

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Please introduce yourself to the greeters or to Jeff Peck after Mass. We want all to feel welcome in this house.

Pastoral Care – Please contact the parish office if you know of anyone who is hospitalized, homebound, or in need of assistance. We are anxious to help.

Dear Friends,
For the early Christians in Hebrews, we hear about this week, it is their time, their era of history, their summons to faithfulness. What is the race in which these Jesus followers find themselves? Is it a race-worthy of their lives? Will anyone 10, 15, or thousands of years later ever care? Their questions are ours. Does being a Christian, taking up a faith whose icon is a cross and whose currency is love ultimately matter? Is this race we are running worth it?

The writer tells us, "Yes, a thousand times yes!" Why? First, the crowd in the stadium is not the mocking crowd that crucified our Lord or the menacing crowd threatening these first Christians. The writer has another image in mind. He says we run the race aware of what he calls "so great a cloud of witnesses" who have gone before us. Their witness has endured far beyond the brief years of their lives. Faith's race we run now has been run before by men and women—many of whom are named in the previous chapter—whose lives' witness still speaks.

Who are those in your great cloud of witnesses? For many, faithful parents stand there cheering us on. Though their lives ended 5, 10 or more years ago, they live with saints and martyrs, the faithful of all the ages in the risen life of Jesus Christ. Others still see a faithful priest or nun, a pastor or mentor whose life's witness spoke encouragement through a difficult time. They lived and died in faith believing this race mattered. Mine include Fr. Frank Tyrell, Sr. Kenan McGowan, Sr. Mary Xavier, Julius Benack, all saints. There are many others I have written about on this page.

The "communion of saints," teaches us that all who die in the Lord live in the presence of God and offer their prayers on our behalf. Such was the witness of John as recorded in the Book of Revelation who saw "thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom might and honor and glory and blessing.'" The lesson continues. "Let us run with perseverance the race set before us." What does it mean to persevere? In a nutshell, it means to doggedly follow Jesus Christ no matter the cost or sacrifice. The Bible is quite clear on this idea of perseverance. Not once in Scripture does God ever commend or reward success. In all candor, people like Sarah, Jacob, David, Saint Peter and Saint Paul had devastating failures in their lives. Their success was embodied in perseverance.

As we run the race of faith, we discover all along the way a power that comes from simply staying in the race. The blessing comes not to those who cross a finish line, but to those who never give up. Last April 16th, we watched with helpless horror as Notre Dame Cathedral burned in Paris. No lives were lost, but

one of faith's most revered houses of worship, a structure that took more than 200 years to build, lay in ruins. Remember with me a sobering fact about Notre Dame: the majority of the workers who built it across 200 years never saw the results of their labors. And yet they kept building.

Here we are, running the race of faith surrounded by all those who believed in life and now experience in life eternal that Jesus is Lord. Like him, following him, we have God's presence with us and God's saints surrounding us. Is it worth it? The writer tells us our Lord endured the shame and abandonment of the cross knowing resurrection joy was before him. So run the good race, look to Jesus, hear the faithful cheer, and know that joy awaits those who follow the crucified and risen Lord.

In Christ,
Jeff Peck

This weekend, Fr. Ray Brain C.P., a member of the Passionist Order, will celebrate the 4:30 PM mass with us. Please put all envelopes in the first collection. The second collection will be taken up for the missions.

We have a parishioner who needs a ride to Schenectady Monday, Wednesday, Friday - one way only. If you can help, please contact Jeff.

Please check in the chapel to see the beautiful centennial wall hanging the ladies of Holy Cross made for our church's 100th anniversary in 1988. Do you remember anyone who contributed their sewing/quilting skills to create this beautiful piece? We know a couple of ladies who did but need your help to identify others and the piece they contributed. There will be a paper on the piano to help find this out. Thank you for your help. The wall hanging will be on display for a long time.

The Wild Goose Session 9: Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Our fruit impacts all of our relationships, from the most casual to the most intimate. When we live animated by the Holy Spirit, our lives produce fruit that not only makes our own life more peaceful, patient, and loving but also influences positively those whom we encounter each and every day. Join us this Thursday, August 22, St. John the Baptist, Castleton, 6:30 pm for **The Wild Goose Session 9: Fruits of the Holy Spirit**. For more information: <https://thewildgooseisloose.com/>

The Home Visitation Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is available for anyone interested in taking her home. Please contact Reta Pemrick (518-677-3500) or Mamie Dearstyne (518-677-7272) if you are interested

The Salem Food Pantry is looking for cereals, snack bars, mac n cheese, canned meats, and toothpaste, toothbrushes and shampoo. Thank you for your support of your local Food Pantry.

Please share the bounty of your flower gardens to beautify our sanctuary

MEETING SCHEDULE



Prayer List:

Please remember those who are unable to join us on Sunday: Jane Thomas, Betty Mason

Please pray for the continued recovery of Theresa Abel, Harriet Wescott, Fr. William Cahill, Tena Rioux, Paul, Olga Rogers, Cody Pulver, Bernie Bourgeois, Larry McCauley, Lorraine Denick, R. Wescott, Christine Tomlinson, Todd McLenithan, Kelly Matson, Pam Markowsky, Jason Clapper

Several members of our community and extended families are suffering from dementia and mental illness. Please keep them in your prayers in a special way.

Please call the rectory if you would like to include someone on the prayer list.

A Coffee Hour is held on the first Sunday of the month.

During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation will be reflecting on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please pray that they may be open to receiving the fullness of these gifts. Join them by reviewing the Gifts of the Spirit and reflecting on how you are using them in your daily life

Adult Faith Website, *The Breath of God: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit* are described in the Book of Isaiah 11:2-3. In the passage, the gifts are considered ones that the Messiah would have possessed. Through Jesus, we also receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Learn more on our Spirituality tab.

Adult Bible Study: *Genesis, Part One*: In this study, we will contemplate the creation story and remember with the Israelites their ancestors in faith. Part One covers the "pre-history" of Israel including the creation accounts, the stories of the fall and the great flood, as well as the story of Abraham and Sarah. Find information and a complete schedule on the Programs tab of our Adult Faith website or pick up a flyer at the doors of the church. Please register (online or in the church foyer) and pick up your book by September 1.

The 2019 Bishop's Appeal - Thanks to all who have been so generous thus far. If you have not made your pledge or donation, there are envelopes available in the church or you may make your donation online at www.thebishopsappeal.org.

WINGS OF CARE of St. Patrick's and Holy Cross is a ministry of care for the elderly and homebound and is in great need of volunteers. Some of the needs involve socialization or companionship, light housekeeping (vacuuming, dusting, laundry) and transportation. If you have an hour to give, please contact Sister Augusta Ann Burgess, CSJ at 677-2757 or at pastoralcare@battenkillcatholic.org.

Lay Liturgical Ministers

		Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
8/17/19	4:30 PM	J. Peck	A. Dunigan P. Dunigan
8/18/19	8:30 AM	L Rasmussen	D. Farringer C. Farringer R. Sheffield
8/24/19	4:30 PM	R. Boyd	R. Pemrick M. Dearstyne
8/25/19	8:30 AM	J. Solan	S. Wilk D. Farringer R. Sheffield
Altar Rosary Cleaning:		August 18 – Cynthia, Kay, Margaret D. August 25 – Pat, Roseann, Margaret W.	

Mass Intentions

8/17/19	4:30 PM	For Harold Hamilton Req. by Gerry & Betty Hamilton Scanlon
8/18/19	8:30 AM	For Victor Urblewicz Req. by Barbara and Peter Norman
8/24/19	4:30 PM	For the people of the parish
8/25/19	8:30 AM	For Douglas Carrolan Req. by Ray & Lonnie Rasmussen

Stewardship of Treasure – August 11

Offertory - \$962.00
Votives - \$20.00
Repairs and Improvements - \$982.00
Miscellaneous - \$45.00

The Second Collection this week is
Cemetery Care
The Second Collection next week is for
Catholic Home Missions

We are running a deficit this year.
Adding just \$1.00 a week to your offering
would make a great difference.

Thank you for your generosity!

An **MS Support Group** meets at Proudfit Hall in Salem on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Please call James Harmon if you have questions (518-791-4505).

Announcements to be included in the bulletin should be sent to parishoffice@battenkillcatholic.org by 9:00 AM on Wednesday to be included in Sunday's bulletin.

Altar Rosary Society
meets 2nd Tuesday of each month - Church Hall - 11AM
Come join us - Pat @ 854-7247