

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 9
Saint Frances of Rome, Religious

ST FRANCES OF ROME was born into a noble Roman family in 1384. At age 12 she married another Roman noble, Lorenzo Ponziani. While she preferred to become a nun, she obeyed her father and became an exemplary wife and mother of three children. Soon after her marriage, Frances fell seriously ill. Her husband called a man in who dabbled in magic, but Frances drove him from the house. St. Alexis then appeared to her and cured her.

From then on, St. Frances was conscious of the presence and assistance of her guardian angel who would give her a nudge when she fell into any fault.

Just around the corner from the Ponziani palace in the Trastevere section of Rome was the little church of San Francesco a Ripa. Given in 1212 to St. Francis by the Roman lady Giacoma di Settesoli (Brother Jacoba), the adjoining friary was one of 34 belonging to the Observant reform movement in the First Order of St. Francis, begun in 1368. It was at San Francesco a Ripa that Frances Ponziani was received into the Third Order of St Francis; and one of the priests there, Father Bartholomew Bondi, became her spiritual director.

Living at the Ponziani palace with St. Frances was Vanozza, her oldest brother's wife. She too had entertained thoughts of entering a convent before her marriage, and she joined St Frances in her works of piety and charity. Together they spent hours of prayer in a disused attic or an old summer cottage in the garden.

At seventeen, St. Frances gave birth to her first son, John Baptist; shortly afterwards her mother-

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.
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Communal Penance Service, March 15, 4 p.m., Sacred Heart Sidney
- ✦ St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, March 20 & 27, 4:30 p.m., St. James Oneonta
- ✦ Faith & Reason Revival Shroud Presentation, March 25, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. with lunch and mass at 4 p.m., Sacred Heart Sidney; \$5 registration fee (QR code or 607-503-7066) by April 11



in-law died. St. Frances was placed in charge of the household; and she carried out her duties, efficiently and in a genuinely Christian manner. During a famine she gave corn to the poor so lavishly her husband objected. When he went to the empty granary, however, he found it miraculously filled with forty measures of wheat “so shining and so full...that it seemed as though it had been raised in Paradise and reaped there by angels...”

adapted from: <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/st-frances-of-rome.html>

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: \$4,793 / GOAL: \$6,379



Holy Cross Parish

MARCH 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent, A
Exodus 17:3–7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1–2, 5–8
John 4:5–42

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

Jesus reveals God as a God who wants to be even closer to his people than his people could ever possibly imagine. The great good news of the Gospel is precisely that God wants to be with us to share our struggle, walk our way, suffer our pain, and die our death, so that we are able to say, “There is nothing human that God does not share with us.” That is the great good news. God is with us in every aspect of our lives. —Henri Nouwen

A THIRST FOR THE GOOD NEWS

If you don't go to the well, you cannot draw water. You must make yourself present and available to receive the living water God so freely gives. You must go to the well! —Barbara Harris, Parting Words

This strange story of the woman at the well has some clear messages for us as we stand at our individual [and collective] crossroads and ponder the choices of life in a vain world that is no friend to grace; messages for us as we consider ourselves emerging people of Christ's kingdom; messages for us when we, like the woman at the well, realize that while we are not yet what we should be, thank God we are not what we were. We are different because God has touched our lives; different because we realize we can learn from all God's people even from such folk as the Samaritan woman.

When we encounter the good news of Jesus, we can choose to participate in the reign of God. My friends, we thirst after many things in this world. We thirst after money, power, prestige, position. We put our trust in them; we may even pray for them. But like our Lord, we are at a crossroads in the church and in society. We still have a choice and the question our Lord is asking us is, “Do we have a thirst for the kingdom?”

Jesus is asking us, “Are we content to settle for the temporary thirst quenchers of life: the material values of this world, the right connections, the proper credentials, the things on which this society places so much value, things that will never slake the thirst of your parched, dry souls? Or do you thirst for righteousness, for peace, for justice, for the liberation of all God's people?”

Do we thirst for those things that make for a just society as Jesus proclaimed the kingdom to be? If we gave our testimony today would we sing with the psalmist, “As the deer longs for the water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God”? (Psalm 42:1) Or would we sing with the elders: “I heard the voice of Jesus say, ‘Behold, I freely give the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink and live!’ I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.”

Do we have a thirst for the living water with which God truly enriches our lives? Do we have a thirst for the kingdom? Do we have a thirst to emerge as truly faithful Christians, to be more than we are? Each of us must respond for himself or herself. Do we have a thirst for the kingdom? Jesus is patiently waiting for our answer.

adapted from: <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/a-thirst-for-the-good-news/>

For Reflection

- ★ In what ways am I thirsting for God's love and presence in my life?
- ★ How can I open my heart to let Jesus change me this Lent?

<https://young-catholics.com/2445/3rd-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; 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

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

Communal Reconciliation Service, 4 p.m.,
Sacred Heart, Sidney

03/18: Holy Hour & Night Prayer, 6:30 p.m.,
St. Mary's Oneonta

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,
4:30 p.m. St. James Oneonta

03/22: Faith Formation after mass

03/25: Faith & Reason Revival
Shroud Presentation, 8:30
a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sacred Heart
Sidney, \$5 registration fee (QR
code or 607-503-7066) by
April 11



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,
4:30 p.m. St. James Oneonta

04/03: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Holy Land
Christian Formation after mass

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

Mass Attendance: 48

Collection: \$1,237.00

MARCH 8, 2026

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeters: Chet and Jackie McAdams

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Turner

March 15

Greeters: John O'Brien

Deacon: Paul Cerosaletti

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Mass Intention

FOR THE SOUL OF PATRICIA BRETT

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 Lent, which means spring, with warming and sunshine