

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, November 30
Saint Andrew, Apostle

St. Andrew is one of the twelve apostles of Jesus and the brother of Simon Peter. In the synoptic gospels, Jesus called Andrew and Simon from their fishing boats and promised to make them “fishers of men.” The Gospel of Luke does not mention Andrew at first but names him later in the account. It seems clear that the brothers operated their fishing business together.

Andrew was a disciple of St. John the Baptist before he was called by Jesus. St. John the Baptist pointed Jesus out to Andrew, saying “Behold, the Lamb of God!” In this account, from the Gospel of John, it is Andrew who recognizes from this statement that Jesus is the Messiah. Andrew then goes and tells his brother.

At the feeding of the multitude, Andrew was the one who told Jesus that there was a boy there with some loaves and fishes.

He spread the gospel to Greece, where he was martyred. He is thought to have been crucified on an X-shaped cross, which is now known as a St. Andrew’s cross.

Saint Andrew is the patron saint of fishermen, rope-makers, and textile workers.

<https://young-catholics.com/4821/st-andrew-apostle/>

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR AND HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

The organization of each liturgical year is governed by the Church and ultimately integrated into a liturgical calendar. The Second Vatican Council renewed emphasis of Sunday as a unique liturgical category: “the Lord’s day is the original feast day,” and it “must be observed in the universal Church as the primary

TOTUS, TOTUS, TOTUS (Everyone, everyone, everyone) YOU TOO!

Pope Francis has challenged us to include and welcome everyone in the community. We need your feedback! Your input helps us create a vibrant parish community life.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR PARISH SURVEY TODAY!* PUT IN THE COMPLETED PARISH SURVEY BOX AT THE BACK OF CHURCH.

*If you need a parish survey, extra copies on the table next to the return box.

holy day of obligation.” Thus, only a limited number of feasts of the Lord or saints may take the place of a scheduled Sunday celebration.

Saints and other celebrations are distinguished with the importance assigned to each one: a Solemnity, Feast, or Memorial. Sundays and Solemnities begin their celebration on the evening before, Feasts and Memorials are celebrated over the course of one day, and Memorials are either Obligatory or Optional.

Holy days of obligation (also known as feasts of precept) are days when the faithful are obliged to participate at Mass and abstain from unnecessary work or other activities which hinder the suitable relaxation of mind and body. Each Sunday is a holy day of obligation; the following Solemnities are 2024 feasts of precept:

- ✿ Ascension of Jesus, Thursday, May 9
- ✿ Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thursday, August 15
- ✿ All Saints’ Day, Friday, November 1
- ✿ Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1) and the Immaculate Conception of Mary (Dec. 9) are celebrated the preceding Sunday.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year>



NOVEMBER 26, 2023

Feast of Christ the King, A

Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17

Psalm 23

1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 28

Matthew 25:31–46

CONCLUDING THE LITURGICAL YEAR, CYCLE A: JESUS AS SHEPHERD AND KING

Today marks the end of the liturgical year, cycle A, when we listened to the gospel of Matthew. Matthew wrote his gospel for the Jewish community. An important feature of his Gospel is his presentation of Jesus as fulfillment of scripture, a recurring phrase throughout this Gospel. Matthew sprinkles his infancy narrative with quotes from the Old Testament, making it clear that the expectations of the messiah have now been fulfilled. In following Jesus then, Matthew’s community were not abandoning their heritage but discovering its full meaning.

We end the year celebrating God as a Shepherd King (first reading from Ezekiel). God commits to actively seeking out, caring for, and restoring his “scattered sheep.” This image of God as a shepherd is deeply comforting and creates a sense of a hands-on God, one who is fully involved in the well-being of His people. It makes us ponder how we are being shepherded in our lives today and how we can extend that shepherding to others. The first reading also highlights God’s commitment to justice and righteousness. God states that He will differentiate “between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.” This presents a God who is discerning and fair, caring especially for the “lost,” “strayed,” “injured,” and “sick,” while holding the “sleek and the strong” accountable. This challenges us to align ourselves with God’s sense of justice. Are we doing enough to reach out to those who are marginalized or suffering? This reading reminds us that our role as followers of Christ the King is not passive. We’re called to be active participants in God’s shepherding. Whether it is by seeking the lost or binding up the injured in our own communities, we share in the work of our Shepherd King. Doing so not only brings us closer to God but also makes us instruments of His divine care and justice with hearts open wide.

Matthew’s gospel presents Jesus as both shepherd and king. This dual role signifies not only a ruler, but one who nurtures and protects. The sheep are those who follow Christ’s example by showing compassion and service to others. Whether volunteering at a soup kitchen, taking care of the sick, or advocating for social justice, these actions align with Christ’s teachings. Contrastingly, the goats represent those who turn a blind eye to the suffering of others. Indifference or rationalizing the plight of the marginalized reflects a departure from the core Christian teaching of empathy and love. Instead of blaming people for their misfortune, our faith calls us to uplift those who are vulnerable and marginalized. Following Christ, our Shepherd King, means more than just adhering to rules; it means living a life of service and advocacy. When we assist those who are struggling, we are serving Christ Himself. Thus, caring for the needs of others isn’t just a good deed—it is a direct response to the teachings of Jesus, our King.

Sources: <https://ncc.catholic.edu.au/faith/scripture-resources/commentaries/the-gospel-of-matthew/>
<https://young-catholics.com/3006/solemnity-of-christ-the-king-year-a/>

For Reflection

- ★ What specific actions can I take to be an “active participant” in God’s work of shepherding?
- ★ AM I ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN PARISH LIFE BY COMPLETING MY PARISH SURVEY?



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 26, 2023

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Eucharistic Minister: Diane Turner

Mass Intention

For the children displaced by war, natural disasters, and abuse; for sisters at the MSBT Motherhouse

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 Papendra 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.

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: 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: 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.

St. Mary's, Oneonta. For information and to preregister, call: (607) 432-3920.

Location TBD. Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21.

Upcoming Events

11/28: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

11/28: "The Gift of the Magi," First United Methodist Church, Oneonta, 7 p.m. Free, donations accepted
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 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.

12/05: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

12/05: Taizé Prayer, St. Mary's Oneonta, 7 p.m.

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>

12/12: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Mass Attendance: 53

Collection: \$1219.00

Special Collection: \$118.00