

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, April 23

Saint George, Martyr

Saint Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr

Wednesday, April 24

Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen,

Priest & Martyr

Thursday, April 25

Saint Mark, Evangelist

St. George, also known as George of Lydda, lived in the late 3rd and early 4th century in what is now modern-day Turkey. He was a Roman soldier and is remembered for his bravery and his unwavering faith in Jesus Christ.

During the time of St. George, the Roman Empire was ruled by Emperor Diocletian, notorious for his persecution of Christians. St. George openly declared his faith and was consequently sentenced to death. The emperor tried to convince him to renounce his beliefs and offer a sacrifice to pagan gods, but George refused even at the cost of his life. He was executed in the year 303.

St. George's story has been embellished with legends over the years, but the most famous one is of him slaying the dragon. The story goes that a beast, which may have been a large crocodile, terrorized a village by living near their water source. The locals would offer a sheep



to distract it while they collected their water, but one day they decided to sacrifice a young girl instead. St. George intervened and killed the beast, making the sign of the cross before attacking, trusting in the Lord to protect him.

St. George is venerated by both Christians and Muslims. In the Islamic tradition, he is regarded as a prophet and is known as Khidr. His feast day is April 23, which is celebrated by many countries and communities around the world. He is the patron saint of countries, including Georgia, England, and Ethiopia. He is the patron saint of Scouting and the military.

<https://young-catholics.com/8428/st-george/>

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

Pope Francis has challenged us to include and welcome everyone to the community, including those on the margins. 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!

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 offertory 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/>

CURRENT STATUS: \$2,969 / GOAL: \$5,000



APRIL 21, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter, B

Acts 4:8–12

Psalm 118

1 John 3:1–2

John 10:11–18

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

The 4th Sunday of Easter invites us to reflect on Jesus Christ's role as the Good Shepherd, a theme beautifully unveiled in the Gospel reading. This imagery is not just a metaphor but a deep revelation of Christ's sacrificial love and commitment towards us. Unlike a hired hand who might flee at the first sign of danger, Jesus stands firm, ready to lay down His life for His sheep. This act of ultimate sacrifice is a testament to the depth of His care and concern for us. It's a love that goes beyond duty or obligation. Jesus wants to be our shepherd, guiding us, protecting us, and leading us to pastures of eternal life.

In today's readings, we are invited to contemplate the nature of this sacrifice. It's a voluntary offering from Jesus, not coerced or done grudgingly but out of a boundless love for humanity. He emphasizes that He lays down His life willingly, with the power to take it up again. This authority and voluntary sacrifice underline the divine mission and the profound love Jesus has for us, highlighting His unique role in God's salvific plan.

Peter's sermon in the Acts of the Apostles occurs in a context where he's been arrested for his acts of healing and preaching the Good News. His response to the accusations is a powerful testimony to the source of his power and authority: Jesus Christ. Peter boldly declares that the healing of the crippled man and all his works are not of his doing but through the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. This confession is a stark reminder that Christ is the cornerstone of our faith and salvation, a stone that was rejected by the builders but has become the foundation of our redemption.

Peter's message emphasizes that recognition of Christ's role and power is essential for understanding the works of the faithful in the world. It's a call to recognize Jesus as the source of salvation and the fulcrum around which our faith revolves. This recognition is what the world often misses, as it did not know Him, a theme echoed in the second reading.

The second reading from the 1st Letter of John delves into our identity as children of God, loved deeply by the Father. This realization of our divine filiation is a source of hope and strength, assuring us of our value in God's eyes. The world may not recognize this identity because it did not know Him, but this does not diminish the truth of our belonging to God and being the recipients of His immense love.

This identity is not just for contemplation but calls us to mission. As children of God, we are called to live out this identity in the world, bearing witness to the love and sacrifice of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Our mission involves bringing others into this one flock, echoing Jesus' call for unity and inclusivity. It's a mission that requires us to recognize Jesus in our midst, follow His example of sacrifice and love, and invite others to experience the salvation He offers.

<https://young-catholics.com/3223/4th-sunday-of-easter-year-b/>

For Reflection

- ★ Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." How do you listen for the voice of Jesus in your life? What helps you distinguish His voice from others?
- ★ How does knowing that you are a beloved child of God influence your self-perception and your interactions with others??

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

Richard Meyers (607) 263-5588

Parish Pastoral Council Chair

Kerry L. Mess (607) 386-1951

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Dana Mochovciak, Jenna Turner, Carol Tyson, Marguerite Webster

Liturgical Ministry

Marguerite Webster (607) 263-5478

Faith Formation

Daphne Thompson (607) 263-2410

Ministry to the Homebound

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Jenn Spivey (207) 539-5094

APRIL 21, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Lector: Annette Hammond

Lector: Carol Tyson

Mass Intention

For the soul of Father Paul Tartaglia

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, their caregivers, and all who have asked for our prayers, especially Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Amy O'Brien, John O'Brien, Jo Franklin, Tony Giambra, Aggi Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Rebecca Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Rich Morley, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, Maria Papendrea, Tom Rizzo, Joe and Carol 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

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS PARISH! 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

Pope Francis's April intention: For the role of women, may the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture.

Engage in Living Community

EARTH FEST — Saturday, April 20

Come to Milford Central School to learn about environmental issues: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

BOTTLE/CAN COLLECTION — April 20–21

Put nickel refundable in NY bottles and cans in the recyclable container in front of St. Mary's garage, 9 a.m.–after mass each day

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE — April 23

The Red Cross has an emergency blood shortage, having lost 40% of its donors. To help, consider making a donation. Sidney Elks Lodge (104 River Street), Tuesday, April 23: 1–6 p.m.

CANDID CONVERSATIONS — April 22–26

Join St. Mary's Oneonta in a series of guest speakers during the Easter season. Watch the bulletin for more information.

DRIVE THROUGH RECYCLING — April 27

Engage in spring cleaning: Recycle Christmas lights, shredding, printer cartridges and toner, tooth care (all brands), eyeglasses
Brewery Ommegang; contact ocainfo.org to sign up for a drop off time

☼ Butternut Valley Food Pantry
166 Marion Avenue, Gilbertsville NY
(607) 783-2267

☼ The Lord's Table & Food Pantry
305 Main Street, Oneonta NY
(607) 432-1458

☼ The Magic Closet
158 East Main Street, Morris NY
(607) 263-5116 or (607) 263-5859

Upcoming Events

04/21: Rosary after mass

04/28: Women's Retreat after mass
(contact Maureen Joy if you plan to attend)

04/30: Liturgy of the Word

05/05: Anthony Tabone First Communion
Crowning of Mary after Mass

05/07: Liturgy of the Word

05/08: Vigil mass for Ascension Thursday, St. Mary's Oneonta

05/09: Ascension Mass, 9 a.m.

05/12: Coffee Hour after mass

05/14: Liturgy of the Word

05/19: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Catholic Charities
Rosary after mass

ST. MARY'S HOLY SEWS — April 25

Holy Sews makes layettes for families who lose their baby in the 2nd trimester: Cut ribbons for tunics and wraps, tie ribbons on bears, add ribbons to memory cards etc. Sew kits at home. To join the chapter, call Sallyann Lammanna (607-432-5125) or holysewsoneonta@yahoo.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

Mass Attendance: 51

Collection: \$780.65