

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, January 17
Saint Anthony, Abbot

A SAINT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

St. Anthony the Abbot was a hermit-saint in the fourth century who died in the deserts of Egypt. (Not to be confused with St. Anthony of Padua, a Franciscan saint of the thirteenth century.) Legend has it that during his periods of prayer and fasting in the desert, his only companions were the animals. An integral part of St. Anthony's feast day is the blessing of domestic animals. Falling as it does in mid-January, the Feast of St. Anthony is a propitious time for regeneration of the cosmos. The blessing of domestic animals on this feast day was considered auspicious, keeping away harmful forces from the home and land, bringing fertility and fecundity.

Blessings of Farm Animals from *Rural Life Prayerbook*

PREFACE

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who has made heaven and earth.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A BLESSING FOR ALL DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Preface. Let us pray: Lord God, You are King of heaven and earth. You are the Word of the Father, and through You He has given us all created things for our support. We beg You now to consider our lowly position. Just as You have given us help in our labors and needs, so, in Your most kind mercy, bless these cattle and beasts of burden with a heavenly blessing, and guard and preserve them.

Be so kind, too, as to give us, Your servants, along with benefits that do not last, Your unfailing grace, so that we may gratefully praise and glorify Your holy name, who live and are King and God with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **R. Amen.** (Sprinkle animals with holy water.)

A BLESSING FOR HORSES AND OTHER ANIMALS

Preface. Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, You tried the glorious Saint Anthony (the Hermit) with various temptations, and allowed him to pass unharmed through the storms of this world. Grant to Your servants that we may profit by his splendid example, and by his merits and intercession be freed from the dangers of this

present life, through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

May these animals, Lord, receive Your blessing. Keep them sound in body, and through the intercession of Saint Anthony (the Hermit) may they be freed from every evil, through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.** (Sprinkle animals with holy water.)

BLESSING OF POULTRY

Preface. Let us pray: O God, creator of all nature, among other various types of creatures You were so kind as also to produce birds from the waters (Gen. 1:20) for the use of mankind. Of these Noah, when he came out of the ark, offered You a pleasing holocaust. And when You had led Your people out of Egypt by Moses, Your servant, You divided the clean from the unclean, and commanded that they should eat of them. We humbly beg of You to bless and sanctify the meat of these clean birds so that those who partake of it may be filled with Your abundant blessing and merit to be brought to the pastures of eternal life through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.** (Sprinkle poultry with holy water.)

A BLESSING OF BEES

Preface. Let us pray: Lord God almighty, You have created heaven and earth, and all the animals existing on the earth and in the earth and the air, that men might make use of them. You have also directed that the priests of Your holy Church should in the House of God light candles made of the work of bees while that sacred ministry is being performed in which the most holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son, becomes present and is consumed.

May Your blessing come down upon these bees and these beehives. May they multiply and be fruitful and be preserved from all evils, so that the product which comes from them may be used to praise You, Your Son, and the Holy Spirit, and the most blessed Virgin Mary, through the same Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.** (Sprinkle hives with holy water.)

BLESSING OF SALT OR FEED FOR ANIMALS

Preface. Let us pray: Lord God, creator and preserver of all things, in Your hand rests the life of every living being and the spirit of all flesh. We pray You, hear and answer the prayers of Your faithful ones. Pour out Your blessing upon this salt (or feed) which You have made, and give it the strength of Your unseen power. May then, the animals which You have been so kind as to give us for our human needs, when they have tasted of this, be made free from every sickness and by Your protection be kept from the attacks of the evil spirit, through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.** (Sprinkle with holy water.)

<https://catholicrurallife.org/jan-17-feast-of-st-anthony-the-abbot-and-blessings-of-domestic-animals/>



JANUARY 14, 2024

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, B

1 Samuel 3:3b–10, 19

Psalms 40

1 Corinthians 6:13c–15a,

17–20

John 1:35–42

A LISTENING HEART

This Sunday centers on the theme of recognizing and answering God's summons. In the first reading, the young prophet Samuel perceives God's beckoning during his slumber. Upon waking, he acknowledges, "I'm listening." This serves as a divine awakening. Samuel's readiness to heed God's call sets an example for us today. In our daily lives, we might not encounter such direct divine communication, yet we're often faced with opportunities to listen and respond to God's guidance. Just as Samuel displayed attentiveness, we can cultivate an open heart to God's nudges.

This reading invites us to reflect on how we engage with God's invitations in our routines. Our response doesn't have to be grand or complex; simply acknowledging and seeking to understand God's will can set us on a meaningful path. This story isn't about flashy revelations but about the willingness to be receptive to God's messages.

In our modern world, noise and distractions can cloud our ability to hear God's call. Samuel's story reminds us to create moments of stillness, even in our busy lives, to discern God's voice. As we contemplate this narrative, let's consider how

we can adopt Samuel's attitude of attentiveness, responding with a humble "I'm listening" whenever God reaches out to us.

EMBRACING PURPOSE

Paul's message in the second reading is clear: our bodies aren't meant for immortality, but for honoring the Lord. This concept might seem pushy to some in the West. Paul asserts that just as God raised Jesus, that same power will raise us too. The idea is that we're not separate from God; our bodies are members of Christ when we're joined with the Lord. Immortality is cautioned against as it's a sin against our own bodies. Our bodies, Paul reminds, are temples of the Holy Spirit given by God.

It's a reality check: We're not our own masters. We've been bought with a price—a divine one. So, our lives should glorify God. This stance isn't about rigid labels; it recognizes that God's mystery is intertwined with our history. Christianity isn't just about rules; it's about finding divine meaning in our everyday lives. God's involvement in humanity adds purpose to our journey. The message isn't overly sentimental; it's about acknowledging the significance of our existence.

Adapted from <https://young-catholics.com/3114/2nd-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-b/>

For Reflection

- ★ How does Samuel's readiness to respond to God's call set an example for us?
- ★ In what ways can we cultivate an open heart to God's guidance in our daily lives??

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

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

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

JANUARY 14, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Lector: Becky Barringer

Eucharistic Minister: Carol Tyson

Mass Intention

For Jack O'Rourke, the father of Reverend Father Jim O'Rourke

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, Aggi Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Clara Murphy, Diane Neczesny, 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

Pope Francis's January intention: For the gift of diversity, may we recognize different charisms in the community and discover richness in our traditions.

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.

Office for Discipleship Formation
invites you to join us for a presentation by
Fr. Richard Fragomeni
- a virtual reflection on
**the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul:
Christ's Call to Paul and Us.**
registration via QR
or call 518-453-6670
January 25, 2024
[3 - 4:30 pm via zoom webinar]

Upcoming Events

01/14: Religious Education

01/16: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
Bible study after

01/17: Holy Hour, led by Deacon Paul
Cerosaletti, 7 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

01/21: **Service for Christian Unity**
Sunday, January 21, 3 p.m. (See below.)

01/23: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
Bible study after

01/25: Christ's Call to Paul and Us. See lower left information box.

01/28: **Parish Pastoral Council meeting in rectory** [NOTE: This is a change from 01/14.]

CELEBRATE CHRISTIAN UNITY

We host the Service for Christian Unity, **JANUARY 21 AT 3 P.M.**

We need:

- 2 collection ushers (food pantry)
- Refreshments after the service
- Your presence and participation!

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/>

SUNDAY, JANUARY 07, 2024

SNOW DAY

Mass Attendance: 7

Collection: (including in 01/14 count)