

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,

Last week in this space, Jeff wrote to us of the challenges facing Faith Formation programs in our parishes and across the country – all true, none of it exaggerated. He also spoke of the many assets we have, our excellent team of gifted and dedicated teachers in particular. I often think that our greatest challenge is also our greatest asset. In our small parishes we cannot offer the multitude of programs that one might find in a larger parish. On the other hand, we know our parishioners and are able to tailor much of what we do to meet individual needs. Each year we reevaluate our programs and make any changes we can to continue to improve. Every five years or so, we take a more detailed look at where we are and where we are headed. This is that year.

When I look around our church on a Sunday morning, I see people of all ages - babies and toddlers, children and teens, young adults, mature adults, and everything in between. Our parish, though it is small, is quite diverse and vibrant. How can we meet the needs of our aging parishioners? What can we offer to young adults? To families with babies and small children? How will we keep our very enthusiastic group of middle schoolers involved as they reach high school?

I encourage anyone interested in the future of faith formation - really that should be all parishioners, but especially catechists, pastoral council members, parents, and grandparents - to come to Joyce Solimini's presentation on Feb. 5 at 7 pm at Holy Cross. Joyce will talk about all aspects of formation for all ages - children, teens, and adults. She will discuss sacrament prep - including Baptismal prep and RCIA. She will explore ways to collaborate and share services with neighboring parishes. She will give examples of how other parishes are handling the challenges we all face and suggest models that may work in our community. She will help us to think long-term and then to outline the steps we need to take to get there. Please come and be a part of this exciting opportunity in our parishes.

In Christ,
Mary Rosmus

The tax statements for Holy Cross are available in the rear of the church.

Getting desperate!! Collection counters are urgently needed. Please see Eileen Dashnaw or Jeff Peck (preferably Eileen!) if you are willing to help.

St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus will be hosting a **Spaghetti Supper** on Friday, February 7 from 4:30 to 7PM at St. Patrick's Parish House. Salad, spaghetti with meat balls, drinks & dessert for a suggested donation of \$10.00. Take outs will be available. All are welcome.

Adult Bible Study, Genesis Part Two, will begin the week of February 17. Mondays, 6:30 - 8 pm at St. Patrick's and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 am at Holy Cross. Please pick up a brochure or check the Programs tab on the Adult Faith website for details. Please register by the end of January. Participation in Genesis Part One is not required.

Adult Faith Website, *The Heavens Proclaim the Glory of God*. Today has been declared Sunday of the Word of God by Pope Francis. Joe Paprocki explores ways we might teach young people as well as adults to interpret Scripture properly in *Overcoming the False Dichotomy Between Faith and Science* on our Family tab.

About Time -- Time is a precious thing. I recognize that and appreciate "time" offered. Would you consider giving some of your "time" to Holy Cross Church? Altar Rosary Society welcomes new members and ad hoc male and female participants willing to share their "time". Can I call upon you to give some of your "time" now and then? Your help will keep Holy Cross Church active in 2020. Let's talk or Contact me, Pat Phillips at 518-854-7247.

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.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Wed, Feb 5 – 7:00 PM – The Future of Faith Formation in our Parish presentation, Holy Cross
Mon, Feb 17 – 6:30 – 8:00 PM – Bible Study, St. Patrick's
Wed, Feb 19 – 10:00 – 11:30 AM – Bible Study, Holy Cross
Mon, Feb 24 – 6:30 – 8:00 PM – Bible Study, St. Patrick's
Wed, Feb 26 – Ash Wednesday

A Coffee Hour is held on the first Sunday of the month.

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.

If you would like offering envelopes, please fill in the form at the bottom of the cover of the bulletin and give it to Jeff Peck.



Prayer List:

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

Please pray for the continued recovery of Theresa Abel, Fr. William Cahill, Tena Rioux, Paul, Olga Rogers, Cody Pulver, Bernie Bourgeois, Larry McCauley, R. Wescott, Christine Tomlinson, Todd McLenithan, Kelly Matson, Pam Markowsky, Jason Clapper, Wiley Dearstyne, 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.

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

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.

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

Lay Liturgical Ministers

		Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
1/26/20	8:30 AM	M. Raffel	L. Rasmussen R. Sheffield S. Wilk
2/2/20	8:30 AM	S. Wilk	D. Farringer R. Sheffield C. Farringer
Altar Rosary Cleaning: Jan 26 - Lonnie, Rosemary Feb 2 -			

Mass Intentions

1/26/20	8:30 AM	For Greg Hauser Req. by Virginia and Scott Hauser For Joan Kramer, sixth anniversary, Req. by Pat and Jack Isgro
2/2/20	8:30 AM	For Marie Corinne Des Pres Req. by her brother, Al Cormier

Stewardship of Treasure – January 19

Offertory - \$438.00
Votives - \$4.00
Insurance - \$184.00
Miscellaneous - \$35.00

The second collection today is for Religious Education
The second collection next Sunday 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