

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, April 29

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Tuesday, April 30

Saint Pius V, Pope

Wednesday, May 1

Saint Joseph the Worker

Thursday, May 2

Saint Anthonisius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Friday, May 3

Saints Phillip and James, Apostles

SAINT PHILIP THE APOSTLE

St. Philip the Apostle is believed to have been born in Bethsaida, a small fishing village on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. According to the Gospel of John, Philip was one of the first disciples to be called by Jesus. He is remembered for his role in the feeding of the five thousand, when he questioned Jesus about how they would be able to feed such a large crowd. Jesus replied, "You give them something to eat" (John 6:5-7).

St. Philip asking Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father and it is sufficient for us," is a significant moment. It highlights the importance of faith and trust in Jesus as the way to know and understand God. By asking to see the Father, Philip expressed a desire for a tangible and visible sign of God's presence. Jesus'

CHECK OUT: THE POWER OF ONE HOUR

The Power of One hour, a 5-part video series from the Diocese of Albany, breaks the Mass into five parts: Mass Prep, Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Communion and Concluding Rites. Each installment has a study guide for adults and children and can be accessed at www.rcda.org/powerofonehour.

response, "he who has seen me has seen the Father," emphasizes he is the perfect image of the Father.

As Christians, we believe that through faith in Jesus, we can know God and have a personal relationship with him. St. Philip's question and Jesus' response continue to be relevant to us today as we seek to deepen our faith and understanding of God. We too, can ask God to reveal himself to us, but we must trust in Jesus as the way to truly know and understand him.

SAINT JAMES THE LESS

James, the son of Alphaeus, also known as James the Just. He is often referred to as "the Less" to differentiate him from the other apostle named James, the son of Zebedee. The nickname may have referred to his age or height, but its exact meaning is uncertain. James was recognized for his devoutness and dedication to prayer, and he played a crucial role in the early Christian community in Jerusalem.

St. Philip is the patron saint of hatters, pastry chefs, bakers, and cooks. St. James the Lesser is the the patron saint of apothecaries, pharmacists, druggists, dying people, fullers, and milliners.

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!

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: \$3,569 / GOAL: \$5,000



APRIL 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter, B

Acts 9:26-31

Psalms 22

1 John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8

BOLDNESS IN FAITH

We've all experienced moments of feeling like outsiders, awkwardly on the fringes of a group, unsure of our place or welcome. This experience can be profoundly isolating, highlighting our deepest insecurities and fears. Imagine, then, the daunting challenge faced by St. Paul. Following his dramatic conversion, he found himself in a precarious position. Once a fervent persecutor of Christians, he was now passionate about spreading the very faith he had tried to destroy. The first reading captures this pivotal moment. Despite the understandable suspicion and fear from the disciples, Paul "spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord." His courage wasn't just about speaking; it was about embodying a new way of living, characterized by a radical commitment to the Gospel.

This boldness is not unique to Paul. It is a calling for all Christians, even today. Many of us shy away from actively sharing our faith, daunted by the prospect of evangelization. Yet, the early Church flourished precisely because of such boldness in both word and action. This challenges us to consider: How are we called to be bold in our faith today? How might our words and actions contribute to building up the Church and spreading the Gospel?

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ACTION

The early Christian community was revolutionary. It wasn't just about belief; it was about a new way of living together, where everyone's needs were met, and love was the guiding principle. The actions of the early Christians were as crucial as their words in spreading the message of Jesus. They lived their faith in such a way that it drew others to join them, fascinated by the love they showed to one another and the marginalized in society. This calls us to reflect on our communities. Are we creating spaces where everyone feels welcome and valued? Are our actions reflective of the Gospel's call to love and serve one another? Building a community that mirrors the early Church requires both bold proclamation and bold living.

BEARING FRUIT

The Gospel presents us with the beautiful metaphor of the vine and the branches. Jesus emphasizes the importance of remaining in Him to bear fruit. Like branches that cannot survive, let alone bear fruit when severed from the vine, our spiritual lives wither without a deep and sustaining connection to Christ. This imagery invites us to consider the nature of the fruit we're called to bear. It's not merely about individual accomplishments but about contributing to the flourishing of the whole community, to the glory of God. Bearing fruit requires trust and drawing strength from the Lord. It involves pruning—letting go of what hinders our growth and embracing a process of spiritual refinement. This is not always comfortable, but it is necessary for growth. We are reminded that our efforts, grounded in faith and sustained by grace, can lead to abundant life for ourselves and for others.

For Reflection

- ★ Think about your role within your faith community. Are there ways you could contribute more actively to building a welcoming and supportive environment? How can you help ensure that everyone feels valued and included, especially those who might feel on the fringes?
- ★ Reflect on the metaphor of the vine and the branches. How connected do you feel to Christ in your daily life? What practices help you remain in Him, and what might be some "pruning" you need to undergo to bear more fruit?

<https://young-catholics.com/3236/5th-sunday-of-easter-year-b/>

Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street
PO Box 118
Morris NY 13808

holycrossrcchurch@gmail.com
<https://parishes.rcda.org/holycross/>

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

APRIL 28, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Minister: Diane Turner

Mass Intention

For the soul of Lorraine Tyson requested by Glenn and Greg Tyson

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, Diane DeDominicus, John O'Brien, Jo Franklin, Tony Giambra, Aggi Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Rebecca Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Rich Morley, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, Maria Papendrea, Tom Rizzo, Joe and Carol 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

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS PARISH! CURIOUS? BEING CALLED?

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

Engage in Living Community

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT, MAY 3-5

A retreat of healing and reconciliation for women and men whose lives have been touched by abortion. The retreat will be at the Dominican Retreat & Conference Center in Niskayuna. The weekend will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of Entrustment. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. The cost is \$195, which includes a private room, meals and retreat materials. Financial assistance will be available for those unable to pay the entire cost. For more information or to register contact: Pat Mousaw, 518-222-1160 or Katie Bolibaugh, 518-495-3574 or e-mail: rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com. For a complete listing of retreat dates and locations contact: 1-877-HOPE-4 ME or visit the Rachel's Vineyard website: www.rachelsvineyard.org.

☼ 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

04/28: Women's Retreat after mass

04/30: Liturgy of the Word

Taizé prayer, 7 p.m., St. Mary's

05/02: National Day of Prayer, see <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>

05/03-05: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, Dominican Retreat & Conference Center, Niskayuna NY. For info or to register: See box to left.

05/04: First Saturday Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, 9 a.m., St. Mary's

**05/05: Anthony Tabone First Communion
Crowning of Mary after Mass**

05/07: Liturgy of the Word

05/08: Ascension Thursday vigil mass, St. Mary's

05/09: Ascension Thursday mass, 9 a.m.

05/12: Coffee Hour after mass

05/14: Liturgy of the Word

**05/19: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Catholic Charities
Rosary after mass**

05/26: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Eastern European Collection

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

Mass Attendance: 44

Collection: \$920.00