

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, November 21

Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday, November 22

Memorial Saint Cecelia, Virgin and Martyr

Friday, November 24

Saint Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions, Vietnamese Martyrs

Tradition has it that Cecilia, a noble Roman girl, was martyred around the year AD 230, during the reign of Alexander Severus and the papacy of Urban I.

### THE POWER OF LOVE

The tale of her martyrdom is in the Passio Sanctae Caeciliae, a more literary than historical text. According to the Passio, Cecilia was betrothed to the patrician, Valerian. On their wedding day, she revealed that she had converted to Christianity and vowed perpetual virginity. Valerian then agreed to be catechized and baptized secretly by Pope Urban I. Shortly afterwards, Valerian's brother Tiburtius embraced the Christian faith. The two brothers were soon arrested by order of the Prefect, Turcius Almachius. After being tortured, they were decapitated with Maximus, the officer who had the task of bringing them to jail, and who, along the way, had himself converted.

### THE FAITH THAT CONQUERS DEATH

Almachius then decided to kill Cecilia but, fearing the repercussions of a public execution given the popularity of the young Christian, after submitting her to summary judgment, orders that she return to her home to be locked in the steam room (which was to be brought to very high temperature), thus staging a death by asphyxiation. After a day and night, the guards

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Pope Francis has challenged us to include and welcome everyone to the community. To that end, we need your feedback! Your input helps us create a vibrant parish community life.

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found Cecilia miraculously alive, wrapped in a celestial dew. Almachius then ordered her decapitation, but despite the three violent blows to the neck, the executioner could not sever Cecilia's head. Cecilia died after three days of agony, during which she gave all her belongings to the poor, her home to the Church, and, no longer able to speak, continued to profess her faith in the Triune God, using her fingers.

### THE GOSPEL ON THE HEART

The Golden Legend, the medieval collection of hagiographic biographies composed in Latin by the Dominican Jacopo da Varagine, tells that Pope Urban I, with the help of some deacons, interred the virgin martyr's mortal remains in the Catacombs of Saint Callixtus, in a place of honor near the Crypt of the Popes. On the eve of the Jubilee of 1600, during the Basilica's restoration by Cardinal Paolo Emilio Sfrondati, the sarcophagus containing the body of the young saint—in a marvelously great state of preservation—was found, with the body wrapped in a silk and gold dress.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/saints/11/22/st--cecilia--virgin-and-martyr-in-the-cemetery-of--callistus.html>

# Holy Cross Parish

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, A

Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20,  
30–31

Psalms 128

1 Thessalonians 5:1–6

Matthew 25:14–30

## USING OUR GIFTS

The Parable of the Talents in today's gospel focuses on the idea of stewardship and responsible use of resources. It encourages people to make the most of what they have rather than hoarding or hiding it. The servants who doubled their talents took initiative were rewarded whereas the one who buried his was rebuked.

The message is about action and accountability. It tells us that what we're given—whether it's money, skills, or opportunities—should be utilized for a greater good. It advises against complacency in using one's gifts and abilities. The idea is to grow and multiply these gifts, presumably for the benefit of the community or, in the religious context, for the Kingdom of God.

### For Reflection

- ★ How do you apply the gospel's idea of stewardship to your own life? Are there areas where you feel you could be a better steward?
- ★ The third servant in the parable is held back by fear. Can you relate to this? How does fear limit your actions?
- ★ Have you turned in your parish survey yet?

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Fear holds back the third servant, and he fails to do anything productive. His approach is caution to the point of inaction, and he's criticized for it. The parable suggests that doing nothing with your resources or abilities is not an option; it's a failure to meet a basic responsibility.

Thus, the gospel calls all of us to make the most of what we're given, for the benefit of both ourselves and others. It pushes the point that being a good steward of our gifts is a key part of ethical and religious life.

Adapted from: <https://young-catholics.com/2996/33rd-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-a/>



# Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street  
PO Box 118  
Morris NY 13808

holycrosschurch@gmail.com

## MISSION

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

## SCHEDULE

Mass: Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

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

## PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Parish Leader

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

### Trustees

Michael Stensland (607) 783-2764

Richard Meyers (607) 263-5588

### Parish Council Chair

Kerry L. Mess (607) 386-1951

### Parish Council Members

Dana Mochovciak, Jenna Turner, Carol Tyson, Marguerite Webster

### Liturgical Ministry

Marguerite Webster (607) 263-5478

### Faith Formation

Daphne Thompson (607) 263-2410

### Ministry to the Homebound

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Jenn Spivey (207) 539-5094



## NOVEMBER 19, 2023

### Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Deacon: Paul Cerosaletti

Lector: Annette Hammond

### Mass Intention

#### For Lois Kogut

If you would like to request an intention for a mass, simply call the office to schedule: (607) 263-5143.

### Pray for

- ✕ the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends
- ✕ the sick, their caregivers, and all who have asked for prayers: Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Amy O'Brien, John O'Brien, Jo Franklin, Aggi Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Nadine Joy, Rebecca Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Clara Murphy, Diane Neczesny, Maria Papendrea and sister Camella, Karina Tabone, Joe and Carol Tyson, Lorraine Tyson, Fr. Chris Welch, John Zaleski
- ✕ all the men and women of our parish family serving in the military and all first responders and emergency personnel: Ryan Barry, Jim Barry, Meghan Barringer

## WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS PARISH! ARE YOU CURIOUS? BEING CALLED?

### WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US.

RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults into the Catholic faith.

For more information, go to [myrcia.org](http://myrcia.org).

### Holy Cross Parish RCIA Contact:

Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132

Pope Francis's intention for November: We pray for the Holy Father, as he fulfills his mission. May he continue with the Holy Spirit's help and guidance.

## Engage in Living Community

### November: Share the Harvest Bounty

In the past, the Morris community took turns providing provisions for the food pantry. Holy Cross would provide for the months of May and November.

**So please help share your gifts with our neighbors. Put items in the box at the back of church for your food pantry donations.**

### Angel Tree Party

Jail Ministry of Otsego and Schoharie Counties will host an Angel Tree party at the St. Mary's Parish Center, Oneonta for children from these counties who have a parent in jail or prison.  
December 2, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

To sponsor a child, contact Diane (607) 432-3920.

Donate new or slightly used items suitable for all ages and genders and Christmas decorations except trees and lights. To volunteer at the party or provide presents, contact Mary Ann (607) 226-1785.

### How Catholics Read & Interpret the Bible

Get an introduction to Historical Critical Method, the Catholic approach to Scripture, with Dr. Carmel Ann Sperti at St. Mary's, Oneonta. Preregistration preferred. Location TBD. Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21.

## Upcoming Events

### 11/19: Special collection–Campaign for Human Development

Morris Community Thanksgiving Service, 3 p.m., Baptist Church, Broad Street  
\*\*\*Final rehearsal for singing, 2 p.m.

### 11/21: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

11/21: Oneonta Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, First Presbyterian, 7 p.m.

### 11/23: Thanksgiving Day Liturgy of the Word, 9 a.m.

11/28: Free conference for dementia caregivers, Saratoga Springs City Center, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., lunch provided. RSVP by 11/21: [bit.ly/Saratoga\\_Conference\\_Alz](http://bit.ly/Saratoga_Conference_Alz) or (518) 675-7214

12/02: Angel Tree Party, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta (see box at left)

12/03, 10: Positive Conflict Resolution and Compassionate Communication Training, St. Mary's Oneonta; call to register.

12/09: Unleashing Love: A Diocesan Women's Conference, St. Pius X Church, Loudonville, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. To register: <https://www.rcda.org/UnleashingLove>

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

Mass Attendance: 43

Collection: \$864.50