

**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.**

**First Sunday of Lent  
A Prayer to Be Open to the Spirit**

Father of all creation,  
You set a bow in the skies as a sign  
of the covenant  
that you made with every living being.  
Never again would a flood purify the earth  
by destroying all of its creatures.

In your mercy, you sent your Son to save us from our sins.  
Through our Lord's Death and Resurrection, we have been  
redeemed.  
Now, in the waters of Baptism, we are cleansed, become your  
children,  
and are granted a new life with you.  
Open us to the Spirit during this Lent  
that we may seek to deepen our lives in you.  
As we prepare to live out our baptismal call,  
may we heed your words to repent and believe in the Gospel.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**St. Patrick's Lenten Fish Fry:** The Lenten Fish Fry will be  
held each Friday during Lent from 4:30 – 7:00. This year it will  
be held at Embury Methodist Church (41 E. Main Street,  
Cambridge).

**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.

**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 Covenant**

Today's First Reading flows into the Second Reading as we  
hear of the covenant that God made with Noah and then of the  
fulfillment of the covenant in Jesus Christ. Noah was promised  
that never again would a flood cleanse the earth. Christ, the  
righteous one, suffered, died, and rose to save the  
unrighteous. The flood was a one-time event that prefigured  
Baptism. The suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Christ was  
a one-time event that frees humankind for all time. Baptism is  
an appeal to God, "through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."  
In the Gospel, we see Jesus going to the desert for forty days,  
a period that parallels the time on the ark. Jesus was among  
wild beasts and tempted by Satan, but the angels ministered  
to him. During this time alone, Jesus prepared for his ministry  
of preaching God's love and repentance. He needed this time  
to be strengthened in prayer to do God's will. The forty days of  
Lent parallel the forty days in the desert. How do we use this  
period to prepare ourselves to do God's will so that through  
our lives others will "repent and believe in the Gospel"? We  
keep these days as a time of preparation for living out our  
baptismal call. You might want to consider how your Lenten  
practices are readying you to discover how God calls you.  
Perhaps you would like to read the Second Reading again and  
consider how Baptism enters us into the Paschal Mystery,  
Christ's suffering, Death, and Resurrection.

**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 be

**Lenten Luncheons** – Thursdays at 12:00 noon  
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

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

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 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.

**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.

The **Lenten ecumenical book group** will read *The Cross of  
Nails*, by Oliver Schuegraf. We will meet on Fridays 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.

**Lay Liturgical Ministers**

		Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
2/18/18	8:30 AM	D. Farringer	E. Harrington R. Harrington C. Farringer
2/25/18	8:30 AM	J. Solan	S. Wilk L. Rasmussen S. Behan

Altar Rosary Cleaning: Feb. 18 – Pat, Roseann, Margaret  
Feb. 25 – Joann, Carolyn

**Mass Intentions**

2/18/18	8:30 AM	For the Des Pris family Req. by Al Cormier
2/25/18	8:30 AM	For the people of the parish

**Stewardship of Treasure**

Collection - \$483.00  
Second collection - \$201.00  
Votives - \$6.00  
Miscellaneous - \$15.00

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](http://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.