

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,

Many years ago, one of my Scripture teachers explained that the word pity in today's Gospel is better translated as anger. Except for the cleansing of the temple, translators found it hard to imagine Jesus angry. Jesus' anger, however, provides a wonderful insight into him, and a strong challenge to us.

People who had any type of skin disease in first century Palestine were called lepers. They were treated shamefully. They had to live outside the villages and towns, call out "unclean, unclean" when they came near others, could never attend the temple, and were considered cursed by God and so excluded from the Chosen People. No wonder Jesus was angry when he encountered a man with leprosy. Here he also confronts a social class system that robbed this man of his human dignity and religious laws that robbed him of hope.

There are two details in this story that are especially important. The man with leprosy feels comfortable enough to go straight up to Jesus, to put his case, and ask for healing. We are told that Jesus touched him. Social and religious laws were being broken in this encounter. But Jesus' healing of the man isn't just about challenging social laws and taboos. Jesus tells the man to fulfill his religious obligations so that he can attend the temple again and rejoin the community. Jesus was interested in converting all those he met to the higher laws of love and compassion.

We are challenged this Sunday to trust our anger. This is not only about fighting for our rights when we have been wronged, but more so, it's fighting for the dignity and rights of others. It can take many forms: taking the life of those yet to be born, or who are near natural death, fighting for future generations by calling for a just care of the earth. And it can be about standing up for those people in our home, parish, workplace, neighborhood, country, and world who are treated shamefully, excluded, derided, or declared unclean.

This Sunday Christ comes to us and declares that despite what we might think about ourselves, or what we have been told, there is nothing in us which cannot be healed or is beyond hope. May this Eucharist give us the love and compassion of Christ to fight for others' dignity. May we trust our anger and pray that it be like that of Jesus, and so turn us into agents of change for a more just church and for a more just world.

In Christ,
Jeff Peck

Ash Wednesday – February 14, 2018

8:30 AM – Mass – St. Patrick's
12:00 PM – Mass – Holy Cross
5:00 PM – Prayer Service with ashes, Holy Cross
7:00 PM – Prayer Service with ashes, St. Patrick's

The last interpreted mass at Holy Cross will be on Sunday, February 11th.

Book Discussion: Our next book will be *A Morbid Taste for Bones* by Ellis Peters. It is the first of twenty medieval murder mysteries featuring Brother Cadfael, a Benedictine monk. The book is readily available in soft cover. Our first meeting will be February 21, 2018 at 9:30 in the parish house. Subsequent meetings will be on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. All are welcome.

Lenten Schedule

Reconciliation Services –

Sunday, March 11 – 3:00 PM - Holy Cross
Monday, March 19 – 6:30 PM – St. Patrick's

St. Patrick's Lenten Fish Fry – Fridays – 4:30 – 7:00 PM at Embury Methodist Church, Cambridge beginning February 16

Lenten Luncheons – Thursdays a 12:00 noon
February 15 – Salem Community Fellowship
February 22 – Salem United Methodist Church
March 1 – Holy Cross
March 8 – Hebron United
March 15 – Salem United Presbyterian Church
March 22 - Shushan

Holy Thursday – March 29
5:00 PM at Holy Cross (dinner following)

Good Friday – March 30
5:00 PM at St. Patrick's

Easter Vigil at Immaculate Conception, Hoosick Falls – 7:30 PM
St. Joseph's, Greenwich – 8:00 PM

Easter Sunday - 8:30 AM at Holy Cross
11:00 AM at St. Patrick's

St. Patrick's Lenten Fish Fry: The Lenten Fish Fry will be held each Friday during Lent beginning Friday, February 16 from 4:30 – 7:00. This year it will be held at Embury Methodist Church (41 E. Main Street, Cambridge). Any questions, please call Rich MacDougall (677-2457).

Adult Faith Website: Women in the Life of the Church. You will find many Lenten resources on the "Lent" tab, including an online retreat featuring the Women of the Passion.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun, Feb 11 – Interpreted Mass and Coffee Hour
Wed, Feb 14 – Ash Wednesday
Wed, Feb 21 – 9:30 – Book Discussion at St. Patrick's
Tues, Feb 27 – Adult Bible Study

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, Paul, Olga Rogers, Victor Urbielewicz, Cody Pulver, Bernie Bourgeois. 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.

Salem Food Pantry News-- Food Pantry is in need of soups, cereals, and personal care items.

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

Faith Formation

Sunday, February 18 – no class
Sunday, February 25 – no class

Adult Bible Study resumes on February 26 at St. Patrick's and on February 27 at Holy Cross. Please be prepared to discuss Lesson 8—John 13:1–14:14. (A detailed schedule may be found on the Programs tab of our Adult Faith Website.) The second part of John's Gospel begins with Jesus' washing the disciple's feet at the Last Supper. Its central theme is how Jesus is glorified through his Passion, death and Resurrection. This Lenten study is an excellent time to join our study group.

This year, the **Lenten ecumenical book group** will be reading *The Cross of Nails*, by Oliver Schuegraf. The book describes the origins of the Community of the Cross of Nails and its work of reconciliation in many countries over the years. The Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) is an international, ecumenical fellowship of individuals and groups who are committed to the ministry of reconciliation. The group will meet on Friday nights in Lent, beginning on February 16th, at 7:30 p.m., in the old rectory at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Salem. Copies of the book, new and used, are available on Amazon.com.

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.

Lay Liturgical Ministers

		Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
2/11/18	8:30 AM	R. Boyd	R. Sheffield S. Behan M. Kessler
2/18/18	8:30 AM	D. Farringer	E. Harrington R. Harrington C. Farringer

Altar Rosary Cleaning: Feb. 11 – Cynthia, Kay
Feb. 18 – Pat, Roseann, Margaret

Mass Intentions

2/11/18	8:30 AM	For the deceased members of our parish family Req. by Donna and Chuck Farringer
2/18/18	8:30 AM	For the Des Pris family Req. by Al Cormier

Stewardship of Treasure

Collection - \$843.00
Second collection - \$340.00
Votives - \$5.00
Miscellaneous - \$35.00

Thank you for your generosity!

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.

Men's Group News

Interested in joining – call Peter Dunigan at 854-9217

Altar Rosary Society
meets 2nd Tuesday of each month
Church Hall - 11AM
Come join us - Pat @ 854-724

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.