

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, September 8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, September 9

Saint Peter Claver, Priest

Saturday, September 13

Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

BUILDING COMMUNITY: The Parish Pastoral Council is about to reexamine Holy Cross's by-laws and consider moving forward as a Council. **Our next Council meeting is Sunday, October 12, after mass with the coffee hour. Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend and participate!**

The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated exactly nine months after the Immaculate Conception (December 8), just as Christmas is celebrated nine months after the Annunciation (March 25). The birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary is one of three liturgical feasts in which we celebrate a birth (the others: Christmas and Saint John the Baptist's birth).

Nothing is known for certain about the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary or of her upbringing. However, an early second-century apocryphal text called the Protoevangelium of James (The Gospel of James), paints a detailed picture of her conception, birth, early years, and betrothal to Saint Joseph. Though the account is not part of the canon of Scripture, it has been a source of reflection throughout the centuries and is the source of the traditional names of the Blessed Mother's parents, Joachim and Anne.

We believe the feast was first celebrated in

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Holy Cross will host an Advent Fair the first Sunday of Advent, which is Sunday, November 30, 2025. Come share your wares (art, crafts, cookies, etc.).

Want to ensure we have a spot for you? Reserve a spot! Email the parish at holycrossRCchurch@gmail.com, subject: Advent Fair.

the fifth or sixth century in the East, tied to the dedication of a Byzantine church in the Old City of Jerusalem, which was built over what was believed to be Mary's birthplace and Joachim and Anne's home, a short distance from the Temple. Beneath the basilica are believed to be the caves in which Mary was born and lived.

Saint Andrew of Crete beautifully relates that on this day, the "Creator of the world constructed His temple..." Mary is that temple, that Arc of the New Covenant, the tabernacle and first dwelling place of God Incarnate. Her soul was born pure, spotless, and holy.

Birthdays celebrate people. The other memorials, feasts, and solemnities of the liturgical year honor various specific aspects of Mary's life. Today's feast honors her whole life, her personhood, and the gift of who she was and is.

As we celebrate the birthday of the Mother of God, spend time pondering her soul. Though much of her earthly life has remained hidden from our eyes, she is the greatest saint to ever live and the holiest daughter of God this world has ever known. In Heaven, we will be in awe of her virtues and will forever rejoice in the great things God did in and through her. Begin that rejoicing today by prayerfully honoring her and pondering her, seeking her prayer for your life and for the whole world.

adapted from: <https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/september-8the-nativity-of-the-blessed-virgin/>



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

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, C

Wisdom 9:13–18b

Psalm 90

Philemon 9–10, 12–17

Luke 14:25–33

Attempting to live for Christ in the midst of others, who will dare to go to the utmost of their strength in order to forgive and forgive again? That is the extreme of loving.

–Brother Roger of Taizé

LOVE IN ACTION

Intimacy with God does not belong to a special group of religious professionals but is and should be available to all. It is our birthright. It is why we were born. It is why we are here, to open ourselves "to the inner mystery of the heart of reality which is the heart of each one of us." To open ourselves to that love, to see the world through its eyes, and to live from it with courage and commitment. . . .

All of this has to start with each of us. It has to start with my commitment to a practice of prayer. All of this has to start with my adopting a way of life that can help me grow and nourish my spiritual life, including building community, so that I may become God's hands and

feet and microphone for healing and justice.

- ♥ First commit to engaging with the world from a place of prayer, and not ideology; this gives you a felt sense of interconnectedness of all life in God and prevents othering.
- ♥ Second, commit to doing the work of coming to terms with your social location and how it relates to systemic racism, poverty, militarism, ecological devastation, and some of the distorted moral narratives that are so prevalent. Are there privileges you need to acknowledge or let go of? Are there commitments you need to reevaluate?
- ♥ Third, remember that talking about justice is not the same as doing justice, so simplify your life and commit to ethical living by buying all your necessities in socially responsible, ecologically minded, and human-scale companies. . . .
- ♥ Practice works of mercy, making sure that your hands are touching the hands of someone who is suffering, [and] include Mother Earth in that as well.
- ♥ Join a social movement, because changing your spending habits or serving others is only part of what is needed. Our lives and relationships do not happen in a vacuum but rather within institutions and systems that have their own crooked logic and are in need of massive changes. . . .

As you move toward a life of personal and political holiness, may your journey be blessed and may your life and presence remind those around you of God's presence. Deepening your connection to God, in you and around you, do not be afraid to feel the love, the joy, and also the pain that are present. Don't be afraid to have a heart and to risk breaking your heart. Feel into it all and know that every time you are touching the pain, you are touching the sacred wound of God. God who is always accompanying us and guiding us. God who is suffering with us. . . . God whose life-giving love and justice will one day be "all in all" [1 Corinthians 15:28].

<https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-zlkddkd-dduxulkd-v/>

For Reflection

- ★ What might I need to give up to follow Jesus without hesitation?
- ★ How can I show others that they are loved as part of God's family?

<https://young-catholics.com/3641/23rd-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 September intention: May we, inspired by Saint Francis, know our interdependence with all creatures, loved by God and worthy of respect.

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; holysewsoneonta@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

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

10/02: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

10/05: Christian Formation after mass

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

10/12: Coffee hour after mass, **Pastoral Council meeting after mass - Come join us and have your voice heard as we plan for Council and Advent!**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025

Mass Attendance: 51

Collection: \$862.00

Holy Day: \$5.00

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Pat Kristofik

Lector: Kerry L Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Jen Spivey, Carol Tyson, Diane Turner

September 14

Greeter: The McAdams

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Ministers: Toni Zaleski, Peg Lilley, 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 access to education for all children in the United States