

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
April 15, 2018

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	April 16	8:00 am	Lawrence C. Hardisty, Jr.
"	Tues.	April 17	8:00 am	William McEnroe & Family
"	Wed.	April 18	8:00 am	William P. Murphy
"	Thurs.	April 19	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	April 20	8:00 am	Rev. Antimo Fiorillo
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Maura O'Grady
Amenia	Sat.	April 21	8:00 am	Katherine Blinn
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Bertha Conway
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Pine Plains	Sun	April 22	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	In Prayerful Thanksgiving for the Leach Family

"THE ANNUNCIATION"

Dear Friends:

On Monday, April 9th, we celebrated the Annunciation feast in the Church. This feast was moved from March 25th because that day happened to fall on Palm Sunday.

Looking at the readings for the Annunciation, I discovered something I had been noticing in scripture over the past few years.

I noticed a consistent development in the Old Testament to the New Testament. Most of us know that in the early days of the Old Testament, the people of Israel were called to perform sacrifices as part of their worship. These sacrifices, involving animals and "burnt offerings," were outlined in the Law of Moses. They were commanded by God to atone for the sins of the people of Israel.

But the people of Israel began to see that these offerings were not sufficient for the sins of Israel and its people. This became clear through the writings of the prophets. Psalm 40 tells us "sacrifice or oblation you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me. Holocaust or sin-offerings you sought not." This is in agreement with the proclamation by the prophets that service to orphans and widows was better than burnt offerings and other sacrifices.

Then, in the New Testament, the letter to the Hebrews states "It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take sins away." The writer in Hebrews proposes that the offering of Jesus Christ on the cross is the offering that will vanquish sin for all time.

So we see the beautiful progression in the history of Israel and the history of salvation. Jesus Christ comes to us as the perfect offering and perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world and offers every human the joy of redemption.

The Annunciation also shows us the profound acceptance of God's will on the part of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Just as Jesus was the perfect offering, Mary also offered her life to help God's plan. Yes we too, you and I, are called to offer ourselves in service and love to God's people.

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.

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, 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, Delora Brooks, June Heckelman, Baby Hans Pedersen, Teresa Pelkey, Renee & Al Cobuzzi, Joanne Balek, Frances Anello, Colton Culligan, Irene Smith, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Robert Bartolomeo, Helen Murphy Riley, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjana and Lisa Missailidis.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION for 2018-2019 - Please try and register your children in our Religious Education Program for next year (beginning in September) as soon as possible. All children must be registered by May 6th, as the books must be ordered by May 31st. Our program helps parents pass on the Catholic Faith to their children. You may either mail or drop off your registration form to the parish office. If your child is entering 1st grade in September, please call the office at 373-8193 and we will mail the registration form to you. Our program meets on Sunday mornings from 9:15 am to 10:30 am

VINE & BRANCHES - The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Frank Foley. The split was \$81.00. The next food distribution will be held on Saturday, April 21st, at 10 am in your gym. All food and monetary donations are most welcome.

WHY DO CATHOLICS OFFER THE SIGN OF PEACE? During the Mass, we offer the Sign of Peace in preparation for receiving Communion. After His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples in the Upper Room. Although His friends had abandoned Him, Jesus forgave them, saying: "*Peace be with you*" (John 20:19). When we offer each other the Sign of Peace, we imitate Christ. The Sign of Peace is also a sign of spiritual unity. Just as Jesus reconciled with His disciples, we are called to reconcile with each other.

TASTES OF HEAVEN - St. Denis Parish located at 604 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction is planning Tastes of Heaven on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Please join them for a heavenly evening to "taste" samples from some of the popular neighboring food and wine establishments. Tickets are \$30 per person. You must be 21 years of age or older to attend. Please contact Laura Esposito at stdenisre@stdenischurch.org or call 845-227-3949 for more information regarding tickets and/or sponsorship opportunities.

COLLEGE FAIR - Find the college that is the right fit for you! Our Lady of Lourdes High School will host its annual college fair on Wednesday, May 2nd, 2018 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Representatives from over 55 colleges will be available to speak with students and parents regarding academic offerings, admissions profiles, student life, athletics, financial aid and more. ALL ARE WELCOME!

PPCC SCHOLARSHIP - The Pine Plains Council of Churches will award a scholarship to Graduating Seniors from Stissing Mt. High School or a graduating student who attends one of the Council Churches. Applications are available from Council Pastors and Stissing Mt. Guidance Office. All applications must be returned by May 21st.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, April 7-8, 2018 approximately **329** people attended Mass and we collected \$5,055.19 in our Regular Sunday Collection, an additional \$1,015.00 for our Easter Collection and \$1,111.71 our School of Religion. I thank you for your presence, your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Laurie Hardisty
In Memory of Mary Fitzpatrick*