

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, September 9

Saint Peter Claver, Priest

Friday, September 13

Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop  
and Doctor of the Church

Saturday, September 14

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM** (his name means “golden-mouthed”), the great preacher from Antioch, brought to Constantinople after a dozen years of priestly service in Syria, found himself the reluctant victim of an imperial ruse to make him bishop in the greatest city of the empire. Ascetic, unimposing but dignified, and troubled by stomach ailments from his desert days as a monk, John became a bishop under the cloud of imperial politics. If his body was weak, his tongue was powerful. His sermons’ content and Scriptural exegesis were never without a point, sometimes stinging the high and mighty. Some sermons lasted two hours.

Many courtiers at the imperial court did not appreciate his lifestyle: He offered a modest table to episcopal sycophants hanging around for imperial and ecclesiastical favors. John deplored the court protocol that accorded him precedence before the highest state officials. He would not be a kept man. His zeal led him to decisive action. Bishops who bribed their way into office were deposed. Many of his sermons called for concrete steps to share wealth with

**BUILDING COMMUNITY:** The Parish Pastoral Council has begun a planning process for realizing our vision (top of front page) and mission (inside left panel). **Join us after mass today in the parish hall. Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend and participate!**

the poor. The rich did not appreciate hearing from John that private property existed because of Adam’s fall from grace any more than married men liked to hear that they were bound to marital fidelity just as much as their wives were. When it came to justice and charity, John acknowledged no double standards.

Aloof, energetic, outspoken, especially when he became excited in the pulpit, John was a sure target for criticism and personal trouble. He was accused of gorging himself secretly on rich wines and fine foods. His faithfulness as spiritual director to the rich widow, Olympia, provoked much gossip attempting to prove him a hypocrite where wealth and chastity were concerned. His actions taken against unworthy bishops in Asia Minor were viewed by other ecclesiastics as a greedy, uncanonical extension of his authority.

Theophilus, archbishop of Alexandria, and Empress Eudoxia were determined to discredit John. Theophilus, supported by Eudoxia, charged John with fostering heresy. The empress finally managed to have John exiled. He died in exile in 407.

adapted from <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-chrysostom/>



# Holy Cross Parish

**A welcoming, vibrant community committed to growing in and sharing the love of Jesus**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**  
*23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, B*  
Isaiah 35:4–7a  
Psalm 146  
James 2:1–5  
Mark 7:31–37a

## THE BIG PICTURE OF LOVE

Isaiah 35:4–7 is quite an important reading for what we call “restorative justice.” It begins by saying: “Say to those who are frightened: Be strong, fear not. Here is your God. He comes with vindication. He comes with divine recompense” (35:4). Most people stop reading here, after the supposed threats—but threats don’t save anybody. We have to continue to the next lines for the “good news” where Isaiah defines how YHWH is going to save the people Israel: “God comes to save you, God will open the eyes of the blind, the ears of the deaf will be cleared, the lame will leap like a stag, and the tongue of the mute will sing” (35:5–6). God doesn’t come with punishment—in fact, God comes to love us, heal us, and transform us.

Almost all of us in Western civilization were educated with the notion of retributive justice. Our entire penal system and judicial systems are based on it. Even the old-fashioned ideas of heaven and hell are based on it: if we sin this much, we get this much punishment; if we do this much good, we get this much heaven. It’s a pretty sick system, based on quid pro quo thinking. There’s nothing grand, transformative, or godly about it.

Here’s the great surprise of the Hebrew Scriptures, revealed in this central passage from Isaiah: People are not going to get what they deserve, they’re going to get much better than they deserve. God says, “The way I punish you—this vindication, this retribution—is actually going to be by loving you more and loving you more deeply.” Show me anyone whose heart was changed by punishing them! Love is the only thing that transforms the human heart. Nothing else. I was a jail chaplain for fourteen years and I have seen the evidence. We can punish people all we want, and the more we punish people and imprison people, the worse they become.

Many Catholics grew up with the threat of purgatory and arbitrary sentences doled out for various sins—from three days in purgatory to three months to three years. Please tell me how that makes us love God more? In fact, what it’s done is make a high percentage of Catholics fear God, not love God. It certainly did not make us love our neighbor.

I think the question we really have to ask is, “Do we like restorative justice?” If we’re honest, we’ll admit that we like to see people punished. We like to see people in jail and for them to “get what they deserve.” How different God is from humanity! We don’t know God, agree with God, or understand God. We think in such a small, small way. We think fear and anger and judgment and punishment are going to achieve love—but show me where? <https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-vjhtihl-tdduxulkd-s/>

### For Reflection

- ★ In what ways do I suffer from spiritual deafness?
- ★ How can I open my heart to God’s healing power?



# Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street, PO Box 118  
Morris NY 13808

<https://parishes.rcda.org/holycross/>

*Our bulletin and Pastoral Council minutes are posted on our website. Council minutes are under Ministries & Committees. If you have a notice for the bulletin, please email: [holycross-rcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:holycross-rcchurch@gmail.com) by Wednesday, 7 p.m.*

## 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

**Pastoral Associate (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

## RCIA Contact

Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132



## SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

### Celebrant

Deacon Paul Cerosaletti

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Eucharistic Minister: Toni Zeleski

### Mass Intention

**For a bountiful harvest for all the local farmers**

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, Kathleen Barry, Diane DeDominicus, Jo Franklin, Tony Giambra, Agnes Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Rebecca Joy, Michelle Lee, Valerie McCann, Teresa Meyers, Rich Morley, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, John O'Brien, 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](http://myrcia.org).

**Holy Cross Parish RCIA Contact:**

Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132

**Pope Francis's September intention: May we hear the cry of the Earth, victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and personally care for our world.**

## Engage in Living Community

### HAVE HELP TO OFFER? NEED ASSISTANCE?

- ✧ **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.

### FREE LUNCH MEALS for adults (18 & up):

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday,  
11-11:30 a.m.  
Nehawa Park**

### CARING CONNECTIONS

#### Catholic Charities

Caring Connections is offered to individuals and families who are struggling to meet their basic needs. Individuals and families in need of accessing program must come to their local Catholic Charities office (176 Main Street, Oneonta, 607-432-0061) to complete an application. Mon/Tues/Weds/Fri: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Thurs: 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

### WHOM HAVE YOU WELCOMED TODAY?

### Upcoming Events

**Coffee Hour and Pastoral Council meeting after service**

**09/12: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**

**09/14: Bible Study, 9 a.m.**

**09/15: Communion service; rosary after**

09/20-22: Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Huntington; for more info, call Frank/Margie Pearson (860) 337-2447 or visit <https://wwmectw.org>

**09/19: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**

**09/21: Bible Study, 9 a.m.**

**09/22: SPECIAL COLLECTION - Catholic University Collection**

**09/28: Bible Study, 9 a.m.**

09/29: 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Marriage Jubilee [special wedding anniversary couples], 3 p.m., Christ Our Light Loudonville

10/11-12: Harvest Festival, Sacred Heart Sidney

10/19: Unleashing Love Diocesan Women's Conference, St. Edward the Confessor Church, Clifton Park ([www.rcda.org/UnleashingLove](http://www.rcda.org/UnleashingLove))

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Mass Attendance: 52

Collection: \$688.00

Special Collection: \$10.00