

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, April 2

Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit

Friday, April 4

Saint Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Saturday, April 5

Saint Vincent Ferrer, Priest

ISIDORE IS THE PATRON OF FARMERS & RURAL COMMUNITIES. In particular, he is the patron of Madrid, Spain, and the U.S. National Rural Life Conference.

When he was barely old enough to wield a hoe, Isidore entered the service of John de Vergas, a wealthy landowner from Madrid, and worked faithfully on his estate outside the city for the rest of his life. He married a young woman as simple and upright as himself who also became a saint—Maria de la Cabeza. Their one son died as a child.

Isidore had deep religious instincts. He rose early in the morning to go to church and spent many holidays visiting churches of Madrid and surrounding areas. All day, as he walked behind the plow, he communed with God. His devotion, one might say, became a problem, for his fellow workers sometimes complained he was often late because of lingering in church too long.

BUILDING COMMUNITY: The Parish Pastoral Council continues the process for realizing our vision (top of front page) and mission (inside left panel). **We meet today after mass. Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend and participate. Come make your voice heard.**

Isadore was known for his love of the poor, and there are accounts of him supplying them with food. He had a deep concern for proper treatment of animals.

He died May 15, 1130; he was declared a saint in 1622, with Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Avila, and Philip Neri. In Spain the group is “the five saints.”

REFLECTION

A simple laborer achieving sainthood: Physical labor has dignity; sainthood does not stem from status; contemplation does not depend on learning; the simple life is conducive to holiness and happiness. Legends about angel helpers and mysterious oxen indicate that his work was not neglected and his duties did not go unfulfilled. Perhaps the truth is: If you have your spiritual self in order, your earthly commitments will fall into order also. “[S]eek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness,” said the carpenter from Nazareth, “and all these things will be given you besides” (Matthew 6:33).

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We are blessed to have you worship with us as we nurture each other in faith. While visiting our community, we humbly ask you to consider investing in our parish offertory and Diocesan Appeal to ensure our parish and Diocese can be your partner in faith.

DIOCESAN APPEAL

As you plan your budget, consider a pledge. Use your bank's Bill Pay for auto-payments or use envelopes on the back table.

<https://thediocesanappeal.org/>

CURRENT STATUS: \$3,970 / GOAL: \$5,000



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

MARCH 30, 2025

4th Sunday of Lent, C

Josiah 5:9a, 10–12

Psalms 34

2 Corinthians 5:17–21

Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

EMBRACING MERCY AND FORGIVENESS

The parable of the Prodigal Son is a story with twists, turns, and reversals. It focuses on freedom and duty, showing how God's mercy can change lives. The younger son seeks freedom. He wants to live as he wishes without respect for his father. He even implies he would prefer his father were dead to claim his wealth. When he returns home, he is more interested in physical comfort than a relationship with his father.

The older son is dutiful. He serves his father without complaint but harbors resentment. He takes pride in being “the good son” and wishes for a reward. He is driven by his ego and desires to be held in high esteem. He becomes furious when his reckless brother returns and is restored to the same level in the family.

Neither son seems motivated by love. The younger son is selfish while the older son is prideful. Their actions show a lack of understanding of their father's love. They focus on themselves rather than their relationship with their father. The father, however, loves both of his sons dearly. He uses his love to show the proper place of freedom and duty. He is generous and forgiving with his younger son, welcoming him back wholeheartedly. He could have easily been offended by the older brother's attitude but instead reassures him of his love and shared inheritance.

The readings this Sunday remind us of God's mercy. They show us the importance of seeking forgiveness and offering it to others. They encourage us to embrace God's love and to live as new creations in Christ. This parable encourages us to reflect on our own lives. Are we seeking freedom without responsibility, or are we dutiful without love? Let us strive to find balance, motivated by love, as we follow God's example of mercy and forgiveness.

In the second reading, Paul teaches that anyone in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone, and a new life begins. This shows God's power to renew us. In Christ, God reconciles the world to Himself. He calls us to be reconciled with Him and with others. This means healing our relationships and living in peace.

The readings remind us of God's mercy and forgiveness. They encourage us to seek a new beginning in Christ. By embracing this new life, we can grow closer to God and to each other. They offer us profound lessons about God's unwavering love and mercy. Through the stories of the Israelites' first Passover, the parable of the Prodigal Son, and Paul's teaching on new life in Christ, we see the many ways God calls us to renewal and reconciliation. Let us embrace these messages, seek forgiveness, and celebrate the new beginnings God offers us.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank You for Your constant care and mercy. Help us to seek new beginnings in You and to forgive others as You forgive us. Guide us to live in peace and love. **Amen.**

For Reflection

- ★ How can I show mercy and forgiveness to others in my daily life?
- ★ How can I live out God's call to be an ambassador of reconciliation?

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. 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: Every Saturday 4–4:45 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta. Call the parish office (607-432-3920) for an appointment if you need a different time.

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

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Ministry to the Homebound

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132 [RCIA]

MARCH 30, 2025

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Andrew Turner

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Eucharistic Ministers: Carol Tyson, Toni Zaleski

April 6

Greeter: Pat Kristofik

Lector: Jessica Aikins

Eucharistic Ministers: Toni Zaleski, Carol Tyson, Diane Turner

Mass Intention

If you would like to request an intention for a mass, simply call the office to schedule: (607) 263-5143.

Pray for

- ✠ for the sick, their caregivers, and all who have asked for our prayers, especially Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Kathleen Barry, Jo Franklin, Tony Giambra, Sarah Grogan, Agnes Huff, Maureen Joy, Nadine Joy, Michelle Lee, Fred Lemister, Teresa Meyers, Connie Mockovciak, Rich Morley, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, Betty O'Brien, John O'Brien, Maria Papendrea, Mike Stensland, Joe and Carol Tyson, 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 all who helped with Friday night's fish dinner

Pope Francis's March intention: That broken/in crisis families may find the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering gifts in difference.

Engage in Living Community

WHERE DO WE BEGIN? BEGIN WITH THE HEART. —St. Julian of Norwich

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.
- ✧ Jail Ministries of Otsego & Schoharie
Seeking volunteers "helping troubled lives find hope and wholeness in the Christian walk." See www.jmoconline.org.
- ✧ Helios Grief Support
Group counseling for adults in Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware counties. See helioscare.org; call (607) 432-5525.

FOR I WAS HUNGRY & YOU GAVE ME FOOD

May is Food Pantry Month

The back bulletin board has a list of items the pantry is in need of; we will post the in the bulletin in April.
The pet pantry is also in need of donations.

Upcoming Events

- 03/30: Special Collection for Catholic Relief Services Annual Appeal**
Pastoral Council meeting after mass
Watch *The Chosen*, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
Communal Reconciliation Service, 4 p.m., Sacred Heart Sidney
- 04/01: Taizé Prayer, 6:30 p.m.** St. Mary's Oneonta
- 04/03: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 04/04: Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m.**
- 04/05: Bible study, 9 a.m., Parish Hall**
- 04/06: Christian Formation after mass**
- 04/10: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 04/11: Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m.**
Lenten Penance Service, 6–8 p.m.
- 04/13: Coffee Hour after mass**
4/15: Tax Day
- 04/17: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 04/18: Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m.**
Special Collection for the Holy Land
(Parish envelopes put in at St. Mary's will get to Holy Cross.)
- 04/19: Bible study, 9 a.m., Parish Hall**

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

Mass Attendance: 50

Collection: \$956.00

Special Collections: \$35.00

Flowers: \$75 / Religious Ed.: \$45