

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

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**September 27, 2020  
26<sup>th</sup> 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  
inside 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](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJG-liturgies)

**Last Sunday's Attendance: 20**

Congratulations to Quinn Korzeniecki and Tim Brown who will celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony at Holy Cross Church on Saturday, September 26. May God bless them with a lifetime of shared love and joy.

**Weekly Scripture**

Mon, Sept 28 – Jb 1:6-22, Lk 9:46-50  
Tues, Sept 29 – Dn 7:9-10, 13-14, Jn 1:47-51  
Wed, Sept 30 – Jb 9:1-12, 14-16, Lk 9:57-62  
Thurs, Oct 1 – Jb 19:21-27, Lk 10:1-12  
Fri, Oct 2 – Jb 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5, Mt 18:1-5, 10  
Sat, Oct 3 – Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17, Lk 10:17-24  
Sun, Oct 4 – Is 5:1-7, Phil 4:6-9, Mt 21:33-43

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 Jeff Peck

Dear Friends,

In Christ's time, the two most despised groups in Israel and Galilee were tax collectors who gathered the revenue for the Roman authorities and the prostitutes who serviced the Roman occupying army.

So, when Jesus says to the religious elite of his time: "Amen I say to you that the tax collectors and the prostitutes will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of you", this was truly shocking. Why did Jesus believe this? Because he had observed tax collectors and prostitutes switching allegiance from the Empire of Caesar to the Kingdom of God under the influence of John the Baptist. This signaled a profound change of heart. And this profound change of heart would express itself in real commitment to the values and lifestyle of God's Kingdom, unlike the superficial pledges of loyalty from the religious leadership of the day. Hence, Jesus' little story about the two brothers. One said "Yes", but never did anything. The other said "No", but then had a change of heart and did what was required.

Jesus loved the brother who came around, perhaps after saying "No" many times. He was very hard on those who said "Yes" but did not "walk the talk." We know from other stories in the Scriptures what it meant for a tax collector to change. Saint Matthew himself was a tax collector who abandoned his post at the Customs House to follow Jesus. In another passage, we read of Zaccheus, a tax collector who climbed a tree to get a glimpse of Jesus. He was drawn into conversation with Jesus and shared a meal with him. The Gospel then reads: *Zaccheus' heart was changed* by Jesus' kind words. He told Jesus "Behold Lord, I will give half my goods to the poor. And if I have taken more from any man than I should, I will give back four times as much as I took." You and I are perhaps not at the extreme of the tax collectors and prostitutes of Our Lord's time. But we have all made compromises with the ruling ideas of our time. We may have said "No" to God at various times with various intensity in our lives.

But God is wonderfully patient and prepared to hear "No" many times in the hope of hearing "Yes". God's patience never runs out. But our time to say "Yes" does run out. We only have a relatively short life span! But, until then, Our Lord will try to engage us in conversation, as he did with Zaccheus.

Like Zaccheus, here today we are drawn into conversation with Jesus. We hear him in the Gospel and respond. That is "conversation". Note how close that word is to "conversion". Our conversation with Jesus of the Gospels should lead to conversion of heart.

Please be generous:

There will be a second basket for donations this weekend and next weekend. This Sunday we ask that you be generous in providing aid to those suffering from recent natural disasters. Next weekend we are asking you to be generous in helping those who are suffering in Beirut as a result of the enormous explosion there last month.

In Christ,  
Jeff Peck

In observation of the **Feast of St. Francis**, there will be a Blessing of the Animals on October 3 at noon at Immaculate Conception, Hoosick Falls, and at 1 pm at St. Patrick's, Cambridge. We will gather in front of the church. Masks and social distancing will be required. New Skete Monastery is planning a virtual event on October 4 to bless your pets. Please see their website for information.

**Lifelong Faith Website: Season of Creation.** There are many ways to respond to Pope Francis' call to care for the gift of God's creation – why not take some time out of your day to walk in your local park or take a few moments to thank God for the flowers growing in your garden? You can pray a novena to Saint Francis of Assisi, in the nine days leading up to his feast (October 4). These beautiful prayers are based on Saint Francis' Canticle of the Sun and guide us to care for the earth and our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. You can find a link to the novena and other prayers for God's creation on our website.

**Offertory for the last week: \$738.00**  
**Second Collection - \$15.00**  
**Miscellaneous - \$107.00**  
**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](http://www.battkenkillcatholic.org/donations)



#### **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.

#### **SEASON OF CREATION by Nick Brodie**

The complaining workers in today's Gospel assumed they were near the top of some unspoken hierarchy. They thought they deserved more than some of their co-workers. If we think of the earth as God's great vineyard, we can see obvious parallels today. Nations can think they deserve more than their less developed neighbors; perhaps because their economies have been industrialized longer. People can assume they are right to own multiple properties while others remain homeless; perhaps because they inherited or worked hard for them. But we Christians are called to work in the vineyard for its good, and for the good of all, not merely ourselves. "The way humanity treats the environment influences the way it treats itself, and vice versa", declared Pope Benedict XVI in the encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, reminding us that justice for others and good stewardship of our world are intimately connected. During this Season of Creation, we might ask ourselves: How can we tend the vineyard into which God has sent us? Do we attend to the needs of our fellow workers, especially refugees and immigrants who have only recently arrived?

#### **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

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Sr. Gussie  
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