

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 1 & 2, 2021



Easter - Our Resurrection in Christ

BISHOP OF ALBANY DIOCESE:

Edward B. Scharfenberger

BISHOP EMERITUS: Howard Hubbard

PAROCHIAL VICAR: Fr. Peter Tkocz

PARISH LIFE DIRECTOR: Jeffrey Peck
JeffreyPeck@battenkillcatholic.org

OFFICE MANAGER: Sue Hyde

+OUR PARISH OFFICE & MAILING ADDRESS

67 Main Street

Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

PHONE: 518-686-5064

E-MAIL: immconcept@roadrunner.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30PM

WEBSITE: www.icchoosickfalls.com

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE:

CELEBRATED IN IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH HALL

SATURDAY, 4 PM & SUNDAY, 9 AM

TRUSTEES: Christina Angell & Ellen Scott

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Krissy Fauler, Dave Stagnitti, & Linda Billert

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Virginia Cuddihy, Mike Brewster

Jerry D'Acchille, Rick Ferrannini, Karen Kaufman,
and the two Trustees

MUSIC MINISTRY: Richard Cherry

WORSHIP AND ENVIRONMENT: Lynne Mango

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 1 & 2, 2021



Liturgy Schedule:

Saturday, May 1 4:00 pm Mass

Ann Marie Donovan
(Requested by Mike & Mary Ellen Sanders)
Shirley Bissonette
(Requested by family)

Sunday, May 2 9:00 am Mass

Manuel Custodio
(Requested by Isabel Custodio)
Peter Melesky
(Requested by family)
Frank Melesky
(Requested by Dusty Deming Acosta)

Saturday, May 8 4:00 pm Mass

For all of our moms

Sunday, May 9 9:00 am Mass

For all of our moms



Crafted from the foundation beams of our Church, we continue to build up the reign of God with living stones. Jesus Christ is our true cornerstone.

A Prayer to Live Fully Today

Comfortable and well-worn are my daily paths
whose edges have grown gray
with constant use.
My daily speech is a collection of old words
worn down at the heels
by repeated use.
My language and deeds, addicted to habit,
prefer the taste of old wine,
the feel of weathered skin.

Come and awaken me, Spirit of the new.
Come and refresh me, Creator of green life.
Come and inspire me, Risen Son,
you who make all things new:
I am too young to be dead,
to be stagnant in spirit.

High are the walls that guard the old,
the tried and secure ways of yesterday
that protect me from the dreaded plague,
the feared heresy of change.
For all change is a danger to the trusted order,
the threadbare traditions that are maintained
by the narrow ruts of rituals.

Yet how can an everlasting new covenant
retain its freshness and vitality
without injections of the new,
the daring and the untried?

Come, O you who are ever-new,
wrap my heart in new skin,
ever flexible to be reformed by your Spirit.
Set my feet to fresh paths this day:
inspire me to speak original and life-giving words
and to creatively give shape to the new.

Come and teach me how to dance with delight
whenever you send a new melody my way.

The Word of God last weekend proclaimed, "see what love God has bestowed on us in letting us be called the Children of God. We are God's People now! What we shall be has not yet come to light." So let us not wait or delay or grow apathetic. Today! right now! here, we find ourselves!...let us live this moment, this day in the fullness of God. Breathe in, touch, hear, see, and sense the Spirit of the Divine, of the Christ and let God abound in you, not merely for yourself, but for others. May your life give reason for people to find hope today. Be Love!

Fr. Tom Zelker
Our Lady of the Valley Church
P.O. Box 311, 111 Wells Avenue
Middleburgh, N.Y. 12122
518-827-3301

Peace to All! "Peace...Shalom...Salaam"

Our Peace Pole was placed next to our Easter Fire Pit during the Triduum. May the holy love of Christ ignite our hearts on fire to seek justice and peace among all nations. Benches are placed there for your rest.

Immaculate Conception Earth Garden

Plowed plots are available for your own personal vegetable garden. The western acreage is our parish garden to grow fruits and vegetables for our Food Pantry. To help or reserve a plot, please call our office.

If you reserve a plot for your own use, please remember you are responsible for maintaining (weeding and harvesting) your own area on a regular basis.



"When I was in prison you visited me" Parish Prison Ministry

Simply write a general letter of encouragement and compassion to a person incarcerated on plain loose leaf or typing paper and drop it off at church or our office. Do not include specific family information but a letter of wisdom and hope. Use regular pens; no crayons. Letters will be mailed in official Church envelopes. Thank you for remembering.

Unity House

In collaboration with the
Hoosick Falls Police Department
2nd Floor - Armory, 80 Church Street,
Hoosick Falls
(518) 272-5917

Services offered (all services are voluntary, free and confidential):

- ◆ Case management
- ◆ Counseling
- ◆ Advocacy with DSS, CPS, Police, Court, Housing & more
- ◆ Legal Representation & Consultation
- ◆ Education & Employment Assistance
- ◆ Sexual Assault Services
- ◆ Youth Services
- ◆ Referrals and Connections to other Programs/Services
- ◆ Emergency Shelter

Hotlines: Call: (518) 272-2370 or Text: (518) 720-6161
Web chat: rc.chat/uhdvs

Comfort & Hope Group

Monday, May 3 at 6:30 pm in the Church Hall kitchen area. A faith-filled support group for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. We are not alone in our grief, our shared stories bless us with Christ among us. Masks are required.

Faith Formation News

As part of our Family based focus these are this week's and Next week's readings so you and your family can think about those lessons.

Readings for Sunday May 2
1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 9: 26-31
2nd Reading: 1 John 3:18-24
Gospel: John 15:1-8

Readings for Sunday May 9
1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35,44-48
2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-10
Gospel: John 15:9-17

Here is this weeks' YouTube video that you can share and discuss with your family. Go to YouTube and search for the following: **Who Do You Spend Time With?**

EASTER: 50 DAYS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In the liturgies of the Triduum and Easter, the Church remembers the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord. But although these liturgies are full of drama and a powerful sense of history, liturgical remembering is not about the past; it is about the present. When the Church remembers, something happens in the here and now. **“Recalling thus the mysteries of redemption, the Church opens to the faithful the riches of the Lord’s powers and merits, so that these are in some way made present in every age in order that the faithful may lay hold on them and be filled with saving grace.”** The Triduum is, in a word, *sacramental*; for the Resurrection is not just remembered, as great events in history are remembered; the Resurrection *happens*. We celebrate Easter for 50 days this year until May 23...Pentecost...be caught up in the Spirit!

God’s Dream ... Our Work

Each person makes a difference!

Our Eucharist sends us forth to embody Christ’s love, Christ’s Justice, Christ’s Healing, and Christ’s Reign in every aspect of our life and the life of our world community. Never say “you don’t matter” because you do! You make all the difference in the world.

Here are some activities that may interest you in order to help another person, stand up for what is right, or care for our Earth. Remember, our Catholic faith is not self-centered, but selfless...going out of ourselves to witness to God’s sacred presence every day, everywhere.

May the restless Spirit of Resurrection within you never settle for less, the uninspired, the tired, or the untrue...but may you always seek to live the ideal, the truly beautiful, the most unsettling, the deepest life giving love for all people!

The stone has been rolled away ... Let us journey forth ... together!

RESPECT LIFE

- ⇒ Stand up for anyone who is being abused by domestic violence. Call Catholic Charities (free and confidential) at 453-6650. Get help for yourself or someone else who is abused by hitting, humiliation, guilt, bullying, or forced sex.
- ⇒ Contribute to the National Adoption Foundation, 100 Mill Plain Road, Danbury, CT 06811 (National Adoption Foundation.org) helping families adopt children.
- ⇒ Speak out against racism, prejudice, sexual harassment.
- ⇒ Invite a troubled drinker to AA - local meeting are Monday evenings at 8 pm at the Hoosick Baptist Church.
- ⇒ Help Amnesty International USA, 322 8th Ave., New York, NY 10001; www.amnestyuse.org - in demanding that all forms of torture cease, political prisoners receive fair trials, and death squads be eliminated.
- ⇒ The Roarke Center, Troy (518-273-8351) helps women with legal issues and when leaving incarceration.
- ⇒ Learn and do something about the worldwide crime of human trafficking (modern slavery). More than 29 million people are held in bondage for forced labor or sexual exploitation. Contact the “Project to End Human Trafficking.”
- ⇒ Come to our parish Comfort & Hope support group.

RESPECT THE EARTH

- ⇒ Support “Trees for Life” 3006 West St. Louis, Wichita, KS 67203. This group supplies native, fruit and shade trees to devastated areas throughout the world. Help reforest Mount Kilimanjaro with 3 million trees with Interfaith Power & Light on the net (or 415-561-4891).
- ⇒ Buy produce at local farm stands; at the store, make sure produce is grown in America. Support local farmers.
- ⇒ Hike the Taconic Crest Trail.
- ⇒ Contribute to the Nature Conservancy, P. O. Box 65, Keene Valley, NY 12943 in preserving rare mountain habitats.
- ⇒ Recycle everything that you can.
- ⇒ Pick up litter on the Hoosic River Trail.
- ⇒ Plant an extra row of vegetables to share at our Food Pantry.
- ⇒ Use less fertilizer on your lawn and garden. Runoff pollutes our waters.
- ⇒ Learn about Global Warming and what you can do to help future generations.
- ⇒ Plant a tree, feed the birds, put up a bat house.

FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND CHURCH

- ⇒ Be enthusiastic at Mass.
- ⇒ Volunteer to read at Mass, help sanitize after Mass.
- ⇒ Assist with our Food Pantry Garden.
- ⇒ Think about becoming a priest.
- ⇒ Laugh and enjoy life ... smile ... celebrate friendship.
- ⇒ Change a negative in your life and do something positive. Exercise!
- ⇒ Help a neighbor, ride a bike, share some flowers, kayak down a river.

POLITICAL ARENA

- ⇒ Check out “Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility”
- ⇒ See www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship or call 1-800-235-8722 at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- ⇒ Vote in all elections.

What is a parish life director (PLD)?

The Parish Life Director (PLD) is professionally qualified, spiritually, academically and by experience, to serve as a minister. The PLD may be a deacon, layperson or religious who is appointed by the diocesan bishop in accordance with Canon 517.2 to lead and officially administer a parish. The PLD is responsible for the growth and development of a particular parish (single parish or multiple parishes) in response to the appointment of the bishop. The PLD serves in conjunction and collaboration with assisting priests, a pastoral staff, and a canonically appointed pastor, usually the regional vicar. The PLD is a generalist in the art of pastoral care and parish administration.

The Parish Life Director:

1. Works with the parish community to develop and live a pastoral vision and mission. This vision includes plans for serving the parish community, as well as outreach and evangelization to those in the parish's area. S/he works closely and collaboratively with the lay ministry leaders of the parish.
2. Oversees the day-to-day operations and administrative planning for the parish or parishes. This oversight includes recruitment, training, and management of employees and volunteers to enhance living the mission of the parish. The PLD is accountable for the administrative and financial management of the parish, in accordance with diocesan policies; sacramental and community life, the parish census, programs, liturgical ministries (lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and altar servers), and Safe Environment training. The appropriate records for these practical elements of parish life will be maintained under the supervision of the PLD.
3. Collaborates with the parish pastoral council, parish finance council, trustees, and other parish committees.
4. Annually, the PLD as part of the budget development process will facilitate an examination/evaluation of the ways in which the parish is living its mission.
5. The PLD offers assistance to parishioners offering pastoral support in illness, hospitalization, bereavement, as well as oversight of faith formation, singles, family and adult ministries, and all sacramental preparation, including matrimony.
6. The PLD is authorized to lead prayer services, communion services, the Liturgy of the Hours, funeral vigil and burial services, as needed.
7. The PLD will represent the parish in relationship to the larger community; that is, in dealing with neighborhood and local civic groups. S/he represents the parish in relationship to ecumenical and inter-faith matters, working with religious communities, and in the parish pastoral care area, regional and diocesan groups.
8. The PLD provides a significant personal presence at parish events, for example, presence at weekend Masses, with parishioners at important times in their lives, and significant parish pastoral events.

Who is our parish life director?

I am a retired political scientist. I was fortunate to be part of an international program that allowed me to spend part of the spring teaching in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands during my career. I spent some time in Haiti after my retirement helping to establish the University of Fondwa and the people of Haiti have a special place in my heart. I completed my studies in pastoral theology at St. Joseph's College of Maine. I also studied pastoral care chaplaincy for 4 years, pre – covid, with the goal of chaplaincy certification at Albany Medical Center. I continue as a volunteer chaplain but have suspended my work towards certification.

I have served as a parish life director since 2009, first at Our Lady of the Snow in Berlin and Grafton and since 2011 at Holy Cross in Salem and St. Patrick's in Cambridge.

Tracy, my wife, and I have been married since 1977. We live in Greenwich and we have no children.

Vicars

Last weekend, a letter informing the parish of the appointment of Fr. Peter Tkocz as parochial vicar was read at mass. Vicar is a term for priest which has been returning to usage in our Church. There are several different types of vicars who are differentiated by their full title. The Vicar General, for example, is a priest who serves as the number two in the Diocese and assumes some of the authority of the bishop when he is unable. He has many other duties which vary from diocese to diocese and bishop to bishop. Priests who are assigned duties of a specialized nature are also named as vicars. Our diocese has, for example, a Vicar for Vocations, a Vicar for Education, and a Vicar for Priests. Each of these priests is performing duties which are in addition to their priestly service. Our Diocese is divided into regions and, each region is headed by an Episcopal Vicar who represents the Bishop in that region. You may remember that Fr. Tom Zelker served as an Episcopal Vicar in this region. Episcopal Vicars are charged with communicating with the Bishop about needs and issues in their region and at times acting in place of the Bishop when needed such as celebrating Confirmation. Fr. Peter Tkocz's appointment as parochial vicar means he has accepted the request of the Bishop to be the parish priest for our parish as well as Holy Cross in Salem and St. Patrick's in Cambridge. Parochial vicars generally serve under pastors.

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 1 & 2, 2021

Counters:

This Week: Gina Harrison, Mike Shea, & Andrea White

Next Week: Heather Hassett & Eileen Bakaitis

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE For April 24 & 25

Regular Offertory.....\$2,946.00

Evangelist\$79.00

Total\$3,025.00

Attendance:

Saturday, April 24.....140 (outside Mass)

Sunday, April 25.....75

Total.....215

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Barbara Bouplon, Billy Benkoski, Cheryl McLaughlin, Dave Hanselman, Dawn Myers, Donny Hayden, Dorothy Roy, Dr. Marcus Martinez, Felicia Martelle, Fr. Joe Manerowski, Gary Grogan, Harley Conte, Jeff Babson, Jesse Stevens, Judy Brownell, Judy Quackenbush, Karen Thomas, Linda Kane, Marie Slattery, Matt Waytkus, Melissa Cleary, Mike Stone, Nancy Hathaway Mahoney, Neil Waytkus, Paulette Sukuskas, Peter Kane, Sally Williams, Stacy Rogers, and all those who are ill or hurting. Those who have been on the prayer list for quite some time will still be prayed for, but will not appear in the bulletin. If you are in need of prayer for yourself or someone else, please call Margaret O'Malley at 518-686-7835.



HACA Food Pantry will be open normal hours, however, they will give out pre-packaged bags at the door to one family at a time. All normal items will be included. **Additional Items Needed: Ramen noodles, oatmeal, canned dinners (spaghetti, chili, stew), pancake mix, rice/pasta boxed mixes (Rice a Roni), shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, and feminine hygiene items.**

Food Pantry Volunteers...We are looking for volunteers to help. For information and training, contact Dianne Hosterman at 518-686-5310.



- Any food donations may be brought to church, our office, or directly to the Food Pantry.

VOLUNTEER! VOLUNTEER! WE NEED YOUR HELP

- ◆ Wednesday mornings at 10 AM: Bulletin proofreaders. **Call the office.**
- ◆ Sunday morning: Collection Counters. **Call the office.**
- ◆ Lectors (readers) at Mass: **See Gloria Shufon,**

“Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness”

Three day votive candles are in our lower church. The donation is 25cents. Please be considerate of others when lighting a candle.

If you would like to receive ICC emails, please call the parish office at 518-686-5064 or email to:

Immconcept@roadrunner.com

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Our automatic withdrawal system is working well. This may be an easy way for you to support our parish. Please contact our office for more information.