

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,

Three priests, a Franciscan, a Dominican, and a Jesuit were having a hard time on the golf course. The golfers in front of the priests were the slowest and worst they had ever seen. Golf balls were going everywhere. Against golfing etiquette, the group never asked the priests to "play through." By the 18th hole, the priests were furious. At the clubhouse, just as they were going over to blast the group, they were told that the men were blind. The Franciscan moved with remorse at how they had spoken about the group, said to the Dominican and the Jesuit, "I am going to say Mass every day that God may grant them a miracle and restore their sight." The Dominican, equally filled with regret, told the Jesuit and the Franciscan that he was going to get the blind men an appointment with the best eye surgeon in town. The Jesuit, however, looked at the Franciscan and the Dominican and declared, "I can't see why they don't play at night!"

To have any type of disability in first-century Palestine not only meant financial hardship but social segregation. Because Jesus' contemporaries did not understand the causes of illness they assumed it was, to some degree, a curse sent by God in punishment for sins. They also thought the curse could be caught. So the blind, the lame, the crippled, the leper, and the bleeder were desperately poor and socially outcast. Even today some Christians have made similar statements about God cursing gay people with AIDS. Given the way Jesus acts toward those he encounters with illness, we know that God never sends disease as a curse for sin.

Bartimeus is a desperate man, and he acts desperately, calling out until he is heard. And in one of the strangest questions in the Gospel, Jesus asks a blind man what it is he wants. Maybe Jesus wants Bartimeus to name his deepest desire. Maybe Jesus knows that it is the unseen hurt that is the most diseased and needs healing first. Whatever of his motives, Jesus' question gives the man dignity.

In acplay written about this encounter with Jesus, Bartimeus considers his options. He hears the voices of those he might have to look at if he regains his sight. The poor remind him that, "once before you could see and what you saw disgusted you." The hungry ask, "do you have the courage to experience and share my hunger?" The elderly inquires whether he wants to see those "put away because we remind you of the frailty of life." The captives challenge him to see those "unjustly bound and oppressed." And finally, the Self wants to know, "Are you willing to look inside yourself to see your beauty and ugliness, darkness and light?" It's a gripping scene.

It reminds us all that sight, and the insight that can come from what we see bestows on us the dignity of having options and the

responsibility to do something about what we behold. We are in the position of making choices about what we look at. Not everything in the world needs to be seen. There is enough violence and abuse of human dignity in real life to discourage us from seeking it out. We cannot, however, let ourselves off the hook in seeing the world as it is and doing something about creating a better vision of humanity for everyone, everywhere.

The play finishes, like the Gospel story, with Bartimeus requesting from Jesus the gift of sight. But in the play, in a powerful twist, as Bartimeus follows Jesus on the path, he stops, turns, and sees the human faces behind the challenging voices. He goes back, embraces them, and together they walk the Christian path. Let us pray for the strength to do the same."

In Christ,
Jeff Peck

Masks are required while inside the church

As the weather gets colder, we ask that you dress warmly to come to church. One of the ways to prevent the spread of the Covid virus is through ventilation. Although the building will be heated, the windows and doors will be open to insure the circulation of air.

The Invitations of Autumn: Reflections and Spiritual Practices for the Season. A retreat refreshes, revitalizes, and rekindles one's relationship with God. Find prayers and reflections on the season to help you plan a contemplative experience, whether it's several days away or a few hours at home at <https://stpatrickslifelongfaith.weebly.com/spirituality.html>.

Adult Scripture Study: Angels in the Bible

Mondays, 6:30 - 8 pm, St. Patrick's

Tuesdays, 10 - 11:30 am, Holy Cross

Lesson Three October 25/26

Lesson Four November 1/2

Lesson Five November 8/9

Lesson Six November 15/16

Upcoming Mass Schedule

All Saint's Day – November 1st

No mass at St. Patrick's or Holy Cross

9:00 AM – Immaculate Conception

The Immaculate Conception – December 8th

9:00 AM – St. Patrick's, Cambridge

12:00 PM – Holy Cross, Salem

6:00 PM – Immaculate Conception, Hoosick Falls

Due to expected demand, we likely will be asking for reservations for Christmas Eve Mass.

The Altar Rosary Society is holding a Fall Wreath Raffle

The Diocesan Appeal year has begun & a mailing will arrive in-home in October. As you contemplate your investment, please consider the role of the Catholic Church in your life and that of your family. Your support of both your parish offertory and the Diocesan Appeal are the most fundamental ways to ensure the health and vitality of our entire Catholic community of 126 parishes in 14 counties, serving you in the day-to-day and milestone moments of your life. If you are eager to get started, you can make a gift or pledge online at www.thediocesanappeal.org or set-up bill pay through your bank for recurring gifts (easier on your budget), asking the bank to make checks payable to Diocesan Appeal, 40 N. Main Ave., Albany, NY 12203. Be sure to include your name and the name & location of our parish. Thank you!

Mass Intentions		
10/24/21	8:15 AM	For the deceased members of the Carrolan Family For Joseph and Jerry Zerilli Req. by the family
10/31/21	8:15 AM	For Mary Neil Req. by Chet and Rosemary Boyd



Prayer List:

Please pray for the continued recovery of Paul, Cody Pulver, Bernie Bourgeois, R. Wescott, Christine Tomlinson, Todd McLenithan, Kelly Matson, Wiley Dearstyne, Lorraine Denick, Dorothy Sokol, Daniel W, A. Russell, Bernadette, Kate, Jean, Fr. Lucian Beltzner, Mary, John Schauer, Fred and Betsy, Jeannette Davis, Bob Shevil, Lonnie Rasmussen, Steven MacNeil, Melissa Craft

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

Liturgical Roles	
Sunday, October 24 – 8:30 AM	
Lector:	
Eucharistic Minister:	
Sunday, October 31 – 8:30 AM	
Lector:	Scott Wilk
Eucharistic Minister:	Ed Harrington
Altar Rosary Cleaning:	October 24-Marion, Sandy, Peggy October 31 – Cynthia, Kay, Marg D.

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 St. Patrick's Church at 677-2757.

Stewardship of Treasure – October 17

Offertory – \$722.00

Second collection - \$35.00

Miscellaneous - \$80.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Please consider continuing to make regular donations during this period to ensure the parish's financial survival. You can mail your collection envelope to Box 357, Salem NY 12865 or leave it in the basket when the Church is open on Sunday mornings. I have also arranged for electronic giving which is available at www.battenkillcatholic.org/donations

The Altar Rosary will host a coffee hour on the first Sunday of each month.

Daily mass will be cancelled if there is a funeral scheduled for that day.

Contacting Fr. Peter - Call the office at Immaculate Conception. 518 686 5064. Outside of office hours, leave a message including your name and number. If the need is urgent, please call or text Jeff Peck, 518 683 6461 or email, jeffreypeck@battenkillcatholic.org. Jeff's telephone and email are also monitored outside of business hours.

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

St. Joseph's in Greenwich-Mass will be available at 10 AM on YouTube on Sunday morning and later. It can be accessed at YouTube channel named "St. Joseph's Church in Greenwich, NY" the link is www.tinyurl.com/SJG-liturgies

Battenkill Cluster of Parishes Mass schedule

Holy Cross, Salem: Sunday - 8:15 AM

Tuesday – 9:00 AM

Immaculate Conception, Hoosick Falls: Sat. 4:00 PM, Sun. 10:00

Mon – 9:00 AM

St. Patrick's, Cambridge: Sunday - 11:30 AM

Wednesday – 9:00 AM

St. Joseph's, Greenwich: Sunday 10:00 AM

Notre Dame-Visitation, Schuylerville: Sat. 4:00 PM, Sun. 8:30 AM

Please visit the 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.