

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, August 14

Saint Maximillian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr

Tuesday, August 15

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy day of obligation

With God, nothing is lost! In Mary, the goal has been reached and we have before our eyes the reasons why we journey: not to gain the things here below, which are fleeting, but the homeland above, which is for ever.

—Pope Francis



WHY DO WE PRAY TO MARY?

Jesus listens to Our Blessed Mother: Mary, as the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, has a special place in our hearts. And we know that when she asks something, Jesus listens to her. Consider the wedding at Cana: “When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother said to the servers, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’” (John 2:3-5). We know the rest of the story, Jesus turns the water into wine. He does this at the request of his mother Mary.

Mary is the Queen: It is also important to understand a little history. During the time of King David and the later kings, the king’s mother held a very important position. She advised her son, the king, especially concerning the needs of the people. In fact, the title of queen did not belong to one of the king’s many wives. Instead, the king’s mother was the queen. And she was greatly honored. Consider how King Solomon treated Bathsheba, his mother: “Then Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah, and the king stood up to meet her and paid her homage. Then he sat down upon his throne, and a throne was provided for the king’s mother, who sat at his right” (1 Kings 2:19). She is advocating for one of Solomon’s brothers. Solomon stands up, bows to her, and sets up a throne for her. Mary, as the mother of our Lord, holds this position in our spiritual lives. We proclaim Jesus Christ as our king. According to Jewish tradition, this makes Mary, his mother, our queen. And just like the queens of the past, we believe she advocates for the needs of us, the people of God.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

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 offeratory and Diocesan Appeal to help ensure our parish and Diocese can be one of your partners in faith. Thank you!

DIOCESAN APPEAL

As you plan your budget, consider a pledge. Use your bank’s Bill Pay feature to set up automatic payments or use envelopes on the back table.



<https://thediocesanappeal.org/>

Holy Cross Parish

AUGUST 13, 2023

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 19:9a, 11–13a

Psalm 85

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:22–33

Discovering God in Life’s Quiet Moments

The first reading teaches us about the importance of sensing God’s presence amidst challenges. Elijah’s journey reflects our spiritual path. Sometimes life is tough, and we seek solace from God. God’s voice is gentle and subtle, not always grand or powerful. We must pay attention to God’s quiet presence. The noise of the world can drown it out. Like Elijah, let’s find moments of calm to listen.

God’s response to Elijah shows His love and understanding. He cares for us, even in dark times. Trust that God is close and loves us. The “still, small voice” is how God speaks to us. It may not be loud, but it guides and comforts us. In our faith journey, we may face doubt and fear. But remember to pray and meditate, turning to God for support. Be aware of God’s gentle presence in life.

Through prayer, reading Scripture, and the sacraments, we grow closer to Him. Trust that God guides us on our journey of faith.

Strengthening Faith Amid Storms

In the gospel, Jesus uses a stormy situation to strengthen the faith of his disciples. Despite being away, Jesus comes to their rescue, but they struggle to recognize him at first. When Jesus says, “Take courage. It is I,” he emphasizes his divine presence, but the disciples still seek proof. Peter, with wavering faith, asks to walk on water towards Jesus but starts to sink due to fear. Jesus reminds them to trust.

Finally, as the storm calms, the disciples recognize Jesus as the Son of God. This gospel encourages us to have unwavering faith in the face of life’s challenges, knowing that Jesus is always with us.

We are invited to examine our own faith journey. Like the disciples, we may face storms and challenges that test our faith, but Jesus reminds us to take courage, trust in Him, and step out in faith. Even when we falter, we can call out to Him, knowing that He is ever-present and ready to save us. Ultimately, by recognizing Jesus as the Son of God, we can find solace and strength, knowing that He walks with us through the storms of life, guiding us safely to the shores of His love and grace.

For Reflection

- ★ Have you ever experienced a challenging situation in your life where you sought comfort from God? How did you feel during that time, and how did you sense God’s presence?
- ★ What can we learn from Elijah’s journey about paying attention to God’s quiet presence amidst the noise of the world? How can we find moments of calm to listen to God?



Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street
PO Box 118
Morris NY 13808

holycrosschurch@gmail.com

MISSION

To care for the poor,
abandoned, and
the marginalized.

SCHEDULE

Mass: Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word: Tuesday, 10 a.m.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parish Leader

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Trustees

Michael Stensland (607) 783-2764
open (suggestions welcome)

Parish Council Chair

Kerry L. Mess (607) 386-1951

Liturgical Ministry

Marguerite Webster (607) 263-5478

Faith Formation

open — to start in autumn

Ministry to the Homebound

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098
Jenn Spivey (207) 539-5094



AUGUST 13, 2023

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Mass Intention

For the soul of Gloria Palladina, mother of Dolores Gilbert (requested by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rizzo)

If you would like to request an intention for a mass, simply call the office to schedule: (607) 263-5143.

Pray for

- ✠ the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends
- ✠ the sick and their caregivers and all that have asked for our prayers, especially Sr. Theresa Ahern, MSBT, Amy O'Brien, John O'Brien, Lynn Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Clara Murphy, Diane Neczesny, Maria Papendrea and her sister Camella, Karina Tabone, Joe and Carol Tyson, Lorraine Tyson, John Zaleski
- ✠ 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

Join us in community: Serve on the Holy Cross Parish Council.
holycrosschurch@gmail.com

Pope Francis's intention for August:

For World Youth Day in Lisbon inspiring young people to live the Gospel.

Engage in Living Community

- ✧ Email the parish to volunteer as: usher/greeter, lector, altar server or eucharistic minister, homebound minister, church cleaner/landscaper, counter, parish council member
- ✧ Butternut Valley Food Pantry, 166 Marion Avenue, Gilbertsville NY (607) 783-2267
Items needed: Canned dog & cat food, assorted soups, cup of noodles, top ramen, condiments, syrup, jam/jelly, chips, cake mixes
Please check expiration dates on food!
aluminum foil, laundry detergent, personal hygiene items
- ✧ The Lord's Table & Food Pantry, 305 Main Street, Oneonta NY (607) 432-1458
Donate items or call to volunteer (weekdays 4:30–6 p.m.)
Items needed: Peanut butter, juice, saltine crackers, rice (1 lb box or 2 lb bag), shampoo
- ✧ The Magic Closet, 158 East Main Street, Morris NY
Donate items or call to volunteer: (607) 263-5116 or (607) 263-5859.
Weds. & Sat., 10 a.m.–noon

ARE YOU CURIOUS? BEING CALLED?

RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults into the Catholic faith.

For more information, go to myrcia.org.

Holy Cross Parish RCIA Contact:

Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132

Upcoming Events

08/13: Mass and Coffee Hour

08/13: Dominican Retreat & Conference Center 75th Jubilee mass and reception, 2 p.m., St Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, Schenectady

08/14: Feast of the Assumption of Mary, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's

08/15: Feast of the Assumption of Mary, 9 a.m. *Holy day of obligation*

08/15: Feast of the Assumption of Mary, 12:10 p.m., St. Mary's

08/17: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

09/23: Diocesan Marriage Jubilee, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Albany, 4 p.m.

10/20–22: Eucharistic Congress; St. Mary's Oneonta bus, \$50/person; register by Sept. 7. (<https://nyseucharisticcongress.org>)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023

Mass Attendance: 41

Collection: \$2623.00

Holy Father Collection: \$141