



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

Sunday, June 16

†For all fathers

Sunday, June 23

†For the people of the parish

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for
Jonathan Piekarz, 1st anniversary
from mom, Veronica Piekarz

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, Mary Dailey, John Svitak, Renee Vandenbogaard, Selma Eckert, Melissa Gregory, Todd McLenithan, Kelly Matson, Dan Walsh, Helen Peters, Cody Pulver, Kim C. Passalug, Dee Lane, Betsy Fleming, Bill Dailey. 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

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.

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

Dear Friends,

Our New Testament epistle lesson for today is an example of early Christian teaching and writing that includes a reference to all three persons of the Trinity, although again, Paul does not attempt here to set out a doctrinal teaching about the Trinity or explain how God could be three persons but also one. Paul simply names our experience of God in ways that flow naturally and organically . . . "we have peace with God through our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ . . . because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that he has given to us." (Romans 5:1,5)

Here is what Paul knows, and what his readers (then and now) know--through our faith and commitment to Jesus Christ we experience inner peace, and we sense profound connection and access to God we could not know apart from knowing Christ, and this closeness to God feels like our hearts and souls are filled to the brim with the love and presence of God, which is the witness and warm embrace of the Holy Spirit of God with our spirits.

Paul is naming here the experience of God that all of us have who know and follow God through obedient trust in the witness and teaching of Christ, and who walk now in the assurance and confidence that God is with us and within us through His Spirit.

But the great Apostle also gives us a glimpse in this lesson about what it means for Christians to know God in all of these ways—we are filled and sustained by hope. Did you catch that refrain in the lesson today from Paul's letter to the Roman Church? He says we have hope because we have obtained access to God through faith in Jesus Christ. How important that access, that connection, that intimacy with God is for all of us! Where would we be if God were only a deity far removed, remote and uncaring? How lost, and hopeless would that existence be? But because of Christ, we know that God has come near, that God is inclined toward us, that God wants to have relationship with us, that God would do anything—including give up His own beloved Son—in order for us to know about and be redeemed by His love. And that is the foundation of our hope. It is a solid and gracious foundation, indeed!

But Paul goes a step further. One might think that if God loves us that much, and if we have that wonderful access to God through Christ, then surely God would not allow anything bad to happen to us. We might be tempted to think, "Surely a God who loves that much, and who has that almighty power, would protect those He cherishes from any suffering or danger or persecution."

And we would be wrong. God does love us--infinitely, powerfully, eternally. But we are not promised a path without obstacles, or a life without suffering and pain and challenge. Just the opposite, Paul assumes here that followers of God through Christ will also suffer in life. Sometimes that suffering is precisely because we are followers of Christ. But when that suffering comes, as it most surely will to us all, we are not cut off from the hope we have in God. It is not a sign that we have strayed off the proper path, or that God has turned his back on us. Times of suffering are all part of the human experience of life, and even in those difficult and challenging moments, Paul gives us a glimpse of the larger plan of God, a plan that is often lost on us when we are in the intense times of struggle and pain and sorrow. Paul says that our suffering produces endurance, like exercise and resistance weight training producing stronger muscles. And

endurance produces character. Our character is forged in the furnace of our most difficult moments. Those are the times that test and shape our integrity and values, are they not? And then character becomes the seedbed out of which springs hope, a hope that does not disappoint. So whether we suffer or not, succeed or not, live or die, all roads lead to hope—which never lets us down. In Christ,
Jeff Peck

Father Marty Fisher is retiring from the active priesthood effective July 1st and will celebrate his final Mass as Sacramental Minister of Holy Cross on Sun, June 23rd at 8:30. A farewell coffee will be held following mass. Anyone wishing to attend this celebration is welcome to join us.

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Fri, June 21 – Parish Office closed
Sun, June 23 – 4:00 – CCS Baccalaureate, St. Patrick's
Sat, June 29 – 8:00 – 12:00 – Red Cross Blood Drive, American Legion, Rt. 22, Cambridge

Thank you to all who helped with the Strawberry Festival. The amount raised this year was significantly higher than last year. A great success!!

Cambridge Central School Baccalaureate will be held at St. Patrick's on Sunday, June 23, at 4 pm. Please join us to pray for the graduating class, including Jack Mathers, Mason Raffel, and Tre Rossi, as they celebrate this important milestone in their lives.

The 2019 Bishop's Appeal - To date, the parish has raised in pledges and donations \$7,460.00 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.

The Wild Goose Session 2: The Breath of God. Pentecost and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit is an encounter available to everyone. Live a life of faith, a life full of love, peace, joy and power by the Holy Spirit. *Join us this Thursday, June 20, St. John the Baptist, Castleton, 6:30 pm for The Wild Goose Session 2: The Breath of God.* <https://thewildgooseisloose.com/>

Liturgical Roles
June 16, 2019 – 11:00 AM
Lectors: M. Bell Eucharistic Ministers: D. MacDougall, S. Preece, M. Rosmus Greeters: D. Mathers, D. DeSantis Altar Server: J. Mathers
June 23, 2019 – 11:00 AM
Lector: F. Muhlig Eucharistic Ministers: S. Sawyer, S. Stiner, D. Darcy Greeters: D. McMorris, M. Starr Altar Server: E. Young
Counters: Monday, June 17 – Susan and Judy Monday, June 24 – Reta and Sandy

FAITH FORMATION

Sun, June 23 – Confirmation Prep

Adult Faith Website: *The Breath of God.* Learn more about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on our Spirituality tab and find prayers to the Holy Spirit on our Prayers tab.

Confirmation Prep: Stasia Epler and Abigale Harding, who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation, are reflecting on the promise of their Baptism and the Sacraments of Initiation. **Join them** by reflecting on the effect belonging to the Church has on your daily life. **Pray** that they may be encouraged by the living faith of this assembly.

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERING – June 9

Offertory - \$1205.00
Candles - \$17.00
Property Maintenance and Repairs - \$264.00

Thank you for your continued generosity

***The second collection this week is for
Diocesan School Assessment
The second collection next week is for
Insurance of Parish Property***

A Community Celebration of St. Mary's Academy – Saturday, June 29 at 6:00 PM at St. Mary's. Please contact Pat Hayes (518-686-4314 or email patriciahayes@yahoo.com) to receive follow up reservation information or to join in the planning!

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 Dearstyne (518-677-7272) if you are interested.

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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter – June 28-30, 2019 in Huntington, NY and Oct 18-20, 2019 in ALBANY, NY. For more information, call Ed & Rhonda Staats at 518-279-3243 or visit them at <https://wwmenyalb.org/>.

Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, June 25 – social meeting
Saturday, June 29 - 8:00 – 12:00
Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion Post 634, Rt. 22, Cambridge