

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,

When it came for the first son of (the now) Queen Elizabeth of England to be named, he was called Charles Philip Arthur George. One can imagine the consultation within the family and the royal household to get the names right, to link this heir to the throne to a glorious past, hoping for more than a nominal influence on his future. Tradition was foremost.

It was the same in the village where another Elizabeth gave birth to a son. The whole village was quite certain that the child could be called Zechariah after his father.

But, Elizabeth resisted: “Not so: he shall be called John.” No doubt, she had received this name from her husband Zechariah who had himself received a divine imperative. He, in turn, had no hesitation in writing on a writing tablet, “his name is John”—is John. Present tense.

This son of Zechariah was destined to enter the priestly service of the temple, just as his father and his father had done for generations. Everyone knew his place and role—everyone should know his place and role, but this “John”? “What, then, will this child be?” The villagers were shocked enough by the declaration of the name. In the last verse of today’s reading, we get a premonition of a further shock to come. This now young man is not preparing for priestly service at the Temple.

He is out in the wilderness. He has adopted the lifestyle of the most marginal, living outside settled existence (where tradition suffocates). In another gospel, we read that he had a rough coat of camel hair to keep out the cold of the desert night, and he ate locusts and wild honey, the subsistence diet of the poorest.

Possibly, he came across the Essenes, (famous for the Dead Sea Scrolls), a sect which also rejected the tradition of temple worship. Instead, they focused on water rituals, cleansing themselves in preparation for the coming clash between Light and Darkness. John certainly shared their practice of immersing people in water as a sign of repentance and preparation. The Greek word for immersing people in this way is to “baptize” them. He would become John the Baptizer, John the Baptist.

Pope Francis constantly urges us to be challenged by those existing on the margins. This encompasses not only those who are suffering exclusion, injustice, or who are simply without the necessities of life. He is also concerned with those on the peripheries of world power. Perhaps this is best symbolized in the choosing of a Cardinal from Tonga which has only 15,000 Catholics.

May we be sufficiently open to receive God’s messengers, who may erupt from the margins, from “the wilderness” of the peripheries, even from Argentina.

In Christ, Jeff Peck

Congratulations to Michael Formwalt, Christopher Keyes, Carli McPhee, Jack Pelton, Charity Rushinsk and all 2018 graduates of Salem School. We applaud your accomplishments and send you forth with prayers for continued growth and success.

Pastoral Council news: At its meeting last week, the council
1 – agreed to purchase a security system for the church and Rectory
2 – Tabled a proposal for work on the steeple
3 – Set the date for the parish picnic, August 12th. St. Patrick’s will be invited to participate. Construction has made their picnic too difficult this year.
4 – A representative of the company running the Bishop’s new fund raising effort will meet with Jeff Peck shortly to outline the requirements for conducting this effort. The parish goal has been set at \$83,000.00.

The **Finance Committee** will meet on Sunday, July 1st immediately following 8:30 AM Mass.

The **parish picnic** will be held on Sunday, August 12th at 2:00 PM.

New railings which are continuous front the top to the bottom of the entryway to the church have been designed and will soon be installed. The railings ensure that those using them will not have to remove their hands from the railing to grasp the shorter metal railings currently on the stone pillars. Additionally, these railings will not require painting or replacing as the current wooden rails do.

The 2018 Bishop’s Appeal: To date, the parish has raised in pledges and donations \$7,450.00 of our \$10,146.00 assessment. We still have a long way to go. Thanks to all who have been so generous thus far. If you have not made your pledge or donation, there are envelopes available in the church or you may make your donation online at www.thebishopsappeal.org.

Salesian Mission Appeal: This year the Mission Appeal will take place on June 30th and July 1st. Members of Salesian Missions will be with us. The Salesians were founded by John Bosco in 1859 and are named in honor of St. Francis de Sales. The second collection that weekend will assist the Propagation of the Faith in supporting mission work abroad.

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.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun, July 1 – Finance Committee meeting following mass
Sun, Aug 12 – 2:00 PM – Parish Picnic



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, Jean Fleming. 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.

Please share the bounty of your flower gardens to beautify our sanctuary.

Adult Faith Website: Learn more about the Eucharist, in preparation for our Diocesan Eucharistic Congress! For the Summer of 2018, we will focus on two manifestations of The Body of Christ: the Holy Eucharist and the Church. Go to the parish website (www.battenkillcatholic.org) and click on the link to access our adult faith materials.



Hearts Aflame! Unity with the Shepherd - A Eucharistic Congress is a display of unity under the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, who is also symbolized by the local bishop. Typically, a Eucharistic Congress is declared by the bishop and presided over by him. That's the case in our diocese, too. Put simply: this gathering is Bishop Ed's idea! He'll also be the main celebrant and speaker on September 22. Our vision is for Catholics from every corner of the diocese to gather with him in prayer and fellowship. *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*

Salem Food Pantry News-- Food Pantry is in need toothpaste, toothbrushes, soup, canned meat, shampoo, cereal, mac & cheese and other canned goods.

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

Lay Liturgical Ministers

		Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
6/23/18	4:30 PM	B. Shay	P. Dunigan A. Dunigan
6/24/18	8:30 AM	M. Raffel	P. Leonard J. Leonard R. Sheffield
6/30/18	4:30 PM	B. Shay	M. Dearstyne R. Pemrick
7/1/18	8:30 AM	M. Raffel	L. Rasmussen R. Sheffield D. Farringer

Altar Rosary Cleaning: June 24 – Joann, Carolyn
July 1 – Rosemary, Lonnie

Mass Intentions

6/23/18	4:30 PM	For the people of the parish
6/24/18	8:30 AM	For Frederick and Ann Hagan Req. by Mary Sommer For Ned Hagerty Req. by niece and family
6/30/18	4:30 PM	For Robert Michael Shay Req. by the family
7/1/18	8:30 AM	For Deceased members of the Hamilton family Req. by Bette Hamilton Scanlon For Judy Mestayer Req. by the O'Donnell Family

Stewardship of Treasure

Offerory - \$1181.00
Votives - \$29.00
Second Collection - \$242.00
Miscellaneous - \$65.00

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

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