

**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.**

**Third Sunday of Advent - Lasting Joy**

Loving God,  
all that was broken, you bind up,  
all that was lost, you restore.  
We rejoice that you have come to save us,  
but sometimes we weaken and lose heart.  
When we grow tired, give us your strength.  
When we grow fearful and uncertain, give us your resolve.  
When we forget you in times of pain and sorrow,  
inspire us anew with your love and consolation.  
Heal all that ails our hearts  
so that we may walk with unwavering faith  
into the everlasting joy of your kingdom.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Come What May**

*Today's Readings: Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10; Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11.* On this Gaudete Sunday, we rejoice that we will soon celebrate the Incarnation. Our excitement increases as schools let out, Christmas parties begin, and stores ramp up their bargains. With so much going on, the joy of Christmas might feel effortless, but our readings remind us that true joy comes from commitment and perseverance.

St. James urges us to be patient and steadfast in our faith despite whatever unkindness or injustice assails us. It is easy to be joyful when things are going well; it shows true faith to remain uplifted when life gets hard. The prophet Isaiah knows this, too. He prophesied that God would bring back those who were forced to leave their homes because of war. Any who wish to share in this glorious future, however, must remain strong and steadfast for the long journey home.

For John the Baptist and others, remaining steadfast in joyful hope meant accepting that God's plan of salvation was unfolding differently than they thought it would. Although Jesus revealed God's compassion, in other ways he was not the messiah they wanted. Some people were even offended by Jesus. It took effort for people to set aside their expectations and receive Jesus with joy.

This Sunday we ask ourselves what could steal our joy away, and we recommit ourselves to being strong, patient, and steadfast in faith, come what may.

**Poems, Parables and Prayers:** Story telling is an ancient art used before the written word to communicate ideas, feelings and truth. To celebrate Advent and ultimately Christmas, this evening will be filled with stories, poetry and prayer about the themes and feelings of the season. Please join us for a relaxing evening of poems, stories and a bit of prayer. It will be an evening of funny, moving, and calming moments as we share this great season of anticipation. Please join us on Sunday, December 22 at 3:00 PM.

**By Way of the Heart, a Retreat for Women's Christmas,** will be offered on January 5, 2020 from 2-6 PM at St. Patrick's parish house. Retreat Leader: Mary Rosmus. The cost is \$10.00 and a dish to share. To register, please send your name, phone number and email address, along with \$10.00 (checks payable to St. Patrick's Church by December 15 to: Mary Rosmus at St. Patrick's Church. A flyer is posted at the doors of the church and is available on the Programs Tab of the Adult Faith Website.

**Communion Services on Tuesday and Thursday mornings will resume on Thursday, January 2nd.**

Next year's boxes of envelopes are available in the rear of the church. If you would like envelopes, please fill in the form at the bottom of the cover of the bulletin. Some boxes were brought to Cambridge for those attending the Saturday evening mass. Thank you for your generosity.

**UPDATED Advent Schedule – 2019**

Sun, Dec 15- 4:00 PM– Poems, Prayers & Parables,  
St. Patrick's Parish House  
Mon, Dec 16 – 8:30 AM – Advent Monday Morning Prayer,  
St. Patrick's Parish House  
6:00 PM – Reconciliation, St. Patrick's  
Sun, Dec 22 3:00 PM – Poems, Prayers & Parables,  
Holy Cross  
Mon, Dec 23 – 8:30 AM – Advent Monday Morning Prayer,  
St. Patrick's Parish House  
Christmas Eve Mass – 5:00 PM – St. Patrick's  
6:30 PM – Holy Cross  
Christmas Day Mass – 10:00 AM – St. Patrick's  
No Mass at Holy Cross  
Tues, Jan 31 – Solemnity of Mary – 6:00 PM – St. Patrick's  
No Mass at Holy Cross

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Thurs, Dec 19 – 7:00 – Pastoral Council meeting  
Thurs, Jan 2 – 8:30 – Communion Service resumes

**Adult Faith Website, *The Heavens Proclaim the Glory of God.*** Find prayers and activities for Advent on our Season and Prayer tabs and explore our new winter theme!

**The Thankfulness Journal:** in addition to the book for prayer intentions, there is a new book to write down those things we wish to thank God for.



**Prayer List:**  
Please remember those who are unable to join us on Sunday: Jane Thomas

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, Wiley, Bruce and Liz Bowes, Tina Rowland

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.

For the repose of the soul of Henry Oswald and the consolation of his family.

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.

**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

**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](mailto:pastoralcare@battenkillcatholic.org).

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

**Lay Liturgical Ministers**

		Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
12/15/19	8:30 AM	M. Raffel	R. Sheffield D. Farringer C. Farringer
12/22/19	8:30 AM	S. Wilk	D. Farringer C. Farringer R. Sheffield
Altar Rosary Cleaning: Dec 15 - Joann, Carolyn Dec 22 - Lonnie, Rosemary			

**Mass Intentions**

12/15/19	8:30 AM	For deceased members of our parish family Req. by Donna and Chuck Farringer
12/22/19	8:30 AM	For Robert Parrish Req. by Ellen and Jim Carrolan For Doug Carrolan Req. by Don and Doug Eighmey

**Stewardship of Treasure – December 8**

Offertory - \$896.00  
Votives - \$12.00  
Repairs - \$450.00  
Miscellaneous - \$155.00

The Second Collection this week is for  
Energy Needs

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).

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.

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