

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Please introduce yourself to the greeters. 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.

Face Masks etc ... - The covid infection rates in our community continue to increase. You are encouraged but not required to wear a face mask during our services and in other large groups. If you are eligible to receive a booster shot, please give serious consideration to doing so.

Our Gospel today is one of the greatest sermons ever given. It is universally known as The Sermon on the Mount. What makes it great is not just the beauty of its language or the hope of its theology. It is truly great because Jesus was preaching to the reality in front of him. The Jews listening that day were poor, in grief, meek, and hungry for justice. Some were trying to be merciful to their enemies, struggling to find God in the midst of persecution and attempting to make peace while their family and friends were being falsely accused and condemned. As true as this was for the Jews of Jesus' day, it was even more so for the earliest Christian community for whom this Gospel was written.

The Sermon on the Mount is a model for all of us in every way. When Jesus says, "Blessed are you" he is not being patronizing, glossing over all sorts of tough human realities with, "Well done, keep it up, be happy and we'll fix it all up in heaven."

In the Hebrew Scriptures, a blessing is the discovery that God is present and active in one's experience, right here and right now. So the Beatitudes are saying that you do not need to go past your own daily struggles to find the presence of God. Jesus tells us that if we are poor, compassionate, mournful, campaigning for a just society and suffering because of it, gentle, innocent, a peacemaker or a martyr, we are encountering, in a special way, the presence of God.

The God of the Beatitudes is a companion with us in every experience we go through. God is our best friend, walking beside us as we get out of bed and meet the days we would rather not face. Sadly, God-as-friend is a rich image not used as much as it should be. We choose our friends, we like to spend time with them, we tell our intimate friends things we tell few others. Sometimes, when we are on top of the world or in a crisis we call our best friends ahead of our family. And we know our friends like us because they seek us out and want to share our life.

Jesus is the best friend we could ever have, interested in every daily event and he's there for us at every moment in life. Yet he doesn't barge in. He waits patiently for an invitation to enter our lives at whatever level we want. Jesus-as-friend

doesn't give us old-fashioned sermons, but rather meets us where we are, embraces us and holds us close when the going gets tough and helps us find the way forward. Jesus-as-friend is the greatest Beatitude of all.

Fr. Peter and I thank everyone for their Christmas cards, gifts, wishes and prayers this Christmas. We are grateful to you all. – Mary Rosmus

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)



On February 2, we observe the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, honoring Jesus Christ's presentation in the Temple forty days after his birth. "Candlemas" is a traditional name given to the feast because of the custom of

celebrating with lighted candles symbolizing Simeon's prophecy that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." For this reason, candles that will be used throughout the year have traditionally been blessed on this day. In our network of parishes, **we will celebrate the feast with a Vespers Service at 6:30 pm at St. Patrick's.** You are invited to bring candles from home to be blessed at this service.

SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR at HOLY CROSS

You are invited to a special edition of our monthly coffee hour. On February 5 we will celebrate both Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras after Mass with coffee and sweets. Please join us. Lent is right around the corner!

The Pastoral Council will meet in the chapel on Thursday, February 9, 6:30 - 8 pm, to discuss ways to move our parish back into mission and ministry as we emerge from the pandemic.

It will soon be tax time – if you would like a copy of your giving statement for 2022, please call the St. Patrick's parish office at 518-677-2757 to request a copy.

Winter Weather Policy - If school in Salem is cancelled or delayed, the parish office will be closed and all in-person activities for the day and evening will be cancelled.

The food pantry is in need of donations. They are in need of pasta, cereal, paper towels and toilet paper. Your help is very much appreciated.

**Faith Formation
"Emmanuel, God with Us"**

Feb 2 – 9:00 – 10:30 – Bible Study
Feb 16 – 9:00 – 10:30 – Bible Study
Feb 23 – 9:00 – 10:30 – Bible Study



Battenkill Catholic Lifelong Faith Website - Our Church Family.

The C21 Resources magazine, Catholic Parishes: Grace at Work, focuses on the national Catholic parish landscape and the sharing of ideas that are shaping parishes for the better. This week, we are reading "The Social Mission of the Parish." "While a parish is many things to many people - a place of worship, religious education, and prayer - its mission extends far beyond the church building and the people who enter its doors."

Fr. Tom's Birthday - Our Lady of the Valley Parish in Middleburgh will host a birthday party for Fr. Tom Zelker on February 5 at 1 pm. All are welcome. You may send a birthday card to Father Tom at: Our Lady of the Valley P.O. Box 311 Middleburgh, New York 12122

| Mass Intentions | | |
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| 1/29/23 | 8:15 AM | For Dorothy B. Kennedy Req. by Paul and Amy Johnson |
| 2/5/23 | 8:15 AM | For Margaret Waite Req. by The Altar Rosary Society of Holy Cross Church |

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Would you like to have your taxes prepared at no cost? HACA will assist taxpayers for the 18th year with free income tax preparation and e-filing through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA is a free, IRS sponsored program to help low and middle-income workers have their federal and state personal income taxes prepared and filed electronically at no cost. After January 17th, appointments are easy to make simply by calling 2-1-1 from New York or 888-366-3211 from any area. Choose a convenient time on either a Thursday evening or Saturday from February 4th through April 15th at the HACA Center at 26 John Street, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090.

Liturgical Roles

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| Sunday, January 29, 2023 |
| Lector: John Solan Eucharistic Minister: Roseann Harrington Greeter: Brian Keel |
| Sunday, February 5, 2023 |
| Lector: Scott Wilk Eucharistic Minister: Peter Dunigan Greeter: Brian Keel |
| Altar Rosary Cleaning: January 29 – Marion February 5 – Cynthia and Margaret |

Prayer List:



Please pray for the continued recovery of Paul, Cody Pulver, R. Wescott, Christine Tomlinson, Todd McLenithan, Kelly Matson, Wiley Dearstyne, Lorraine Denick, Daniel W, A. Russell, Bernadette, Kate, Jean, Mary, John Schauer, Jeannette Davis, Kathi McCauley, Laraine Luhmann, Kate Markowsky, Alexa, Will, Pete, Kate, Dan Dearstyne, Adam and April, Mary and Lorraine, Kay McCauley and for the repose of the soul of Jeanette Davis and the consolation of her family.

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

Stewardship of Treasure – January 22, 2023

Offertory - \$642.00
Second Collection - \$89.00
Miscellaneous - \$585.00

To balance our budget this year, our in-person offertory should average \$1,400.00 weekly.

Thank you for your generosity!

Please consider continuing to make regular donations to ensure the parish's financial survival. You can leave your donation after Sunday mass or send it to Box 357, Salem NY 12865. Electronic giving is available at www.battenkillcatholic.org/donations.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available before mass at 7:45 AM on Sunday or by appointment. Please call St. Patrick's Church parish office at 518-677-2757 to make an appointment.

Contacting Fr. Peter - Call the office at Immaculate Conception. 518 686 5064. Outside of office hours, leave a message including your name and number.