

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, January 31

Saint John Bosco, Priest

Friday, February 2

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Saturday, February 3

Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr

The feast of **SAINT BLAISE**, an early Christian martyr and bishop, celebrated February 3, is marked by the Blessing of Throats. As patron saint of throat illnesses, his intercession is sought by those suffering from such ailments.

Born in Sebaste, Armenia, Saint Blaise led a remarkable life as both a physician and a bishop. His dedication to healing, both spiritually and physically, made him a beloved figure among the people. As a physician, he used his medical knowledge to alleviate the suffering of those in his community. As a bishop, he guided his flock with compassion and wisdom, nurturing their faith and providing spiritual guidance.

Saint Blaise's life and service exemplify the values of compassion, healing, and faith. His story serves as an inspiration, reminding us of the importance of caring for others and seeking spiritual solace in times of illness and distress.

<https://young-catholics.com/8463/st-blaise-bishop-and-martyr/>

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, celebrated February 2nd, commemorates when Mary and Joseph presented the infant Jesus in the temple, linked to the Jewish tradition of presenting the firstborn to God.

Exodus states every firstborn male child belongs to God and must be consecrated to Him. Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to fulfill this requirement. The presentation of Jesus in the temple symbolizes the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and recognition of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.

By presenting Jesus in the temple, Mary and Joseph were acknowledging His divine mission and surrendering Him to God's will. This act of obedience and devotion reminds us of the importance of offering ourselves and our loved ones to God, trusting in His plan for our lives.

This Feast invites us to reflect on the obedience and purification Mary and Joseph exemplified, reminding us to continually present ourselves to God, seeking His guidance and purification. It highlights Simeon and Anna, who recognized Jesus as Savior and proclaimed His significance to all who would listen.

One tradition for this feast is Candlemas, the blessing and lighting of candles, symbolizing Christ as the light of the world. The candles represent the presence of Christ, who illuminates our lives and dispels darkness, and remind us of the light Jesus brings into the world, guiding us on our spiritual journey.

<https://young-catholics.com/2281/feast-of-the-presentation-of-the-lord/>



JANUARY 28, 2024

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, B

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

Psalm 95

1 Corinthians 7:32–35

Mark 1:21–28

Today's readings collectively invite us to a deeper understanding of our faith. They challenge us to discern and embrace the true voice of God, to speak and live our faith authentically, and to orient our lives towards undistracted devotion to God. The message is not just about listening to these themes but about integrating them into our daily lives, allowing them to shape our actions, our relationships, and our understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

EMBRACING THE PROPHETIC VOICE

The first reading from Deuteronomy introduces a powerful theme: the prophetic voice that speaks with God's authority. This voice, as promised by God, is one like Moses, who would lead and guide the people in truth. In our own lives, recognizing and embracing this prophetic voice is crucial. It's not just about listening to words; it's about an encounter with the divine truth. The challenge lies in discerning who, in our time, carries this mantle of truth.

We are surrounded by many voices claiming authority – in media, in politics, in our communities. How do we recognize the true prophetic voice? The key is in its alignment with the teachings of Christ and the Church, and its fruits in love, justice, and peace. Embracing the prophetic voice means allowing it to challenge and transform us, leading us closer to God.

SPEAKING FROM REAL LIFE

Jesus' way of teaching starkly contrasts with that of the scribes, as seen in the Gospel reading. The scribes, though knowledgeable, lacked the ability to connect deeply with the common people. Their teachings often hovered in the realm of theory, detached from the lived realities of those they were meant to guide. Jesus, on the other hand, spoke from real life. His authority was rooted not just in knowledge but in experience and empathy. He spoke of the Kingdom of God using parables and examples that resonated with the everyday experiences of His listeners.

This approach made His teachings accessible and transformative. It wasn't about complicated theological arguments but about truth presented in a way that reached hearts and minds. In our own lives, when we share our faith with others, are we speaking from real life? Do we connect our understanding of God's word with the practical realities people face every day? Speaking from real life means making faith relevant and accessible, just as Jesus did.

From <https://young-catholics.com/3127/4th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-b/>

For Reflection

- ★ In what ways can I embrace and respond to the prophetic voice to bring about transformation in my personal and community life
- ★ In what ways can I incorporate Jesus' method of simple and clear communication of the truth into my daily interactions?

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

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

JANUARY 28, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Minister: Diane Turner

Mass Intention

For Tom DeLaurentiis and Lynn Joy

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

TOTUS, TOTUS, TOTUS (Everyone, everyone, everyone)

Pope Francis has challenged us to include and welcome everyone to the community, including those on the margins. If you see someone new in church, please introduce yourself by name. It helps us get to know one another and create a vibrant parish community life. Thank you!

Pope Francis's January intention: For the gift of diversity, may we recognize different charisms in the community and discover richness in our traditions.

Engage in Living Community

Keeping Our Community Warm One Brick At A Time

Catholic Charities is conducting a fundraising campaign to help individuals and families who need help with heat and utility costs. It is selling bricks (\$25 each) for a fireplace, to be displayed in front windows of Catholic Charities, Main Street, Oneonta. To sponsor and purchase a paper brick, come to a Catholic Charities office (Cobleskill, Oneonta, or Sidney), Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 1:30–4:00 p.m. or Thursday, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 1:30–6:30 p.m. You can mail a check to: Catholic Charities, 176 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820. All money raised will be used in your local community to help keep children, seniors, and adults warm this winter.



Lent is traditionally when Christians take the opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God and renew our faith. Imagine it as spring cleaning: We throw open the windows to let the fresh air of springtime in. Dan Schutte has created a virtual Lenten retreat to use at your own pace and on your own time. Each of 21 videos includes an inspirational reflection and music to enrich your prayer. Access lasts from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. Registration also includes a downloadable retreat workbook/journal to help you reflect on your experience and offer you a place to keep notes. Registration fee \$100 per person. <https://www.danschutte-music.com/lenten-retreat-2024/>

Upcoming Events

01/28: Parish Pastoral Council meeting in rectory [NOTE: This is a change from 01/14.]

01/30: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
Bible study after
Taizé prayer, 7 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

02/06: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
Bible study after

02/13: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
Bible study after

02/14: Ash Wednesday

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

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

AARP FREE SENIOR TAX PREP

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

Mass Attendance: 34

Collection: \$443.00