

**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 hard to see what the disciples don't get when Jesus tells them in fairly 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 result of the Passion is going 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 leaders in the Church, means that many bishops, priests, religious and teachers 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 is also time to be clear about what we expect of the Church going forward, humility, sacrifice, making itself as Jesus did, vulnerable.

It's amazing how a couple of pieces of information can sometimes change the way a scriptural story is read. We know 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.

One custom was that only a child's immediate family could touch them. The story of Jesus embracing the child in public was in itself a social challenge to accepted customs. 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 market place 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

**Thank you** to all who attended the feast day celebration and especially to those who made it possible.

We are looking for someone to plow and shovel this winter. Please contact Jeff Peck with recommendations.

**Faith Formation classes begin today.** Parents are asked to stay with their children today for a brief meeting.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** resumes today.

**Adult Faith Website: New! Fall Theme: *The Gift of Friendship. The Gift of Friendship.*** Could you go a week without seeing anyone? This is a reality for many older people. Learn about the **Campaign to End Loneliness** on our Friendship tab.

**Salem Food Pantry News:** All food items donated the month of September will go to support the Backpack Program for children at Salem School. The Backpack Program uses peanut butter, jelly, mac 'n cheese, cereal (not the huge boxes), snack fruit cups or jello cups, instant pudding mix, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce. No glass jars please. Thank you for your support of our local families.

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

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mon, Sept 24 – 6:30-8:00 – Adult Bible Study, St. Patrick's  
Tues, Sept 25 – 7:00-8:30 – Adult Bible Study, Holy Cross  
Sun, Sept 30 – Blessing of the Animals  
2:00 – St. Patrick's  
3:00 – Holy Cross

**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, Larry McCauley. 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 visit our parish website: [www.battenkillcatholic.org](http://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

**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](mailto:pastoralcare@battenkillcatholic.org).

**DIOCESAN MARRIAGE JUBILEE::** The 46th Annual Diocesan Marriage Jubilee Liturgy will be held Sunday, October 7th, 2018 at 2:00 PM at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany. Couples celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th or other special wedding anniversaries are invited to attend this celebration. Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger will celebrate the Liturgy at 2:00 PM and greet couples and their guests at a reception in the gathering area at the Cathedral immediately following Mass. Please register through your parish office or by email to [Marriage.Jubilee@rcda.org](mailto:Marriage.Jubilee@rcda.org).

**Lay Liturgical Ministers**

		Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
9/22/18	4:30 PM	B. Shay	A. Dunigan P. Dunigan
9/23/18	8:30 AM	D. Farringer	D. Farringer L. Rasmussen C. Farringer
9/29/18	4:30 PM	J. Peck	M. Dearstyne R. Pemrick
9/30/18	8:30 AM	L. Rasmussen	R. Sheffield D. Farringer C. Farringer

Altar Rosary Cleaning: September 23 - Cynthia and Kay  
September 30 -Pat, Roseann, Margaret

**Mass Intentions**

9/22/18	4:30 PM	For Frank and Reta Pemrick Req. by daughter, Reta
9/23/18	8:30 AM	For Edward and Irma T. McDonnell Req. by son, John For Ned Haggerty, a birthday remembrance Req. by Pat Isgro and family
9/29/18	4:30 PM	For the people of the parish
9/30/18	8:30 AM	For Roy Rasmussen Req. by Inez Migliori

**Stewardship of Treasure**

Offertory - \$1036.00  
Votive- \$29.00  
Repairs - \$25.00  
Vacation Make-Up - \$254.00

Thank you for your generosity!

The second collection today is for  
The Catholic University of America  
The second collection next week is for  
The Evangelist

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

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