

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, September 16

Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

Tuesday, September 20

Saints Robert Bellarmine, Bishop, and Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Doctors of the Church

Friday, September 20

Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

Saturday, September 21

Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

SAINT HILDEGARD OF BINGEN'S STORY

Abbess, artist, author, composer, mystic, pharmacist, poet, preacher, theologian—where to begin in describing this remarkable woman?

Born into a noble family, she was instructed for ten years by the holy woman Blessed Jutta. When Hildegard was 18, she became a Benedictine nun at the Monastery of Saint Disibodenberg. Ordered by her confessor to write down the visions that she had received since the age of three, Hildegard took ten years to write her *Scivias* (Know the Ways). Pope Eugene III read it, and in 1147, encouraged her to continue writing. Her *Book of the Merits of Life* and *Book of Divine Works* followed. She wrote over 300 letters to people who sought her advice; she also composed short works on medicine and physiology, and sought advice from contemporaries such as Saint Bernard of Clairvaux.

Hildegard's visions caused her to see humans as "living sparks" of God's love, coming from God as daylight comes from the sun. Sin destroyed the original harmony of creation;

Christ's redeeming death and resurrection opened up new possibilities. Virtuous living reduces the estrangement from God and others that sin causes.

Like all mystics, Hildegard saw the harmony of God's creation and the place of women and men in that. This unity was not apparent to many of her contemporaries.

Hildegard was no stranger to controversy. The monks near her original foundation protested vigorously when she moved her monastery to Bingen, overlooking the Rhine River. She confronted Emperor Frederick Barbarossa for supporting at least three antipopes. Hildegard challenged the Cathars, who rejected the Catholic Church claiming to follow a more pure Christianity.

Between 1152 and 1162, Hildegard often preached in the Rhineland. Her monastery was placed under interdict because she had permitted the burial of a young man who had been excommunicated. She insisted that he had been reconciled with the Church and had received its sacraments before dying. Hildegard protested bitterly when the local bishop forbade the celebration of or reception of the Eucharist at the Bingen monastery, a sanction that was lifted only a few months before her death.

In 2012, Hildegard was canonized and named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XVI. Her liturgical feast is celebrated on September 17.

Text and image from <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-hildegard-of-bingen/>



Holy Cross Parish

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

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, B

Isaiah 50:4c-9a

Psalm 116

James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

There is a tension between justice and grace: Violence is contagious. Violence begets violence.... Pick up the sword and die by the sword. You kill us and we'll kill you. There is a contagion of violence in the world; it's spreading like a disease.

But grace is also contagious. An act of kindness inspires another act of kindness.... A single act of forgiveness can feel like it heals the world. Grace begets grace. Love rubs off on those who are loved.... There's nowhere you can see the battle of grace and disgrace waged more vehemently than in the criminal justice system. When it comes to words like "justice," people can say the same thing and mean something completely different.

Capital punishment offers us one version of justice. There is a sensibility to it: evil should not go without consequence. And there is a theology behind it: "An eye for an eye ... a tooth for a tooth" [Leviticus 24:20].

Yet grace offers us another version of justice. Grace makes room ... for justice that is restorative, and dedicated to healing the wounds of injustice. But the grace thing is hard work. It takes faith—because it dares us to believe that not only can victims be healed, but so can the victimizers. It is not always easy to believe that love is more powerful than hatred, life more powerful than death, and that people can be better than the worst thing they've done.

These two versions of justice compete for our allegiance. One leads to death. The other can lead to life, and to healing and redemption and other beautiful things.

We are told that we choose whose world we want to live in. We'll choose wealth or God. We'll choose violence or God. We'll choose nationalism or God. We'll choose racial hierarchy or God. Each case is an example of a different and incompatible operational system. One of those systems, if we live by it, binds us in endless struggle and violence that leads to our own destruction, as well as the destruction of others....

We are asked to choose which world we want to live in—a world of retributive justice or a world of forgiveness. [Theologian] Karl Barth, reflecting on forgiveness, writes, "Living by forgiveness is never by any means passivity, but Christian living in full activity." Barth writes that, when we finally come before God, we will not be asked to give an account of our piety or morality. Instead, we will be asked, "Did you live by grace, or did you set up gods for yourself and perhaps want to become one yourself?"

We can't operate in both orders. And when the world of revenge enters the renewed creation, the order built on good news, it poisons the possibility of mutuality, transformation, and reconciliation. The way out of the endless loop of retribution is to recognize that forgiveness of individuals is interwoven with the social order of God's reign.

<https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-ekjkhdl-tdduxulkd-z/>

For Reflection

- ★ Are there areas in my life where I need to align my actions with my beliefs?
- ★ What sacrifices might God be calling me to make in my life?

<https://young-catholics.com/3386/24th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-b/>

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 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 15, 2024

Celebrant

Deacon Paul Cerosaletti

Lector: Annette Hammond

Eucharistic Minister: Carol Tyson

Mass Intention

For all of our children learning their faith and the love of Christ

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, Pam McGraw, 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.
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

WHOM HAVE YOU WELCOMED TODAY?

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.

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.

"There is a constant battle being fought in my heart, and in yours. The battle is between love and power, between the love of power and the power of love. The more the power to love grows within us the more our love of power decreases."

MATTHEW KELLY
Mustard Seeds

Upcoming Events

09/15: Communion service; rosary after

09/18: Holy Hour, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

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

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

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

09/22: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Catholic University Collection

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

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

10/04: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m., Holy Hour following until 12 p.m.

10/07: Deacon Andrew Haskins on Canon Law: Marriage & Annulments, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

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)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

Mass Attendance: 40

Collection: \$622.00

Religious Education: \$45.00