

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,

There are many possible lessons in our Gospel reading this weekend. What really struck me, is the idea that to nurture our spiritual life, we need to practice contemplation. Jesus and his followers got into a boat to find a secluded place to get a little rest and time for reflection, but the crowd followed them.

A saint who valued seclusion to a high degree was Romuald. He lived in Italy from 951 to 1027. He was horrified when his father killed a relative in a duel and while practicing penance for that act, he felt the call to monastic life. His first attempt was a failure, he was arrogant, arguing that the monks were not strict enough. When he asked to return home, there were no objections from the community. He then became the follower of a hermit named Marinus and lived an extremely austere life. He alternated between the life of a monk (living in community with other monks) and that of a hermit (living with as little human contact as possible) for several years. For 30 years he traveled all over Italy founding hermitages and monasteries to do as he did. A gift of land from a friend enabled him to build five cells in Camalodi. This became the motherhouse of the Camalodese Benedictine Order which still exists today. There are two foundations in the United States, one is on Big Sur in California. Our Facebook Page frequently posts reflections and news from the monastery on Big Sur.

Romauld wrote, “Sit in your cell as in Paradise. Put the whole world behind you and forget it. Watch your thoughts like a good fisherman watching for fish. The path you must follow is in the Psalms, never leave it” He died on June 19th, 1027. The Order he founded has never been large.

A few things occurred to me as I thought about the Gospel and St. Romauld. We are all shepherds. Jesus is the Good Shepherd of the entire Christian Church, the pope is the head of the Catholic Church, the bishops and priests are the shepherds of dioceses and parishes. Parents shepherd families, siblings shepherd each other. Even little children shepherd their toys.

I think contemplation is more important than ever. Our world is very noisy. We are never far from work or communication sources. The constant bombardment of stimuli leaves us emotionally drained, cranky, and even ill in mind, body, or spirit. Contemplation is focusing on God’s presence, for me. This requires quiet to leave the thoughts and cares of the world behind. In my home, there is an hour every day

known as “Jeff Quiet Time.” I walk, think great thoughts (okay, not so great thoughts), write a little in my journal, and just let all of the nonsense of the day before and the day to come disappear. It took me a long time to figure out when “Jeff Quiet Time” should occur but I hit the sweet spot 10 years ago and now I experience it almost every day.

Finally, I don’t think we can be the disciples we are all called to be without a balanced spiritual life. We need to be both active and passive. Just as the heart and brain empower our hands and legs, a bit of prayer and contemplation enables our work in the vineyard. So sit and bask in the presence of God once in a while. Yep, it is awkward, we are programmed to do stuff but anything worth doing requires practice.

In Christ,
Jeff Peck

We will celebrate a memorial mass for Stuart “Jim” Weaver on Friday, July 27th at 4:30 PM at Holy Cross.

The 2018 Bishop's Appeal: Thank you for your generosity. We have reached our assessment.



Hearts Aflame! Focused on the Source & Summit - As Catholics, we recognize the Eucharist as the “source and summit” of our faith. A Eucharistic Congress highlights this spiritual reality in a powerful way. *Hearts Aflame* will include Holy Mass with Bishop Ed, Eucharistic Adoration, and a Eucharistic procession. It will be a time to rekindle our identity as a Eucharistic people! *Hearts Aflame* will be held on September 22, from 9am to 3pm, at the Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville. All in the Diocese of Albany are invited to attend. Register at rcda.org/heartsaflame. **You can register this weekend at the back of the church.**

Salem Food Pantry Your Food Pantry needs cereal, snacks for children, lunch items for the kids such as spaghetti-o’s and other canned pasta items, tuna, mac n cheese, rice side dishes, and always need personal care items. Thank you for your continued support!

Thank you for sharing the bounty of your flower gardens to beautify our sanctuary.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun, Aug 12 – 2:00 PM – Parish Picnic
Wed, Aug 15 – **Feast of the Assumption**
8:30 AM – St. Patrick’s
12:00 PM – Holy Cross

The parish picnic will be held on Sun, August 12th at 2:00 PM. There is a sign-up sheet at the entrances. More information to follow.



Prayer List:
Please remember those who are unable to join us on Sunday: Jane Thomas, 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.

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

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.

Adult Faith Website: *The Body of Christ*. “We live in very challenging times! Many are searching for a spirituality to suit their twenty-first-century needs and many young people have joined this search..... By ‘spirituality’ I mean a set of beliefs and practices that put us in touch with the sacred other world that is bigger than ourselves, that develops within us a wholeness, that moves us toward a maturity of mind and spirit, and that motivates us to help others, especially the less fortunate.” So begins the Introduction to *Eucharist: The Basic Spirituality*. Read the full text of the book by FRANK O’DEA SSS on our Spirituality Tab.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word will resume on Sept. 23rd.

Lay Liturgical Ministers			
		Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
7/21/18	4:30 PM	B. Shay	A. Dunigan P. Dunigan
7/22/18	8:30 AM	D. Farringer	S. Wilk L. Rasmussen C. Farringer
7/28/18	4:30 PM	J. Peck	M. Dearstyne R. Pemrick
7/29/18	8:30 AM	L. Rasmussen	R. Sheffleid D. Farringer C. Farringer
Altar Rosary Cleaning: July 22 – Pat, Roseann, Margaret July 30 – Joann, Carolyn			

Mass Intentions		
7/21/18	4:30 PM	For the people of the parish
7/22/18	8:30 AM	For Donald Gross Req. by Ann Jennings For deceased members of the Jennings family Req. by Ann Jennings
7/28/18	4:30 PM	For the people of the parish
7/29/18	8:30 AM	For Victor and Helen McDonald Req. by John McDonald

Stewardship of Treasure
Offertory - \$984.00 Insurance - \$232.00 Miscellaneous - \$40.00 Thank you for your generosity!

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

Men’s Group News Interested in joining – call Peter Dunigan at 854-9217
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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
