

04/16/2023 The Pope's intention for April is for a culture of peace and non-violence by decreasing the use of weapons.

**HOLY CROSS RC CHURCH
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**Our Mission Statement at Holy Cross:
To care for the poor, abandoned and the marginalized.**

Trustees: Michael Stensland: 783-2764, John Edwards 263-5326

Council Chair: Christine Edwards: 263-5326

Parish Life Director: Maureen Joy: 263-5143

For the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends especially Michael Coulman who died this week.

Pray for the sick and their caregivers and all that have asked for our prayers, especially Howard Hubbard, Diane Neczesny, Lynn Joy, Becky Barringer, Lorraine Tyson, Joe and Carol Tyson, Michelle Lee, Maria Papendrea, Valarie Manchester, Sr. Theresa Ahern, MSBT, Teresa Meyers, Amy O'Brien, Linda Zoder, Bob Zoder, John Zaleski,

Pray for all the men and women of our parish family serving in the military and all First Responders and emergency personnel. [Ryan Barry](#), [Jim Barry](#), [Meghan Barringer](#)

- **From Fr. Chris: Thank you to all who contributed to make the celebrations for Holy Week and Easter so wonderful.**
- **Saturday I will gather with members of the Cursillo movement of New York state at a conference at the Martyr's shrine in Fultonville NY. If you are interested in learning more about Cursillo please see me.**
- **This week we wished Happy Birthday and retirement wishes to Maureen Joy as she steps down from her many years of leadership at Holy Cross Parish.**
- **Today we reflect on the great Mercy of our God. St. Pope John Paul II declared the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. On this day we remember the Heart of Jesus full of love and mercy for each of us.**
- **Today our Orthodox brothers and sisters celebrate Easter. Blessing to you all on this Easter day.**
- **On Friday our Jewish Brothers and sisters ended their celebration of Passover. The seder meal shared on passover is the modal for our Eucharistic liturgy.**
- **The month of Ramadan will end next Saturday. Please keep our Muslim neighbors in your prayers.**
- **As the days grow warmer and brighter I am seeing more life on the streets of our cities and towns. It is nice to see all the people outside once again.**

We will celebrate With Father Jim
April 16 at 8:30am
Divine Mercy Sunday

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47 (Communal Life) They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and prayers. Everyone around was in awe – all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's needs were met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 Tell the world, Israel, "His love never quits." And you, clan of Aaron, tell the world, "His love never quits." And you who fear God, join in, "His love never quits." I was right on the cliff-edge, ready to fall, when God grabbed and held me. God is my strength, He is my song, and now He is my salvation. Hear the shouts, hear the triumph songs in the camp of the saved! "The hand of God has turned the tide! The stone the builders rejected as flawed has become the cornerstone!" This is the Work of God. We rub our eyes – we can hardly believe it! This is the very day God has made – let us celebrate and be festive!

Second Reading: 1 Peter:1:3-9 (Thanksgiving) What a God we serve!!! And how fortunate we are to have Him, this Father of our Master, Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we have been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven – and the future starts NOW! God is keeping careful watch over us and our future. The Day is coming when you will have it ALL – life healed and whole. I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it proved pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it is your faith, not your gold that God will have on display as evidence of His

victory. You never saw Him, yet you love Him. You still do not see Him, yet you trust Him – with laughter and singing. Because you kept on believing, you will get what you are looking forward to: TOTAL SALVATION.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31 (Appearance to the Disciples: Thomas)

Read this passage at least twice before coming to Mass on Sunday.

The Gospel of the Lord

We show our faith when we demonstrate courage in the face of difficulty. What could you do this week to help strengthen someone or encourage someone who is sad or discouraged? All of us have our stories. The best ones rarely are about times when everything went smoothly – no, we tell stories about mistakes and crises, about clumsiness and human error. And everybody tells the story from his/her own perspective, so that often we wonder whether the tellers were all at the same place at the same time. Today's Gospel is no different. Matthew tells only of the resurrected Christ meeting the 11 on the mountain, where all doubted. Mark's story is that Jesus appeared to "the eleven" at table and rebukes all of them for their lack of faith. Luke's story has the two disciples who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus return to the apostles in Jerusalem, where Jesus appears to all thirteen – all of whom were terrified. In all accounts, Jesus says, "Peace be with you." only in John are there locked doors. Only in John is Thomas missing, necessitating a second appearance. And only in John did Jesus give the ten the Holy Spirit and send them out – what were they doing still behind locked doors a week later?" One detail to notice in every account is that the resurrected Jesus has visible wounds. Resurrection comes at a price. It always follows the cross; it carries indelible marks. Suffering is part of every story.

We have much to learn about discipleship. We have much to learn about loving one another as God has loved us. We have much to learn about being one human community, one creation of a loving God who longs for unity. With us, as with Thomas, Jesus the Christ has infinite patience and mercy, waiting for us, as

with Thomas, to choose: belief or disbelief. No pressure, only opportunity. No seduction; only invitation. No fear, only peace.

Peace be with you. Love one another – ALL of one another. Go out and make our resurrected God visible.

April 23rd We will celebrate with Fr. Chris

April 30th We will celebrate with Fr. Jim

The Magic Closet hours are: April to December – Wednesday and Saturday 10am to noon. They always need volunteers.

The Butternut Valley Food Pantry is located at 166 Marion Ave. Gilbertsville, NY phone number is: 607-783-2267

Collection for April 2 and Easter Sunday 2023	\$502.00
Other collection	\$57.00
Diocesan Assessment as of 1/1/23	\$1,069.00

“Remember your own Galilee and walk towards it, for it is the “place” where you came to know Jesus personally, where he stopped being just another personage from a distant past, but a *living person*: not some distant God but the God who is at your side, who more than anyone else knows you and loves you. Brother, sister, remember Galilee, your Galilee, and your call. Remember the Word of God who at a precise moment spoke directly to you. Remember that powerful experience of the Spirit; that great joy of forgiveness experienced after that one confession; that intense and unforgettable moment of prayer; that light that was kindled within you and changed your life; that encounter, that pilgrimage... Each of us knows where our Galilee is located. Each of us knows the place of his or her interior resurrection, that beginning and foundation, the place where things changed. We cannot leave this in the past; the Risen Lord invites us to return there to celebrate Easter. Remember your Galilee. Remind yourself.”

Pope Francis

