

Holy Cross Catholic Church
247 Main Street
Salem, NY 12865

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May 31, 2020

All regularly scheduled public Masses in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany will be canceled until further notice. Churches will, however, remain open for private prayer, pending further regulations. Holy Cross Church will be open from 8:30 to noon on Sundays

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

Pentecost Sunday - Come upon Us

Lord of life,
The world awaits your liberating Spirit.
Come, mighty wind, breathe new life into us.
Come, Spirit of Truth,
reveal the evil that lingers in our midst.
Come, Wisdom of God,
teach us the way of righteousness.
Come, Fire of Love,
impassion us to act justly in all we do.
Come, Helper and Guide,
draw us together in fellowship and peace.
Come, O Sanctifier, and make us holy.
Keep us forever united
with our loving and creating God,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Today's Apostles

Today's Readings: Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23.

For the past seven weeks, we have heard what the Apostles did after Jesus poured his Spirit out upon them. We have heard compelling speeches and listened to stories of healing and exorcism. We have witnessed the conversion of Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles. We have seen Paul, a fierce opponent of Jesus' followers, become an eloquent and passionate preacher of the Gospel. We have also heard stories of ridicule, expulsion, imprisonment, and martyrdom, yet in those moments, the Apostles rejoiced that they could glorify God by dying and rising with Jesus.

As our Easter season comes to an end and we conclude our reading of the Acts of the Apostles, we might think such marvelous stories belong to the past. We might think we could never be such loving, courageous witnesses, we could never speak and act like those Apostles did. We would be wrong to think this. St. Paul tells us, "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."

Pentecost marked the beginning of the apostolic era, the era of the Church. We are still in that era. People still need to hear the story of salvation, still need healing, still need evil expelled from their midst. God pours his Spirit out upon us to transform and empower us, and then he sends us forth. We each have something to contribute to the story of salvation, for we are the apostles of this age.

Weekly Scripture

Mon, June 1 – Genesis 3:9-15,20, Jn 19:25-34
Tues, June 2 – 2 Peter 3:12-15a,17-18, Mk 12:13-17
Wed, June 3 – 1 Timothy 1:1-3,6-12, Mk 12:18-27
Thurs, June 4 – 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Mk 12:28-34
Fri, June 5 – 2 Timothy 3:10-17, Mk 12:35-37
Sat, June 6 – 2 Timothy 4:1-8, Mk 12:38-44
Sun, June 7 – Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9, Dn 3:52-55
2 Cor 13:11-13, Jn 3:16-18

Dear friends,

Some of you may have heard that the Catholic Churches in Vermont will be open this week or next at the latest. We have been told that attendance will be restricted to parishioners.

We are beginning preparations for opening the church again. I stress the word preparations. There is no indication when we will be able to open again. Our ability to open, once we have permission is predicated on the approval of our Reopening Plan which must be submitted to the Diocese and my attestation to the state that we will abide by all of the health regulations in place at the time of opening.

We measured the inside of the buildings and with the current rules for distancing and so forth, St Patrick's will accommodate between 40 or 50 and Holy Cross approximately 60. Our Sunday attendance has been about 90 at each parish before we closed. We have been very uncomfortable with this part of the preparations because it is possible that some may be prevented from attending when we do open. It is likely that many will choose to stay home, and the Bishop has assured us the dispensation of the Sunday obligation will remain in place for the foreseeable future. In places where Catholic Churches have opened, the returning congregation was about 20% of the number attending before opening. Should that be the case at our parishes, we would expect 20 people to attend initially. For that reason, we are in the process of also planning outdoor masses, in the hope more would feel comfortable attending. As you can imagine, outdoor celebrations pose additional issues to deal with.

Shortly, we will be contacting several of our community for help as ushers, cleaners, readers, and for other roles. I ask for your help if you are able.

As we get closer to opening and the requirements for opening are more settled, I will share them with you. Our goal is to open as soon as possible, as safely as possible. The final decision will be mine and I ask your prayers during this difficult time. Please know that I think of you all daily and hold you all in prayer.

In Christ,
Jeff Peck

Access to the church is limited to comply with requirements for cleaning after its use. The key in the barn has been removed. If you need access other than on Sunday, please call Jeff Peck.

Communications:

We would ask your help in two ways. First, 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.

Until we can come together as a community of faith and celebrate the Mass, let us join in prayer, each of us from our homes, and pray for each other. Please remember:
Jane Thomas

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.

For information and great resources check our web site www.battenkillcatholic.org and the Battenkill Cluster Facebook page

We are mailing newsletters to approximately 100 households. If you receive the newsletter by mail and have an active email account, please consider signing up to receive the newsletter via Flocknote to reduce time and expense. You can cancel the account at any time

**E-giving received: \$25.00
Offertory for the last week: \$450.00
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.battkenkillcatholic.org/donations.

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

Jeff Peck
Please contact me with any questions or concerns:
518 683 6461
jeffreypeck@battenkillcatholic.org

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

Kim Gariepy 518 854 7626
kimgariepy@battenkillcatholic.org

Mary Rosmus
518 677 2757
maryrosmus@battenkillcatholic.org

Adult Bible Study - *The Eucharist in Scripture*

"Although this spring has been marked by a Eucharistic and social fast, we are still finding ways to be nourished and to connect with one another. Scripture is one of those ways. This can be a season of rich spiritual growth, even in our Eucharistic spirituality. By learning more about this sacrament, we can prepare our minds and hearts for the time when our Eucharistic fast will be broken."

The Eucharist in Scripture (Clifford M. Yeary, with Little Rock Scripture Study Staff) explores the biblical theme of meals shared in faithful fellowship and in covenant relationship with God. Old Testament meals and promises provide a foundation for gospel meals with Jesus, culminating in the Last Supper as it is understood throughout the New Testament. Jesus' bread of life discourse and the early church's practice of "breaking bread" are also explored.

This is a five week study plus an Intro Session. Participants will read the scripture and commentary and answer the discussion questions in advance, and gather on Zoom for a weekly discussion. If you have internet access and a camera/microphone on your computer, tablet or smartphone, you can join using video. If you do

not have any of these, you can call in and participate with audio only.

Please register on the Lifelong Faith website or by contacting Mary Rosmus by phone or email by June 15. Discussions will be held Monday evenings at 6:30 pm on July 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 3 and 10. A second group will form if the group is too large.

Dear friends,

The great feast of Pentecost and the terrible events of recent days led me to impose my thoughts on you further than just a note on reopening our churches.

As spring and summer progresses invariably bushfires break out. Those who experience these infernos speak not only of the flames, but often of a mighty roar like a great windstorm announcing the approaching fire.

The earth had quaked at the death of Jesus, but death had been conquered and the earth was supercharged with divine energy and vitality. Into all this the Risen Lord sent his Holy Spirit like a lightning strike. Divine energy was unleashed and St Luke portrays this particular event in our bushfire terms. The Holy Spirit, he says, was "like tongues of fire" and "like the sound of a mighty wind" accompanying the descent of the Holy Spirit on a gathering of a fearful group of followers of Our Lord.

The tangled undergrowth of fear, anxiety, and timidity was cleared away. The new life of the church was germinated, took root and has been growing ever since, listening to the core message preached by St Peter: Jesus of Nazareth had conquered death and Peter and others were witnesses to the Risen Lord.

We should pause for a moment today to pray that we may live the resurrection in a way which is understandable by people of every culture, every ethnicity, every language group around the world. Current events - sickness, racial hatred, violence, serve as challenges to us. Are we a people of the resurrection, aren't we called to stand with those on the margins? Pentecost is a reminder that we do not belong on the sidelines, if we truly desire peace, we must work tirelessly for justice. God loves everyone, no exceptions.

Jeff Peck

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close



On Pentecost day the believers heard a powerful wind and saw tongues of fire. The phenomena filled the environment around the gathering. This was an incredibly sensual experience of God and one which moved the believers to action: their joy in the “marvels of God” urged them to share the good news with others. It was this elemental experience of the Spirit which spurred them on.

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