

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, August 19

Saint John Eudes, Priest

Wednesday, August 20

Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Thursday, August 21

Saint Pius X, Pope

Friday, August 22

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday, August 23

Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin

SAINT BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX born in 1090 in a small village in Burgundy, France was the third of seven children in a noble but not wealthy family. His mother was very pious and taught him to love God from a young age. As a child, Bernard was quiet and thoughtful. He loved to read and study, especially the Bible and the writings of the Church Fathers. His did well in his studies and showed a special interest in religious topics.

When a young man, his mother passed away, which made him think about life and purpose. He felt a strong calling to dedicate his life to God. At age 22, Bernard decided to join Cistercian monastery at Cîteaux in 1113, known for its strict and simple way of life. Bernard convinced 30 of his relatives and friends to join with him, which showed his strong influence and leadership even at a young age. Bernard's devotion and commitment quickly stood out to the other monks.

In 1115, Bernard was chosen to lead a group of monks to establish a new monastery. They traveled to a remote, wild area in the Champagne region of France, with difficult and bar-

ren. but Bernard and his companions worked hard to clear it and build their new home. They named the monastery Clairvaux, meaning "Valley of Light." Under Bernard's leadership, Clairvaux grew rapidly and became known for its deep spirituality and strict adherence to the Cistercian rule. Bernard encouraged the monks to live simply and focus on prayer and work. Bernard became well-known for his writings and sermons, which emphasized the love of God and humility.

Saint Bernard played a key role in the 12th century Church, advocating for reform of the Church and monastic life to a simpler, more spiritual way of living. He spoke out against corruption and encouraged a focus on prayer and humility.

In 1146, Pope Eugene III asked Bernard to preach the Second Crusade to help Christians in the Holy Land under threat from Muslim forces. Bernard traveled across Europe, urging people to join the crusade, inspiring many to take up the cross and go on the journey.

Bernard also advised popes, kings, and other leaders. Respected for his wisdom and dedication to the Church, he played a role in resolving disputes and promoting peace. For example, Bernard helped to end a schism in the Church by supporting the rightful pope, Innocent II, against an antipope. His guidance was sought in many important decisions.

Saint Bernard made significant contributions to theology through his writings and teachings. He wrote many letters, sermons, and treatises that are still read and respected today. Bernard's writings focused on love, humility, and devotion. His teachings continue to inspire Christians to deepen their relationship with God and Mary. Bernard's clear and heartfelt writing makes his ideas accessible to many, helping to guide people on their spiritual journey.

Adapted from: <https://young-catholics.com/4033/saint-bernard-of-clairvaux/>

Holy Cross Parish

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

AUGUST 17, 2025

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, C

Jeremiah 38:4–6, 8–10

Psalm 40

Hebrews 12:1–4

Luke 12:49–53

FAITHFUL TO THE JOURNEY

Being born and reborn through the Holy Spirit means rediscovering at every age the Gospel in its first freshness... Then there is no day which cannot be God's day.

—Brother Roger of Taizé

A prophet has a responsibility for the moment, an openness to what the moment reveals. He is a person who knows what time it is.

—Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Prophets*

The prophet Jeremiah is known for his tears and his rage. He said, "Whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout 'Violence and destruction!'" (Jeremiah

20:8). He's known as a prophet of wrath but, as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote, "It would be more significant to say that," like us, "Jeremiah lived in an age of wrath."

The son of a priest from Anathoth, a small town near Jerusalem, Jeremiah railed against the religious and political establishments in the seventh century BCE. He proclaimed an agonizingly unpopular message of his people's imminent destruction by the Babylonian empire, a message "like a burning fire shut up in [his] bones" (Jeremiah 20:9). He foretold famine, plunder, exile, and captivity while his friends and family abandoned him and the royal court imprisoned him....

Somehow, this heartbroken prophet held fast to a vision of collective renewal through relationship with God: "I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord; and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they will return to me with their whole heart" (Jeremiah 24:7).

If we believe God is angry in the way that humans are, then it's too easy for us to end up being angry "without limit." In fact, if we believe the Creator is always critiquing, judging, and punishing everything, it should be no surprise that our entire world is bathed in rage and resentment. Isn't this, in fact, much of our experience today? Someone must show us the way through. It cannot be done by law or order, but with a remembering of the great and divine pity modeled and taught by saints and prophets.

In Jeremiah's prophecies, all hopes for the future of the Jewish people lie in those who endured a three-stage process of transformation: first, those who entered into exile; second, those who retained hope and did not turn bitter during that exile; and third, those who returned from exile with generativity and praise in their hearts instead of self-pity. These people are the change agents for culture, paralleling the classic three stages of purgation, illumination, and union. Each of these stages operates as a change agent in different ways. Into, through, and back home could well be the necessary movements for any of us.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/faithful-to-the-journey/>

For Reflection

- ★ What does Jeremiah's story teach me about speaking the truth, even when it is difficult?
- ★ In what ways can the fire of God's love change my life?
- ★ Why is it important to remain faithful to God, even when it leads to suffering?

<https://young-catholics.com/3627/20th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-c/>

Holy Cross Parish

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

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

Facebook: [tiny.cc/HCMorris](https://www.facebook.com/HCMorris)

Find our bulletin and Pastoral Council minutes on our website. If you have a notice for the bulletin, please email: holycrossRCchurch@gmail.com

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.

RECONCILIATION: St. Mary's Oneonta, every Saturday 4–4:45 p.m. Call the parish office (607-432-3920) for a different time.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastoral Associate (Parish Leader)

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Trustees

Marguerite Webster (607) 263-5478

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 & RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults]

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Ministry to the Homebound

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Holy Father's August intention: When coexistence seems difficult, may we not succumb to battle for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

Living Caring Community

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.
- ☼ My Neighbor's Closet
3097 County Highway 11, Hartwick NY
(607) 431-8320/cooperstownangel@gmail.com
Tues/Sat: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. / Weds: 4–7 p.m.
Contact if you need someone to shop for you and coordinate getting you items.
- ☼ Helios Grief Support
Group counseling for adults in Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware counties. See helios-care.org; call (607) 432-5525.
- ☼ Friends of Recovery, Delaware/Otsego
Grassroots addiction recovery by, about, for individuals and families in recovery
22 Elm Street, Oneonta NY
(607) 267-4435
Mon/Tues/Fri: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Weds/Thurs: 9 a.m.–7 p.m.
- ☼ Holy Sews
Sew burial layettes for infants: (607) 432-5125; holysewsononeonta@yahoo.com
- ☼ Oneonta Community Health Center
No-cost healthcare services for uninsured adults (607) 433-0300
Office hours: Tues. 6–8 p.m.

Upcoming Events

08/20: Holy Hour and Night Prayer, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

08/21: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

08/21–24: Women's Cursillo Weekend, Dominican Retreat and Conference Center Niskayuna; see <https://albanycursillo.org/> for info

08/23: Installation of Mother Tracy by Bishop Williamson, 2 p.m., Zion Episcopal Church: [Lend your voice for the celebration: Contact Cheryl Ernst: \[chernst88@yahoo.com\]\(mailto:chernst88@yahoo.com\)](#)

08/24: Special Collection for Catholic Home Missions

08/28: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

09/04: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

09/07: Christian Formation after mass

09/11: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

09/14: Coffee hour after mass

Diocesan Marriage Jubilee Mass, Christ Our Light Church Loudonville, 3 p.m.

09/18: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

09/20: Diocesan Jubilee Gathering, 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m., St. Matthew's Church Voorheesville; see QR code

09/21: Rosary after mass

09/25: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025

Mass Attendance: 52

Collection: \$1199.00

Utilities: \$140.00

AUGUST 17, 2025

Celebrant

Rev. Joe Monahan

Greeter: Marguerite Webster

Deacon: Paul Cerosaletti

Lector: Kerry L Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Jen Spivey, Carol Tyson

August 24

Greeter: Peg Lilley

Lector: Peg Lilley

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Turner, Toni Zaleski, Jen Spivey

Mass Intention

For the souls of Danuta and Rychard Stachura (parents of Chet Stachura)

[If you would like to request an intention for a mass, call Kerry \(607\) 386-1951 with the intention, your name, and call back number OR use the parish email \(see left panel\).](#)

Pray for

- ✠ for the sick, their caregivers, and all who asked for our prayers, especially Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Kathleen Barry, Jo Franklin, Sarah Grogan, Agnes Huff, Maureen Joy, Nadine Joy, Michelle Lee, Fred Lemister, Carol and Jessica MacCumber, Teresa Meyers, Rich Morley, Mark Muller, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, John O'Brien, Kathy Osborne, Maria Papendrea, Scarlett Parry, Evelyn Rowe, Martin Smith, Mike Stensland, Pat Stensland, Joe and Carol Tyson, Janet VanZandt, John Zaleski
- ✠ for all those in our parish family serving in the military and all first responders and emergency personnel: Ryan Barry, Jim Barry, Meghan Barringer
- ✠ for the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends, Betty O'Brien
- ✠ in thanksgiving for sun and rain