

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT March 18, 2018

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Mar. 19	8:00 am	Lawrence McEnroe, Sr.
“	Tues.	Mar. 20	8:00 am	Bickford Lucas
“	Wed.	Mar. 21	8:00 am	Harlem Valley VFW Auxillary Members & Friends (Living)
“	Thurs.	Mar. 22	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	Fri.	Mar. 23	8:00 am	William Costine
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	Rev. John Crotty
Amenia	Sat.	Mar. 24	8:00 am	Bartolome Martinez Cedillo
“	“	“	4:30 pm	Danny Varriale

Pine Plains	Sun	Mar. 25	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia	“	“	10:45 am	Laura Galdiero

“PENANCE”

Dear Friends:

As we journey through the last weeks of Lent we are still, hopefully, becoming more involved in the “penance” of Lent. By penance, I mean the sacrificial acts that we want to make a part of our daily life. These sacrificial acts center around the 3 Lenten pillars of fasting, almsgiving and prayer. Our sacrificial acts also include good deeds for others, increased attendance at Church events, and an attempt to be a better Christian every day.

These sacrificial acts, or “penance,” is intended to develop our self-control, help us focus on spiritual things, and improve our relationship with God. I hope that is happening for you.

What is always interesting is considering what “real life” can do for our penitential practices. It has been said that a person searching for spiritual improvement through penance doesn’t need to look for opportunities to sacrifice. He or she can experience pain and difficulty in just living life. Regular daily life provides an ample chance for frustration, sorrow, disappointment and discouragement. “Penance” and sacrifice are out there, waiting for you.

The last few weeks have provided plenty of situations for frustration and exhaustion with these crazy snowstorms and power outages. One could think that these storms and the struggles that follow them are part of a Lenten plan to make us spiritual super-heroes.

As we all know, that is not the end of the story. Lent is also a preparation for the celebration of Easter. As we go through our sacrifices, we are reminded by our faith that this will end – and it will end soon. I hope that these Lenten difficulties will make our Easter celebrations so much more meaningful.

Easter is around the corner. And every Easter makes us more aware that new life is there for all of us. We have experienced the times of fasting and sacrificial giving and too much snow – now we can look forward to spring, at last.

Fr. Wilson

FORGIVE YOU - It is an unfortunate aspect of our human condition that we make mistakes, commit errors of judgment, break rules, and violate commandments. In order to get back on the right path, we need to seek God’s forgiveness, but we have to forgive ourselves too. Coming to terms with our failures is key to overcoming them.

***Jesus gave us a great gift when He created the Sacrament of Confession (John 20:23).
Remember you are just one Confession away from coming home.***

RECONCILIATION MONDAY - In preparation for Easter, Reconciliation will be offered as follows:

*St. Anthony’s Church
Tuesday, March 20, 2018 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm*

*Immaculate Conception Church
Monday, March 26, 2018 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm*

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, Helen Murphy Riley, Linda Mary Dick and Leela Niranjan.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN AMENIA - Fr. Wilson will be conducting the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 23, 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.

FRIDAY ABSTINENCE – Just a reminder, that as Catholics, we are asked to abstain from eating meat and meat products on all Fridays during Lent.

THE NEW YOU - Lent is our chance to leave our old ways behind and adopt a new way of life. When Easter comes, what will the new you be like?

Be a more positive thinker - This is the keystone habit that will help you form the other important habits. Squash negative thinking and trust that God will work with you to accomplish goals you set that are in harmony with His will.

Focus on what's important - First, identify what is most important to you – family, friends, faith, and so on. Then eliminate everything else. Not only will you be free to focus on what is most important, this habit will spill over into other areas of your life, such as tasks, projects, and communication.

Find a powerful prayer routine - The best prayer routines are the ones we follow every day. A firm, daily routine helps you focus on what's important, not just what comes up. Make sure to concentrate on Scripture and add time to listen, too.

Add kindness - Kindness is genuinely caring for others, wanting the best for them, and taking action to demonstrate that caring. Each day, make a decision to add an act of kindness to your day. Let someone go ahead of you in line, give a sincere compliment to a stranger, praise a coworker's effort, greet a passerby.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CASE MANAGER POSITION AVAILABLE - Catholic Charities Community Services of Dutchess County (CCCSDC) has a Case Manager Position available. This full time position provides direct services to the poor and the disenfranchised through advocacy, information and referral, crisis intervention services, and short term case management and assistance to individuals and families facing challenges related to food, shelter, medical needs, and other crises. Qualifications include: Masters in Social Work (MSW), or Bachelor's degree and 5 years related experience in human services; knowledge of local resources; ability to work well independently as well as part of a team. Please visit: Job Opportunities on www.catholiccharities-dutchess county.org for details and full job description. Email cover letter and resume to cccsjobs@archny.org.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, March 10-11, 2018, we collected \$4,195.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection, \$1,100.00 for American Bishop's Overseas Appeal.. I thank you for your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

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.

***May the Strength of God
Pilot Us,
May the Wisdom of God
Instruct Us,
May the Hand of God
Protect Us,
May the Word of God
Direct Us.
~ St. Patrick ~***