

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, February 22

Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter
the Apostle

HISTORY

The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter traces back to the early centuries of Christianity, embodying recognition of St. Peter's unique role as the first Bishop of Rome and the leader of the universal Church.

The chair or "cathedra" in question is not merely a piece of furniture but a symbol with deep significance, representing the teaching authority and the office of the Pope as established by Christ Himself.

Historically, St. Peter is associated with two chairs: one in Antioch, where he served as bishop before moving to Rome, and the other in Rome, the epicenter of the Catholic faith. The actual chair, believed to have been used by St. Peter, is enshrined in St. Peter's Basilica. This chair not only signifies the apostolic succession but also the apostle's mission of shepherding the early Christian community.

This feast day reflects the early Church's veneration of relics and sites connected to the apostles and early martyrs. By the fourth century, the significance of the chair as a symbol of episcopal authority was well-established, with the feast to honor the foundational role of St. Peter in Church history.

SYMBOLISM

The Chair of St. Peter, beyond its physical manifestation, stands as a symbol of the apostolic authority and the teaching mission of the Church. This emblematic chair represents: the foundational

role of St. Peter as the first Pope and the enduring guidance of his successors in the lineage of the Church's shepherds. It embodies the scriptural promise made by Christ in Matthew 16:18, where He declares to Peter, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." This passage describes the establishment of the Church upon Peter, with the "chair" symbolizing the authority given to him and, by extension, to all popes who follow in his lineage.

The chair is a potent symbol of the magisterium, or the teaching authority of the Church, signifying the Pope's role as the supreme teacher and guardian of the faith. It conveys the continuity of apostolic teaching, passed down through the centuries from the time of Christ to the present day. The celebration of the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter thus honors not only the person of Peter but the unbroken chain of custody that safeguards the deposit of faith.

Furthermore, the chair symbolizes unity within the Church under the leadership of the Pope, as well as the Pope's role as the *servus servorum Dei*, the servant of the servants of God, who leads by example in humility and service. The physical chair encased in St. Peter's Basilica is a visual reminder of this unity, a call to the faithful to remain steadfast in the teachings of the Church and to recognize the central role of the papacy in maintaining the integrity and unity of the Catholic faith.

from: <https://young-catholics.com/4789/chair-of-st-peter/>

I will give you [Peter] the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

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: \$1,969 / GOAL: \$5,000



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!

Holy Cross Parish

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

1st Sunday of Lent, B

Genesis 9:8-15

Psalms 25

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:12-15

At that time, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

—Matthew 4:1



The Lenten season always begins with the same Gospel of the temptation of Jesus in the desert. He has gone into the desert for forty days for his own initiation, as it were, and this is a beautiful telling of the demons we all have to face to grow up, to become mature.

The first two temptations are preceded by the same phrase, "If you are the Son of God." The primary temptation we all face is to doubt our Divine Identity. That's what the evil one says to us, too: if you are a child of God. We can all think of a thousand reasons to condemn ourselves. The main temptation we have to overcome is the doubting of our identity. Once we doubt that, it's all downhill from there. What made Jesus special, it seems, is that he never doubted he was God's beloved son.

The first temptation is to misuse power. Maybe we could say it's a temptation to be spectacular, to be special, to be important, to be showy. The tempter says, "Tell these stones to become bread" (Matthew 4:3). When we're young, we all want that. We all want to stand out. We want people to notice us. We want to be something special and to do something special, but Jesus refuses to play the game.

Then a second: "The devil took him to the Holy City and made him stand on the very pinnacle of the Temple" (Matthew 4:5), and tells Jesus to throw himself down. The second great temptation is to misuse religion by playing games with God. Jesus says, "I'm not going to play the religious game either." It's transactional religion as opposed to transformational. But religion is about real transformation. Changing our mind toward love, changing our heart toward community, changing our body toward living in the present moment.

The third temptation is the temptation to political power. It's not inherently wrong. There has to be a way we can use power for good. But until we're tested, and until we don't need it too much, we will almost always misuse it. If we're not tested in the ways of power, very often we end up worshiping power to have power.

What religion at its most mature level means is that there is one goal. There is one source. There is one focus. There is one meaning, and it's outside ourselves. It's not about making more money. It's not about being famous. It's not about winning. What we were given in the Gospel is an agenda in which everybody wins. We're all equally children of God.

From: <https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-zdddyt-ddduxlkd-s/>; image, reflection from: <https://young-catholics.com/3144/1st-sunday-of-lent-year-b/>

For Reflection

Reflect on a time you faced temptation and consider the sources of strength that helped you overcome it. How can the example of Jesus' resistance to temptation in the wilderness inform your approach to challenges in your own spiritual life?

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

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Lector: Annette Hammond

Eucharistic Minister: Carol Tyson

Mass Intention

For Bishop Ed on the anniversary of his ordination as bishop

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, Tom DeLaurentiis, Amy O'Brien, John O'Brien, Jo Franklin, Aggi Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Clara Murphy, Diane Neczesny, 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! 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 February intention: For the terminally ill, may they and their families receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

Engage in Living Community for Lent

Dominican Retreat & Conference Center
LENTEN SCRIPTURE STUDY: Women Prophets of the Bible (via zoom), Tuesdays in March, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.; \$20/session, \$75 for all 4. Call (518) 393-4169 or email dslcny@nybiz.rr.com.

Diocese of Albany

To help you walk with our Lord this Lent, the diocese has compiled resources, articles, and ideas to delve deep into the season. Visit: www.RCDA.org/Lent/Resources



From Ashes to Glory (with Dan Schutte)
Engage in a virtual Lenten retreat at your own pace, on your own time. Access 21 videos with inspirational reflection and music from Ash Wednesday until Holy Thursday evening. Registration includes a downloadable retreat workbook/journal. Registration fee \$100 per person. <https://www.danschuttemusic.com/lenten-retreat-2024/>

Talks from the NYS Eucharistic Congress
You can find the talks and homilies from the Eucharistic Congress in Auriesville in October at <https://www.rcda.org/nysec2023>. You can also find the page by clicking the Prayer and Worship tab under Offices & Ministries at <https://www.rcda.org/>

Upcoming Events

02/18: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Black, Native American & Latin American Mission

02/19: Pease & Justice Ministry, 2 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

02/20: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m. Bible study after

02/21: Charismatic Healing Liturgy, Christ Our Light RC Church, Loudenville, NY, 7:30 p.m. (see also albanyccr.org)

02/23: Stations of the Cross, 4:30 p.m.

02/27: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m. Bible study after

03/01: Stations of the Cross, 4:30 p.m.

03/02: Saturday Devotions, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

03/03: Parish Pastoral Council meeting, rectory after mass

03/08: Stations of the Cross, 4:30 p.m.

03/10: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Catholic Relief Services Annual Appeal

03/15: Stations of the Cross, 4:30 p.m. Lenten Fish Fry Community Meal

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Mass Attendance: 52

Collection: \$970.00

Souper Bowl Collection: \$126.00