

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, August 6

Transfiguration of the Lord

Thursday, August 8

Saint Dominic, Priest

Saturday, August 10

Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

TRANSFIGURATION: A mountaintop encounter with Jesus and his apostles holds valuable lessons for all followers of Christ. (Joel Schorn)

All three synoptic gospels tell the story of the transfiguration of Jesus (Matt. 17:1-13; Mark 9:3-13; Luke 9:28-36)—frequently a sign of the importance of an event from Jesus’ life for the early Christian community. Its origin is debated. Some scholars say the transfiguration episode is really an account of Jesus’ resurrection which was moved to a different part of the gospels. Others think it has its roots in an actual visionary event of some kind.

Wherever it came from, the transfiguration is a highly symbolic story. Jesus took his inner circle of apostles—Peter, James, and John—up a mountain, which in the Bible is a place of revelation, so it was clear something important was about to happen.

These three apostles then saw Jesus as part of another important trio, completed with Moses and Elijah, symbols of Israelite tradition. As if that weren’t spectacular enough, the voice of God itself made an appearance, uttering two thundering phrases: “This is my Son” and “Listen to him.”

Unfortunately, none of the apostles’ reactions showed that they understood what had just happened. First of all, they were half-asleep when the whole thing started—not the last time that would happen at a key moment. They were also terrified to the point of talking nonsense about

BUILDING COMMUNITY: The Parish Pastoral Council has begun a planning process for realizing our vision (top of front page) and mission (inside left panel). **The next Council meeting is Sunday, September 8, after mass. Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend and participate!**

building shelters for the holy figures. Then on the way down they started an off-topic debate about the resurrection and Elijah.

What the apostles didn’t grasp right away was the significance of the fact that Moses and Elijah were “talking with” Jesus. This sacred conversation identified Jesus with the law and the prophets. It showed how Jesus had the same authority as these two pillars of Israel’s tradition and how that authority came from the same God. To leave no doubt, God’s voice drove home the point with words heard at an earlier affirmation of Jesus’ status, his baptism: “This is my son, the beloved” (Matt. 3:17).

What the apostles also didn’t get at first was that they couldn’t stay on the mountain. One can sympathize with their desire for such a wondrous break from the difficult path of discipleship. Down the mountain and back to that task, however, they had to go.

The Gospel of Luke adds a delicious detail: Moses and Elijah had been speaking with Jesus “of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.” His exodus? That loaded word points back to the sometimes arduous journey of following Jesus, and that’s what the transfiguration is about. It’s wonderful to find inspiration in a shining vision of Jesus, but the message to the church then and now is that witnessing glory is one thing, following is another. After the vision is over, you look up and see, as the apostles did, “Jesus only,” and you realize that, to get to the further glory of eternal life, you have to follow him to the cross.

<https://uscatholic.org/articles/201308/what-is-the-transfiguration/>



A welcoming, vibrant community committed to growing in and sharing the love of Jesus

AUGUST 4, 2024

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, B

Exodus 16:2–4, 12–15

Psalm 78

Ephesians 4:17, 20–24

John 6:24–35

MANNA FROM HEAVEN: A LESSON IN BEGINNER’S MIND

The compulsion to repeat the past is apparent in the biblical myth of the Exodus. When Moses led the Israelites to freedom, they often yearned to return to Egypt. Though they were miraculously provided for throughout their forty years of wandering in the desert, the Israelites were often nostalgic for the “good old (bad) days” in Egypt: “We remember the fish we ate free in Mitzrayim—also the cucumber, melons, leeks, onions and garlic” (Numbers 11:5)... Somehow, the miracle of the manna that fell from heaven each day in the wilderness did not satisfy the Israelites’ hunger for security. They missed the predictability and sense of control they felt in Egypt—where everything was known. Though in actuality they were oppressed and enslaved by the Egyptians, the Israelites looked back on their time in Egypt with nostalgia because they could not bear the uncertainty they faced as a free people. Freedom is, ultimately, uncertain and unpredictable. One of the first lessons we all must learn in order to be free is how to “bear” uncertainty and trust in the unknown. In the biblical myth of the Exodus, the manna was a vehicle for learning this lesson. Each day for forty years, the Israelites would have to go out and gather their daily supply of manna—just enough for that day.... The manna provided the necessary preparation for becoming a free people, for freedom requires an ability to bear uncertainty, to not know what is going to happen next, and to trust in the unfolding journey.... To go forward, the Israelites also needed to exercise curiosity—to take in and explore new experiences, to practice beginner’s mind. The manna became a vehicle for this learning....

The manna challenged the Israelites to develop beginner’s mind—to experience something new and fresh while eating the very same thing each day. Instead of seeking the answers that might put their questions to rest, the manna taught the Israelites to continually live the questions, to understand that the journey to freedom is about remaining awake and curious and not going into sleep mode.

It’s not just food that requires this attitude. Beginner’s mind is a way of life. Each day we are challenged to see the same familiar people and landscapes with new eyes. Just as the cosmos is created and sustained anew each moment, everything is alive and changing, ourselves included, if we are spiritually awake and paying attention. The manna teaches us that “[humans] do not live on bread alone,” on the physical dimension of reality, “but by every word that issues forth from the divine utterance” (Deuteronomy 8:3). When we see existence as alive with possibility, we come out of Egypt, our personal places of bondage and constriction.

For Reflection

- ★ In what ways can you trust God more fully?
- ★ What old ways do you need to discard to renew your mind and heart?

<https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-zhihthk-tdduxulkd-f/>

Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street, PO Box 118
Morris NY 13808

<https://parishes.rcda.org/holycross/>
Our bulletin and Pastoral Council minutes are posted on our website. Council minutes are under Ministries & Committees. If you have a notice for the bulletin, please email: holycross-rcchurch@gmail.com by Wednesday, 7 p.m.

MISSION

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



SCHEDULE

Mass: Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

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

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastoral Associate (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

RCIA Contact

Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132

AUGUST 4, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Lector: Kerry L. Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Carole Barry,
Diane Turner, Carol Tyson

Mass Intention

For the soul of Marion Barnette

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, Kathleen Barry, Amy O'Brien, Diane DeDominicus, John O'Brien, Jo Franklin, Tony Giambra, Agnes Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Rebecca Joy, Michelle Lee, Valerie McCann, Teresa Meyers, Rich Morley, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, Maria Papendrea, 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

TOTUS, TOTUS, TOTUS

(Everyone, everyone, everyone)

WHOM HAVE YOU WELCOMED TODAY?

IS THERE SOMEONE YOU CAN INVITE?

Pope Francis's August intention: May political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for the common good and caring for those in need.

Engage in Living Community

The National Eucharistic Congress began Wednesday, July 17. This amazing event offers us a great opportunity to reflect on the Eucharist and our relationship with Jesus Christ. You can find out more about the Revival and Congress, including a livestream of the events in at the Congress, at the following link: <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>



HAVE HELP TO OFFER? NEED ASSISTANCE?

- ☼ **Butternut Valley Food Pantry**
166 Marion Avenue, Gilbertsville NY
(607) 783-2267
Thurs., 3-5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- ☼ **The Lord's Table & Food Pantry**
305 Main Street, Oneonta NY
(607) 432-1458
Mon./Weds./Fri., 4-5:30 p.m.
- ☼ **The Magic Closet**
158 East Main Street, Morris NY
(607) 263-5116 or (607) 263-5859
Weds./Sat. 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024

Mass Attendance: 68

Collection: \$953.50

Special Collection: \$273.00

Upcoming Events

- 08/05: Matt Grainger Acoustic, 5:30-7 p.m., Pathfinder Village Pavillion, Edmeston, free!
- 08/08: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
Woodshed Prophets, 6:30-8 p.m., Community House Lawn, Unadilla, free!
- 08/10: Step Up Men's Retreat, 8:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. Edward the Confessor, Clifton Park; to register, go to <https://www.rcda.org/StepUp>
- 08/11: Coffee Hour after mass**
- 08/12: Crushing Midnight Duo, 5:30-7 p.m., Pathfinder Village Pavillion, Edmeston, free!
- 08/14: Assumption Vigil mass, Mount Calvary Cemetery Oneonta, 6:30 p.m.
- 08/15: Assumption mass, 9 a.m.**
Consolation Group, St. Mary's Oneonta rectory, 10 a.m.
Assumption mass, St. Mary's Oneonta, 12:10 p.m.
Off the Record, 6:30-8 p.m., Community House Lawn, Unadilla, free!
- 08/18: Rosary after mass**
- 08/19: Small Town Big Band, 5:30-7 p.m., Pathfinder Village Pavillion, Edmeston, free!
- 08/22: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
Realtme Dixieland Band, 6:30-8 p.m., Community House Lawn, Unadilla, free!
- 08/25: SPECIAL COLLECTION - Catholic Home Missions**
- 08/29: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
Barnyard Saints, 6:30-8 p.m., Community House Lawn, Unadilla, free!

FREE LUNCH MEALS for adults (18 & up):
Monday, Wednesday, Friday,
11-11:30 a.m.
Nehawa Park