

04/30/2023 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

Maureen Joy: 263-5143

For the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends.

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 Obrien, 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: When I arrived at St. Mary's I was surprised to find the church was unlocked daily for prayer. It was nice to see the many who came to pray. Sadly, out of a concern for security, the church building will be locked except for services. If you wish to visit the church during the week, please check at the parish office for someone to let you in.

On Saturday, I offered Mass at the Auriesville shrine for the region 1 Gathering of Cursillo. If you are interested in learning about the Cursillo movement please contact me.

Today/Sunday, I am honored to confirm in the faith a member of our community. It is such an honor to welcome a new member of our faith through the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. It is nice to meet an adult who chooses to live the faith as a member of the body of Christ.

I met a woman this week, who I have known for many years who chose to be a disciple. She was baptized on the second Sunday of Easter. She said I planted a seed and now it is growing. How nice to know our seeds of faith will grow. Never give up. In time, the Spirit will do its work.

Save the DATE: October 20-22, 2023 at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, NY. Catholics from across New York State will be coming together to celebrate the REAL PRESENCE of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. See the poster in the back of the church. To register: (<https://nyseucharisticcongress.org>)

We will celebrate With Father Jim
April 30 at 8:30am
Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41 (Peter's Discourse) Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency. "All Israel, then, know this: There is no longer room for doubt – God made Him Master and Messiah, this Jesus whom you killed on a cross." Cut to the quick, those who were there listening asked Peter and the other apostles "Brothers! Brothers! So now what do we do?" Peter said, "Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away – whomever, in fact, Our Master God invites." He went on in this vein for a long time, urging them over and over, "Get out while you can; get out of this sick and stupid culture!" That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 23:1-6 God, my Shepherd! I do not need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, You find me quiet pool to drink from. True to Your Word, You let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction. Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I am not afraid when You walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure. You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing. Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I am back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:20-26 (For the slave) You who are servants, be good servants to your masters – not just to good masters, but also to bad ones. What counts is that you put up with it for God's sake when you are treated badly for no good reason. There is no particular virtue in accepting punishment that you well deserve. But if you are treated badly for good behavior and continue in spite of it to be a good servant, that is what counts with God. This is the kind of life you have been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. He

suffered everything that came His way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step. He never did one thing wrong. Not once said anything amiss. They called Him every name in the book and He said nothing back. He suffered in silence, content to let God set things right. He used His servant body to carry our sins to the Cross so we could be rid of sin, free to live the right way. His wounds became your healing. You were lost sheep with no idea who you were or where you were going. Now you are named and kept for good by the Shepherd of your soul.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 10:1-10 (The Good Shepherd)

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

The Gospel of the Lord

How are you a shepherd to those in your care? Today's Gospel, as told by John, invites us to notice and listen to the voice of the Shepherd who says, "My sheep hear my voice"; I am the Shepherd who calls my sheep by name and leads them out..... But, there is one condition for hearing the voice of this good and life-giving Shepherd. The word is SILENCE.... Silence is not merely the absence of noise. Silence is our capacity for depth and interiority. Silence takes us to the place where true encounter happens between us and the Shepherd who calls our souls out to green and verdant pastures. There is a poem by Harry Alfred Wiggett; he says: Silence is: sitting still – standing still – lying still – consciously, gratefully, gracefully, breathing.....

I hear in today's gospel an invitation to cultivate an attitude of silence. It does not take much; it could involve as little as retreating from the digital chaos that surrounds us – just for a few minutes at a time. It means trying to find our own Interior Castle where the confusion and chaos give way to the comforting voice of the Good Shepherd. Like the Good Shepherd, we bring gifts of life to renew our broken world. We come with our talents and gifts to nourish the community.

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 23, 2023

\$1,951.00

Diocesan Assessment as of 1/1/23

\$1,069.00

Message from Holy Father: Francis: it is necessary to remember that witness also includes professed faith, that is convinced and manifest adherence to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, who created us out of love, who redeemed us. A faith that transforms us, that transforms our relationships, the criteria and the values that determine our choices. Witness, therefore, cannot be separated from consistency between what one believes and what one proclaims, and what one lives. Every one of us is called to respond to three fundamental questions posed in this way by Paul VI: “Do you believe what you are proclaiming? Do you live what you believe? Do you preach what you live? Trusting fully in the action of the Holy Spirit who works in each of us, I offer my blessings to all of you.”