



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

Sunday, July 22

†For Frances Scaglione from daughter, Luanne

Sunday, July 29

†For John M. Connally from Jim and Jeanne Connally

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 and for the repose of the soul of Eugene Morneault and the consolation of his family. 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).

Dear friends,

There are many possible lessons in our Gospel reading this weekend. What really struck me, is the idea that to nurture our spiritual life, we need to practice contemplation. Jesus and his followers got into a boat to find a secluded place to get a little rest and time for reflection, but the crowd followed them.

A saint who valued seclusion to a high degree was Romuald. He lived in Italy from 951 to 1027. He was horrified when his father killed a relative in a duel and while practicing penance for that act, he felt the call to monastic life. His first attempt was a failure, he was arrogant, arguing that the monks were not strict enough. When he asked to return home, there were no objections from the community. He then became the follower of a hermit named Marinus and lived an extremely austere life. He alternated between the life of a monk (living in community with other monks) and that of a hermit (living with as little human contact as possible) for several years. For 30 years he traveled all over Italy founding hermitages and monasteries to do as he did. A gift of land from a friend enabled him to build five cells in Camalodi. This became the motherhouse of the Camalodese Benedictine Order which still exists today. There are two foundations in the United States, one is on Big Sur in California. Our Facebook Page frequently posts reflections and news from the monastery on Big Sur.

Romauld wrote, "Sit in your cell as in Paradise. Put the whole world behind you and forget it. Watch your thoughts like a good fisherman watching for fish. The path you must follow is in the Psalms, never leave it" He died on June 19th, 1027. The Order he founded has never been large.

A few things occurred to me as I thought about the Gospel and St. Romauld. We are all shepherds. Jesus is the Good Shepherd of the entire Christian Church, the pope is the head of the Catholic Church, the bishops and priests are the shepherds of dioceses and parishes. Parents shepherd families, siblings shepherd each other. Even little children shepherd their toys.

I think contemplation is more important than ever. Our world is very noisy. We are never far from work or communication sources. The constant bombardment of stimuli leaves us emotionally drained, cranky, and even ill in mind, body, or spirit. Contemplation is focusing on God's presence, for me. This requires quiet to leave the thoughts and cares of the world behind. In my home, there is an hour every day known as "Jeff Quiet Time." I walk, think great thoughts (okay, not so great thoughts), write a little in my journal, and just let all of the nonsense of the day before and the day to come disappear. It took me a long time to figure out when "Jeff Quiet Time" should occur but I hit the sweet spot 10 years ago and now I experience it almost every day.

Finally, I don't think we can be the disciples we are all called to be without a balanced spiritual life. We need to be both active and passive. Just as the heart and brain empower our hands and legs, a bit of prayer and contemplation enables our work in the vineyard. So sit and bask in the presence of God once in a while. Yep, it is awkward, we are programmed to do stuff but anything worth doing requires practice.

In Christ,  
Jeff Peck

## ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Sun, Aug. 12 – 2:00 – Parish Picnic at Holy Cross

Wed, Aug 15 – **Feast of the Assumption**

8:30 AM – St. Patrick's

12:00 PM – Holy Cross

6:00 PM – Immaculate Conception

**Congratulations** to Cameron Pembroke and Mason Raffel for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**Help is needed with the construction project on Wednesday evening to remove sheetrock. Work will begin at 6:30 and should take approximately 2 hours. Please sign up on the sheet on the counter in the kitchen.**

**The parish picnic** will be held on Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Due to construction on the parish house, it will be held in conjunction with Holy Cross in Salem. It will begin at 2:00 PM. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. More information to follow.

**The 2018 Bishop's Appeal:** To date, the parish has raised in pledges and donations \$11,500.00 of our \$15,501.00 assessment. We still need over \$4,000.00. 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).

## Liturgical Role

**July 22, 2018 – 11:00 AM**

**Lector:** S. Sawyer

**Eucharistic Ministers:** D. Darcy, D. MacDougall, S. Stiner

**Greeters:** C. Aiken, D. McMorris

**Altar Server:** J. Mathers

**July 29, 2018 – 11:00 AM**

**Lector:** M. Bell

**Eucharistic Ministers:** S. Sawyer, J. Dupuis, M. Rosmus

**Greeters:** D. DeSantis, M. Starr

**Altar Server:** L. Winchester

**Counters:** Monday, July 23 – John and Roger  
Monday, July 30 - Rich and Mary

The Cambridge Lions Club 2018 annual **Summer Concert Series** at Memorial Park next to the Cambridge Library this Thurs, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The Open Bar Band will be performing. There is NO charge for attendance.

**Knights of Columbus Red Cross Blood Drive:** We collected 53 units of blood for local area hospitals which helped out 159 people who needed this live saving blood. Next Blood Drive will be Jan 19, 2019 from 8 to Noon at American Legion.

## FAITH FORMATION

**Adult Faith Website: *The Body of Christ*.** "We live in very challenging times! Many are searching for a spirituality to suit their twenty-first-century needs and many young people have joined this search..... By 'spirituality' I mean a set of beliefs and practices that put us in touch with the sacred other world that is bigger than ourselves, that develops within us a wholeness, that moves us toward a maturity of mind and spirit, and that motivates us to help others, especially the less fortunate." So begins the Introduction to *Eucharist: The Basic Spirituality*. Read the full text of the book by FRANK O'DEA SSS on our Spirituality Tab.

Thank you for sharing the bounty of your flower gardens to beautify our sanctuary.

## YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERING – July 15

Offertory -\$1159.95

Candles - \$8.00

Insurance of Parish Property - \$10.00

Living Faith - \$2.00

Care of St. Patrick's Cemetery - \$226.00

**Thank you for your continued generosity**

## Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, August 14 – business meeting



**Hearts Aflame! Focused on the Source & Summit - As Catholics,** we recognize the Eucharist as the "source and summit" of our faith. A Eucharistic Congress highlights this spiritual reality in a powerful way. *Hearts Aflame* will include Holy Mass with Bishop Ed, Eucharistic Adoration, and a Eucharistic procession. It will be a time to rekindle our identity as a Eucharistic people!

*Hearts Aflame will be held on September 22, from 9am to 3pm, at the Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville. All in the Diocese of Albany are invited to attend. Register at [rcda.org/heartsaflame](http://rcda.org/heartsaflame)*

You can register this weekend at the back of the church.