

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, March 3
Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin

Wednesday, March 4
Saint Casimir

Saturday, March 7
Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Mar-
tyrs

SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL was born in Philadelphia, November 26, 1858. She founded the Blessed Sacrament Sisters for Indians and Colored People (now Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament), dedicated to the welfare of American Indians and African Americans. Canonized October 1, 2000, she is the patron saint of racial justice and philanthropists.

Katharine Mary Drexel was the daughter of American banker and philanthropist Francis Anthony Drexel, and Hannah Langstroth Drexel, who died five weeks after she was born. In 1860, Francis Drexel married Emma Bouvier, and in 1863 a daughter, Louise, was born. The children were raised in a home of deep faith and love. The family was active in charitable works, distributing food, clothing, and money from their home twice a week. When 21, Katharine's stepmother was diagnosed with cancer. Katharine nursed her through three years of intense suffering while the thought of religious life came to her constantly and forcibly.

When Mr. Drexel died, Katharine and her sisters were beneficiaries of his estate. The three visited American Indian reservations to see conditions and needs. Katharine began to build schools on reservations, supplying food, clothing, furnishings, salaries

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

- ✦ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Adoration, Tuesdays after 9 a.m. mass in Private Chapel, Sacred Heart Sidney
- ✦ Benediction, Tuesdays, 12 p.m., Sacred Heart Sidney
- ✦ Holy Cross Stations of the Cross, Fridays, 4 p.m.
- ✦ Penance Services, March 4, 12:10 & 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- ✦ Holy Cross Lenten Fish Dinner, March 13, 4:30–6:30 p.m., Parish Hall
- ✦ Holy Cross Reconciliation, March 13, 5–7 p.m., Church
- ✦ St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, March 20 & 27, 5–7 p.m., St. James Oneonta

for teachers. She found priests to serve spiritual needs of the people. Once aware of the suffering of South and East Black people, she extended charity to them.

In 1889, she obtained Bishop O'Connor's consent to become a religious. On November 7, she received the religious habit and the name Sr. Mary Katharine. At Bishop O'Connor's death, Archbishop Patrick J. Ryan of Philadelphia became her spiritual guide.

In 1935, Mother Katharine suffered a severe heart attack and then lived in prayerful retirement. Her interest and love for the missions deepened until her death March 3, 1955. By then, she had used more than \$12 million of her inheritance for her charitable and apostolic missions. Today, that is \$125 million.

adapted from: <https://www.skdrexel.org/CatholicChurch.php?pg=Our+Patron+Saint>

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: \$4,593 / GOAL: \$6,379



Holy Cross Parish

MARCH 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent, A
Genesis 12:1–4a
Psalm 33
2 Timothy 1:8b–10
Matthew 17:1–9

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

CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for volunteers for this year's Lenten Fish Dinner (see back for details):

- Set up
- Serving
- Cooking
- Clean up

We also need donations of:

- Butter
- Juice
- Desserts

Contact Matthew Tabone.

Theologians have had a field day over the centuries seeking to establish the meaning/importance of the transfiguration. Thomas Aquinas considered it the greatest miracle of all, arguing that it complemented baptism and showed the perfection of life in heaven. Consider a different angle on transfiguration.

One morning, was just in time to hear “Ombra mai fu,” the opening aria from Handel's 1738 opera *Serse*. I thought to myself that when angels sing, they must begin and close with this piece. It captures peace, sadness, hope, and beauty all in a perfect two-and-a-half-minute package. The music is so moving, when I first heard it, I speculated that the text was probably religiously themed along the lines of so much of Handel's compositions. But no—the text of “Ombra mai fu” contains no lofty sentiments, no paeans to the divine. It's a brief poem of thanks for a plane tree's shade: “Never was the shade / of any plant / dearer and more lovely / or more sweet.” It struck me then and even more strongly now, how fitting one of the most inspired pieces of music ever composed was written in honor of a tree.

One of the greatest continuing insights of Reverend John Ames, the Calvinist minister from Marilynne Robinson's novel *Gilead*, concerns the sacredness of all things. Nearing his life's end, he pays close attention to the mystery and miracle of things most of us dismiss as “ordinary”: “It has seemed to me sometimes as though the Lord breathes on this poor gray ember of Creation and it turns to radiance—for a moment or a year or the span of a life. And then it sinks back into itself again, and to look at it no one would know it had anything to do with fire, or light. . . . Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who has the courage to see it?” For Reverend Ames, everything is a sacrament with intimations of holiness. The Divine Being he has served and conversed with for decades is still a mystery.

Peter's suggestion at the transfiguration that they build three dwellings to commemorate the event is not as random as it seems. It is a typical human reaction to the transcendent or miraculous to try to tame it, nail it down, organize it, put walls around it, and either sell tickets or write up a doctrinal statement and confession of faith. Better, as the voice from heaven says, to stop, look, and listen.

As Reverend Ames says, “You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who has the courage to see it?” Good question. It takes a lot more courage to embrace this world with all its imperfections and disappointments as a spectacular and continuing divine miracle than to step back and bemoan the fact it seldom is the miracle we would have performed if it were up to us. It isn't up to us—the power and glory of our created, sacred world is far above our pay scale. This is particularly important to remember when things aren't working out the way any one of us would have planned. Sacredness and beauty, embedded in imperfect matter, are reminders that, according to the Christian narrative, this very strange yet compelling fusion of the divine and the imperfect is God's intention with us. —Vance Morgan

adapted from: <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/freelancechristianity/longing-to-be-whole-a-transfiguration-sunday-reflection/>

For Reflection

- ★ How do we experience glimpses of God's presence (miracles)?

<https://young-catholics.com/2423/2nd-sunday-of-lent-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

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

Allan 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 March intention: May nations move toward effective disarmament, and world leaders choose dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

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

- 03/01: Christian formation after mass**
- 03/03: Taize Prayer, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta**
- 03/04: Penance Service, 12:10 & 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta**
- 03/05: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 03/06: Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m.**
First Friday Devotion, 2:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 03/07: First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta**
- 03/08: Coffee Hour after mass**
- 03/12: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 03/13: Lenten Fish Dinner, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Parish Hall**
Reconciliation, 5-7 p.m., Church
- 03/15: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Catholic Relief Services Annual Appeal**
Rosary after mass
- 03/19: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 03/20: Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m.**
St. Mary's Knights of Columbus fish fry, 4 p.m. St. James Oneonta
- 03/26: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 03/27: Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m.**
St. Mary's Knights of Columbus fish fry, 4 p.m. St. James Oneonta
- 04/03: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Holy Land Christian Formation after mass**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Mass Attendance: 43

Collection: \$573.00

Mission: \$316 / Candles: \$19

MARCH 1, 2026

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Joe Tyson

Lector: Kerry L. Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Jen Spivey

March 8

Greeters: Chet and Jackie McAdams

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Ministers: 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, 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 the many voices on the new Pastoral Council; what a gift!