

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.

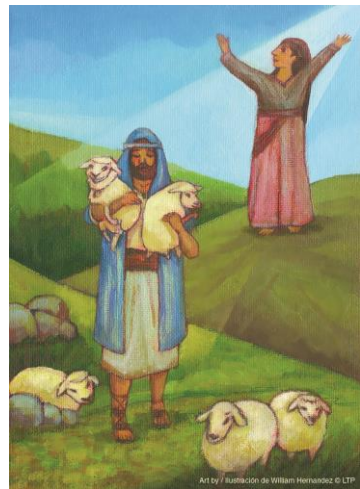
Second Sunday of Advent - Shepherd of Israel

Almighty and ever-living God, you are the source of all consolation and font of our salvation.

You have saved your people from the wilderness, gathered them like lambs into your bosom, and fed them with a mother's care.

Make level within us all that sin has made rugged; take the crooked paths of our hearts and make them straight. May our repentant hearts turn to you and, at the coming of your Son, be found eager to welcome him so that, in joyful celebration, your chosen people can say, "Here is your God!" Through Christ our Lord.

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Inclement Weather: If school in Salem is delayed or closed, all parish activities are cancelled for the day and evening. If you are ill, please respect the other members of our community and stay home from mass and parish activities.

A New Heaven and Earth

Today's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8. During this second week of Advent, we reflect on the future God has in store for us. When we delve more deeply into the Scriptures, it becomes clear that Advent is not as simple as we may think. Last week's readings urged us to be watchful and to ready ourselves for Christ's coming. This is not easy; it requires attention to God's Word within us. This week's message is in the same vein.

The prophet Isaiah paints a beautiful picture for the Israelites who are in captivity. Salvation will come, and the Lord will forgive all their sins. The image is radical. Isaiah depicts mountains being leveled and valleys being filled. He directs Zion to tell this Good News to the entire world. A similar theme is in the Gospel. John the Baptist is the herald of the coming Messiah. John calls all creation to repent and seek God's forgiveness. He is the herald who paves the way for Jesus, the one who reveals the new heaven and earth, which Peter speaks of in the Second Reading.

What does it look like to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ? It takes a vulnerable and watchful heart. We can find ourselves held captive. When we seek God's forgiveness with contrite hearts, we open ourselves to an amazing grace. God's mercy is the wellspring of all healing. So let us act out our salvation in the ways we live and announce the triumphant entry of the coming Christ.

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The Advent and Christmas season often reminds us of losses we have suffered. Please hang a decoration to commemorate your loss. Materials are available in the rear of the church.

Advent Schedule

Monday, December 11 – 6:00 – Reconciliation, St. Patrick's
Sunday, December 24 – **4th Sunday of Advent**

8:30 AM – Holy Cross

11:00 AM – St. Patrick's

-Christmas Eve Mass

4:00 PM – Holy Cross

6:00 PM – St. Patrick's

Monday, December 25 – **Christmas Day**

11:00 AM – St. Patrick's

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun, Dec 10 – Interpreted Mass and Coffee Hour
Altar Rosary Society Annual Cookie Sale

Prayer List:



Please remember those who are unable to join us on Sunday: Jane Thomas, Fran Button, Dorothy Loebel, Betty Donovan, Betty Mason

Please pray for the continued recovery of Theresa Abel, Harriet Wescott, Fr. William Cahill, Tena Rioux, Kathi McCauley, Paul, Olga Rogers, Victor Urbielewicz. 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.

Please return your gifts for the Angel Tree by December 10th.

LIFTS group will be collecting new and gently used baby clothes etc. thru the middle of January. We will then distribute them to agencies in our county that serve new moms and families. Thank you so much for your support of our annual Baby Shower. A big thanks to all those who contributed cookies for our annual Cookies for Shut-ins also. We put together about 50 boxes!

There will be a **coffee hour** on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Adult Faith Website: Each week of Advent and Christmas, we will upload a new reflection resource on our Worship tab. There you will find a prayer, illustration, and reflection on the Sunday Scripture and a reflection about each weekday's Scripture, saint, or Catholic practices, along with a smaller illustration. Citations for Scripture readings are included with each day. Also find many **Advent Resources** on our Seasons tab

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
12/10/17	8:30 AM	R. Boyd	P. Leonard J. Leonard M. Kessler
12/17/17	8:30 AM	S. Wilk	R. Harrington R. Sheffield E. Harrington

Altar Rosary Cleaning: Dec. 10 -

Mass Intentions

12/10/17	8:30 AM	For Teresa and Douglass Eighmy Req. by Jim and Ellen Carrolan For Jackie Rogers Urbanczyk Req. by Mary and Patricia Fairly
12/17/17	8:30 AM	For deceased members of the Farringer and Zerilli family For deceased members of the Jennings family Req. by Ann Jennings

Stewardship of Treasure

Collection - \$1047.00
Votives - \$16.00
Energy - \$345.00
Miscellaneous - \$55.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Men's Group News

Interested in joining – call Peter Dunigan at 854-9217

Please visit our parish website: www.battenkillcatholic.org
You can sign up for Flocknote notifications, prepare for Sunday liturgy, access our great Adult Faith Formation materials and more from there. Don't forget to like BattenkillCatholic on Facebook

Al-Anon

provides support for the families and friends of alcoholics. A local meeting is available:
* Centenary United Methodist Church, Gray Avenue, Greenwich
* Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm, side door.