

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, March 17
Saint Patrick, Bishop

Wednesday, March 18
Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop &
Doctor of the Church

Thursday, March 19
Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

When Constantine legalized Christianity throughout the Roman Empire in 313, sufferings Christians endured changed. Politics entered the Church, emperors inserted themselves into doctrine, and theological and territorial divisions became fierce. **SAINT CYRIL OF JERUSALEM**, ordained a priest at 28 and a bishop at 33, opposed the Arian Heresy [Jesus was subordinate to the God the Father rather than being of the same divine nature] and thus was deposed and exiled from Jerusalem three times during his almost 40 years as a bishop. Yet he remained committed to being a shepherd of souls. He had a gentle, pastoral, conciliatory, and humble approach to his ministry.

During his priestly ministry, Cyril preached every Sunday and catechized those preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation. His catechetical instructions are remarkable for their content and clarity. Cyril's lessons were delivered in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and were so well received by the people that whenever he completed a lesson, all the people would applaud.

adapted from <https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/march-18-saint-cyril-of-jerusalem-bishop-and-doctor/>

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.

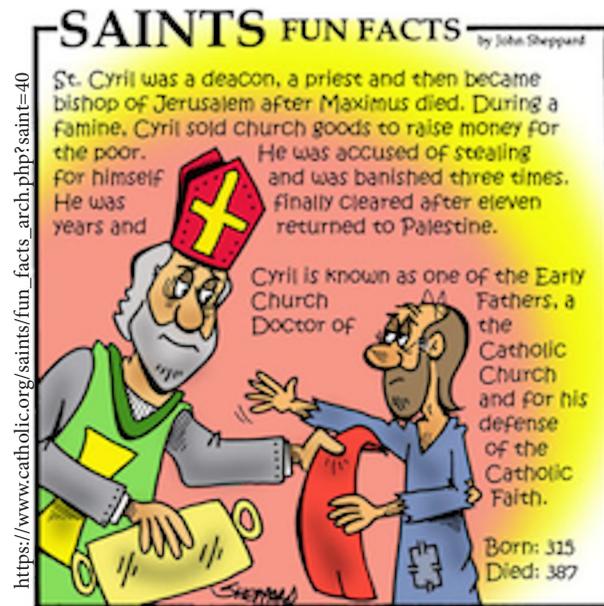
Notes of Thanks

While we ran out of fish (a first), we had amazing turnout for Friday's Lenten Meal.

Special thanks to:

- ★ Matthew Tabone: set up, cooking, clean up
- ★ Marguerite Webster: loaning equipment, set up, serving, clean up
- ★ Jackie & Chet McAdams: set up, door supervision, clean up
- ★ Diane Turner: set up, clean up
- ★ Mary, Anthony, Laura Tabone: set up, help

The Lenten Meal raised **\$815**.
After covering costs, we are able to donate **\$392** to Catholic Charities of Otsego County and Catholic Relief Services.



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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

MARCH 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent, A
1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

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

The first love says: "You are loved long before other people can love you or you can love others. You are accepted long before you can accept others or receive their acceptance. You are safe long before you can offer or receive safety." Home is the place where that first love dwells and speaks gently to us. —Henri Nouwen

Today's Gospel invites us to consider what Jesus meant when he said, "I am the light of the world." The Gospel tells a story of a man born blind. The gift of sight he received from Jesus not only enabled him to see the world around him, but more important, to embrace Jesus as his healer.

More troubling than this man's physical blindness was the spiritual blindness of those around him. They had eyes with physical sight, but spiritually, they were blind as illustrated by their behavior. They did not believe the man had actually been blind despite his parents' testimony. They did not believe Jesus actually gave him sight. They thought his blindness was punishment for his sins or those of his parents. Then they criticized Jesus for healing the blind man on the Sabbath. And they even asked the man to deny that Jesus was the one who healed him and called on him to renounce Jesus. But the man with a new gift of sight would have none of it. He never lost his focus on Jesus using his newly-found sight. The sight of Jesus elicited his profession of faith and trust in Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

When Jesus calls us out of darkness, he bestows on us the gift of spiritual vision, to look at the world in a new way with our hearts and souls. The beauty of God's creation is a spiritual vision. When we go outside and look at the mountains, the forest, the desert and the ocean, those whose eyes are spiritually opened will not only see them as physical objects but will experience the majesty of their utter beauty. Spiritual vision also extends to how we look at both ourselves and others. It invites us to look at our lives and those of others not only fully and objectively, but lovingly as well. God looks at the entire universe but at the same time looks lovingly at each one of us. God invites us to see the big picture of our lives and our world and to do so with love.

Too often, however, we look at life with a very narrow vision through the lens of a spirituality that cuts off the rest of the world around us. We focus on what's important to us, which is not necessarily what's important to other people in the world at large. We focus on our own bank accounts, our own ambitions, our own likes and dislikes, and our own families. That narrow spiritual vision blinds us to what is happening beyond ourselves.

A society that imposes personal responsibility for one's own survival on each individual blinds us to the survival needs of persons other than ourselves. Spiritual blindness comes from fear: fear for one's own safety which often leads to the fear of other people who are different than we are. This is spiritual blindness because it fails to recognize that each and every human person was created by God in God's own image whom God loves as a parent ought to love a daughter or son.

adapted from: <https://saintceciliacatholiccommunity.org/blog/spiritual-blindness/>

For Reflection

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
Jeremiah 1: 5

Where do I hear—or need to hear—the gentle voice of first love speaking acceptance and safety to me?

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: 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

03/15: 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, register by April 11;

\$5 fee (QR code or 607-503-

7066; formingfaith@gmail.com)

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

04/02: Holy Thursday Mass, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

04/03: Good Friday Service, 5 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Holy Land



SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

Mass Attendance: 42

Collection: \$578.00

Rice Bowl: \$65 / Relig. Ed: 71

MARCH 15, 2026

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: John O'Brien

Deacon: Paul Cerosaletti

Lector: Daphne Thompson

March 22

Greeters: Deb Newell and Marie Goupil

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Eucharistic Minister: Toni Zaleski

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 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 all who donated items for the Lenten Fish Dinner, all who worked the dinner, all who invited the community to the banquet, and all who attended