barbie doll. He thought that was funny. I didn't. One year he gave me a 5 pound bag of peanuts. Again not funny.

I have to say the central figure in my early Christmases was my Mother. She loved Christmas. She always had gifts out under the tree from Santa. There were even gifts for our dog and our cat from Santa. She was so excited for Christmas, she spent hours perfecting the right decorations and the right food so that everyone would be happy.

Those Christmases were great. It seemed like grandma was always there, and we all loved her so much. And grandma was the worst "gift receiver." She didn't like anything she got at Christmas. Of course, my favorite gift, besides the football game, was the money my uncle sent every year.

All of these memories are filled with love. They are great memories that I will always cherish. And remembering them gets me in the spirit of receiving the greatest gift of all, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

A very Merry Christmas to all of you and your families! May peace, joy and good health be your gifts at Christmas and your blessing throughout the coming year.

Fr. Wilson

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.

VINE & BRANCHES - We provided food for 13 families and 55 people. It is through your generous food donations, purchasing 50/50 tickets and the people who volunteer each month at our food closet that enable us to help those in our community. Together we make a difference.

NEW YEAR'S PRAYER - Lord, I stand on the threshold of a New Year. Make me big enough to honestly admit my mistakes, smart enough to accept flattery without it making me arrogant, tall enough to tower above deceit, strong enough to live by love, brave enough to welcome criticism, generous enough to share my resources with joy, compassionate enough to understand others who fail, humble enough to be thoughtful of my neighbor, and above all, willing to be led in the way of Your Will for me. Amen.

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**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve, Sunday (12/24/17)**

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

**Christmas Day, Monday (12/25/17)**

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

**NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

**New Year's Eve, Sunday (12/31/17)**

4:30 pm - Amenia

**New Year's Day, Monday (01/01/18)**

12 noon - Pine Plains

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SPECIAL THANKS - I would also like to take this opportunity to say thanks to Jay & Kathleen Metz for all their effort and generosity in providing the animals and delicious hot dogs for our Living Nativity which has become a welcomed tradition in our Parish. Many thanks to the wonderful bakers, all the volunteers who manned the tables, decorated the gym, the kitchen staff as well as Kristen Lazarus our 6th Grade Religious Ed Teacher and her students who brought to life the Nativity scene. A big thank you to the Altar Rosary Society for the beautiful baskets they made to be raffled off. Great job one and all!

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, December 16-17, 2017, approximately 320 people attended Mass and we collected \$4,958.75 in our Regular Sunday Collection. 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.

THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE - The fourth and last purple candle, oftentimes called the "Angels Candle" represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

† Sanctuary Light †

*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by The DeLango Family
In Loving Memory of Joseph DeLango,
Beloved Husband, Father and Grandfather
We miss you.*