

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, April 8

**Solemnity of the Annunciation  
of the Lord**

Thursday, April 10

**Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Mar-  
tyr**

Celebrate the Easter Season by blessing your home and consecrating it to God: Take a holy water bottle home with a copy of the home blessing.

**Do you live, work,  
or spend time in  
Otsego County?**

We want to hear from you about your transportation needs!

If you need a paper copy, see the table at the back of church.



Scan the code for survey.

If you are willing to distribute paper surveys and collect for the Planning Department, please let Kevin know. If you have thoughts of how this survey can be better distributed (location, specific groups or target populations), please share comments with Kevin Musser at 607-547-4225 or musserk@otsegocounty.com.

## 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 help ensure our parish and Diocese can be one of your partners in faith. Thank you!

## Saying “YES” to God: Hail, Mary, Full of Grace...

The Annunciation reminds us of God’s immense love for us. We are all called to imitate Mary’s response to God’s call. Remember, that Mary, “a teenage girl living in occupied Palestine at one of the most dangerous moments in history said yes—yes to God, yes to a whole-hearted call she could not possibly understand, yes to vulnerability in the face of societal judgment...yes to a life that came with no guarantee of her safety or her son’s.”

Mary’s “yes” was an act of trust in God’s providence even though it meant great sacrifice and uncertainty. It was not just a momentary decision, but a lifelong commitment to God’s will. In saying “yes” to God’s call, Mary became the new Ark of the Covenant, carrying within her the Word of God made flesh. Through her “Fiat,” she brought salvation into the world, and her example challenges us to become “living tabernacles” by receiving Holy Communion and carrying Christ within us.

As we celebrate the Annunciation, let us ask Mary to intercede for us and to help us say “yes” to God’s call in our own lives as we strive to imitate her faith and trust in God’s plan, and to carry Christ within us wherever we go. May we always be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and respond with the same courage and faith as Mary did, saying “Let it be done to me according to your word.”

from: <https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-zjykit-dduxulkd-v/>  
<https://young-catholics.com/536/annunciation/>

## DIOCESAN APPEAL

As you plan your budget, consider a pledge. Use your bank’s Bill Pay feature to set up automatic payments or use envelopes on the back table.

<https://thediocesanappeal.org/>  
**CURRENT STATUS: \$2,969 / GOAL: \$5,000**



# Holy Cross Parish

**APRIL 14, 2024**

*Divine Mercy Sunday, B*

Acts 4:32–35

Psalm 118

1 John 5:1–6

John 20:19–31

**Jesus walked willingly into a human world defined—as it still is today—by violence and dependence on scapegoats.... He was murdered not because God wanted or needed his sacrificial death but because as humans, when the stakes are high, we determine who is in and who is out through violence and death. But Jesus ... broke the system because what was supposed to happen didn’t.**

**The scapegoat didn’t stay dead. And the victors, in this case, didn’t get to write the only version of the story. The scapegoat came back to life and told a different story, a truer story, a story about life and love. And through his story, Jesus revealed our ideas about God had been wrong all along. God and Jesus are nothing like the violent and vengeful world we live in.**

<https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-ezirjl-dduxulkd-z/>

can draw inspiration and strength from the example of the early Church, which was able to live in remarkable unity despite the challenges it faced.

As Catholics, we are also called to extend this message of forgiveness and reconciliation to the wider world. We are called to be agents of healing in a broken world, to work towards justice and peace, and to bring the light of Christ to all those we encounter. On this Divine Mercy Sunday, let us pray for the grace to live out this mission of forgiveness and reconciliation in our own lives and in the world around us. May we be instruments of God’s mercy and love, bringing healing and hope to all those we meet.

adapted from: <https://young-catholics.com/3208/divine-mercy-sunday-year-b/>

Today’s Gospel tells the familiar story of Doubting Thomas. When Thomas doubts, Jesus does not rebuke or shame him. He simply offers Thomas the evidence he needs to believe and invites him into deeper relationship. And like Thomas, we all have moments of doubt and fear, times we struggle to believe or to trust in God’s plan for us. Like Thomas, we are invited to bring our doubts and questions to Jesus, who offers us peace and the evidence we need to believe.

Let us pray for the grace to be like the disciples, who were able to find peace and renewed faith in the presence of the risen Lord. And let us pray for the courage to continue Jesus’ mission of forgiveness and reconciliation in our own lives and in the world around us.

### FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

On Divine Mercy Sunday, we are called to reflect on the profound message of forgiveness and reconciliation resurrected Jesus brings his disciples. The resurrected Jesus seems to appear out of nowhere even though the doors are locked. He is not the same as he was, but he is also not a ghost. He does not dwell on their abandonment and betrayal, but instead focuses on calming their fears and commissioning them to continue his mission of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Note Jesus does not simply offer forgiveness and reconciliation as an abstract concept or an individual spiritual experience. Instead, he calls his disciples to live in community and work for right relationships within that community and beyond. The restoration of all creation must include God, all people, and even the natural world.

For us today, this mission of forgiveness and reconciliation must start within our own communities. We must strive to live in harmony with one another, overcome division and conflict, and work towards the common good. This is not always an easy task as we are all flawed and prone to sin. But we

### For Reflection

- ★ In what ways can I live out the mission of forgiveness and reconciliation in my daily life?
- ★ How can I work towards greater harmony and unity in my community?

# 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 Pastoral Council Chair

Kerry L. Mess (607) 386-1951

### Parish Pastoral 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

*Sunrise in the story of Easter is not just a time of day; it is a state of the heart. Sunrise is the space where nighttime fears move aside for hope, where we feel peace about our mortality in the scope of the universal truth that love abides.*

—Becca Stevens

## APRIL 7, 2024

### Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

**Lector:** Kerry L. Mess

**Eucharistic Minister:** Carole Barry

### Mass Intention

**For John O'Brien**

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 our prayers, especially Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Amy O'Brien, John O'Brien, Jo Franklin, Tony Gambria, Aggi Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Rebecca Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Rich Morley, Clara Murphy, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, Maria Papendrea, Karina Tabone and (welcome to) new baby Thomas Tabone, Joe and Carol Tyson, Lorraine Tyson, 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

Just before Easter, John O'Brien fell and broke six ribs and both collar bones. He is home. To send a card, his home address is: 410 Dunham Rd., New Berlin NY, 13411

**Pope Francis's April intention: For the role of women, may the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture.**

## Engage in Living Community

*The resurrection is not Jesus' private miracle; it's the new shape of reality. It's the new shape of the world. It's filled with grace. It's filled with possibility. It's filled with newness.*

—Richard Rohr

**ARE YOU GRIEVING? CONSOLATION GROUP**  
This group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month (April 18) at 10 a.m. in St. Mary's rectory. If you are grieving loss of any kind, come visit.

**EARTH FEST — Saturday, April 20**  
Come to Milford Central School to learn about environmental issues: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**CANDID CONVERSATIONS — April 22–26**  
Join St. Mary's Oneonta in a series of guest speakers during the Easter season. Watch the bulletin for more information.

*Easter is the feast of hope. This is the feast that says God will have the last word and that God's final judgment is resurrection. God will turn all that we maim and destroy and hurt and punish into life and beauty.*

—Richard Rohr

- ☼ **Butternut Valley Food Pantry**  
166 Marion Avenue, Gilbertsville NY  
(607) 783-2267
- ☼ **The Lord's Table & Food Pantry**  
305 Main Street, Oneonta NY  
(607) 432-1458
- ☼ **The Magic Closet**  
158 East Main Street, Morris NY  
(607) 263-5116 or (607) 263-5859

## Upcoming Events

- 04/07: Divine Mercy Chaplet after mass with Sunday sudaes afterward**  
Confession, St. Mary's Oneonta, 2:30–3:30 p.m.  
Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration and Benediction, praying of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, St. Mary's Oneonta, 3 p.m.
- 04/09: Liturgy of the Word**
- 04/14: Coffee hour after mass, Pastoral Council meeting after mass**
- 04/16: Liturgy of the Word**
- 04/21: Rosary after mass**
- 04/23: Liturgy of the Word**
- 04/28: Women's Retreat after mass** (contact Maureen Joy if you plan to attend)
- 05/05: Anthony Tabone First Communion**  
**Crowning of Mary after Mass**

“Once, at a dark moment in my life, I asked the Lord for the grace to free me from a difficult and complex situation. A dark moment. I had to preach the Spiritual Exercises to some women religious, and on the last day, as was customary in those days, they all went to confession. One elderly Sister came; she had a clear gaze, eyes full of light. A woman of God. At the end of the confession, I felt the urge to ask her a favor, so I said to her, ‘Sister, as your penance pray for me, because I need a particular grace. Ask the Lord for it. If you ask the Lord, surely he will give it to me.’ She paused in silence for a moment and seemed to be praying, then she looked at me and said, ‘The Lord will certainly give you that grace, but make no mistake about it: he will give it to you in his own divine way.’ This did me much good, hearing that the Lord always gives us what we ask for, but that he does so in his divine way. That way involves the cross. Not for masochism. But for love, love to the very end.”

—Pope Francis