



**May eternal life be granted to those members of our parish family who have passed from this life to the next ...**

**Sunday, August 18**

- †For Elaine Peters from Margaret Eddy
- †For Donald Clairmont from Don Cummings
- †For Alyce and Christopher Jeskie from John Svitak

**Sunday, August 25**

- †For Frances Scaglione from daughter, Luanne
- †For Bill and Mary Dailey from The Dupuis Family
- †For Dolores DeMaria from her sister, Theresa Abel

If you or someone you know are in need of prayer support or you are interested in being added to the list of those who pray, please call Peg Hopkins at 677-3907.

**We ask for your prayers for the following:** Bernie Bourgeois, Phil Sica, Olga Rogers, Doris Rogan, Barbara Rogan Badger, Leo DiPalma, Michael Duclos, Emily Strobel, Lorraine Denick, Lois Scheider, John Svitak, Renee Vandenberg, Selma Eckert, Melissa Gregory, Todd McLenithan, Kelly Matson, Helen Peters, Cody Pulver, Kim C. Passalug, Dee Lane, Betsy Fleming, Phil Drago, George Richard. Call the Parish Office to place someone on our list.

**Prayer List:** Ways to remember those in need of prayer are the Book of Intentions at the rear of the church, call Peg Hopkins (518-677-3907) to be added to our prayer chain or if you wish to place someone on bulletin prayer list, please call the parish office (518-677-2757) or email [parishoffice@battenkillcatholic.org](mailto:parishoffice@battenkillcatholic.org)

Please visit the Parish Website: [www.battenkillcatholic.org](http://www.battenkillcatholic.org). You can sign up for Flocknote notifications, prepare for Sunday Liturgy, access our great Adult Faith Formation materials and more from there.

**WINGS OF CARE** of St. Patrick's and Holy Cross is a ministry of care for the elderly and homebound and is in great need of volunteers. Some of the needs involve socialization or companionship, light housekeeping (vacuuming, dusting, laundry) and transportation. If you have an hour to give, please contact Sister Augusta Ann Burgess, CSJ at 677-2757 or at [pastoralcare@battenkillcatholic.org](mailto:pastoralcare@battenkillcatholic.org).

The Home Visitation Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is available for any parishioner interested in taking her home. Please contact Reta Pemrick (518-677-3500) or Mamie Dearnstyn (518-677-7272) if you are interested.

Dear Friends,

For the early Christians in Hebrews, we hear about this week, it is their time, their era of history, their summons to faithfulness. What is the race in which these Jesus followers find themselves? Is it a race-worthy of their lives? Will anyone 10, 15, or thousands of years later ever care? Their questions are ours. Does being a Christian, taking up a faith whose icon is a cross and whose currency is love ultimately matter? Is this race we are running worth it?

The writer tells us, "Yes, a thousand times yes!" Why? First, the crowd in the stadium is not the mocking crowd that crucified our Lord or the menacing crowd threatening these first Christians. The writer has another image in mind. He says we run the race aware of what he calls "so great a cloud of witnesses" who have gone before us. Their witness has endured far beyond the brief years of their lives. Faith's race we run now has been run before by men and women—many of whom are named in the previous chapter—whose lives' witness still speaks.

Who are those in your great cloud of witnesses? For many, faithful parents stand there cheering us on. Though their lives ended 5, 10 or more years ago, they live with saints and martyrs, the faithful of all the ages in the risen life of Jesus Christ. Others still see a faithful priest or nun, a pastor or mentor whose life's witness spoke encouragement through a difficult time. They lived and died in faith believing this race mattered. Mine include Fr. Frank Tyrell, Sr. Kenan McGowan, Sr. Mary Xavier, Julius Benack, all saints. There are many others I have written about on this page.

The "communion of saints," teaches us that all who die in the Lord live in the presence of God and offer their prayers on our behalf. Such was the witness of John as recorded in the Book of Revelation who saw "thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom might and honor and glory and blessing.'"

The lesson continues. "Let us run with perseverance the race set before us." What does it mean to persevere? In a nutshell, it means to doggedly follow Jesus Christ no matter the cost or sacrifice. The Bible is quite clear on this idea of perseverance. Not once in Scripture does God ever commend or reward success. In all candor, people like Sarah, Jacob, David, Saint Peter and Saint Paul had devastating failures in their lives. Their success was embodied in perseverance.

As we run the race of faith, we discover all along the way a power that comes from simply staying in the race. The blessing comes not to those who cross a finish line, but to those who never give up. Last April 16<sup>th</sup>, we watched with helpless horror as Notre Dame Cathedral burned in Paris. No lives were lost, but one of faith's most revered houses of worship, a structure that took more than 200 years to build, lay in ruins. Remember with me a sobering fact about Notre Dame: the majority of the workers who built it across 200 years never saw the results of their labors. And yet they kept building.

Here we are, running the race of faith surrounded by all those who believed in life and now experience in life eternal that Jesus is Lord. Like him, following him, we have God's presence with us and God's saints surrounding us. Is it worth it? The writer tells us our Lord endured the shame and abandonment of the cross knowing

resurrection joy was before him. So run the good race, look to Jesus, hear the faithful cheer, and know that joy awaits those who follow the crucified and risen Lord.

In Christ,  
Jeff Peck

There will be no Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sunday, Aug. 18, so that the children may hear the missionary speak.

This weekend, Fr. Ray Brain C.P., a member of the Passionist Order, will celebrate the 11:00 AM mass with us. Please put all envelopes in the first collection. The second collection will be taken up for the missions.

**ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE**

Sat, Aug 24- 12:00 – Community Dinner, St. Patrick's hosting

**St. Patrick's is hosting the August Community Dinner** on Saturday, August 24 at Jacob's Well Church. The menu includes baked ziti, Italian bread, tossed salad and dessert. Food and volunteers are needed. Please sign up in the lobby.

**The 2019 Bishop's Appeal** - To date, the parish has raised in pledges and donations \$11,585.00 of our \$14,881.00 assessment. Thanks to all who have been so generous thus far. If you have not made your pledge or donation, there are envelopes available in the church or you may make your donation online at [www.thebishopsappeal.org](http://www.thebishopsappeal.org).

We have a parishioner who needs a ride to Schenectady Monday, Wednesday, Friday - one way only. If you can help, please contact Jeff.

Please share the bounty of your flower gardens to beautify our sanctuary.

**Liturgical Roles**

**August 18, 2019 – 11:00 AM**

**Lector:** S. Sawyer  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** S. Stiner, D. Darcy, J. Dupuis  
**Greeters:** M. Winchester, M. Starr  
**Altar Server:** J. Mathers

**August 25, 2019 – 11:00 AM**

**Lectors:** M. Bell  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** S. Sawyer, F. Muhlig, D. MacDougall  
**Greeters:** J. Podolec, N. Dupuis  
**Altar Server:** E. Young

**Counters:** Monday, August 19 – Reta and Sandy  
Monday, August 26 – John and Roger

Announcements to be included in the bulletin should be sent to [parishoffice@battenkillcatholic.org](mailto:parishoffice@battenkillcatholic.org) by 9:00 AM on Wednesday to be included in Sunday's bulletin.

**FAITH FORMATION**

**Faith Formation and Sacrament Prep brochures** are available in the foyer and have been mailed to families whose children participated last year. Please register by September 1.

During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate **Confirmation** will be reflecting on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please pray that they may be open to receiving the fullness of these gifts. Join them by reviewing the Gifts of the Spirit and reflecting on how you are using them in your daily life

**Adult Faith Website, *The Breath of God: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit*** are described in the Book of Isaiah 11:2-3. In the passage, the gifts are considered ones that the Messiah would have possessed. Through Jesus, we also receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Learn more on our Spirituality tab.

**Adult Bible Study: *Genesis, Part One*:** In this study, we will contemplate the creation story and remember with the Israelites their ancestors in faith. Part One covers the "pre-history" of Israel including the creation accounts, the stories of the fall and the great flood, as well as the story of Abraham and Sarah. Find information and a complete schedule on the Programs tab of our Adult Faith website or pick up a flyer at the doors of the church. Please register (online or in the church foyer) and pick up your book by September 1.

**YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERING – August 11**

- Offertory – \$1286.00
- Candles - \$19.00
- Repairs and Improvements – \$342.00
- Living Faith - \$2.00

**Thank you for your continued generosity**  
**The second collection this weekend is for**  
**The Religious Instruction Program**  
**The second collection next weekend is for**  
**Catholic Home Missions**

An **MS Support Group** meets at Proudfit Hall in Salem on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. Please call James Harmon if you have questions (518-791-4505).

**The Wild Goose Session 9: Fruits of the Holy Spirit**  
Join us this Thursday, August 22, St. John the Baptist, Castleton, 6:30 pm for **The Wild Goose Session 9: Fruits of the Holy Spirit**. For more information: <https://thewildgooseisloose.com/>

Knights of Columbus  
Tuesday, September 10 – Business Meeting  
Tuesday, September 24 – Social Meeting