

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, February 5

Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Tuesday, February 6

Saint Paul Miki and Companions,  
Martyrs

Saturday, February 10

Saint Scholastica, Virgin

St. Agatha is a patroness against breast cancer and natural disasters. Born in Sicily, Italy, her early life was marked by her deep devotion to God. Embracing Christianity, she made a spiritual promise to remain a virgin, dedicating her life to serving the Lord. St. Agatha's story is one of trials and persecution. She faced immense suffering and torture for her refusal to abandon her Christian beliefs. Despite the hardships she endured, she remained steadfast in her faith, inspiring countless others with her unwavering devotion to God. Her unwavering commitment to her faith and her refusal to renounce it is a testament to her strength and courage. Her martyrdom serves as a powerful example of the sacrifices made by early Christians for their faith. St. Agatha's story continues to resonate with believers today, reminding us of the importance of standing firm in our convictions, even in the face of adversity.

<https://young-catholics.com/7393/st-agatha/>

## 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!

## BISHOP ROBERT BARRON REFLECTION

In this past Thursday's Gospel, Jesus sends the Twelve on their mission to announce the nearness of the kingdom.

What do you need for your mission? You need a keen sense of God as the absolute center of your life. In a word, you require the spiritual gifts of piety and fear of the Lord. I realize that these terms can sound fussy and puritanical, but they are actually naming something strong and essential.

You need fear of the Lord, which does not mean that you are afraid of God. It means that nothing to you is more important than God, that everything in your life centers around and is subordinate to your love for God. And your equipping needs to include piety. That means that you honor God above everything else, that you worship him alone. These spiritual gifts enable you to find true balance; they allow you to know what your life is about.

Equipped with these gifts, you are ready for mission. Having received the fire of the Holy Spirit, you are ready to set the world on fire.

from <https://www.wordonfire.org/reflections/b-ordinary-wk4-thursday/>

## AARP FREE SENIOR TAX PREP

Volunteers will be at Elm Park Church (401 Chestnut St., Oneonta) in February to assist eligible residents with tax returns. For an appointment, call (607) 376-5542.

## 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: \$1,969 / GOAL: \$5,000**





**FEBRUARY 4, 2024**  
*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, B*  
Job 7:1-4, 6-7  
Psalm 147  
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22  
-23  
Mark 1:29-39

## THE POWER OF PRAYER AND SOLITUDE

Today's Gospel reveals Jesus's deep commitment to prayer and solitude. After the healing of Simon's mother-in-law, Jesus retreats to a solitary place for prayer, emphasizing the importance of connecting with the Father. This aspect of Jesus's life is a vital lesson for believers, highlighting the need for moments of quiet and personal communion with God. In our busy lives, finding time for solitude and prayer can be challenging, yet it is essential for spiritual growth and discernment. This Sunday, we are reminded of the power and necessity of prayer in our Christian journey. It is in these moments of solitude that we can recharge, gain clarity, and align our actions with God's will. Jesus's example shows us that effective ministry and service are rooted in a solid foundation of prayer and relationship with God.

## RESTORATION

The theme of restoration is central to Jesus's ministry, as showcased in today's readings. The physical healings Jesus performs are outward signs of a deeper spiritual restoration. In a world marred by sin and brokenness, Jesus's actions symbolize the dawn of a new kingdom where oppression, illness, and death are overcome by life, wholeness, and hope.

This concept of restoration is not confined to Jesus's time but extends to our present reality. As followers of Christ, we are called to participate in this restorative mission. Like the disciples, we are invited to witness Jesus's life and teachings and to carry the message of hope and healing to the world. St. Paul's teachings in the second reading for today echo this call, urging us to be agents of God's renewing power in our communities and beyond.

Special thanks to those who gave Fr. Chris rides from and back to St. Mary's:

Harold and Vicky Gardner

Ken Geer

Kerry L. Mess

Larry and Andrew Turner

**CELEBRATE SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**  
Next week, we will have a collection for the Butternut Valley Food Pantry. Please care by sharing what you can for those in need.

## For Reflection

- ★ What steps can we take to become more active participants in Christ's mission of restoration in our current context?
- ★ In what ways can we embody the message of hope and healing in our own communities, following Jesus' example?

Our role in God's restorative plan involves not just sharing the Good News but also embodying it through acts of love, mercy, and compassion. By doing so, we participate in the ongoing work of Christ, bringing light to places of darkness and offering hope where there is despair.

<https://young-catholics.com/3135/5th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-b/>

# 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

## FEBRUARY 4, 2024

### **Celebrant**

Rev. Chris Welch

**Lector:** Kerry L. Mess

**Eucharistic Minister:** Carole Barry

### **Mass Intention**

**For all caregivers in our parish**

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, Tom DeLaurentiis, Amy O'Brien, John O'Brien, Jo Franklin, Aggi Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Clara Murphy, Diane Nczesny, Joe and Carol Tyson, Lorraine Tyson, Fr. Chris Welch, 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](http://myrcia.org).

**Holy Cross Parish RCIA Contact:**

Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132

**Pope Francis's February intention: For the terminally ill, may they and their families receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.**

## Engage in Living Community

### **Keeping Our Community Warm One Brick At A Time**

Catholic Charities is conducting a fundraising campaign to help individuals and families who need help with heat and utility costs. It is selling bricks (\$25 each) for a fireplace, to be displayed in front windows of Catholic Charities, Main Street, Oneonta. To sponsor and purchase a paper brick, come to a Catholic Charities office (Cobleskill, Oneonta, or Sidney), Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 1:30–4:00 p.m. or Thursday, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 1:30–6:30 p.m. You can mail a check to: Catholic Charities, 176 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820. All money raised will be used in your local community to help keep children, seniors, and adults warm this winter.



Lent is traditionally when Christians take the opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God and renew our faith. Imagine it as spring cleaning: We throw open the windows to let the fresh air of springtime in. Dan Schutte has created a virtual Lenten retreat to use at your own pace and on your own time. Each of 21 videos includes an inspirational reflection and music to enrich your prayer. Access lasts from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. Registration also includes a downloadable retreat workbook/journal to help you reflect on your experience and offer you a place to keep notes. Registration fee \$100 per person. <https://www.danschutte-music.com/lenten-retreat-2024/>

### Upcoming Events

**02/05: St. Blaise Blessing of the Throats**

**02/06: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.  
Bible study after**

**02/11: Butternut Food Pantry Souper  
Bowl Sharing & Caring Collection  
Coffee Hour after mass  
Lenten Meal planning meeting, parish hall  
Children's Lenten preparation**

**02/13: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.  
Bible study after**

**02/14: Ash Wednesday, communion  
service, ashes distribution, 6:30 p.m.**

**02/18: SPECIAL COLLECTION – Black,  
Native American & Latin American  
Mission**

**02/20: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.  
Bible study after**

**02/21: Charismatic Healing Liturgy,  
Christ Our Light RC Church, Loudenville, NY, 7:30 p.m. (see also [albanyccr.org](http://albanyccr.org))**

**02/27: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.  
Bible study after**

**03/03: Parish Pastoral Council meeting, rectory after mass**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024**

**Mass Attendance: 42**

**Collection: \$853.00**