

## Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

Sunday, September 19

†For Frances Scaglione from daughter, Luanne

†For David Dearstyne from wife, Mamie

Sunday, September 26

†For the people of the parish

### We ask for your prayers for the following:

Bernie Bourgeois, Doris Rogan, Barbara Rogan Badger, Emily Strobel, Selma Eckert, Todd McLenithan, Kelly Matson, Cody Pulver, Kim C. Passalug, Betsy Fleming, Phil Drago, George Richard, Wiley Dearstyne, Laurie Pawlik, Dan Walsh, Michael Carney, Dorothy Sokol, Fran Carlson, A. Russell, Bernadette, Kate, Amy and Rick, Don Cummings, Fr. Lucian Beltzner, Veronica Piekarz, John Schauer, Peg Hopkins, Mike Russert. Call the 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, 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.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available after 11:30 AM mass or by appointment. Please call St. Patrick's parish office at 518-677-2757 for an appointment**

### Battenkill Cluster of Parishes Mass schedule

Holy Cross, Salem: Sunday - 8:15 AM  
Tuesday - 9:00 AM  
Immaculate Conception, Hoosick Falls: Sat. 4:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM  
Mon - 9:00 AM  
St. Patrick's, Cambridge: Sun - 11:30 AM  
Wed - 9:00 AM  
St. Joseph's, Greenwich: Sunday 10:00 AM  
Notre Dame-Visitation, Schuylerville: Sat. 4:00 PM, Sun. 11:15 AM

**Contacting Fr. Peter** - Please call the office at Immaculate Conception. 518 686 5064. If it is outside of office hours, please leave a message including your name and telephone number. If the need is urgent, please call or text Jeff Peck, 518 683 6461 or email, [jeffreypeck@battenkillcatholic.org](mailto:jeffreypeck@battenkillcatholic.org). Jeff's telephone and email are also monitored outside of business hours.

Dear friends,

It's easy to see that the disciples don't get when Jesus tells them in plain language that because of the way he lives and what he says he will be put to death by the power barons of his day. The disciples seem to think the Passion is going to be an event out of a romance novel, where the ensuing campaign will see greatness thrust upon them. In this context, Jesus takes the smallest and most vulnerable of people in their society and teaches the disciples that greatness comes through care of the least.

This is a powerful lesson. Greatness in the world—power, connections, wealth, influence, reputation and learning—only counts for something in the Kingdom of God when put at the service of the most vulnerable of our society. Greed, riches, and pride are so alluring, so seductive for us in the Church, as much as for those outside it, that we need to regularly examine our consciences to assess the motivations and results of what we are doing, and why we are doing it. When I read today's Gospel, however, I also feel sad. I cannot help but reflect on how unintentionally prophetic Mark was being in linking the prediction of Jesus' passion with the status of a child.

The safeguards now needed in response to the criminal and scandalous behavior of a very few leaders in the Church, means that many bishops, priests, religious and lay people can no longer follow Jesus' example and take children in our arms. I fully understand why this is the case, but the fact that we have to be so careful about the care of our children and have strict protocols and legislation which covers such behavior toward children is a necessary and, nonetheless, tragic moment. It's also a moment for us to remember the passion of those who have had to endure the trauma of destructive behavior. As the Jews say of the Holocaust, "to forget is to commit the same mistake again." At its most basic level the latter part of today's Gospel reveals what we would expect of Jesus—he likes children, and they like him.

It's amazing how a couple of pieces of information can sometimes change the way a scriptural story is read, and its importance for our lives today. We know from other documents of the same period as the New Testament that children in first century Palestine had no rights. They were possessions of their fathers, and they could be bought and sold, exploited, and even killed without any recourse to the religious or civil law.

In this society only a child's immediate family could touch them. The story, then, of Jesus embracing the child in public was a social challenge to accepted customs. But it's much more than that. In taking the children in his arms, Jesus declares that they are possessions of no one, but they belong to us all as gifts. In the family of God, children are accorded the dignity and respect we would give to God.

Today's Gospel tells us that those who deserve our attention and esteem are the ones who are the least, the most at risk or those who put their talents and gifts at their service by making the world a better place for them. Just as he did in the marketplace of Galilee when he took the children in his arms, Jesus has a habit of turning our world's values upside down.

In Christ,  
Jeff Peck

**Masks are required while inside the church or in the parish office building**

**Collection for Haiti** – a special collection for relief following the devastating earthquake in Haiti as requested by Bishop Scharfenberger and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Please be generous in helping our brothers and sisters in the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Baskets are available at the entrances.

**Adult Scripture Study: *Angels in the Bible*.** The Bible is full of fascinating passages about angels. Because angels are mediators of God's presence and action, studying angels is studying God. This six-week study will begin the first week of October. Schedule and registration are available in the lobby and on the website: <https://stpatrickslifelongfaith.weebly.com/bible-study.html>. Contact [maryrosmus@battenkillcatholic.org](mailto:maryrosmus@battenkillcatholic.org) for more information.

Monday Daily Mass at Immaculate Conception is cancelled for the next three weeks.

Daily mass will be cancelled if there is a funeral scheduled for that day.

Liturgical Roles
Sunday, September 19 – 11:30 AM Lector: Rich MacDougall Eucharistic Minister: Reta Pemrick
Sunday, September 26 – 11:30 AM Lector: Gerry Preece Eucharistic Minister: Susan Preece
Counters: NO COUNTERS AT THIS TIME

### SEASON OF CREATION by Nick Brodie

Today's Gospel reveals a fearfulness in the disciples' response to Jesus. Afraid of asking too many questions, they almost seem to prefer being ignorant rather than admit the limits of their own understanding. Strangely, this self-imposed ignorance does not prevent them from posturing for position. What a warning for the Church this episode seems to offer!

While this excerpt of Mark's Gospel is often interpreted in terms of the virtue of humility, the other aspect of Jesus' point is easily overlooked. Every Christian is called to be "last of all and servant of all." Ours is a faith of humble service.

The scriptures repeatedly make the point that faith is always embedded in creation. A mountain, a road, a town, and a house all frame the action in this episode. Because the Church exists wherever its members go our beliefs and prayers are not restricted to church buildings. We take our faith on roads, into our homes and towns, and even up mountains.

Given this, our faith compels us to have a special care for all of creation. As Jesus clearly intimates, by humbly serving created things we express our love of the Creator who made them all.

September 19, 2021



**Faith Formation Begins Today, September 19, at 10 AM.** Children in grades K-9 will meet in person with universal masking (or virtually when necessary) on Sunday mornings. The

content of the **Program at St. Patrick's Church** flows from each Sunday's Gospel, and children learn their faith within the rhythms and seasons of the liturgical year. If you prefer a home study program, the Faith Formation Office will provide materials and support for you to successfully complete the lessons. More information and an online registration form may be found at our parish website, [www.battenkillcatholic.org](http://www.battenkillcatholic.org).



**"Say the Word and My Soul Shall Be Healed"**  
*Catechetical Sunday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

This day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a Witness to the Gospel.

Those whose vocation it is to serve as Catechist will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry and parents will receive a blessing during Mass.

### YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERING – September 12

Offertory – \$350.00      Second Collections - \$20.00  
Cemetery - \$72.00      Collection for Haiti - \$93.75  
**Thank you for your continued generosity**

Please consider continuing to make regular donations. You can mail it to 17 S. Park Street, Cambridge, NY 12816. If you use envelopes, please include it with your donation or leave a donation at the parish house by inserting it in the mail slot in what was the front door before our renovation. I have also arranged for electronic giving which is available at [www.battenkillcatholic.org/donations](http://www.battenkillcatholic.org/donations)

**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 St. Patrick's Church at 677-2757.

### SAVE THE DATE:

October 2021 – Celebration of Mary, Queen of the Rosary

St. Joseph's in Greenwich will continue to post Sunday mass on YouTube. Mass will be available at 10 AM on Sunday morning and later. It can be accessed at YouTube channel named "St. Joseph's Church in Greenwich, NY" the link is [www.tinyurl.com/SJG-liturgies](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJG-liturgies)