

FOLLOWING JESUS IS A JOURNEY

Jesus needed that time of preparation in the wilderness. He needed to get his mission clear in his own heart so that he wouldn't be captivated by the expectations of adoring fans or intimidated by the threats of furious critics. If we dare to follow Jesus and proclaim the radical dimensions of God's good news as he did, we will face the same twin dangers of domestication and intimidation....

Soon he began inviting select individuals to become his followers.... To become disciples of a rabbi meant entering a rigorous program of transformation, learning a new way of life, a new set of values [and] skills. It meant ... facing a new set of dangers on the road. Once they were thoroughly apprenticed as disciples, they would then be sent out as apostles to spread the rabbi's controversial and challenging message everywhere. One did not say yes to discipleship lightly.^[1]

Contemplative writer Joyce Rupp reflects upon Jesus' difficult teaching for followers to "take up their cross and follow him":

What did the crowd following Jesus think when he made that tough statement [Luke 14:27]? Did they wonder what carrying the cross meant? Did they have second thoughts about accompanying him? Jesus wanted his followers to know that the journey they would make involved knowing and enlivening the teachings he advocated. In other words, Jesus was cautioning them, "If you decide to give yourselves to what truly counts in this life, it will cost you. You will feel these teachings to be burdensome at times,

like the weight of a cross."

We can't just sit on the roadside of life and call ourselves followers of Jesus. We are to do more than esteem him for his generous love and dedicated service. We do not hear Jesus grumbling about the challenges and demands of this way of life. We do not see him "talking a good talk" but doing nothing about it. He describes his vision and then encourages others to join him in moving those teachings into action.^[2]

McLaren invites us to join an adventurous and unknown journey in the spirit of Jesus' first disciples:

The word Christian is more familiar to us today than the word disciple. These days, Christian often seems to apply more to the kinds of people who would push Jesus off a cliff than it does to his true followers. Perhaps the time has come to rediscover the power and challenge of that earlier, more primary word disciple [which] occurs over 250 times in the New Testament, in contrast to the word Christian, which occurs only three times. Maybe those statistics are trying to tell us something.

To be alive in the adventure of Jesus is to hear that challenging good news of today, and to receive that thrilling invitation to follow him ... as a disciple.^[3]

[1] Brian D. McLaren, *We Make the Road by Walking: A Year-Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation* (New York: Jericho Books, 2014), 94.

[2] Joyce Rupp, *Jesus, Guide of My Life: Reflections for the Lenten Journey* (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2023), 20–21.

[3] McLaren, *We Make the Road*, 94.

from: <https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-eldjiuy-idtrlydhr-yd/>

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





Holy Cross Parish

FEBRUARY 25, 2024
2nd Sunday of Lent, B
Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13,
15–18
Psalm 116
Romans 8:31b–34
Mark 9:2–10

The Binding of Isaac

The narrative of Abraham's trial, where he is asked to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac, stands as a poignant moment in biblical history, marking a significant departure from contemporary practices of child sacrifice. This moment is not just a test of faith but a divine intervention to redefine the nature of sacrifices in the worship of God.

Abraham's journey with Isaac to Moriah encapsulates a lesson in obedience and trust, mirroring the journey humanity is called to make in trusting God's providence and mercy. The ram provided by God as a substitute for Isaac symbolizes a shift towards a worship that values life and the acknowledgment of God's sovereignty in providing.

The binding of Isaac, as the first reading is often called, prefigures the binding of Jesus to the cross. This event not only reinforces the sanctity of human life but also foreshadows the ultimate sacrifice—God offering His Son, not as a test, but as a fulfillment of His promise for redemption.

Isaac is thought to be a willing victim. He carries the wood, just as Jesus carries the wood of the cross. Isaac's submission and his role as a willing participant in this divine narrative further deepen the typology with Christ, who carries His cross with the willingness to fulfill His Father's will, setting a foundational precedent for understanding the nature of divine sacrifice.

A Glimpse of Glory

Similar to how the binding of Isaac prefigures the crucifixion of Jesus, the Gospel anticipates His resurrection. It is a pivotal moment that bridges His earthly ministry with the glory of His resurrection. It is a divine affirmation of Jesus' sonship and His messianic fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, represented by Moses and Elijah. This event is not only a foretaste of the resurrected life but also a call to recognize Jesus as the culmination of God's salvific plan.

The Transfiguration invites the faithful to contemplate the Paschal Mystery, where the suffering and death of Jesus find their ultimate meaning in the glory of the resurrection. It challenges believers to look beyond the trials and tribulations of the present, anchoring their hope in the promise of eternal life that Jesus' glorification points towards.

Moses and Elijah

The appearance of Moses and Elijah alongside Jesus during the Transfiguration is a profound testimony to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Scriptures. Moses, the giver of the Law, and Elijah, the greatest of the prophets, standing with Jesus, signify the continuity and fulfillment of God's covenantal promises. Their presence in the Gospel for the 2nd Sunday of Lent Year B underscores the unity of God's salvific work from the covenant with Abraham, through the giving of the Law, to the prophetic promises of restoration and redemption. This moment encapsulates the entirety of salvation history, pointing to Jesus as the linchpin of God's plan for humanity.

The Transfiguration, therefore, not only affirms Jesus' divine mission but also calls the faithful to view the Law and the Prophets through the lens of Jesus' teachings and life, which illuminate the path to the Kingdom of God established through His death and resurrection.

from: <https://young-catholics.com/3165/2nd-sunday-of-lent-year-b/>

For Reflection

- ★ The Transfiguration of Jesus is a moment of divine revelation and affirmation. How does this event challenge you to transform your understanding of suffering, glory, and the purpose of your life in Christ? How can you more fully embrace the journey from suffering to glory in your own life?

Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street
PO Box 118
Morris NY 13808

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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 25, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Minister: Diane Turner

Mass Intention

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

AARP FREE SENIOR TAX PREP

Volunteers will be at Elm Park Church (401 Chestnut St. Oneonta) through April to assist eligible residents with tax returns. For an appointment, call (607) 376-5542.

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

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

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL FOOD PANTRY

Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Most requested foods: milk, peanut butter, bread, cereal; most appreciated foods: apples, oranges, bananas, baby carrots

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.

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

- 02/27: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
- 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
- 03/05: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
Synod Listening Session, 6:30–8:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 03/08: Stations of the Cross, 4:30 p.m.
- 03/10: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Catholic Relief Services Annual Appeal
- 03/12: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
- 03/15: Stations of the Cross, 4:30 p.m.
Lenten Fish Fry Community Meal
- 03/19: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
- 03/18: Synod Listening Session, 6:30–8:30 p.m. (virtual)
- 03/22: Stations of the Cross, 4:30 p.m.
- 03/26: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
- 03/29: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Holy Land

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Mass Attendance: 42

Collection: \$564.00

Special Collection: \$186.00