

Holy Cross Financial Report – June 2023

Total Income	Total Expenses	Debt Repayment	Net
47,008	47,112	3,000	-3,104

Income Breakdown 2022-2023

48772	Total Collections
1176	Special Collections (Rice Bowl, Eastern Churches, etc.)
588	Bishop's Appeal
410	Misc. Income
47008	Parish Income

Expense Breakdown and Comparison



The parish Income is up significantly from the prior year, allowing the parish to cover all our expenses and begin to pay off our debt to the diocese. In the coming year, the parish should be able to meet our expenses and pay down our debts to the diocese. During the FY 2021-2022, we were unable to pay our Insurance bill to the diocese, which is why our expenses in that category were significantly less than the 2022-2023 year.

Make a Gift to the 2023 – 2024 Diocesan Appeal (formerly Bishop's Appeal), July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Our Diocese has 126 parishes of varying need in a 14 county area all utilizing resources provided by the diocesan pastoral center.

***NOTE:** All special collections go directly to the diocese.

JULY 16, 2023
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Isaiah 55:10-11
 Psalm 65
 Romans 8:18-23
 Matthew 13:1-23

The Life-Giving Word

In the 1st Reading, the prophet Isaiah presents a beautiful analogy of rain and snow descending from heaven, nourishing the earth and enabling it to bear fruit. This imagery reminds us that just as water sustains and revitalizes the land, God's Word holds a profound purpose and effect in our lives. It is not a mere collection of empty words or futile ideas but carries the power to accomplish precisely what God intends. His Word has the extraordinary ability to breathe life into our beings, bringing about transformation and fulfillment in ways we could never fathom.

When we open ourselves to the Word of God, we allow it to permeate the depths of our being, to penetrate our hearts and minds. It becomes a guiding force. God's Word has the power to ignite change within us, helping us to shed our old ways and embrace the transformative journey of faith. It renews us, breathes new life into our spirits, and offers a compass to navigate the complexities of life. In the presence of God's Word, we find solace, wisdom, and strength to face challenges that come our way. It is a beacon of hope, inspiring us to persevere in relationship God.

Enduring Change for the Kingdom of God

Change is a challenging process, and in the 2nd reading, St. Paul describes it as the labor pains of a woman. The arrival of the Kingdom of God will not be a smooth or easy journey; it requires a birthing process of pain and struggle. Similarly, the Parable of the Sower illustrates this idea. Some seeds thrive and bear fruit while others do not. This parallels the mix of anticipation, joy, and sorrow that can accompany the potential for life. For those who have experienced loss, it can be difficult to trust in the emergence of new life. However, we must be willing to take risks and engage in the birthing process of the Kingdom of God.

Just as a woman perseveres through the pain of labor, we too must endure challenges and uncertainties that come with bringing forth the Kingdom of God in our lives and the world. It calls us to step out of our comfort zones, trust in God, and have faith in the possibility of new life and transformation. Even though we may encounter setbacks, we are encouraged to embrace the journey, knowing God's grace and presence will sustain us. Let us have the courage to take risks, endure pain, and persist in cultivating a world where God's love and justice can flourish.

Cultivating Receptive Hearts for God's Word

The gospel speaks to the different ways people receive and respond to the message of God. It challenges us to reflect on our own openness and receptivity to His Word. Are we like the hardened path, where the Word cannot penetrate our hearts because of indifference or distractions? Are we like the rocky ground, where we may initially embrace the Word with enthusiasm but lack the perseverance to endure challenges and trials? Are we like the thorny soil, where worldly concerns and desires choke the Word and prevent it from bearing fruit? Or are we like the good soil, where the Word takes root, flourishes, and yields a bountiful harvest?

Jesus invites us to consider the condition of our hearts and the disposition with which we approach God's Word. He challenges us to cultivate a spirit of openness, attentiveness, and receptivity to God's teachings. We are called to remove the hardness of our hearts, deepen our roots in faith, and detach ourselves from the distractions and entanglements of the world.

Adapted from: <https://young-catholics.com/2824/15th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-a/>

For Reflection

- ★ How can I cultivate a receptive heart to God's Word in my daily life?
- ★ Reflecting on the imagery of labor and birthing, what is a new idea or initiative that I feel called to bring forth into my social circle? Am I willing to embrace the challenges and potential pain that may accompany this process for the sake of the Kingdom of God?

Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street
PO Box 118
Morris NY 13808

holycrossrcchurch@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

JULY 16, 2023

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Mass Intention

An individual may request a Mass be offered for a certain intention, for example: in thanksgiving for the intentions of another person (such as someone who has died. 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 Diane Neczesny, Lynn Joy, Lorraine Tyson, Joe and Carol Tyson, Michelle Lee, Maria Pappendrea and her sister Camella, Sr. Theresa Ahern, MSBT, Teresa Meyers, Amy O'Brien, John O'Brien, Clara Murphy, 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

What do you dream for Holy Cross Parish? What would you like to see here? Let us know!
holycrossrcchurch@gmail.com

**Pope Francis's intention for July:
For a Eucharistic life and all our brothers and sisters.**

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

Upcoming Events

- 07/17–20: VBS, First Baptist Church Morris, 6–8:15 p.m.
- 07/18: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 07/20: St. Mary's Consolation Group, 10 a.m., rectory (3rd Thursday)
- 07/23: Anointing of the Sick mass, 2 p.m. Sacred Heart, Sidney
- 07/30: Special collection: Holy Father** (all special collections go directly to the diocese)
- 08/09: Otsego County Senior Picnic in the Park
- 08/12: **Altar Server Training, 10 a.m.–noon**
- 08/12: *Step Up Men's Conference (<https://www.rcda.org/StepUp>)
- 08/24: Fr. Chris on C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*, 6 p.m. Hartwick Seminary
- 10/20–22: *Eucharistic Congress (<https://nyseucharisticcongress.org>)
- *Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine, Auriesville

Collection for Sunday, July 9, 2023
\$2950.00