



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

Saturday, December 9

- †For Matthew O’Hearn from Luanne Fitzpatrick
- †For Christopher Smith from The Russert Family
- †For Frances Scaglione from daughter, Luanne

Sunday, December 10

†For the people of the parish

Saturday, December 16

†For Michael Vogel, 10th anniversary from the family

Sunday, December 17

†For the people of the parish

The sanctuary lamp burns in memory of Marilyn Pemrick from husband, Frank

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: Rebecca Young, Sandy Buckholtz, Barbara Rogan Badger
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 or call Peg Hopkins (518-677-3907) to be added to our prayer chain. If you wish to place someone on prayer list, please call the parish office (518-677-2757) or email parishoffice@battenkillcatholic.org

Please visit the Parish Website: 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.

Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, December 12 – Business meeting
Tuesday, December 26 – Social meeting

**Reconciliation, St. Patrick’s
Monday, December 11 – 6:00 PM**

Second Sunday of Advent - Shepherd of Israel

Almighty and ever-living God,
you are the source of all consolation
and font of our salvation.
You have saved your people from the wilderness,
gathered them like lambs into your bosom,
and fed them with a mother’s care.
Make level within us all that sin has made rugged;
take the crooked paths of our hearts and make them straight.
May our repentant hearts turn to you and,
at the coming of your Son, be found eager to welcome him
so that, in joyful celebration,
your chosen people can say, “Here is your God!”
Through Christ our Lord.

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A New Heaven and Earth

Today’s Readings: Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11; Psalm 85:9–10, 11–12, 13–14; 2 Peter 3:8–14; Mark 1:1–8. During this second week of Advent, we reflect on the future God has in store for us. When we delve more deeply into the Scriptures, it becomes clear that Advent is not as simple as we may think. Last week’s readings urged us to be watchful and to ready ourselves for Christ’s coming. This is not easy; it requires attention to God’s Word within us. This week’s message is in the same vein. The prophet Isaiah paints a beautiful picture for the Israelites who are in captivity. Salvation will come, and the Lord will forgive all their sins. The image is radical. Isaiah depicts mountains being leveled and valleys being filled. He directs Zion to tell this Good News to the entire world. A similar theme is in the Gospel. John the Baptist is the herald of the coming Messiah. John calls all creation to repent and seek God’s forgiveness. He is the herald who paves the way for Jesus, the one who reveals the new heaven and earth, which Peter speaks of in the Second Reading. What does it look like to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ? It takes a vulnerable and watchful heart. We can find ourselves held captive. When we seek God’s forgiveness with contrite hearts, we open ourselves to an amazing grace. God’s mercy is the wellspring of all healing. So let us act out our salvation in the ways we live and announce the triumphant entry of the coming Christ.

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CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS: St. Patrick’s will be providing Christmas food baskets again this year. Please sign up on the sheet in the lobby and bring your donation the weekend of December 16 & 17th.

Operation Santa Claus: Thank you for your generosity in bringing Christmas joy to a needy family in our community.

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

- Wed, Dec. 13 – 9:30 – Book Discussion, Parish House
- Wed, Dec. 20 – 9:30 – Book Discussion, Parish House

We are grateful: During the past two weeks, we have been the beneficiaries of the special efforts of several of our community. Thank you to Dick Hoffman and Bob Shay for their electrical work in the parish house kitchen. Thank you to Dawn MacDougall and all who made the Advent Tea last weekend a time of great fellowship. Thank you to Richard Wirmusky. Richard brought our new nativity set from St. Joseph’s in Greenwich last Sunday afternoon. Each figure is made of concrete and had to be moved from the cellar beneath St. Joseph’s to the present location. Finally, thanks to all for removing our old hymnals and putting out our new ones.

Tree trimming: During this season, we are invited to hang a picture or memento of our families on the trees in the sanctuary. Maximum size should be 4x6. On the left side of the church, you are invited to hang an ornament symbolic of a loss you may have suffered whether it is a friend, family member, pet, job or other material loss to give expression to the feelings of grief that may surface during this season. Small proper ornaments to be written on are available next to the current poster we are coloring.

Intergenerational Advent Coloring Journey: Six Advent Journey Coloring Posters will guide us through the Advent and Christmas seasons. The posters for the first two weeks of Advent are on display and the third poster is available to color. Please take home the reflection for each week!

Liturgical Role					
		Lectors	Eucharistic Minister	Greeter	Altar Server
12/9/17	4:00 PM	B. Shay	M. Dearstyne R. Pemrick M. Rubino		
12/10/17	11:00 AM	S. Sawyer	J. Dupuis T. Koon D. MacDougall	C. Aiken B. Bromirski	J. Mathers
12/16/17	4:00 PM	J. Peck	B. Shay M. Dearstyne R. Pemrick		
12/17/17	11:00 AM	M. Bell	M. Rosmus S. Sawyer S. Stiner	D. DeSantis D. Mathers	L. Winchester
Counters: Monday, December 11 th – Rich and Mary Monday, December 18 th – Angie and Reta					

Inclement Weather: If school in Cambridge is delayed or closed, all parish activities are cancelled for the day and evening. If you are ill, please respect the other members of our community and stay home from mass and parish activities.

FAITH FORMATION

- Sun, Dec. 10 – 9:30 – Faith Formation
- Mon, Dec. 11 – 6:00 – Advent Reconciliation Service – First Reconciliation
- Sun, Dec. 17 – 9:30 – Faith Formation
- Mon, Dec. 18 – 6:30 – Sacramental Prep

There will be no Children’s Liturgy of the Word on Christmas Day, December 31, or January 1.

Adult Faith Website: Each week of Advent and Christmas, we will upload a new reflection resource on our Worship tab. There you will find a prayer, illustration, and reflection on the Sunday Scripture and a reflection about each weekday’s Scripture, saint, or Catholic practices, along with a smaller illustration. Citations for Scripture readings are included with each day. Also find many **Advent Resources** on our Seasons tab.

WE HAVE CLOSED OUT THE BISHOP’S APPEAL: Thank you to those who so generously donated.

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERING – December 3

- Offertory -\$2043.50
- Candles - \$8.00
- Immaculate Conception- \$10.00
- Diocesan School Assessment - \$463.00
- Campaign for Human Development - \$5.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

The 2018 offering envelopes are available in the church. If you wish to receive envelopes or don’t see yours, please call the office (518-677-2757).

Advent Schedule

- Sunday, December 10 – Cookie Exchange
- Monday, December 11 – 6:00 – Reconciliation, St. Patrick’s
- Sunday, December 24 – **4th Sunday of Advent**
8:30 AM – Holy Cross
11:00 AM – St. Patrick’s
- Christmas Eve Mass**
4:00 PM – Holy Cross
6:00 PM – St. Patrick’s
- Monday, December 25 – **Christmas Day**
11:00 AM – St. Patrick’s

Advent Luncheons – Dec. 12 and 19 – Noon – Embury Methodist Church (St. Patrick’s hosting December 19th)