

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, August 27  
Saint Monica

Wednesday, August 28  
Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Thursday, August 29  
The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

### SAINT MONICA'S STORY

The circumstances of St. Monica's life could have made her a nagging wife, a bitter daughter-in-law, and a despairing parent, yet she did not give way to any of these temptations. Although she was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, who lived in her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Patricius had some redeeming features, but he had a violent temper and was licentious. Monica also had to bear with a cantankerous mother-in-law who lived in her home. Patricius criticized his wife because of her charity and piety, but always respected her. Monica's prayers and example finally won her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband died in 371, one year after his baptism.

Monica had at least three children who survived infancy. The oldest, Augustine, is the most famous. At the time of his father's death, Augustine was 17 and a rhetoric student in Carthage. Monica was distressed to learn that her son had accepted the Manichean heresy—"all flesh is evil"—and was living an immoral life. For a while, she refused to let him eat or sleep in her house. Then one night she had a vision that assured her Augustine would return to the faith. From that time on, she stayed close to her son, praying and fasting for him. In fact she often stayed much closer than Augustine wanted.

When he was 29, Augustine decided to go to Rome to teach rhetoric. Monica was determined to go along. One night he told his mother that he was going to the dock to say goodbye to a friend. In-

### LOOKING FOR MORNING PEOPLE

Holy Cross is looking for a few more good greeters. Would you be willing to arrive 10 minutes before mass and greet people once a month? See the sign up sheet at the back of church or Marguerite Webster.

stead he set sail for Rome. Monica was heartbroken when she learned of Augustine's trick, but she still followed him. She arrived in Rome only to find that he had left for Milan. Although travel was difficult, Monica pursued him to Milan.

In Milan, Augustine came under the influence of the bishop, St. Ambrose, who also became Monica's spiritual director. She accepted his advice in everything and had the humility to give up some practices that had become second nature to her. Monica became a leader of the devout women in Milan as she had been in Tagaste.

She continued her prayers for Augustine during his years of instruction. At Easter 387, St. Ambrose baptized Augustine and several of his friends. Soon after, his party left for Africa. Although no one else was aware of it, Monica knew her life was near the end. She told Augustine, "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled." She became ill shortly after and suffered severely for nine days before her death.

Almost all we know about St. Monica is in the writings of St. Augustine, especially his Confessions.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-monica/>

**BUILDING COMMUNITY:** The Parish Pastoral Council has begun a planning process for realizing our vision (top of front page) and mission (inside left panel). **The next Council meeting is Sunday, September 8, after mass. Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend and participate!**



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

AUGUST 25, 2024

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, B  
Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b  
Psalm 34  
Ephesians 5:21-32  
John 6:60-69

### FACING REALITY

Both God's truest identity and our own True Self are Love. So why isn't it obvious? How do we find what is supposedly already there? Why should we need to awaken our deepest and most profound selves? How do we do it? By praying and meditating? By more silence, solitude, and sacraments? Yes to all of the above, but the most important way is to live and fully acknowledge our present reality. This solution sounds so simple that most of us fabricate all kinds of religious trappings to avoid taking up our own inglorious, mundane, and ever-present cross of the present moment.

As James Finley says, "The greatest teacher of God's presence in our life is our life." For some reason, it is easier to attend church services than quite simply to reverence the Real—the "practice of the presence of God," as some saints have called it. Making this commitment doesn't demand a lot of dogmatic wrangling or managerial support, just vigilance, desire, and willingness to begin again and again. Living and accepting our reality will not feel very spiritual. It will feel like we are on the edges rather than dealing with the essence. That's why many run toward more esoteric and dramatic postures instead of bearing the mystery of God's suffering and God's joy inside themselves. But the edges of our lives—fully experienced, suffered, and enjoyed—lead us back to the center and the essence, which is Love.

We do not find our own center; it finds us. Our own mind will not be able to figure it out. We collapse back into the Truth only when we are spiritually naked and free—which is probably not very often. We do not think ourselves into new ways of living. We live ourselves into new ways of thinking. In other words, our journeys around and through our realities lead us to the core Reality, where we meet both our truest self and our truest God. We do not really know what it means to be human unless we know God. And, in turn, we do not really know God except through our own broken and rejoicing humanity.

In Jesus, God reveals to us that God is not different from humanity. Thus, Jesus' most common and almost exclusive self-name is "The Human One" or "Son of Humanity." He uses the term dozens of times in the four Gospels. Jesus' reality, his cross, is to say a free "yes" to what his humanity daily asks of him. It seems we Christians have been worshiping Jesus' journey instead of doing his journey. The worshiping feels very religious; the latter just feels human and ordinary. We are not human beings on a journey toward Spirit; we are already spiritual beings on a journey toward becoming fully human, which for some reason seems harder—precisely because it is so ordinary.

### For Reflection

- ★ What does it mean to choose God in daily life?
- ★ What are the challenges of following Jesus?
- ★ How can we stay committed to God during difficult times?

<https://young-catholics.com/3372/21st-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-b/>

<https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-emyhdy-tdduxulkd-yd/>

# Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street, PO Box 118  
Morris NY 13808

<https://parishes.rcda.org/holycross/>  
*Our bulletin and Pastoral Council minutes are posted on our website. Council minutes are under Ministries & Committees. If you have a notice for the bulletin, please email: [holycross-rcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:holycross-rcchurch@gmail.com) by Wednesday, 7 p.m.*

## 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.

## PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Pastoral Associate (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

## RCIA Contact

Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132

# AUGUST 25, 2024

## Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

**Lector:** Daphne Thompson

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Toni Zeleski,  
Carole Barry, Annette Hammond

## Mass Intention

**For Fr. Chris, for a safe, peaceful, and happy vacation**

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, Kathleen Barry, Diane DeDominicus, John O'Brien, Jo Franklin, Tony Giambra, Agnes Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Rebecca Joy, Michelle Lee, Valerie McCann, Teresa Meyers, Rich Morley, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, Maria Papendrea, 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 ([myrcia.org](http://myrcia.org)).  
**Holy Cross Parish RCIA Contact:** Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132

**Pope Francis's August intention: May political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for the common good and caring for those in need.**

## Engage in Living Community

### HAVE 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.

**FREE LUNCH MEALS for adults (18 & up):**  
**Monday, Wednesday, Friday,**  
**11-11:30 a.m.**  
**Nehawa Park**

### CARING CONNECTIONS Catholic Charities

Caring Connections is offered to individuals and families who are struggling to meet their basic needs. Individuals and families in need of accessing program must come to their local Catholic Charities office (176 Main Street, Oneonta, 607-432-0061) to complete an application. Mon/Tues/Weds/Fri: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Thurs: 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

### WHOM HAVE YOU WELCOMED TODAY?

### Upcoming Events

**08/25: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Catholic Home Missions**

**08/29: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**  
Barnyard Saints, 6:30-8 p.m., Community House Lawn, Unadilla, free!

**09/01: Mass with Fr. Bob Longobucco**

**09/05: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**

09/07: Chosen & Appointed Retreat, Immaculate Conception Church Greene, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., \$35/person; contact Mary Wentlent [mwentlent@syrдио.org](mailto:mwentlent@syrдио.org) or 607-656-9546 to register.

**09/08: Communion service; coffee hour, Pastoral Council meeting after service**

**09/12: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**

**09/15: Communion service; rosary after**

09/20-22: Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Huntington; for more info, call Frank/Margie Pearson (860) 337-2447 or visit <https://wwmectw.org>

**09/19: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**

**09/22: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Catholic University Collection**

09/29: 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Marriage Jubilee [special wedding anniversary couples], 3 p.m., Christ Our Light Loudonville

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024

Mass Attendance: 47

Collection: \$690.00