

**SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY
OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
June 24, 2018**

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	June 25	8:00 am	Raymond Proper, Sr.
"	Tues.	June 26	8:00 am	Greysen Gregory
"	Wed.	June 27	8:00 am	Martha J. Flanigan
"	Thurs.	June 28	8:00 am	NO MASS
"	Fri.	June 29	8:00 am	Janet & Mara Mahar
Pine Plains	"	"	12 noon	Michael Mallozzi
Amenia	Sat.	June 30	8:00 am	David Morgan
"	"	"	4:30 pm	Richard V. Kain

Pine Plains	Sun	July 1	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Amenia	"	"	10:45 am	Marilyn Louey

"TO SEEK"

Dear Friends,

"To Seek: to make a search or inquiry for, or try to find or obtain."

Thus we have the definition of the word "seek". It is an easy word. Most people know what it means: to look for something, to search for something.

It is my idea in this letter that Christians must be "seekers." There is no point where a follower of Christ should be satisfied that he or she has experienced or learned it all. A faithful Christian, in my view, is one who is on an endless journey of learning and pursuing new experiences in the faith.

This searching should take place, I would think, in basically 4 ways.

First: a search of scripture, reading the bible, taking time to reflect on the meaning of not only one verse, but on whole books. This searching would include looking at modern historical research on the scriptures.

Second: another place for searching is to look deeper into Church Tradition and Church teaching. This is one area where Catholics can really learn a lot, for there is so, so much out there. We are talking about 2,000 years of theology and history. History provides such a great understanding of the Church and will provide the seeking with a great perspective on today.

Third: a very important place to search is into prayer. All Christians should be on a daily search in prayer. All kinds of prayer are valuable and there are so many kinds of prayer in our Church - there has to be one that is meaningful to you. A critical and essential part of our prayer life is the sacraments, especially the Mass.

Fourth: another place to search is in our relationship with other people, especially in our families and in the Church. This includes regular acts of service to the community.

We all are a "work in progress." We are seekers, always searching. I think God especially loves "seekers" and will help us at every step.

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, 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, Kathryn Garzetta, Joseph Licurse, Delora Brooks, June Heckelman, Teresa Pelkey, Renee & Al Cobuzzi, Joanne Balek, Frances Anello, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Helen Murphy Riley, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjani, Lisa Missailidis, Lori Downing, Anthony Mottola, Ann Liberatore, Ralph Locantore and Frank Foley.

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VINE & BRANCHES - Last Saturday, we provided food for approximately 65 people at our Food Closet. I want to thank those of you who donated food and purchased Vine & Branches tickets. Special thanks to our volunteers who come each month, man the desk and help distribute the food. We couldn't do it without you!

DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR YOURSELF THIS SUMMER - Spend some time in prayer and fellowship! Please join us for Morning Prayer and Guided Meditation (and coffee and snacks!) at St. Anthony's in Pine Plains on Saturday, July 7th, at 10:00 am.

WHERE IS GOD WHEN YOU NEED HIM? God can be found one hundred times every day if we look for him. *"So it was you all along. Everyone I every loved, it was you. Everything decent or fine that ever happened to me, everything that made me reach out and try to be better, it was you"* C.S. Lewis.

When you need encouragement, God sends you a kind glance or a friendly word. Look for His face in the person who gives it.

God surrounds us with beauty to help us think of Him and remind us of His love for us. Don't miss the chance to appreciate a lovely garden or a mighty tree.

When you are anxious or lonely, God comes to you in the sympathetic friend who listens, or the stranger who smiles at you.

When we are on unfamiliar ground, God sends us a colleague to make us feel comfortable at work or a neighbor to help us feel more at home.

Where is God when you need Him? He is everywhere you are.

MARIAPOLIS 2018 - Every summer, the Focolare Movement in Hyde Park, NY hosts its annual summer gathering known as Mariapolis. It is an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to spend a few days together, putting into practice universal values of dialogue and solidarity based on the Gospel. This year's theme, "A door that leads to God," invites participants to discover Mary, the Mother of God, as a model for Christians today, from her Yes to God's plan to the Magnificat that contains the way to address the many challenges in our society. **Mariapolis 2018 will be held from July 13-15.**

There will be presentations on the Focolare spirituality, Mass, life experiences, workshops and outdoor activities. Children and teenagers follow partial parallel supervised activities and a Nursery is available for children ages 4 and under. For more information, please call (845) 229-0230, extension 127 or go to <https://sites.google.com/view/2018luminosamariapolis/home>.

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, June 16-17, we collected \$4,953.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection. 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.

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.

FAMILY

*like branches on a tree,
we all grow in different directions,
yet our roots remain as One.*