

SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Thursday, March 28

Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper

Friday, March 29

Good Friday, Passion of Lord

Saturday, March 30

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

UNDERSTANDING OUR ROOTS: THE JEWISH CELEBRATION OF PURIM (March 23-24)

The Persian empire of the 4th century BCE extended over 127 lands, and all the Jews were its subjects. When King Ahasuerus had his wife, Queen Vashti, executed for failing to follow his orders, he had a beauty pageant to find a new queen. A Jewish girl, Esther, found favor in his eyes and became the new queen, but she refused to divulge her nationality.

Meanwhile, the antisemitic Haman was appointed prime minister of the empire. Mordechai, the leader of the Jews (and Esther's cousin), defied the king's orders and refused to bow to Haman. Haman was incensed and convinced the king to issue a decree ordering the extermination of all the Jews on the 13th of Adar, a date chosen by a lottery Haman made (hence the name Purim, which means "lots").

Mordechai galvanized all the Jews, convincing them to repent, fast and pray to G-d. Meanwhile, Esther asked the king and Haman to join her for a feast. At the feast, Esther revealed to the king her Jewish identity. Haman was hanged, Mordechai was

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in the box at the rear of the church.

appointed prime minister in his stead, and a new decree was issued granting the Jews the right to defend themselves against their enemies.

On the 13th of Adar, the Jews mobilized and killed many of their enemies. On the 14th of Adar, they rested and celebrated. As documented in the Book of Esther itself, the rules of the holiday are as follows:

- ✧ The day before, now known as the Fast of Esther, fast.
- ✧ "Half Coins" (Machatzit HaShekel): The day before Purim, people traditionally give three coins in "half" denominations—e.g., three half-dollar coins—to charity, commemorating the half-shekel each Jew contributed as his share in the communal offerings for Temple.
- ✧ Give to the Needy (Matanot LaEvyonim): A primary theme of Purim is Jewish unity. Haman tried to kill all Jews; they were all in danger together, so they celebrated together too. Hence, on Purim day Jews place special emphasis on caring for the less fortunate.
- ✧ Send Food Gifts to Friends (Mishloach Manot): On Purim Jews emphasize the importance of friendship and community by sending gifts of food to friends.
- ✧ Feast (Seudat Purim)

from: https://www.chabad.org/holidays/purim/article_cdo/aid/1362/jewish/How-to-Celebrate-Purim.htm

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: \$2,969 / GOAL: \$5,000



Holy Cross Parish

MARCH 24, 2024

Palm Sunday, Passion of the Lord, B

Mark 11:1–10 *Procession*

Isaiah 50:4–7

Psalm 22

Philippians 2:6–11

Mark 14:1–15:47

Letting Go of Desires and Expectations

The procession reading tells of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where he is greeted with shouts of "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" The people were excited and hopeful that Jesus would be the one to liberate them from Roman rule and restore the glory of Israel. However, when we get to the Passion reading, we see that things did not turn out as they had hoped. In these later passages, we witness Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. He is betrayed by one of his own disciples, denied by another, and abandoned by most. He is mocked, beaten, and ultimately killed on a cross.

As we reflect on these passages together, we are reminded of humans' fickle nature. The same people who welcomed Jesus with open arms in Mark 11 were the ones who turned on him in Mark 14-15. They allowed their own expectations and desires to cloud their judgment and failed to see Jesus's true mission and message.

This can serve as a warning to us as well. It is easy for us to get caught up in our own desires and expectations, and to lose sight of the bigger picture. We may think that we know what is best for ourselves and for the world, but in reality, our knowledge and understanding are limited.

For Reflection

- ★ Do you really trust that God loves you, even in the midst of your struggles and pain? How can you remind yourself of God's love and faithfulness, especially when you feel alone or overwhelmed?
- ★ Do you believe that God can transform your pain and suffering into something good and meaningful? How can you open yourself up to this possibility and trust in God's loving plan for your life?

Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to the expectations and the disappointments that follow.

—Pope Francis

The readings remind us that God's ways are not our ways, and that sometimes we must be willing to let go of our own expectations and trust in God's plan. Jesus' death on the cross was not the end, but rather the beginning of a new hope and a new life. It was through his sacrifice that we are saved, and it is through our own willingness to surrender our own desires and follow him that we can experience true freedom and salvation.

Let us reflect on these passages with humility and openness, recognizing our own limitations and weaknesses, and trusting in the infinite wisdom and love of God. May we be willing to let go of our own expectations and desires, and follow Jesus with faith and courage, even when the road ahead seems uncertain or difficult.

<https://young-catholics.com/3191/palm-sunday-year-b-passion-sunday/>

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

MARCH 24, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Eucharistic Minister: Diane Turner

Mass Intention

For all family and friends travelling over the coming break and Easter

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, John O'Brien, Jo Franklin, Aggi Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Rebecca Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Clara Murphy, Diane Neczesny, Maria Papendrea, Karina Tabone and (welcome to) new baby Thomas Tabone, Joe and Carol Tyson, Lorraine 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 March intention: For the new martyrs, may those who risk their lives for the Gospel inflame the Church with their courage.

Engage in Living Community

Do you live, work, or spend time in Otsego County?



We want to hear from you about your transportation needs! If you need a paper copy, see the table at the back of church.

Scan the code for survey.

If you are willing to distribute paper surveys and collect for the Planning Department, please let Kevin know. If you have thoughts of how this survey can be better distributed (location, specific groups or target populations), please share comments with Kevin Musser at 607-547-4225 or musserk@otsegocounty.com.

"AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN."

Matthew 4:19

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped and donated to the Fish Fry last week! Our mission was to provide a meal for the local community, to get together as a parish, and to raise money for charity. We succeeded on all those fronts, bringing together and feeding about 40 people. We collected nearly a thousand dollars, proceeds of which will be sent on to Catholic Charities' Caring Connections (http://www.charitiesccd.org/Caring_Connections.html).



Thanks to all who worked Friday's fish dinner:

- ✠ Betty O'Brien
- ✠ Kerry Mess
- ✠ Richard Meyers
- ✠ Jen & Berry Spivey
- ✠ Mike Stensland
- ✠ Matthew Tabone
- ✠ Andrew Turner
- ✠ Carol Tyson
- ✠ Marguerite Webster

Upcoming Events

03/26: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

03/28: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 6-9 p.m.

03/29: Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m. followed by veneration of the Cross and communion

03/29: SPECIAL COLLECTION - Holy Land

04/14: Coffee hour after mass, Pastoral Council meeting after mass

04/21: Rosary after mass

Easter Triduum Mass Schedule St. Mary's Oneonta

Holy Thursday: 6:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
10 p.m. Night Prayer

Good Friday: 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
1-4 p.m. Confessions
5:00 p.m. Service of the Passion

Holy Saturday: 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00 p.m. Great Vigil in the Holy Night

Easter Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass
10:30 a.m. Mass

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

Mass Attendance: 38

Collection: \$530.00