

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,

It's easy to see that the disciples don't get when Jesus tells them in plain language that because of the way he lives and what he says he will be put to death by the power barons of his day. The disciples seem to think the Passion is going to be an event out of a romance novel, where the ensuing campaign will see greatness thrust upon them. In this context, Jesus takes the smallest and most vulnerable of people in their society and teaches the disciples that greatness comes through care of the least.

This is a powerful lesson. Greatness in the world—power, connections, wealth, influence, reputation and learning—only counts for something in the Kingdom of God when put at the service of the most vulnerable of our society. Greed, riches, and pride are so alluring, so seductive for us in the Church, as much as for those outside it, that we need to regularly examine our consciences to assess the motivations and results of what we are doing, and why we are doing it. When I read today's Gospel, however, I also feel sad. I cannot help but reflect on how unintentionally prophetic Mark was being in linking the prediction of Jesus' passion with the status of a child.

The safeguards now needed in response to the criminal and scandalous behavior of a very few leaders in the Church, means that many bishops, priests, religious and lay people can no longer follow Jesus' example and take children in our arms. I fully understand why this is the case, but the fact that we have to be so careful about the care of our children and have strict protocols and legislation which covers such behavior toward children is a necessary and, nonetheless, tragic moment. It's also a moment for us to remember the passion of those who have had to endure the trauma of destructive behavior. As the Jews say of the Holocaust, "to forget is to commit the same mistake again." At its most basic level the latter part of today's Gospel reveals what we would expect of Jesus—he likes children, and they like him.

It's amazing how a couple of pieces of information can sometimes change the way a scriptural story is read, and its importance for our lives today. We know from other documents of the same period as the New Testament that children in first century Palestine had no rights. They were possessions of their fathers, and they could be bought and sold, exploited, and even killed without any recourse to the religious or civil law.

In this society only a child's immediate family could touch them. The story, then, of Jesus embracing the child in public was a social challenge to accepted customs. But it's much more than that. In taking the children in his arms, Jesus declares that they are possessions of no one, but they belong to us all as gifts. In

the family of God, children are accorded the dignity and respect we would give to God.

Today's Gospel tells us that those who deserve our attention and esteem are the ones who are the least, the most at risk or those who put their talents and gifts at their service by making the world a better place for them. Just as he did in the marketplace of Galilee when he took the children in his arms, Jesus has a habit of turning our world's values upside down
In Christ,
Jeff Peck

Thanks to everyone who made our parish feast day celebration a success!

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

Collection for Haiti – Today we will hold a special collection for relief following the devastating earthquake in Haiti as requested by Bishop Scharfenberger and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Please be generous as always in helping our brothers and sisters in the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Baskets are available at the entrances.

Masks are required
while inside the church

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.

SEASON OF CREATION by Nick Brodie

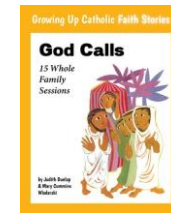
Today's Gospel reveals a fearfulness in the disciples' response to Jesus. Afraid of asking too many questions, they almost seem to prefer being ignorant rather than admit the limits of their own understanding. Strangely, this self-imposed ignorance does not prevent them from posturing for position. What a warning for the Church this episode seems to offer!

While this excerpt of Mark's Gospel is often interpreted in terms of the virtue of humility, the other aspect of Jesus' point is easily overlooked. Every Christian is called to be "last of all and servant of all." Ours is a faith of humble service.

The scriptures repeatedly make the point that faith is always embedded in creation. A mountain, a road, a town, and a house all frame the action in this episode. Because the Church exists wherever its members go our beliefs and prayers are not restricted to church buildings. We take our faith on roads, into our homes and towns, and even up mountains.

Given this, our faith compels us to have a special care for all of creation. As Jesus clearly intimates, by humbly serving created things we express our love of the Creator who made them all.

Adult Scripture Study: Angels in the Bible. The Bible is full of fascinating passages about angels. Because angels are mediators of God's presence and action, studying angels is studying God. This six-week study will begin the first week of October. Schedule and registration are available in the lobby and on the website: <https://stpatrikslifelongfaith.weebly.com/bible-study.html>. Contact maryrosmus@battenkillcatholic.org for more information.



Faith Formation. You are invited to enroll in our exciting new family program: **Growing Up Catholic Faith Stories.** The story-based approach focuses on the core of our Catholic faith and provides opportunities for parents to with their children. We will gather once a month at the parish (with universal masking) for bilingual whole family sessions, and families will complete sessions at home between meetings in English or Spanish. Alternatively, all sessions can be done at home. More information and registration forms are available in the church or on the parish website, www.battenkillcatholic.org. Contact maryrosmus@battenkillcatholic.org for more information.



"Say the Word and My Soul Shall Be Healed"
Catechetical Sunday, Sept. 19th, 2021
This day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a Witness to the Gospel.

Those whose vocation it is to serve as Catechist will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry and parents will receive a blessing during Mass.

		Mass Intentions
9/19/21	8:15 AM	For Donna MacNeil Req. by her family
9/26/21	8:15 AM	For Frank Pemrick Req. by Kay and Larry McCauley



Prayer List:

Please pray for the continued recovery of Paul, Cody Pulver, Bernie Bourgeois, R. Wescott, Christine Tomlinson, Todd McLenithan, Kelly Matson, Jason Clapper, 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

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 – September 12

Offertory – \$662.00

Second collection - \$266.00

Miscellaneous - \$381.00

Collection for Haiti - \$295.00

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

Liturgical Roles

Sunday, September 19 –8:30 AM

Lector: Donna Farringer

Eucharistic Minister: Ed Harrington

Sunday, September 26 – 8:30 AM

Lector: Scott Wilk

Eucharistic Minister: Donna Farringer

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

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.

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. 11:15 AM

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

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.

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.