

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, May 20

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Saturday, May 25

Saint Bede the Venerable

PEONY: SYMBOLIC FLOWER OF PENTECOST

The peony, often referred to as the Pentecost or Benedictine Rose in the Catholic Church, has profound symbolic weight. This flower perfectly aligns its blooming season with the celebration of Pentecost. Its vibrant petals serve as a tangible illustration of spiritual rejuvenation, the Holy Spirit's presence, and the boundless love of God. Frequently portrayed in religious art and literature as an allegory for faith, hope, and spiritual growth, the peony silently beckons the faithful toward a transformative journey of self-discovery and divine communion.

The peony is not just a flower. It is a pledge to the enduring love of God, the healing touch of the Holy Spirit, and the prosperity promised to those who serve others.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PEONIES

Tracing the roots of peonies in Catholicism, we encounter a rich fabric of historical significance, interwoven with divine symbolism and a deep-rooted connection to the Holy Spirit. Known as the Pentecost Rose in German, peonies were brought into the monastery gardens

by the Benedictines for their healing properties, earning the plant another name, the Benedictine Rose, demonstrating the peony's historical and spiritual significance in Catholicism.

The respected Saint Hildegard of Bingen in the 12th century documented the therapeutic uses of peonies, further solidifying their place within Catholic history. The peony, therefore, stands as a tangible indication of the healing nature of God, a representation of divine love and restoration that spans centuries and continents, touching hearts and souls of the faithful around the world.

THE PEONY AND HOLY SPIRIT CONNECTION

The peony's vibrant bloom, often coinciding with Pentecost, serves as a symbol of the Holy Spirit's descent upon the apostles, embodying healing, prosperity, and divine fortune. The peony's blossoming mirrors the joy and renewal that Pentecost brings. Each petal echoes the tongues of fire that descended upon the apostles, enveloping them in divine light and power. This visual reminder serves to reinforce our connection to the Holy Spirit, encouraging us to seek spiritual growth and transformation.

In the church's journey of faith and hope, the peony's blooming is a gentle reminder of the Holy Spirit's presence.

May God send His Spirit into our hearts anew on this glorious Feast of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your Love!

from Belmont Abbey College, May 17, 2024

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: \$4,411 / GOAL: \$5,000

Holy Cross Parish

MAY 19, 2024

Pentecost Sunday, B

Acts 2:1-11

Psalm 104

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

THE "AGE OF THE SPIRIT"

Religious commentator Phyllis Tickle [1934-2015] pointed to this time as one of those periodic awakenings or "rummage sales" that Christianity holds every five hundred years or so, when it purges what's no longer useful and reforms itself for the age to come. In her final years, she promised we were entering "the Age of the Spirit," when our obsession with order and control would backfire, and we'd be forced to rely on the wily ways of the Holy Spirit. "Our jaws should drop open in amazement," she remarked at a [2013] Emerging Church conference ... (I was sitting in the pews scribbling furiously). "I think we're seeing a shift in Christianity as dramatic as that first Pentecost wildfire."

In the very first chapter of Mark, Jesus heads from Nazareth to be baptized by John in the River Jordan. Just as Jesus comes up from the waters, the heavens break open and the Holy Spirit descends on him like a dove. "And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased'" (Mark 1:10-11). Everything that follows is powered by the Spirit and by the love of God.

The same Spirit that Jesus received now rests on anyone who follows him. God invites us into a covenant, where by the power of the Spirit we can choose to allow our hearts to break, and then take the pieces—our lives, our goods, our love, and our privileges—and share it all like a broken loaf of communion bread.

Granted, this is a very non-American way of being. Think of the phrases that shape our national identity. We assert our "right" to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," which means we are free—and even expected—to organize our lives around our own individual desires. So much of our American story consists of groups of people protecting themselves and what's theirs, with a gun or a flag or the cloak of racial, class, or gender privilege.

Jesus's story is exactly the opposite. In this moment, as we reckon with the limits and consequences of self-centrism, domination systems, and the church's capitulation to empire, we could lean into the Jesus way. We could reclaim kenosis [self-emptying], or perhaps claim it for the first time.

Imagine recentering on the God we know in Jesus. Imagine becoming practicing communities that follow Jesus and embody his community of love.

The forces of empire and establishment will tell you that's a worthy cause but impossible in this day and age. They are wrong. What it takes is disciples who together follow Jesus in his Way of Love, lean fully into the Spirit that animated him, and try to do what he did and live as he lived, so that we, our communities, and the whole world might become more like him.

For Reflection

- ★ What are some ways I can show God's love through my actions every day?
- ★ What specific gifts of the Spirit do I seek most in my life right now?

from <https://young-catholics.com/3266/pentecost-year-b/>

Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street
PO Box 118
Morris NY 13808

holycrossrcchurch@gmail.com
https://parishes.rcda.org/holycross/

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

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

MAY 19, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Lector: Annette Hammon

Eucharistic Minister: Carol Tyson

Mass Intention

For all those serving our country in the armed forces, police, and first responders

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, Diane DeDominicus, John O'Brien, Jo Franklin, Tony Giambra, Aggi Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Rebecca Joy, Michelle Lee, 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. For more information, go to myrcia.org.

Holy Cross Parish RCIA Contact:
Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132

Pope Francis's May intention: For the formation of religious and seminarians, may they grow in their own vocations to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

Engage in Living Community

HOLY CROSS PARISH PICNIC JUNE 15, 11 A.M. – 4 P.M.

WE NEED YOU TO HELP IT HAPPEN!

Holy Cross will provide meat (hamburgers and hot dogs).

See sheets at the back of church.

Sign up to bring: Sign up to help:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| • a side | • set up (10 a.m.) |
| • a desert | • cook/grill |
| • a drink | • clean up (4 p.m.) |
| • a yard game | |

Special thanks to Ken Geer for purchasing new numbers for our song board in church. We are blessed by his generosity of time and treasure for the community.

⚙ 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.

Upcoming Events

05/19: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Catholic Charities
(See also QR code)
Rosary after mass



05/23: Liturgy of the Word

05/25: Weekly Bible Study, 9 a.m. in Parish Hall

05/26: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Eastern European Collection

05/30: Liturgy of the Word

06/01: Weekly Bible Study, 9 a.m. in Parish Hall
First Saturday Devotion to Mary, St. Mary's Oneonta, 9 a.m.

06/02: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Catholic Communication Campaign

06/06: Liturgy of the Word

06/09: Coffee Hour after mass
Undie Sunday: Donate underwear to the Magic Closet, 158 East Main Street, Morris NY; (607) 263-5116 or (607) 263-5859

06/13: Liturgy of the Word

06/15: Parish Picnic!
Peace & Justice refundable bottle/can collection, St. Mary's Oneonta (6/16 too)

06/16: Rosary after mass

06/20: Liturgy of the Word
Consolation Group, St. Mary's Oneonta rectory, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024

Mass Attendance: 62

Collection: \$1,472.05