

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, April 2

**HOLY THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Friday, April 3

**GOOD FRIDAY, THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

Saturday, April 4

**HOLY SATURDAY**

### EASTER FLOWERS — In Memory of:

- |                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| ✿ Edward Carey             | ✿ Barbara Novko   |
| ✿ Sr. Dolores Carey        | ✿ Larry Turner    |
| ✿ Ann & Peter Gilbert      | ✿ Mark Turner     |
| ✿ Kathryn & Robert Gilbert | ✿ Joe Tyson       |
| ✿ Mary Keilfopf            | ✿ Barry Family    |
| ✿ Catherine & Robert Lee   | ✿ Gehm Family     |
| ✿ Emily Siolhan Lee        | ✿ Gilbert Family  |
| ✿ Alice Meyers             | ✿ Henehan Family  |
| ✿ Robert Meyers            | ✿ LoBruito Family |
| ✿ Gertrude Nadley          | ✿ Sitts Family    |
|                            | ✿ Stachura Family |
|                            | ✿ Tyson Families  |

### HOLY CROSS PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Council will meet on **Sunday, April 12** in the Parish Hall with the coffee hour.

*Feel free to share your thoughts with a Council member. Council meetings are open to all.*

### WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We are blessed to have you worship with us as we nurture each other in faith. While visiting our community, we humbly ask you to consider investing in our parish offertory and Diocesan Appeal to ensure our parish and Diocese can be your partner in faith. Thank you.

### ADORATION & DIVINE MERCY MEDITATION

April 12, 2026 at 2:30-3:30, St. Mary's Oneonta

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by a unique Divine Mercy Chaplet Passion Meditation, inviting us to enter more deeply into Christ's journey to the Cross and drawing us into His suffering, our sins, His obedience to the Father, and the love that led Him to embrace the Cross for our sake.

(continued from front)

of agnosticism, a non-involvement, an indifference, that is dishonest. Ironically, Pilate's weakness in not rescuing Jesus ends up making him perhaps the most famous governor and judge in history.

But Pilate isn't alone on trial here; so are the religious authorities of the time. In their very effort to protect God from what they deem irreverence, heterodoxy, and blasphemy, they are complicit in "killing" God. The judgment made against them at Jesus's trial is the exact judgment being made, to this very day, on much religious and ecclesial authority: Its feverous proclivity to protect God often helps crucify God in this world. Last, but not least, Jesus' contemporaries are also on trial and, with them, so are we. In the heat of the moment, caught up on the mindless, feverous energy of a crowd, they abandon their messianic hope for the slogan of the day: "Crucify him!" Little different from so many of the political and religious slogans we mouth at political and church rallies today: The trial of Jesus is a harsh judgment on the mindlessness, fickleness, and dangers of crowd energy.

The genius of John's account of Jesus's death is it shows what happens whenever, through our misguided religious fervor or through our cool agnosticism, we put God on trial; we end up being judged.

adapted from: <https://ronrolheiser.com/putting-god-on-trial/>

### DIOCESAN APPEAL

As you plan your budget, consider a pledge. Use your bank's Bill Pay for auto-payments or envelopes (table).



<https://thediocesanappeal.org/>

**CURRENT STATUS: \$4,793 / GOAL: \$6,379**

# Holy Cross Parish

**MARCH 29, 2026**

*Palm Sunday, Passion of the Lord A*

Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm 22

Philemon 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

**A welcoming, vibrant community committed to growing in and sharing the love of Jesus**

*Christ Jesus, when temptation urges us to abandon you, you pray within us. And you encourage us not to remain in darkness, but to live in your light.*

—Brother Roger of Taizé

### PUTTING GOD ON TRIAL

In both our piety and our agnosticism, we sometimes put God on trial and whenever we do that, it's we who end up being judged. We see that in Gospel accounts of the trial of Jesus, particularly in John's Gospel. It paints a portrait of Jesus from the point of view of his divinity, not his humanity. Thus, in John's Gospel, Jesus has no human weaknesses whatsoever. He's God from the first line to the last line of the Gospel, true to the tiniest detail. For instance, in John's Gospel at the feeding of the multitudes, Jesus asks his disciples how many loaves and fishes they have. John notes in brackets: "He already knew"; there are no gaps on a divine radar screen.

We see this most clearly in how John writes the passion and death of Jesus. Unlike the other Gospels, where Jesus is afraid and cringing before his bitter fate, in John's Gospel, throughout his entire passion, Jesus is unafraid, in complete control, serene, carrying his own cross, and the antithesis of a victim. Throughout the whole account, Jesus is acting freely, out of love, with complete power over the situation.

John emphasizes this point: When they come to arrest him, Jesus stands up, and all those apprehending him fall to the ground so that, in contrast to the other Gospels, it is not he who is prostrate on the ground; rather it's the Roman soldiers and temple police who are prostrate—and in that prostration symbolically doing him reverence. The symbolism continues: Jesus is sentenced to death at noon, the exact hour when the priests began to slaughter the paschal lambs. After his death, he is buried with a staggering amount of myrrh and aloes as only a king would have been, and he is laid in a "virgin" tomb (just as he was born from a virgin womb). John makes it clear: **This God we're dealing with.**

With this in mind—that Jesus was always divine and in charge—we can understand more clearly what John tries to teach in his account of Jesus's death. The bulk of his passion story centers on the trial and the main characters in it. But his account has this ironic twist: Jesus seems to be on trial; but, in actuality, he is only one not on trial. Pilate, the religious authorities, the people, and we, today, reading the story, are on trial. Everyone's on trial, except Jesus.

Pilate is on trial on a number of counts: He knows Jesus is innocent but lacks the courage to stand up to the crowd, thus allowing the fickle, mindless frenzy to have its way. He's judged for his weakness. He's also on trial for his agnosticism, his belief (however sincere) that he could treat truth and faith as realities that he, himself, could steer clear of and assess from a neutral, non-committed position, and that these were other peoples' issues, having nothing to do with him. Nobody can coolly ask: "What is truth?" as if that answer didn't affect them. Jesus's trial finds Pontius Pilate and those of us like him, guilty—of (see back)

### For Reflection

- ★ What are the "false kingdoms" I am tempted to follow instead of Jesus?
- ★ Do I seek recognition and power, or do I choose to serve others quietly?

<https://young-catholics.com/5375/palm-sunday-year-a-passion-sunday/#thoughts>

# Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street, PO Box 118

Morris NY 13808

<https://parishes.rcda.org/holycross/>

Facebook: [tiny.cc/HCMorris](https://www.facebook.com/tiny.cc/HCMorris)

Find our bulletin and Pastoral Council minutes on our website. If you have a notice for the bulletin, please email: [holycrossRC-church@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossRC-church@gmail.com)

## MISSION

To care for the poor, abandoned, and the marginalized.

## SCHEDULE

Mass: Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word: Thursday, 10 a.m.

RECONCILIATION: St. Mary's Oneonta, every Saturday 4-4:45 p.m. Call the parish office (607-432-3920) for a different time.

## PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Pastoral Associate (Parish Leader)**

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

## Trustees

Marguerite Webster (607) 263-5478

Richard Meyers (607) 263-5588

## Parish Pastoral Council Chair

Kerry L. Mess (607) 386-1951

## Parish Pastoral Council Members

Allen Dangca, Celine Francisco, Scott Kolbery, Chet McAdams, Jackie McAdams, Kerry L. Mess, Dana Mochovciak, Joe Tyson

## Liturgical Ministry

Marguerite Webster (607) 263-5478

## Faith Formation & RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults]

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

## Ministry to the Homebound

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098



**Pope Leo XIV's March intention: May nations move toward effective disarmament, and world leaders choose dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.**

## Living Caring Community

### HELP TO OFFER? NEED ASSISTANCE?

- ☼ Butternut Valley Food Pantry  
166 Marion Avenue, Gilbertsville NY  
(607) 783-2267  
Thurs., 3-5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- ☼ The Lord's Table & Food Pantry  
305 Main Street, Oneonta NY  
(607) 432-1458  
Mon./Weds./Fri., 4-5:30 p.m.
- ☼ The Magic Closet  
158 East Main Street, Morris NY  
(607) 263-5116 or (607) 263-5859  
Weds./Sat. 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- ☼ My Neighbor's Closet  
3097 County Highway 11, Hartwick NY  
(607) 431-8320/cooperstownangel@gmail.com  
Tues/Sat: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. / Weds: 4-7 p.m.  
*Contact if you need someone to shop for you and coordinate getting you items.*
- ☼ Helios Grief Support  
Group counseling for adults in Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware counties. See helios-care.org; call (607) 432-5525.
- ☼ Oneonta Community Health Center  
No-cost healthcare services for uninsured adults (607) 433-0300  
Office hours: Tues. 6-8 p.m.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

Mass Attendance: 47

Collection: \$736.00

CRS: \$100 / Maintenance: \$80

Easter Flowers: \$170

## Upcoming Events

All Triduum events (in blue) are at St. Mary's Oneonta.

- 04/02: Holy Thursday Mass, 6:30 p.m.**  
Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m. followed by soup and bread meal, Zion Episcopal Night Prayer, 10 p.m.
- 04/03: Morning Prayer, 8:30 a.m.**  
Midday Prayer, 12 p.m.  
Individual Confessions, 1-3 p.m.  
Good Friday Service, 5 p.m.  
**SPECIAL COLLECTION: Holy Land**  
Good Friday Service, 7 p.m. Zion Episcopal  
Night Prayer, 8:30 p.m.
- 04/04: Morning Prayer, 8:30 a.m.**  
First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta  
**Great Vigil in the Holy Night mass, 8 p.m.**
- 04/05: Easter Sunday mass 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**
- 04/09: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 04/12: Coffee Hour, Pastoral Council meeting after mass**
- 04/16: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 04/19: Rosary after mass**
- 04/23: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 04/25: Faith & Reason Revival  
Shroud Presentation, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Sidney, register by April 11; \$5 fee (QR code or 607-503-7066; formingfaith@gmail.com)
- 04/30: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 05/01: First Friday Devotion, 2:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 05/02: First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta



## MARCH 29, 2026

### Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

**Greeter:** Pat Kristofik

**Lector:** Kerry L. Mess

**Eucharistic Minister:** Carol Tyson

### April 12

**Greeters:** Chet and Jackie McAdams

**Lector:** Kerry L. Mess

**Eucharistic Minister:** Diane Turner

### Mass Intention

If you would like to request an intention for a mass, call Kerry (607) 386-1951 with the intention, your name, and call back number OR use the parish email (see left panel).

### Pray for

- ✠ for the sick, their caregivers, and all who asked for our prayers, especially Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Kathleen Barry, Jim and Jan Drummy, Jo Franklin, Sarah Grogan, Agnes Huff, Maureen Joy, Jim Lee, Michelle Lee, Fred Lemister, Carol and Jessica MacCumber, Doris Mensch, Jeffrey Meyers, Kelly Meyers, Teresa Meyers, Rich Morley, Mark Muller, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, John O'Brien, Kathy Osborne, Maria Papendrea, Scarlett Parry, Kay Pasternak, Evelyn Rowe, Martin Smith, Mike Stensland, Joe and Carol Tyson, Janet VanZandt, John Zaleski
- ✠ for all those in our parish family serving in the military and all first responders and emergency personnel: Ryan Barry, Jim Barry, Meghan Barringer
- ✠ for the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends
- ✠ in thanksgiving for our faith community; may we hold each other up in love