

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,

One of my favorite photos is one I took of a drug store in
The Netherlands in the town of Deventer. Engraved in the
stone front of the building, just over the door are the words
“Trust in God, but take your medicine.” It is difficult to trust in
God. We like to consider ourselves as the masters of our
universe. It is difficult to open ourselves to God’s call to us
when we are unable to trust that we are God’s. I am no
paragon of this trait. I worry about parish finances, plowing
parking lots, my ability and inability to minister among us as
well as the insecurity of wondering if I am doing what I should
be. I am envious of those who possess certainty.

Throughout history, the greatest have been those who
have that special sense of being "called." "Paul, called by
God’s will to be an apostle of Christ Jesus..." (1 Corinthians
1:1). Abraham, Moses, Samuel, all ordinary people, heard the
divine call to be more and do more. Francis of Assisi, Dorothy
Day, Martin Luther King, and Mother Teresa were all just like
us until the divine spark within them ignited their unique
destiny. The prophet Isaiah tells of his own special moment
"the Lord said to me: you are my servant, to whom I show my
glory" (Isaiah 40 9:3). We also learn today of the call of
Andrew and Simon Peter. We are called to be different than
the rest of the world... “the Lord called me from birth, from my
mother’s womb he gave me my name...You are my servant,
Israel” (Isaiah 49:1-3). God knows us and reaches out for us,
"I have plans for you - plans for your welfare, not for your woe;
plans to give you a future full of hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Our call begins with our baptism and unlike some it is
likely to be a felt as a gentle tugging or inclination toward a life
of faith or service within our faith. Few of us are granted the
surety of a sudden experience of a blinding light or a voice
from heaven like Paul. Our call is not likely to be one of great
sacrifice or even extraordinary accomplishment but like the
greatest biblical figure or modern saint it is up to us to
respond. As with all things subtle, we will experience doubt,
then it’s time to trust.
In Christ, Jeff Peck

**The 2017 tax statements are available at the rear of the
church. Any statements not picked up on Sunday will be
mailed.**

The Altar Rosary Society wishes to thank all who helped put up
and take down Christmas decorations.

Dear Friends,

What’s in a name? A lot, if it is God who confers the name.
What is the name which God the Creator gives to human
beings, to humanity, i.e. to you and me? It is “Adam”.

In the beautiful imagery of the Jewish scriptures, in the
book of Genesis, God breathes into the nostrils of a figure
made of clay, and names the first human being, “Adam”, a
name which means “earth creature”.

So, there is something of the Divine breathed into each one
of us, but the name “Adam” is a reminder to stay grounded in
our earthiness.

We are stardust, earth creatures, loved into existence as
human beings filled with the Breath of God. We are loved into
existence, for what or for whom?

Each one of us has a unique and irreplaceable role in the
unfolding history of the universe. And there is a name which
sounds that role, which the Creator desires each one of us to
fulfill.

Jesus of Nazareth knew the power of naming in relation to
vocation and destiny.

So, when Andrew brought his brother to Jesus, Jesus
exercised the divine prerogative. We read: “[Jesus] looked at
him and said: ‘You are Simon, son of John. You are to be
called Cephas.’” “Cephas” is the Hebrew word for rock which
in Greek is “Petros”, which in English is “Peter”.

At one level, Jesus may be having fun at Simon’s expense.
Here is a man of such violent mood changes, that he is like
shifting sand. So, Jesus thinks of the polar opposite, rock
solid, and nicknames him, “Rocky”! Jesus would play on that
nickname: “You are Peter and on this rock I will build my
church.” (Matt 16:18)

This disciple is to be the solid, secure, rock-like foundation
on which the Christian community will be constructed by the
Holy Spirit.

Jesus knew the deep-down name of this man, “Peter”, and
pronounced that name which in fact identified his future role.
This tradition continues with the successor of Peter. So,
Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio took the name “Francis” which
indicates that he believes that God chose him to be Pope to
follow in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi.

We have another name. We read in the Book of
Revelation: “The Spirit is saying to the churches: ‘to those who
prove victorious [after persecution] I will give the hidden
manna and a white stone—a stone with a new name written
on it known only to the man who receives it.’” (Rev 2:17)

This is the secret name by which God has known and
loved me since the moment of my conception. It is the name
which will reveal my true identity as desired by God just as
Simon’s true identity was revealed by Jesus calling him
“Peter”.

All will then be revealed at the moment of death, but
perhaps it is permitted to anticipate. I hope my heavenly name
isn’t Knuckles or worse yet, Stinky!

In Christ, Jeff Peck

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun, Jan. 14 – Interpreted Mass and Coffee Hour
Thurs, Jan. 18 – 7:00 PM – Pastoral Council meeting



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. Cody Pulver. 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 Margaret Felmlly and the consolation
of her family.

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

The roses in the sanctuary are a gift from Margaret Felmlly and
her family.

TRIPLE “A” SERVICES: There will be a “Come to the Light of
Christ Celebration,” a “Triple A” prayer service
of **Anointing**, **Adoration**, and **Absolution** celebrated by Fr.
Marty, on Wednesday evening, January 17, at 6 p.m., at St.
Joseph’s Church in Greenwich. The evening includes songs of
praise, proclamation of the Gospel, Anointing, Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament, and Absolution of sins through the
Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is a wonderful opportunity for
prayer, meditation, and reconciliation. Please join us.
If you need more information, please call our parish office
at [518-692-2159](tel:518-692-2159)

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.

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

Adult Faith Website: Catholics are called to stand with
immigrants and refugees as our brothers and sisters. This is who
we are. This is what we do. Learn more about National Migration
Week and what you can do to help on the Social Justice 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
1/14/18	8:30 AM	J. Leonard	P. Leonard L. Rasmussen S. Wilk
1/21/18	8:30 AM	L. Rasmussen	R. Harrington R. Sheffield E. Harrington
Altar Rosary Cleaning: Jan. 14 – Jan. 21 -			

Mass Intentions

1/14/18	8:30 AM	For the Cormier Family Req. by Al Cormier
1/21/18	8:30 AM	For Joseph Zerilli Req. by Donna and Chuck Farringer For John Fortier Req. by the family

Stewardship of Treasure

Collection - \$950.00
Second collection - \$185.00
Votives - \$27.00
Miscellaneous - \$19.00

Thank you for your generosity!

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

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.

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.