

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,

Our New Testament epistle lesson for today is an example of early Christian teaching and writing that includes a reference to all three persons of the Trinity, although again, Paul does not attempt here to set out a doctrinal teaching about the Trinity or explain how God could be three persons but also one. Paul simply names our experience of God in ways that flow naturally and organically . . . “we have peace with God through our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ . . . because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that he has given to us.” (Romans 5:1,5)

Here is what Paul knows, and what his readers (then and now) know--through our faith and commitment to Jesus Christ we experience inner peace, and we sense profound connection and access to God we could not know apart from knowing Christ, and this closeness to God feels like our hearts and souls are filled to the brim with the love and presence of God, which is the witness and warm embrace of the Holy Spirit of God with our spirits.

Paul is naming here the experience of God that all of us have who know and follow God through obedient trust in the witness and teaching of Christ, and who walk now in the assurance and confidence that God is with us and within us through His Spirit.

But the great Apostle also gives us a glimpse in this lesson about what it means for Christians to know God in all of these ways—we are filled and sustained by hope. Did you catch that refrain in the lesson today from Paul's letter to the Roman Church? He says we have hope because we have obtained access to God through faith in Jesus Christ. How important that access, that connection, that intimacy with God is for all of us! Where would we be if God were only a deity far removed, remote and uncaring? How lost, and hopeless would that existence be? But because of Christ, we know that God has come near, that God is inclined toward us, that God wants to have relationship with us, that God would do anything—including give up His own beloved Son—in order for us to know about and be redeemed by His love. And that is the foundation of our hope. It is a solid and gracious foundation, indeed!

But Paul goes a step further. One might think that if God loves us that much, and if we have that wonderful access to God through Christ, then surely God would not allow anything

bad to happen to us. We might be tempted to think, “Surely a God who loves that much, and who has that almighty power, would protect those He cherishes from any suffering or danger or persecution.”

And we would be wrong. God does love us--infinitely, powerfully, eternally. But we are not promised a path without obstacles, or a life without suffering and pain and challenge. Just the opposite, Paul assumes here that followers of God through Christ will also suffer in life. Sometimes that suffering is precisely because we are followers of Christ. But when that suffering comes, as it most surely will to us all, we are not cut off from the hope we have in God. It is not a sign that we have strayed off the proper path, or that God has turned his back on us. Times of suffering are all part of the human experience of life, and even in those difficult and challenging moments, Paul gives us a glimpse of the larger plan of God, a plan that is often lost on us when we are in the intense times of struggle and pain and sorrow. Paul says that our suffering produces endurance, like exercise and resistance weight training producing stronger muscles. And endurance produces character. Our character is forged in the furnace of our most difficult moments. Those are the times that test and shape our integrity and values, are they not? And then character becomes the seedbed out of which springs hope, a hope that does not disappoint. So whether we suffer or not, succeed or not, live or die, all roads lead to hope—which never lets us down.

In Christ,
Jeff Peck

Father Marty Fisher is retiring from the active priesthood effective July 1st and will celebrate his final Mass as Sacramental Minister of Holy Cross on Sunday, June 23rd at 8:30 AM. A farewell coffee hour will be held following mass. Anyone wishing to attend this celebration is welcome to join us.

The Wild Goose Session 2: The Breath of God. Pentecost and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit is an encounter available to everyone. Live a life of faith, a life full of love, peace, joy and power by the Holy Spirit. *Join us this Thursday, June 20, St. John the Baptist, Castleton, 6:30 pm for The Wild Goose Session 2: The Breath of God.* <https://thewildgooseisloose.com/>

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun, June 23 – Coffee Hour
Sun, June 23 – 6:00 – Salem Baccalaureate,
West Hebron Methodist Church
Sat, June 29 -8:00 – 12:00 – St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus
Red Cross Blood Drive, American Legion, Rt. 22, Cambridge

The Coffee Hour, usually held on the first Sunday of the month, will be held on Sunday, June 23 this month.

Adult Faith Website: *The Breath of God*. Learn more about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on our Spirituality tab and find prayers to the Holy Spirit on our Prayers tab.



Prayer List:

Please remember those who are unable to join us
on Sunday: Jane Thomas, 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, Larry McCauley, Lorraine Denick, Baby Owen, R. Wescott, Christine Tomlinson, Todd McLenithan, Kelly Matson

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 Norm Button and the consolation of his family.

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.

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).

Salem Food Pantry is in need of the following items. Soups, canned tuna and chicken, canned pasta like ravioli, and cereal and Mac "N Cheese. Personal care items are also always a welcome item. Thanks for your continued support of your Salem Food Pantry!

Lay Liturgical Ministers

		Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
6/15/19	4:30 PM	B. Shay	A. Dunigan P. Dunigan
6/16/19	8:30 AM	S. Wilk	D. Farringer C. Farringer R. Sheffield
6/22/19	4:30 PM	R. Boyd	R. Pemrick B. Shay
6/23/19	8:30 AM	M. Raffel	S. Wilk D. Farringer R. Sheffield

Altar Rosary Cleaning: June 16 – Pat, Roseann, Margaret W.
June 23 -

Mass Intentions

6/15/19	4:30 PM	For the people of the parish
6/16/19	8:30 AM	For Peter and Mary Capuano Req. by nephew, James Laird
6/22/19	4:30 PM	For the people of the parish
6/23/19	8:30 AM	For Douglas Carrolan Req. by Dale McNeil

Stewardship of Treasure – June 9

Offertory - \$769.00
Votives - \$15.00
Second collection - \$975.00
Miscellaneous - \$147.00

Thank you for your generosity!

The Second Collection this week is for
The Catholic Communication Campaign
The Second Collection next week is for
Cemetery Care

Today, we are taking up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Your support helps the CCC connect people to Christ, in the United States and around the world, through the internet, television, radio, and print media.

Salem Area Churches First Friday Noontime Prayer Services
please call Rev. Laura Mitchell 518-854-3729 for information
June 7 - First United Presbyterian, 13 West Broadway, Salem

Altar Rosary Society
meets 2nd Tuesday of each month
Church Hall - 11AM
Come join us - Pat @ 854-7247