

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, July 29

Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

Wednesday, July 30

Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop

Thursday, July 31

Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

Friday, August 1

Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop  
and Doctor of the Church

Saturday, August 2

Saint Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop;  
Saint Peter Julian Eymard, Priest

### STORY OF MARTHA, MARY, AND LAZARUS

Martha, Mary, and their brother Lazarus were evidently close friends of Jesus. He came to their home simply as a welcomed guest, rather than as one celebrating the conversion of a sinner like Zacchaeus or one unceremoniously received by a suspicious Pharisee. The sisters felt free to call on Jesus at their brother's death, even though a return to Judea at that time seemed to spell almost certain death.

Martha's great glory is her simple and strong statement of faith in Jesus after her brother's death. "Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world'" (John 11:25-27).

No doubt Martha was an active sort of person. On one occasion, she prepares the meal for Jesus and possibly his fellow guests and forthrightly states the obvious: All hands should pitch in to help with the dinner. The

Lord recognizes that Martha is "worried about many things," also noting that Mary, who has spent the preparation time at Jesus' feet listening to his words "has chosen the better part." John 12:1-8 describes Mary's anointing of Jesus' feet at Bethany, an act which he praised highly.

Immediately after we are told that the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus "because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him." Lazarus was the one of whom the Jews said, "See how much he loved him." In their sight Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead.

Legends abound about Lazarus's life after the death and resurrection of Jesus. He is supposed to have left a written account of what he saw in the next world before he was called back to life. Some say he followed Peter into Syria. Another story is that despite being put into a leaking boat by the Jews at Jaffa, he, his sisters, and others landed safely in Cyprus. There he died peacefully after serving as bishop for 30 years.

**Saint Martha: Patron Saint of cooks, home-makers, restaurant servers; Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus: Patron Saints of siblings**

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saints-martha-mary-and-lazarus/>

**BUILDING COMMUNITY:** The Parish Pastoral Council continues to work on realizing our vision (top of front page) and mission (inside left panel). **The next Council meeting is Sunday, August 24, after mass. Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend and participate!**

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter:** Discover the amazing plan God has for you and your marriage at Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. Dates to sign up are: September 19-21 in Huntington, NY. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Frank & Margie Pearson at 860-337-2447 or <https://www.mectw.org/>.

# Holy Cross Parish

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

JULY 27, 2025

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, C

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalms 138

Colossians 2:12-14

Luke 11:1-13

*Will we be among those who, even all alone, keep on praying in a church that has been deserted by many? How often one single person has been enough so that other can take over one day.*

—Brother Roger of Taizé

### LUKE'S GOOD NEWS: GOD'S JUSTICE

For Luke, while the ultimate meaning of the good news is still the nearness of God's kingdom, he says it differently. He speaks not of God's kingdom but of God's justice, and he especially emphasizes the privileged position of the poor. Luke's Gospel is sometimes called the "Gospel of the poor" or the "Gospel of mercy." He stresses the freedom and liberation which come from living simply and humbly, in right relationship with others, under the reign of God. He sees Jesus as fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 61: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19).

When we think of justice, we usually think of a balance: If the scales tip too much on the side of wrong, justice is needed to set things right. But God's justice does not make sense to human ideas of justice! We define justice in terms of what we've done, what we've earned, and what we've merited. Our image of justice is often some form of retribution, which we then project onto God. When most people say, "We want justice!" they normally mean that bad deeds should be punished or they want vengeance. But Jesus says that's not the case with God. How much can we trust God? How much can we stand in the flow of God's infinite love? How much can we let God love us in our worst moments?

What is God's justice? It is not our Western image of a blindfolded woman standing with a scale, weighing the different sides. God's justice is delivered simply by God being true to God's nature. ... Love. God is love, so God's justice is in fact total, steadfast love, total unconditional giving of love. (Many of us now call this "restorative justice" instead of retributive justice.)

What if their purpose is to challenge us to blur the line between what we think is possible and what we think is impossible? Could we ever come to a time when swords would be beaten into plowshares? When the predatory people in power—the lions—would lie down in peace with the vulnerable and the poor—the lambs? When God's justice would flow like a river—to the lowest and most "god-forsaken" places on Earth? When the brokenhearted would be comforted and the poor would receive good news? If you think, Never—it's impossible, then maybe you need to think again. Maybe it's not too late for something beautiful to be born. Maybe the present moment is pregnant with possibilities we can't see or even imagine.

### For Reflection

- ★ What can I learn from Abraham's boldness in asking God for mercy?
- ★ How do I experience God's care and guidance in my life?

<https://young-catholics.com/3610/17th-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](mailto: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

# JULY 27, 2025

## Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

**Greeter:** Joe Tyson

**Lector:** Marguerite Webster

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Diane Turner, Toni Zaleski, Jen Spivey

## August 3

**Greeter:** Pat Kristofik

**Lector:** Kerry L. Mess

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

## Mass Intention

**For the soul of Larry Turner**

**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
- ✠ in thanksgiving for Betty O'Brien's life, friendship, and commitment to justice

**Holy Father's July intention: That we learn to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject anything that leads away from Christ and the Gospel.**

## 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.*
- ✧ Jail Ministries of Otsego & Schoharie  
Seeking volunteers "helping troubled lives find hope and wholeness in the Christian walk." [www.jmoconline.org](http://www.jmoconline.org).
- ✧ Helios Grief Support  
Group counseling for adults in Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware counties. See [helios-care.org](http://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; [holysewsoneonta@yahoo.com](mailto:holysewsoneonta@yahoo.com)

## Upcoming Events

**07/27: Special Collection for the Holy Father**

07/27–08/01: Hartwick Seminary Institute of Theology

07/28: Hymn Sing, 6 p.m. Otsego County Fair

**07/31: Liturgy of the Word**

**08/03: Christian Formation**

**08/07: Liturgy of the Word**

08/09: Step Up Men's Conference, St. Edward the Confessor Church Clifton Park

**08/10: Coffee Hour after mass**

**08/14: Liturgy of the Word**

**08/11-08/14: Vacation Bible School, 5-7 p.m. (light supper included), hosted at UMC Morris**

**08/17: Rosary after mass**

**08/21: Liturgy of the Word**

**08/24: Special Collection for Catholic Home Missions**

**08/28: Liturgy of the Word**

09/14: Diocesan Marriage Jubilee Mass, Christ Our Light Church Loudonville, 3 p.m.

**WHOM HAVE YOU WELCOMED LATELY?**

**SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025**

Mass Attendance: 68

Collection: \$878.01

Mission Coop: \$5