

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, April 13

Saint Martin I, Pope & Martyr

There is much evidence for the reliability of the Gospels, but consider this: If you were part of a group who decided to perpetrate an elaborate hoax, what would be your motive? Wouldn't you want to gain some significant benefits from such risky business, maybe fortune, fame, and privilege? If you were prominent figures in this tall tale, wouldn't you at least want the story to make you look good?

But in the story told by the apostles, virtually all of them look really bad at some point. During Jesus's public ministry, they repeatedly fail to "get it." After witnessing three years' worth of miracles, one of them betrays Jesus, and their leader denies him. All but one run away when he's crucified, and no one believes Mary Magdalene when she brings them the news of his resurrection.

But the episode in John 20 takes the cake. The Risen Christ appears to the 10 on Easter Sunday evening. (Judas had taken his own life, and Thomas, the twin, missed the occasion.) When Thomas returns, he refuses to believe them. He demands

### ADORATION & DIVINE MERCY MEDITATION

April 12, 2026 at 2:30-3:30, St. Mary's Oneonta Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by a unique Divine Mercy Chaplet Passion Meditation, inviting us to enter more deeply into Christ's journey to the Cross. These reflections draw us into the weight of His suffering, the burden of our sins, His obedience to the Father, and the boundless love that led Him to embrace the Cross for our sake.

## 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. Thank you.

### Pastoral Council Meeting moved to April 26

The Pastoral Council meets today in the parish hall. Meetings are open to all.

The first listed purpose of Council is "To serve God...by involving all Parishioners in the work of the Church."

**How have I been involved in the work of the Church this week? What is my plan for this coming week?**

### EASTER FLOWERS — In Memory of:

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| ☼ Joe & Martha DeLaurentiis | ☼ Joanne Clark       |
| ☼ Marguerite & Joseph Rucco | ☼ Butch DeLaurentiis |
| ☼ Howard & Alice Talbot     | ☼ Robert Rucco       |

empirical proof: "Unless I put my finger in the nail marks in his hands and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." This sounds more like a pouting child than the words of an apostle.

Jesus could have just said "enough." Thomas had already seen so much. Acts 1 tells us that Judas was replaced by Matthias. This skeptic could easily have been replaced as well. But Jesus does not deal with us by virtue of strict justice. He comes to us in mercy, giving us what we do not deserve. A week later, he gives Thomas what he asked for. Thomas can't be said to come to true "faith" in the resurrection through all this. Because faith is about believing what you can't see. Walking by faith means NOT walking by sight. In heaven, we'll see God face to face, so "faith" will be no more. Blessed, says Jesus, are those who have not seen, and yet believe.

adapted from <https://catholicexchange.com/st-thomas-divine-mercy-sunday/>

## DIOCESAN APPEAL

As you plan your budget, consider a pledge. Use your bank's Bill Pay for auto-payments or envelopes (table).



<https://thediocesanappeal.org/>

**CURRENT STATUS: \$4,793 / GOAL: \$6,379**

# Holy Cross Parish

APRIL 12, 2026

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy, A

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 118

1 Peter 1 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

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

*Whatever point we may be at, the Risen Christ searches tirelessly for us. Do we hear him knocking at our door when he tells us: "Come, follow me"?*

—Brother Roger of Taizé

### DIVINE MERCY... TEARING OF THE TEMPLE VEIL

The passion narratives have so many haunting lines. Who of us, for instance, is not stirred in the soul when the passion story is read in church and we come to the part where Jesus dies and we are told that, at the very second of his death, "the veil of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom." It's a great picture. Imagination aside, what does the phrase the veil of the temple ripped open at the moment of Jesus' death mean?

Biblical scholars tell us that the veil of the temple was precisely a curtain. It hid the holy of holies. The ordinary worshiper in the temple could not see what was behind it; it shielded a person from the great mystery. Thus, when the gospel writers say that at the precise moment of Jesus' death the temple veil was ripped apart from top to bottom, the point they are making is not, as imagination would want it, that God shredded what was most precious to the those who crucified Jesus to show them how wrong they were. No.

The point is rather this: The temple-veil was understood to hide the mystery of God from the people. In the crucifixion that mystery is laid open for everyone to see. Jesus' death, understood properly, shows the inner workings of God. It rips away our false understandings of God and shows us what God really looks like. And what do we see behind the veil?

Among other things, we see a God who spills his own blood to reach through to us rather than want us to spill ours to reach through to God. What does this mean? A centuries-old question asks why Jesus had to die in so horrible a manner. Why all this blood? Is Christ's blood, the blood of the lamb, somehow paying someone off for the sin of Adam and Eve and for our own sins? Why does blood need to be spilled? Every answer is only a very partial one. We are dealing with the greatest of all mysteries here, only partially understood. One reason Jesus dies this way is clear. It has precisely to do with blood: From the beginning of time until Jesus's crucifixion, all cultures sacrificed blood to their gods because blood carries life, is life; and its loss is death. Thus it shouldn't be surprising to us that everywhere in ancient cultures the idea was present that what we owe to God is blood, that God needs blood. In their view of things, blood was the only language God understood. So they felt they should offer blood to God; and they did. For a long time, this included human blood. Eventually, however, many cultures eliminated explicit human sacrifice and used animals instead. By Jesus's time, the temple had become a giant butchery with priests killing animals nearly non-stop. Some scholars suggest when Jesus upset the money changers' tables in the temple, about 90% of commerce in Jerusalem was in connected with animal sacrifice.

So why all that blood at Jesus' death? Because, for all these centuries we have been spilling blood to try to get to God and, in the crucifixion, things get reversed: God spills his own blood to try to get to us. It's this reversal that rips open the old veil of fear, the false belief that God wants blood. God does not want us to spill blood to get to I AM. We are not meant to live in fear of God. All the blood in the crucifixion of Jesus is meant to tell us that.

adapted from: <https://ronrolheiser.com/the-tearing-of-the-temple-veil/>

### For Reflection

- ★ Do I believe in Jesus' forgiveness, even when I feel unworthy?
- ★ What does God's mercy mean to me, and how can I share it with others?

<https://young-catholics.com/5404/divine-mercy-sunday-year-a/#thoughts>

# 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/tiny.cc/HCMorris)

Find our bulletin and Pastoral Council minutes on our website. If you have a notice for the bulletin, please email: [holycrossRC-church@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossRC-church@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

Allen Dangca, Celine Francisco, Scott Kolberg, Chet McAdams, Jackie McAdams, Kerry L. Mess, Dana Mochovciak, Joe Tyson

## 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



Pope Leo XIV's April intention: May priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation find the accompaniment they need and community support.

## 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](mailto: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

04/12: Coffee Hour after mass, **Pastoral Council meeting rescheduled for 04/19**

04/15: Mass of Christian Burial, Kay Pasternak, 11 a.m.

04/19: Rosary after mass

04/23: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

04/26: **Pastoral Council meeting**

04/30: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

05/01: First Friday Devotion, 2:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

05/02: First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

05/03: **Christian Formation after mass**

05/07: **Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**

05/10: **Coffee Hour and Pastoral Council after mass**

05/14: **Ascension mass, 9 a.m.; 12:10 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta**

05/17: **SPECIAL COLLECTION: Catholic Charities; Rosary after mass**

04/30: **Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**

05/01: First Friday Devotion, 2:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

05/02: First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026**

Mass Attendance: 38

Collection: \$539.00

Flowers: \$45 / Rice Bowl: \$35

**APRIL 12, 2026**

## Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

**Greeter:** Chet and Jackie McAdams

**Lector:** Daphne Thompson

**Eucharistic Minister:** Diane Turner

April 19

**Greeters:** Pat Kristofik

**Deacon:** Paul Cerosaletti

**Lector:** Kerry L. Mess

## 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, Jim and Jan Drummy, Jo Franklin, Sarah Grogan, Agnes Huff, Maureen Joy, Jim Lee, Michelle Lee, Fred Lemister, Carol and Jessica MacCumber, Doris Mensch, Jeffrey Meyers, Kelly Meyers, Teresa Meyers, Rich Morley, Mark Muller, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, John O'Brien, Kathy Osborne, Maria Papendrea, Scarlett Parry, Evelyn Rowe, Martin Smith, Mike 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 God's love and mercy for all humankind