

**Holy Cross Catholic Church**  
**247 Main Street**  
**Salem, NY 12865**

Mailing address:  
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Telephone: (518) 854-7626  
Email: [parishoffice@battenkillcatholic.org](mailto:parishoffice@battenkillcatholic.org)

**August 9, 2020**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

To accommodate reopening preparations and sanitizing requirements the church will no longer be open other than for Sunday mass.

Mass will be celebrated outside as often as possible. A decision based on the weather forecast will be made on Thursday morning and announced on the Cluster Facebook page and via Flocknote.

If we are inside on Sunday, please call **518 677 2757** or email the parish office between 8:30AM and 12:00PM on Friday morning to be included in the number permitted to enter the church on Sunday  
On Sunday:  
Please:

1. **Contact tracing information will be gathered on site. It is no longer necessary to bring a completed form with you.**
2. Arrive 1/2 hour early.
3. Please bring your own mask and hand sanitizer.
4. Maintain social distance.
5. Remain masked for the entire mass, except for communion.
6. An usher will direct you to a seat and direct you to exit when mass is concluded.
7. Leave the property immediately upon exiting the church.
8. Bathrooms will be closed, except for serious health emergencies.
9. Bring a lawn chair if we are outside.

**Please consider this:**

There is no obligation to come to mass. There is no expectation that you attend. Uneasy about coming, find the requirements the state and the diocese have given us to operate under too confusing or offensive, stay home. Most importantly, those who are older, have medical conditions, or are frail are strongly urged to stay home. There are ample opportunities online and on television to view mass. Masses within our cluster are available online and information is included in this newsletter.

**Last Sunday's Attendance: 16**

St. Joseph's in Greenwich will continue to post Sunday mass on YouTube. Fr. Ed Kacerguis will be the celebrant with Maureen Cossey serving as music minister. Mass will be available at 10 AM on Sunday morning and later. It can be accessed at YouTube channel is named "St. Joseph's Church in Greenwich, NY" the link is [www.tinyurl.com/SJG-liturgies](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJG-liturgies)

**There is still a need for volunteers:**

We will need to disinfect the church after each Mass. The cleaning requirements will mean, in the short term, that the churches will only be open for mass on Sunday.  
**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP GREET/USHER AND TO HELP DISINFECT THE CHURCH EACH WEEK.**  
Please email me or call if you are willing to help. Once we have sufficient cleaners, the Saturday vigil can begin.

**August 15th, The Feast of the Assumption will be celebrated with a streamed mass from St. Joseph's at 10:00 AM. If you wish to attend in person, you MUST call St. Joseph's parish office at 518-692-2159 to ensure entrance.**

**Weather permitting, an outside mass at Immaculate Conception in Hoosick Falls at 4pm on Friday, August 14th. Bring a chair to sit on but be aware the mass will be cancelled if the weather is inclement.**

Dear friends,

I vividly remember as a young boy swimming on a coastal beach and being caught in a strong under tow. I was pulled further and further from shore. I recalled my swimming lessons and swam parallel to shore until the pull lessened. Still remember the fear I felt.

This Gospel resonates with that experience, and it resonates with lots of experiences in our lives.

Have you ever felt swamped with an event—a traumatic accident, the death of someone we love, the loss of a job, failure in an exam—which seems to leave you floundering? A sudden tempest storms into our life and we can't find our feet, can be quite literally gasping for air, we can feel we are drowning.

Our Lord will come alongside us and get into the boat of life with us and calm the storm. But, and this is very important, our Lord will not take us back as if by magic to the previous situation. The storm might be behind us, but we have to press on.

The disciples had started off from the Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee, familiar territory. Jesus guided them through the stormy situation to “the other side”, the pagan side, unfamiliar territory where they would not have felt at home.

It takes courage for us to move to a new situation, but with Our Lord's presence we need not be as afraid as we would otherwise be.

But this Gospel is not so much about individuals as it is about the Church. It is about the disciples of Jesus around the figure of Peter. We are the disciples of Jesus gathered in the boat with the successor of St Peter, Pope Francis. When the Church is buffeted by storms, it is often because the Church is in the midst of a journey from familiar to unfamiliar territory. Our parish is in the midst of such a storm. We can all list some of the storms of the past fifty years.

There is a new attitude to authority. Rule by dictate or decree with unreflecting obedience is not possible except in a few remaining authoritarian or totalitarian regimes. Rome-based clerics and bishops have to get used to this new situation, and Our Lord says to them “keep rowing” to the unfamiliar shore.

There is a new attitude to gender roles. The feminist movement has challenged many of the stereotypes by which women had been subjugated over the centuries. Males have got to get used to this new situation and Our Lord says to us “keep rowing” to the unfamiliar shore. Pope Francis is rowing in the right direction on that score. As he has said: “The challenge today is this, to think about the specific place of women also in those places where the authority of the Church is exercised for various areas

of the Church.” [A *Big Heart Open to God*, America: National Catholic Review 30 Sept 2013] Progress is too slow for my taste but last week's hopeful news about the appointment of 6 women to high posts in the Vatican gives me hope.

There is a new attitude to priests and bishops. There is anger and suspicion at sexual abuse and its cover up, transparency and responsibility are demanded. Clergy have got to get used to this new situation. Our Lord says “keep rowing” to an unfamiliar shore.

Of course, throwing tradition overboard is not a solution either. There is Tradition with a capital “T” which is the Spirit-led experience of Catholic Christianity over two millennia. *That* is not to be jettisoned. But the grace of discernment is needed.

Jesus will not allow us the indulgence of nostalgic yearning for the safety of the past country inhabited by the Church. We must make our way to the other shore. Perhaps we are called to help build a new structure of the Church and the parish on that other shore. We know the preferred model put forward by the current successor of St Peter: “I see the Church as a field hospital after battle. ... Heal the wounds, heal the wounds. ... And you have to start from the ground up.” We can row with courage because we know we are in the same boat as Peter to whom our Jesus constantly extends a saving hand  
In Christ,  
Jeff Peck

#### **Weekly Scripture**

Mon, Aug 10 – Cor 9:6-10, Jn 12:24-26

Tues, Aug 11 – Ez 2:8-3:34, Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wed, Aug 12 – Ez 9:1-7, 10:18-22, Mt 18:15-20

Thurs, Aug 13 – Ez 12:1-12, Mt 18:21-19:1

Fri, Aug 14 – Ez 16:59-63, Mt 19:3-12

Sat, Aug 15 – Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

1 Cor 15:20-27, Lk 1:39-56

Sun, Aug 16 – Is 1:6-7, Rom 11:13-15, 29-32, Mt 15:21-28

Please continue to pray for our parish community as we take these first, difficult and uncomfortable steps toward gathering again. Please pray for the continued recovery of Theresa Abel, Fr. William Cahill, Tena Rioux, Paul, Olga Rogers, Cody Pulver, Bernie Bourgeois, Larry McCauley, R. Wescott, Christine Tomlinson, Todd McLenithan, Kelly Matson, Pam Markowsky, Jason Clapper, Wiley Dearstyne, Theresa Kautz, Dena Veith, Lorraine Denick, Michael Carney, Dorothy Sokol and Rick Muhlig and for the repose of the souls of Marilyn Capuano and Jane Hardy and the consolation of their families.



## CHANGES TO THE BISHOP'S APPEAL

We want to let you know about a few changes to the annual campaign formerly known as the Bishop's Appeal:

- The campaign will now be known as the **Diocesan Appeal** and themed, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)
- There will no longer be "in-pew" collection of pledges.
- The 2020-2021 Diocesan Appeal will begin with a mailing sent to parishioners from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany (RCDA) - Office of Stewardship and Development. You should expect to receive this correspondence between now and early September; it will include a pledge card and envelope.
- Pledges and payments will no longer be processed in the parish office.
- The appeal year runs through June 30, 2021 (rather than ending in March as in the past).
- Monthly or one-time gifts by credit card can be made via secure website at [donate.thediocesanappeal.org](http://donate.thediocesanappeal.org). You can also make a pledge at that site as well as pledge payments.
- For more information on the appeal, visit [www.thediocesanappeal.org](http://www.thediocesanappeal.org).
- Questions - call the RCDA Office of Stewardship & Development at 518-453-6680 or email [stewardship@rcda.org](mailto:stewardship@rcda.org)

As the Diocese serves as a critical partner with us in serving you, we thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of a pledge to the Diocesan Appeal.

**E-giving received: \$25.00**  
**Offertory for the last week: \$771.00**  
**Thank you for being so generous in this difficult time.**

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.battkillcatholic.org/donations](http://www.battkillcatholic.org/donations).

**Access to the church is limited to comply with requirements for cleaning after its use.**

For information and great resources check our website [www.battkillcatholic.org](http://www.battkillcatholic.org) and the Battenkill Cluster Facebook page.

**Communications** If you think someone is especially isolated or lonely, please let us know by email, text, or call. If you know someone who does not use email or is not receiving our Flocknotes, please forward contact information to us at [parishoffice@battkillcatholic.org](mailto:parishoffice@battkillcatholic.org).

### Contact Information

Office telephones are checked a few times a week, but the outgoing message is changed as we receive new information.

Holy Cross 518 854 7626  
St. Patrick's 518 677 2757

Email – for both parishes:  
[parishoffice@battkillcatholic.org](mailto:parishoffice@battkillcatholic.org)

Jeff Peck  
Please contact me with any questions or concerns:  
518 683 6461 [jeffreypeck@battkillcatholic.org](mailto:jeffreypeck@battkillcatholic.org)

Sr. Gussie Please call St. Patrick's or use the parish email address

Kim Gariepy 518 854 7626 [kimgariepy@battkillcatholic.org](mailto:kimgariepy@battkillcatholic.org)

Mary Rosmus - 518 677 2757  
[maryrosmus@battkillcatholic.org](mailto:maryrosmus@battkillcatholic.org)

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