

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, August 28

Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Tuesday, August 29

Passion of Saint John the Baptist

## Litany of St. John the Baptist

Lord have mercy...*Lord have mercy.*  
Christ have mercy...*Christ have mercy.*  
Hear our prayer...*hear our prayer.*

St. John the Baptist...*pray for us.*  
Prophet of the Most High...*pray for us.*  
Herald of God...*pray for us.*  
Forerunner of Jesus Christ...*pray for us.*

Messenger foretold...*pray for us.*  
Child born to the elderly...*pray for us.*  
Leaping in the womb...*pray for us.*  
Witness of the Lord...*pray for us.*

Great before God...*pray for us.*  
Greatest born of women...*pray for us.*  
Spirit filled man...*pray for us.*  
Speaker of the Good News...*pray for us.*

Voice crying out in the wilderness...*pray for us.*  
Living simply...*pray for us.*  
Focused on your mission...*pray for us.*  
Preparing the way...*pray for us.*

Baptizing and preaching...*pray for us.*  
Calling for repentance...*pray for us.*  
Recognizing Jesus...*pray for us.*  
Pointing to the Lamb of God...*pray for us.*

Speaker of the truth...*pray for us.*  
Witness against power...*pray for us.*  
Upholder of the law...*pray for us.*  
Martyr of God...*pray for us.*

We must decrease...*we must decrease.*  
Jesus must increase...*Jesus must increase.*

Lamb of God...*take away our sins.*  
Lamb of God...*grant us peace.*  
Hear our prayer...*hear our prayer.*

## LITANY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



The passion of St. John the Baptist is a memorial of his beheading. King Herod was fascinated by John. But when he threw a party and promised his daughter anything, she asked for the head of St. John the Baptist at the suggestion of her mother. Herod didn't want to go back on his word and embarrass himself so he had the cousin of Jesus executed.

A litany is a prayer which includes requests and repetition. A leader says the first part of a line, and everyone responds with *the second part*.

image and text from: <https://young-catholics.com/12719/litany-of-st-john-the-baptist/#htoc-1>

## 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 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 (Please change date to 23-24).

<https://thediocesanappeal.org/>



AUGUST 27, 2023

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, A

Isaiah 22:19-23

Psalms 138

Romans 11:33-36

Matthew 16:13-20

### Authority and Humility

In the first reading, the Lord speaks to Shebna, master of the palace, and Eliakim, the chosen servant. Shebna's pride and misuse of authority lead to his removal, and Eliakim is granted his position. The Lord symbolically clothes Eliakim with Shebna's robe and sash, transferring authority to him. Eliakim's humility is evident in his role. He becomes a father figure to Jerusalem's inhabitants and the house of Judah, representing guidance and care. The key placed upon his shoulder symbolizes his responsibility over the House of David, signifying his power to grant or deny access.

This reading teaches us about the balance between authority and humility. God rewards those who serve with humility and use their authority for the good of others. Like Eliakim, we should hold positions of honor while remaining grounded in humility, guiding and caring for others as entrusted by God.

### Marveling at God's Wisdom

In the second reading, St. Paul reflects on the unfathomable riches, wisdom, and knowledge of God. The depth of God's judgments and God's ways are beyond human comprehension. Paul reminds us of the humility required before God's immense wisdom: No one can fully understand God's mind or offer counsel to God. God's gifts are freely given; nothing we offer can obligate God.

"All things are from Him, through Him, and for Him." These words capture the essence of our existence in God's plan. Our purpose is to glorify God. Paul's message invites us to stand in awe of God's wisdom and to recognize our place in His grand design.

### Unveiling Our Understanding

In the Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Their responses show various perceptions of Jesus. But then He directs the question to them directly, "But who do you say that I am?" Who do I think Jesus is? A divine vending machine? I put in Mass time and prayers and get out heavenly rewards. An accountant? I need to make sure that on my life balance sheet my good deeds add up to more than my bad ones. A sponge? I tell him everything that is bothering me in life and let him absorb it. No response required. The list can go on and on.

Understanding Jesus is complex. Often, we might see Him as a sort of divine transactional figure, an all-forgiving ledger, or a silent listener. Yet, truly knowing Jesus is not solely in our control; it's a revelation. Just as Peter's understanding unfolded, our comprehension of Jesus comes over time, through experiences and prayer. Just when we feel we've grasped it, a new encounter can transform our understanding. Considering this reveals the evolving nature of our relationship with Jesus. It reminds us that while our perceptions of Him may change, the core of His love and purpose remains constant, waiting to be revealed to us as we journey through life.

Special collection today for Catholic Home Missions

### For Reflection

- ★ In the story of Shebna and Eliakim, how does Eliakim's humility contrast with Shebna's attitude? How can we ensure that our authority is guided by humility?
- ★ In St. Paul's reflection, why does he emphasize humility before God's knowledge? How do you personally approach the idea of standing in awe of God's wisdom and design?

# 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

### Parish Council Members

Dana Mochovciak, Carol Tyson, Marguerite Webster

### Liturgical Ministry

Marguerite Webster (607) 263-5478

### Faith Formation

Daphne Thompson

### Ministry to the Homebound

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



## AUGUST 27, 2023

### Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

### Mass Intention

An individual may request a mass be offered for a certain intention such as in thanksgiving or the intentions of/for another person. 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, especially William Goodier and Kenneth Tompkins
- ✘ the sick, their caregivers, and all who 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 sister Camella, Karina Tabone and (welcome to) new baby Matthew 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

## HOLY CROSS PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Faith Formation Leader Daphne Thompson will present her program on **Sunday, September 10.**

Classes will begin **Sunday, October 1.**

**Religious Education registration forms are in the back of church (on table).**

**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  
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.)  
Needed: Peanut butter, juice, rice (1 lb box, 2 lb bag), saltine crackers, 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

### WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS PARISH! ARE YOU CURIOUS? BEING CALLED? WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US.

RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults into the Catholic faith.  
For more information, go to [myrcia.org](http://myrcia.org).  
**Holy Cross Parish RCIA Contact:**  
Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 08/29: Liturgy of the Word

09/03: Fatima Devotion, St. Mary's, 3 p.m.

#### 09/10: Coffee hour after mass (in hall)

09/21: Consolation Group (grieving loss of a loved one, job, life situation, pet, freedom to travel or anything important in your life), St. Mary's, 10 a.m.

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

#### 09/24: Special collection (Catholic U.)

#### 10/01: Religious Ed program begins

10/20-22: Eucharistic Congress; St. Mary's Oneonta bus, \$50/person; register by 9/7. (<https://nyseucharisticcongress.org>)

### TOTUS, TOTUS, TOTUS (Everyone, everyone, everyone)

In this past week's edition of *The Evangelist*, Pope Francis challenged us to include and welcome everyone to the community. If you see someone new in church, please introduce yourself by name. It helps us get to know one another and create a vibrant parish community life. Thank you!

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023

Mass Attendance: 40

Collection: \$1,747.25

Diocesan Appeal: \$100.00