

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
December 31ST, 2017

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Jan. 1	8:00 am	NO MASS
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	James V. & Elizabeth A. Moriarty
Amenia	Tues.	Jan. 2	8:00 am	M. Ursula Robertson
“	Wed.	Jan. 3	8:00 am	Jody Kain
“	Thurs.	Jan. 4	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	Fri.	Jan. 5	8:00 am	Ray Proper, Sr.
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	Francesco Paganelli
Amenia	Sat.	Jan. 6	8:00 am	Bill Fletcher
“	“	“	4:30 pm	Ray Proper, Sr.

Pine Plains	Sun	Jan. 7	8:00 am	Anthony Capaccio & Ann Marie Russolillo
Amenia	“	“	10:45 am	People of the Parish

“STRESS”

Dear Friends:

We all have it. We all experience stress, unless perhaps you are under 7 years old. Stress is a definite part of life, and it seems more prevalent around the Christmas season. There is the shopping, the traffic, the parties, and last but not least family stress.

What are we to do? A recent article talks about “spiritual” solutions. I put spiritual in quotation marks because the word has developed into meanings that are very modern.

It is often said today that people are “spiritual” but not religious. What does that mean? That means, apparently, that people have some belief in God, some kind of prayer life, but they are not associated with a religion, a denomination, or a Church.

So it seems the modern approach is that it is “OK” to be spiritual and have some kind of relationship with God, but it is not really “OK” to belong to a Church or believe in a set of doctrines. That is a simplification, but that is my reading of the modern American faith situation. Therefore you have people who see no need for a Church “building” and a growing group of people who reply “none” when asked what religion or denomination they belong to.

How does this relate to stress? Well, I feel people can use faith to deal with stress. Therefore the “spiritual” people are turning to alternative methods of stress reduction. Rather than attending Church and praying to deal with stress, people apparently are using music, exercise or alternative spiritual practices such as yoga.

There is no easy answer to deal with stress. We know stress is a part of life – it will always be there. But my opinion is that stress doesn’t happen in a vacuum. It seems to me that it is more healthy to deal with stress with others of a similar philosophy of life and beliefs. I would say that the Church can be a place of prayer and relaxation and, importantly, fellowship. I think all of these are good for stress reduction.

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.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU - I really want to thank all of the Religious Education Students and their parents, as well as our parishioners for the beautiful cards, baked goods and gifts given to me at Christmas.

~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, Frances Anello, Colton Culligan and Irene Smith.

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MEN'S GROUP - There will be no Men's Group on Monday, January 1st, as it is New Year's Day.

VINE & BRANCHES - The 50/50 drawing will be held on Thursday, January 4th. The next food distribution will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2017 at 10 am in our gym.

FIRST FRIDAY - We will have Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction on Friday, January 5th, at 7:30 pm in Amenia, Please consider spending a half hour with our Lord.

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**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:

Anthonette Syversen, the Choir Members and the Children's Choir – you all sang so beautifully at the Masses.

A special thanks to all those who volunteered to serve as Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers and Ushers at the Christmas Masses. Your ministry service is greatly appreciated.

The volunteers at Immaculate Conception and St. Anthony's who made our Churches look so beautiful for Christmas. You really did a wonderful job!

To all of you who took part in the "giving tree" – your generosity filled our pantry.

To all our parishioners and visitors who attended Mass this weekend. I was overwhelmed by the 620 faithful people who came together to worship and celebrate Christmas.

MANY THANKS - My thanks to all of the Religious Ed Students/Parents for the beautiful cards and gifts. It was so thoughtful of you to think of me. ~ Virginia Bida.

THANK YOU - The staff and recipients of the Pine Plains Community Food Locker thank the community members who participated in the 2017 Crop Walk last October. \$1,826 was raised in our community to combat global hunger with \$456.50 coming back to this community's food locker to help feed the hungry.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, December 23-24, 2017, we collected \$4,503.75 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$9,727.20 in our Christmas Collection. I thank you for your generosity and I steadfast commitment to our Church and I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

† Sanctuary Light †
*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Ann & John Bray
In Memory of Jody Kain*