



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

Sunday, June 24

†For Frances Scaglione from daughter, Luanne  
†For Mary & John Cobb and Alice Mulligan from the family  
†For Janet Cummings from husband, Don

Sunday, July 1

†For the people of the parish

The Sanctuary Lamp burns  
for Wade Hayden, Birthday, from wife Sandra

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, Catherine Hyland, Doris Rogan, Barbara Rogan Badger, Leo DiPalma and for the repose of the soul of Winston Kilburn 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 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](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,

When it came for the first son of (the now) Queen Elizabeth of England to be named, he was called Charles Philip Arthur George. One can imagine the consultation within the family and the royal household to get the names right, to link this heir to the throne to a glorious past, hoping for more than a nominal influence on his future. Tradition was foremost.

It was the same in the village where another Elizabeth gave birth to a son. The whole village was quite certain that the child could be called Zechariah after his father. But, Elizabeth resisted: "Not so: he shall be called John." No doubt, she had received this name from her husband Zechariah who had himself received a divine imperative. He, in turn, had no hesitation in writing on a writing tablet, "his name is John"—is John. Present tense.

This son of Zechariah was destined to enter the priestly service of the temple, just as his father and his father had done for generations. Everyone knew his place and role—everyone should know his place and role, but this "John"? "What, then, will this child be?" The villagers were shocked enough by the declaration of the name. In the last verse of today's reading, we get a premonition of a further shock to come. This now young man is not preparing for priestly service at the Temple.

He is out in the wilderness. He has adopted the lifestyle of the most marginal, living outside settled existence (where tradition suffocates). In another gospel, we read that he had a rough coat of camel hair to keep out the cold of the desert night, and he ate locusts and wild honey, the subsistence diet of the poorest.

Possibly, he came across the Essenes, (famous for the Dead Sea Scrolls), a sect which also rejected the tradition of temple worship. Instead, they focused on water rituals, cleansing themselves in preparation for the coming clash between Light and Darkness. John certainly shared their practice of immersing people in water as a sign of repentance and preparation. The Greek word for immersing people in this way is to "baptize" them. He would become John the Baptizer, John the Baptist.

Pope Francis constantly urges us to be challenged by those existing on the margins. This encompasses not only those who are suffering exclusion, injustice, or who are simply without the necessities of life. He is also concerned with those on the peripheries of world power. Perhaps this is best symbolized in the choosing of a Cardinal from Tonga which has only 15,000 Catholics.

May we be sufficiently open to receive God's messengers, who may erupt from the margins, from "the wilderness" of the peripheries, even from Argentina.  
In Christ,  
Jeff Peck

## ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Thurs, June 28 – 6:30 PM – Finance Committee meeting  
July 1 – Salesian Mission Appeal  
Sun, Aug. 12 – 2:00 – Parish Picnic at Holy Cross

The **Finance Committee** will meet on Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

**Congratulations** to Carson McLenithan, Cameron Pembroke, Kyle Spiezio, Ethan Young, Deanna Wardwell, and all 2018 graduates of Cambridge School. We applaud your accomplishments and send you forth with prayers for continued growth and success.

**The 2018 Bishop's Appeal:** To date, the parish has raised in pledges and donations \$9,715.00 of our \$15,501.00 assessment. We still have a long way to go. 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).

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

**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.

## Liturgical Role

### June 24, 2018 – 11:00 AM

**Lector:** S. Sawyer  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** S. Stiner, D. Darcy, D. MacDougall  
**Greeters:** J. Podolec, N. Dupuis  
**Altar Server:** E. Young

### July 1, 2018 – 11:00 AM

**Lector:** M. Bell  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** J. Dupuis, M. Rosmus, S. Sawyer  
**Greeters:** L. Cuddihy, G. Browne  
**Altar Server:** J. Mathers

**Counters:** Monday, June 25 – Angie and Reta  
Monday, July 2 – John and Roger

**Salesian Mission Appeal:** This year the Mission Appeal will take place on June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>. Members of Salesian Missions will be with us. The Salesians were founded by John Bosco in 1859 and are named in honor of St. Francis de Sales. The second collection that weekend will assist the Propagation of the Faith in supporting mission work abroad.

## FAITH FORMATION

**Adult Faith Website:** Learn more about the Eucharist in preparation for our Diocesan Eucharistic Congress! For the Summer of 2018, we will focus on two manifestations of The Body of Christ: the Holy Eucharist and the Church. Go to the parish website ([www.battenkillcatholic.org](http://www.battenkillcatholic.org)) and click on the link to access our adult faith materials.

## Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, June 26 – social meeting

## YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERING – June 17

Offertory -\$1142.00  
Candles - \$11.10  
Property Maintenance and Repairs - \$55.00  
Insurance of Parish Property - \$45.25  
Catholic Communication Campaign - \$ 55.00

**Thank you for your continued generosity**  
**The second collection today is for**  
**Insurance of Parish Property**

Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Your support will help the CCC connect millions of people with Christ and spread the gospel message.



**Hearts Aflame:** Unity with the Shepherd - A Eucharistic Congress is a display of unity under the Chief

Shepherd, Jesus Christ, who is also symbolized by the local Bishop. Typically, a Eucharistic Congress is declared by the bishop and presided over by him. That's the case in our diocese, too. Put simply: this gathering is Bishop Ed's idea! He'll also be the main celebrant and speaker on September 22. Our vision is for Catholics from every corner of the diocese to gather with him in prayer and fellowship. *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)*