

**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)

**July 26, 2020**  
**17<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:**  
**Total attendance: 24**

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.

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

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

Dear friends,

Our Gospel next weekend is the recounting of the loaves and fishes. Note the disciples' reaction to the plight of the hungry crowd: "Send the people away so that *they can buy*." The disciples have gone for the fix which puts no responsibility on them. They are willing to entrust the hungry crowd to market forces. Those with money can eat: those without, can't. For the disciples, money and commerce are the answers to hunger.

Jesus rejects that solution. "There is no need for them to go; *give* them something to eat yourselves." The solution to the hunger of that crowd was to give generously what little the disciples had. What they could have kept for themselves was to become gift. Once the disciples were in Jesus' frame of mind, the hunger of the crowd was satisfied. How did this come about? The answer lay in human cooperation with the impulse of Divine generosity which knows no limits. The story simply says that Jesus blessed and broke the loaves "and handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowd." Jesus depended on the disciples to obey him: "Give them something to eat yourselves."

Jesus still looks with great compassion on those who are hungry in our own society and throughout the world. If we answer that market forces will suffice, Jesus will reject our answer as decisively as he rejected the answer of his earliest disciples. We have to take responsibility to share what we have, to be generous with what we have. After all, Jesus, *commands* us: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'. Note how Jesus blessed those loaves and broke them before they were distributed, which reminds me of the words of Pedro Arrupe, former General of the Jesuits, "Eucharist will never be complete so long as people still go hungry in the world."

Let's ask who are those hungry people crowding in on us, and then pray that we may respond to them as our Lord commanded, so that the hungers of the crowd, and our hunger to really follow our Lord, *will be satisfied*.

In Christ,  
Jeff Peck

### **Faith Formation**

We are in the process of planning for Fall Faith Formation for grades K-12. The possibilities and opportunities this year will provide are very exciting! Overcoming the obstacles created by the pandemic has allowed us to try new methods and materials. Our emphasis will be on Family, Friends, Faith and Fun!

We need your input to create a program best suited to the needs of your family. An email survey will be sent to parents today, Monday, July 27, using Flocknote. If you have a child in grades K-12 and do not receive the survey, please contact Mary Rosmus by the end of this week. This is especially important for families with children who are ready to prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. We are looking forward to working with your family!

### **Weekly Scripture**

Mon, July 27 – Jer 13:1-11, Mt 13:31-35  
Tues, July 28 – Jer 14:17-22, Mt 13:36-43  
Wed, July 29 – Jer 15:10, 16-21, Jn 11:19-27  
Thurs, July 30 – Jer 18:1-6, Mt 13:10-17  
Fri, July 31 – Jer 26:1-9, Mt 13:54-58  
Sat, Aug 1 – Jer 26:11-16, 24, Mt 14:1-12  
Sun, Aug 2 – Is 55:1-3, Rom 8: 35, 37-39, Mt 14:13-21

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.

**E-giving received: \$500.00**  
**Offertory for the last week: \$797.00**  
**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.battkenillcatholic.org/donations](http://www.battkenillcatholic.org/donations).

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

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

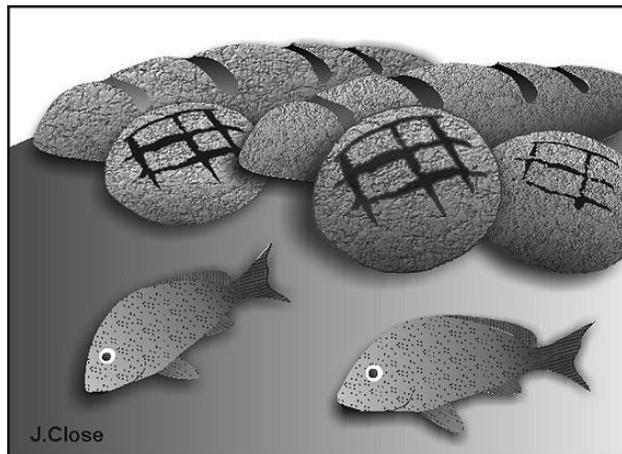
Sr. Gussie Please call St. Patrick's or use the parish email address

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

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

### Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close Reflection by Artist

Five loaves and two fish were more than enough to feed a large crowd of people in today's Gospel reading. A semblance of eucharist is apparent here in this four part action, i.e. in the taking, blessing, breaking, and eating of the food. Likewise, our eucharist provides more than enough nourishment for our needs.



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