

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, September 3

Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

FROM PREFECT TO MONK

Gregory was born around 540 A.D. into Roman nobility, and his father was mayor. He was also heir to a Christianity profoundly lived: His mother and aunt are saints. The city Rome where he was born, however, was suffering. In 542, the plague wiped out a third of the Italian population. Barbarian invasions followed. Even so, Gregory received an excellent education. So talented an administrator, by thirty he had become prefect, governing the city.

Yet the highest civil office in Rome proved not enough for Gregory. “Go, sell all that you have and give to the poor,” Jesus had said. Gregory heard that voice penetrating his own heart. The prefect turned his family’s villa into a monastery, left the prefect office, and became a monk renowned for his love of poverty. He kept watch in the “silence of the heart.”

A POPE FOR A DIRE TIME

In 579, Pope Pelagius II asked Gregory to be papal ambassador to the Emperor in Constantinople. Reluctantly, he agreed. When he returned, he found Rome in a dire state. In 589, a flood destroyed the city’s granaries. Refugees poured in from invasions to the north. People were starving; with hunger came plague. Pope Pelagius died, and the desperate people elected Gregory Pope by popular acclaim.

Gregory showed his talent for administration, a heart for the suffering, and a deep faith. First, for the plague, the new Pope organized pilgrimages through Rome to implore the help of the Mother of God. As he accompanied the people on foot near Castel Sant’Angelo, it is said he looked up and saw a vision of St. Michael the Archangel sheathing his sword. God had seen his people’s affliction; the plague would end.

Then Gregory dealt with famine. He was convinced that everything the Church possessed belonged to the poor: “I hold the office of steward to the property of the poor.” He organized priests to go through the city to care for the poor and ensured

BUILDING COMMUNITY: The Parish Pastoral Council has begun a planning process for realizing our vision (top of front page) and mission (inside left panel). **The next Council meeting is this Sunday, August 31, after mass. Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend and participate!**

that all the produce from the Church’s agricultural lands was distributed for free. Gregory knew some noble families were going hungry but were too ashamed to beg. To these he sent food from his own table, not as “alms” but as a “gift” from the pope.

A MISSIONARY HEART

The Pope also had a heart wide open to those who did not yet know God. Before he was Pope, Gregory had once passed through the marketplace and seen some fair-skinned, fair-haired young slaves. Struck by their appearance, he asked where they were from. “They are Angles,” he was told, from Britain. “Not Angles but angels!” he exclaimed. Convinced that their people had its place in the multitude standing before God’s throne, Gregory sent forty monks from his own monastery to bring the Gospel light to that faraway land.

SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD

Gregory’s heart for the suffering did not disappear with the famine’s end. He was known to invite the poor regularly to his own table, sharing his meals with them. The Church’s lands at the time generated considerable revenue, and Gregory kept meticulous track of it, so that he could give it all away.

For the spiritually poor, he preached, going from church to church in the city (the “station churches”). He revised the Order of Mass and encouraged sacred music. Tirelessly, he admonished priests and bishops to give their very selves to their people. The bishop, like the priest, was in his eyes a servant, and he was a servant humbler still. The “servant of the servants of God,” he called himself, a title and a measure that remained for every Pope after him.

When he died in t604, the people named their “servant,” “Gregory the Great,” proclaiming him a saint by popular acclaim.

adapted from: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/saints/09/03/st--gregory-the-great--pope-and-doctor-of-the-church.html>



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

AUGUST 31, 2025

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, C

Sirach 3:17–18, 20, 28–29

Psalm 68

Hebrews 12:18–19, 22–24a

Luke 14:1, 7–14

For whoever knows how to love, for whoever knows how to suffer with Christ, life is filled with serene beauty.

Some days may bring disappointment, bitter tastes—accidents that can cause peace of heart to vanish. But every day there remains the longing for his coming. A day is complete where the most difficult consequences of a trial do not manage to halt the momentum towards fulfillment.

—Brother Roger of Taizé

foreigners. Those on the inside and at the top crucify him: elders, chief priests, teachers of the Law, scribes, and Roman occupiers. Shouldn’t that tell us something important about perspective? As Richard Rohr often says, every viewpoint is a view from a point, and we need to critique our own perspective if we are to see and follow truth in all its nuance and respect the truth and perspective of others—even when it conflicts with our own.

When Christians began to gain positions of power and privilege, we then also began to ignore segments of Scriptures, especially the Sermon on the Mount, in order to maintain our empire. But when the Bible is read through the eyes of vulnerability—what we call the “preferential option for the poor” or the “bias from the bottom”—it will always be liberating and transformative, empowering in a completely different way. Read this way, Scripture will not be used to oppress or impress. The question is no longer “How can I maintain my special and secure status?” but “How can we all grow and change together?”

When we choose to live in close proximity to the bottom and in solidarity with suffering, we can be used as instruments of transformation and liberation for others.

For the first 300 years after Jesus’ death, Christians were the oppressed minority, rebels hiding in catacombs. But by the year 400, Christians had changed places. We moved from the catacombs to the basilicas. That is when we started reading the Bible not as subversive literature but as establishment literature.

Throughout time, the vast majority of people have been poor, vulnerable, or oppressed in some way (i.e., “on the bottom”), experiencing life in terms of a need for change. Those who wrote the books and controlled the social institutions, however, have primarily been the comfortable and privileged people at the top. Much of history has been recorded from the side of the winners, except for the unique revelation of the Bible, continuing with the Gospels. The Bible reveals a path of humility and compassion in the face of oppression, culminating in the torture and execution of Jesus.

We see in the Gospels—beginning with Jesus’ own story of being an outcast—that it’s those on the bottom or outside society who tend to follow Jesus: the lame, poor, blind, prostitutes, drunkards, tax collectors, and

For Reflection

- ★ How can I practice humility in my daily life?
- ★ How does Jesus’ example of inviting the marginalized challenge my current behavior?
- ★ How can I reach out to those who are often left out in my community?

<https://young-catholics.com/3636/22nd-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-c/>

<https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-stduir-jrjtjhurhj-ji/>

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

08/31: Pastoral Council meeting after mass, parish hall – All are welcome!

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

09/05: First Friday Devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

09/06: First Saturday Fatima Devotions, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
Confession, 4:15–4:45 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta (reservation chapel)

09/07: Christian Formation after mass

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

Virtual book club on *Between Heaven and Mirth*, 12–1:30 p.m., 09/11, 18, 25, Sacred Heart Sidney (register with Paula in Faith Formation Office by Sept. 7)

09/14: Coffee hour after mass

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

09/15: Mass for grieving parents, 8:30 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

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.

09/28: Special Collection for Catholic Universities

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

Mass Attendance: 50

Collection: \$722.00

Catholic Home Missions: \$317.00

AUGUST 31, 2025

Celebrant

Rev. Joseph Cebula

Greeter: Joe Tyson

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Ministers: Peg Lilley, Carol Tyson, Jen Spivey

September 7

Greeter: Pat Kristofik

Lector: Kerry L Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Jen Spivey, Carol Tyson, Diane Turner

Mass Intention

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 cool temperatures, sunny skies, and educators for start of school