

WE HAVE FOUND THE MESSIAH!

Andrew to Simon Peter (John 1:40-41)

Saint Andrew is **BISHOP OF ALBANY MARK O'CONNELL's** favorite saint because he was always bringing people to Jesus. In his installation homily, Bishop Mark said, "Do not be afraid to speak the truth of Jesus Christ. But always love your people first. Gently. Before you challenge them."

Bishop Mark has been swift in making the rounds, gathering input, and sharing his philosophy. He moved quickly to make a settlement with survivors of the abuse scandal. Holy Cross has been asked to pay \$5,000 toward the settlement costs.

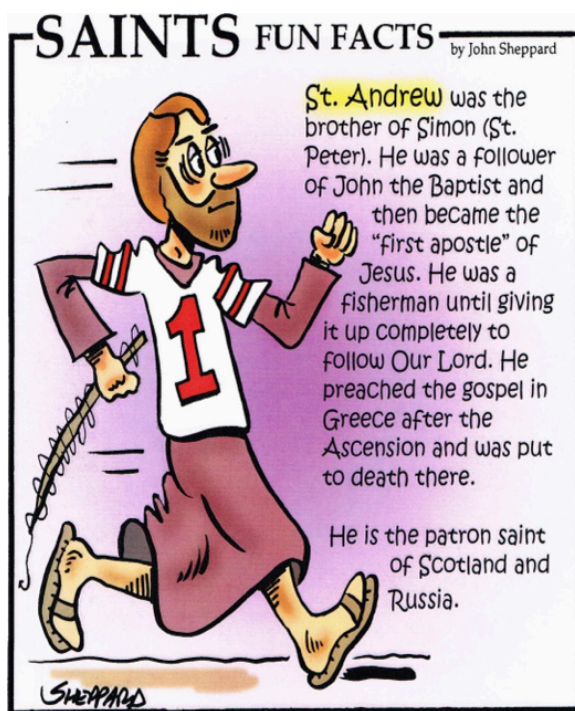
Bishop Mark also made it clear he wants to save every parish he can and has asked parishes to work on creating a 5-year plan for where we want to be and how we will get there. Pastoral Council has a template road map for planning and will engage in that over the next few months. This is where we need everyone at Holy Cross. As Bishop Mark said, "You are the people God has entrusted me to love, to serve come what may. There is no hierarchy when we dip our fingers in the same baptismal water. The people of God includes those who have left us and those that peek in the door. We are one body, gathered around one Eucharistic table."

Both Holy Cross Parish's vision—a **welcoming, vibrant community commit-**

ted to growing in and sharing the love of Jesus—and mission—to care for the poor, abandoned, and the marginalized—align with Bishop Mark's thinking. How blessed we are to have such a shepherd.

We all belong to the people of God, and all voices are needed to plan for our future. This is an exciting time as we dream for our parish's future: What do you want to Holy Cross to look like five years from now?

Please watch for opportunities to engage in the parish planning process.



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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.

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

MAY 3, 2026

5th Sunday of Easter, A

Acts 6:1-7

Psalm 33

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

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

God looks at our world not only with sad or angry eyes; God's mercy is far greater than God's sadness and anger. As the Psalmist says: "God's anger lasts but a moment" (Psalm 30:5). In an all-embracing mercy God chooses to disarm the power of evil through powerlessness - God's own powerlessness.

—Henri Nouwen

CALMING OUR FEARS

Jesus seemed to know from an early age that we cannot build on fear. We can build only on life; only life leads to life. Jesus went to the deepest source of life. He gazed long and hard into God's eyes; there, somehow, but most assuredly, he overcame fear. He did not find assurance that he would "win," because humanly speaking, he didn't. And I don't believe that he found assurance that he was right, either, although we tend to think he knew it all.

His only assurance was knowing he spoke only what he had first heard (see John 8:28). He handed over the vision that he had seen in God's eyes: a love that overcomes fear, and offers a terrible, wonderful courage, allowing us to release our life, to let it fall and go where it might. Jesus's trust was not in himself but in who he knew he was before God.

When Jesus preaches, he tells others what he first heard: "Do not be afraid." He learned that well from his own tradition. Those words were communicated again and again, through God, other people, and in prayer: To Abraham and Sarah, God said, "Do not be afraid." To Moses,

To Joshua and Gideon, "Do not be afraid." To Samuel and Hannah, "Do not be afraid." To Judith, "Do not be afraid." To David, in the prayers of his heart, "Do not be afraid."

To the people of Israel, throughout the prophets again and again, and in every type of cataclysmic situation: "Do not be afraid." Through Isaiah, "Do not be afraid." To Joseph, the father of Jesus and husband of Mary, "Do not be afraid." And, of course, to Mary who said yes, the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary."

Why this word over and over again? Because we're afraid! We're wrapped and sometimes even trapped in our fear. We want to go beyond it and yet somehow it controls us. We fear what we do not know and do not understand. We fear that what we are afraid of will control us, while we long to control our own lives.

Deep down, we long for freedom, but if we want to be free from fear, we must be willing to gaze into God's eyes as Jesus did. We must be willing to ask the same questions Jesus was asking. It's not important that we get answers. I don't think Jesus got that many answers, but we need to be asking the right questions: What is it that we desire? What is it that we're trying to protect? What is it that we're afraid is going to overtake us and control us?

We can't attack fear head on. We can't simply say to ourselves, "Don't be afraid" because it doesn't work. It isn't that simple. We have to go deeper, be curious about where the fear is coming from, and trust God with it.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/calming-our-fears/>

For Reflection

- ★ How can I trust in Jesus when I face doubts or fears?
- ★ What does it mean to be a living stone in God's house?

<https://young-catholics.com/5522/5th-sunday-of-easter-year-a/#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

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

Allan Dangca, Celine Francisco, Scott Kolberg, Chet McAdams, Jackie McAdams, Dana Mochovciak

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 May intention: May everyone, from large producers to small consumers, commit to avoiding food waste and all having access to quality food.

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.
- ☼ Friends of Recovery, Delaware/Otsego
Grassroots addiction recovery by, about, for individuals and families in recovery
22 Elm Street, Oneonta NY
(607) 267-4435
Mon/Tues/Fri: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Weds/Thurs: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
- ☼ Holy Sews
Sew burial layettes for infants: (607) 432-5125; holysewsoneonta@yahoo.com
- ☼ Oneonta Community Health Center
No-cost healthcare services for uninsured adults (607) 433-0300
Office hours: Tues. 6-8 p.m.

Upcoming Events

- 05/03: Celebration of Life for Nadine Joy, 10:30 a.m., Hillington Cemetery; reception following at the Parish Hall
- 05/07: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
- 05/10: May crowning; Coffee Hour after mass
- 05/12: The Impact of Alzheimer's & Dementia on Our Community, 6 p.m. United Methodist Morris; Community Meal 4-6 p.m.
- 05/14: Ascension mass, 9 a.m.; 12:10 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 05/17: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Catholic Charities; Rosary after mass, Pastoral Council meeting after mass
Discussion: Parish picnic and the 5-year Holy Cross Parish plan. Meetings are open to all. The first purpose of Council is "To serve God...by involving all Parishioners in the work of the Church." [How have I been involved in the work of the Church this week?](#) [What is my plan for this month of May?](#)
- 05/21: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
- 05/24: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Eastern European Collection
Christian Formation after mass
- 05/28: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
- 06/04: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
- 06/05: First Friday Devotion, 2:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 06/06: First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

Mass Attendance: 49

Collection: \$1650.00

Rice Bowl: \$25.00

MAY 3, 2026

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeters: Deb Newell and Marie Goupil

Lector: Kerry L. Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Jen Spivey

May 10

Greeters: Chet and Jackie McAdams

Lector: Maureen Joy

Eucharistic Ministers: 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, Evelyn Rowe, Martin Smith, Mike Stensland, 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 a parish to call home