

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

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**September 13, 2020
24th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Season of Creation Pope Francis is encouraging parishes and schools to participate in a Season of Creation, commencing September 1 and ending October 4, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. We are called to prayer, reflection and action towards care of our common home, the planet Earth.

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.

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. Please bring your own mask and hand sanitizer.
3. Maintain social distance.
4. Remain masked for the entire mass, except for communion.
5. An usher will direct you to a seat and direct you to exit when mass is concluded.
6. Leave the property immediately upon exiting the church.
7. Bathrooms will be closed, except for serious health emergencies.
8. Bring a lawn chair if we are outside.

**Mass will be celebrated
outside this weekend.**

The obligation to attend mass on Sunday remains suspended.

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

Last Sunday's Attendance: 29

Weekly Scripture

Mon, Sept. 14- Nm 21:4b-9, Phil 2:6-11, Jn 3:13-17
Tues, Sept 15 – 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a, Jn 19:25-27
Wed, Sept 16 – 1 Cor 12:31 – 13:13, Lk 7:31-35
Thurs, Sept 17 – 1 Cor 11:5-11, Lk 7:36-50
Fri, Sept 18 – 1 Cor 15:12-20, Lk 8:1-3
Sat, Sept 19 – 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-39, Lk 8:4-15
Sun, Sept 20 – Is 55:6-9, Phil 1:20c-24, 27a, Mt 10:1-16a

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 Dearth, Theresa Kautz, Dena Veith, Lorraine Denick, Michael Carney, Dorothy Sokol and Rick Muhlig, Jeff Peck

Dear Friends,

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us we should forgive each other seventy-seven times. Numbers are not randomly used in the Bible. 1, 3, 7, 12 and 40 all have specific meanings. To number something as seven is to describe it as being perfect. When we hear Jesus use this phrase we recall the story in the Book of Genesis of the seven days of creation where, on the seventh day, God looks at the result of his creative love and sees that it is very good. Jesus, using some shorthand, says that not only is forgiveness good, but that it is a creative act that gives life to the world and gives glory to those who exercise it. In the 5th Century St Augustine said that forgiveness was like a mother who has two wonderful daughters named justice and compassion. In using such a metaphor Augustine knew that forgiveness was not a once-off event, it was a process that involved other virtues as well. Jesus teaches a similar lesson in today's Gospel, where he uses the image of the King settling his debts. Because the King is just, compassionate, and forgiving, he rightly expects that, in turn, his steward will be so as well. It's easy to be forgiving in the big picture. We can preach strongly about war, peace, and reconciliation. It's quite another to forgive those closest to us. Sometimes the hardest place to be compassionate and just is our own home. If we are not speaking to a husband, wife, child, parent, sibling, or friend then today's Gospel has a strong challenge right where we live. Part of the problem is that we could have accepted the film *Love Story's* motto, "Love means never having to say you're sorry." This idea is many things, but it's not Christian. For followers of Jesus the exact opposite is true. We seek opportunities to forgive and ask for forgiveness. Jesus doesn't tell us that forgiveness is easy, just necessary. To forgive someone in our family, our workplace, our circle of friends or in our Church is not to pretend that a sinful situation did not occur, but to face it head on and demand justice with compassion. For when we stand before God with the weakness of our own life, God will not settle old scores, take revenge and exact retribution. Rather God will be just and compassionate. When we choose forgiveness over revenge, and love over hate we begin to glimpse God's creative goodness coming to perfection in us, because forgiveness is a participation in the very heart of God.

In Christ,
Jeff Peck



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. You can also make a pledge at that site as well as pledge payments.
- For more information on the appeal, visit www.thediocesanappeal.org.
- Questions - call the RCDA Office of Stewardship & Development at 518-453-6680 or email 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: \$0.00
Offertory for the last week: \$648.00
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

Adult Bible Study: The Gospel According to Mark, Part One. Thought to be the earliest of the four Gospels, the Gospel of Mark is a fast-moving, vivid account of the ministry, suffering, and death of Jesus. Enter into a rich encounter with this preacher, wonder-worker, and messiah, whose very life delivered an urgent message about repentance, transformation, and the meaning of suffering in a life poured out for others. Part One covers Mark 1:1-9:32, providing an in-depth study of Jesus' ministry of healing and preaching. There will be six meetings - an Introduction and 5 lessons. We will meet on Zoom, Mondays, 6:30 - 8 pm, beginning October 12. A second group will form if there is enough interest. Learn more and register at: <https://stpatrickslifelongfaith.weebly.com/bible-study.html> or contact maryrosmus@battenkillcatholic.org.

Faith Formation Program - Register

Immediately! Our Faith Formation programs begin on September 20. You can find more information about our programs and register online at our parish website, www.battenkillcatholic.org. Please register immediately. Contact Kim Gariepy or Mary Rosmus with any questions or concerns.

Sacramental Preparation - First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

We invite you and your child to prepare with us during the coming months for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. This year we will use a process for preparing your child called **Growing Up Catholic** - available for two age groups (7-9, 10-14). In this process, YOU become the actual teacher of your child, but we guide you through every step. This is a memorable time of your child's life - and the memories you make during this preparation period will be cherished for a long time. Learn more and register on our website and feel free to start using the [Growing Up Catholic website](#) immediately.

Follow Us on Facebook! *St. Patrick's Faith Formation and Youth Ministry* Facebook page is now *Battenkill Catholic Lifelong Faith Formation*. You will find encouragement and information for all ages. And don't forget to follow our parish Facebook page, Battenkill Catholic Cluster.

Lifelong Faith Website: Season of Creation

(<https://stpatrickslifelongfaith.weebly.com/>). Catholic Climate Covenant is hosting a five-part webinar series, "On the Common Good & Our Common Home," for U.S. Catholics to understand how Catholic social teaching and creation care are essential to the fullness of faith and the Church's mission; facilitate courageous conversations about climate change and Catholic civic participation; and apply Catholic Social Teaching, including creation care, to form one's conscience ahead of the 2020 elections. [Learn More and Register Here.](#)

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:
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Jeff Peck
Please contact me with any questions or concerns:
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Sr. Gussie
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Mary Rosmus - 518 677 2757
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