

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 22

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Children

Wednesday, January 24

Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Thursday, January 25

Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

Friday, January 26

Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Don't sow your desires in someone else's garden; just cultivate your own as best you can; don't long to be other than what you are, but desire to be thoroughly what you are. Direct your thoughts to being very good at that and to bearing the crosses, little or great, that you will find there. Believe me, this is the most important and least understood point to the spiritual life. We all love according to what is our taste; few people like what is according to their duty or to God's liking. What is the use of building castles in Spain when we have to live in France?

—Saint Francis de Sales

THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL serves as a powerful reminder of the transforming power of encountering Christ and the call to share the Gospel with others. Paul's journey from a zealous persecutor of Christians to one of the most influential figures in the early Christian church is a testament to the power of God's grace and potential for redemption in every individual.

Paul's conversion can be a source of inspiration and encouragement in our own spiritual lives. It reminds us no one is beyond redemption and even the most unlikely individuals can become instruments of God's love and mercy. Paul's story challenges us to examine our own lives and consider how we can respond to God's call to transformation and service.

In our own spiritual journeys, we can find inspiration in Paul's unwavering dedication and commitment to spreading the message of Christ. His example of perseverance in the face of challenges encourages us to remain steadfast in our faith and mission. We can draw strength from his writings, which continue to provide guidance and insight into the Christian faith.

As we reflect on Saint Paul's conversion, let us remember the power of God's grace to transform lives and embrace the call to share the Gospel with others and live out our faith in service to those around us. May we find inspiration in Paul's journey and strive to follow in his footsteps, seeking to be instruments of God's love and mercy in the world today.

<https://young-catholics.com/741/the-conversion-of-saint-paul/>

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/>



Holy Cross Parish

JANUARY 21, 2024
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, B
Jonah 3:1–5, 10
Psalm 25
1 Corinthians 7:29–31
Mark 1:14–20

In last week's Gospel, Jesus invited a couple of disciples to come see where he was staying. This command of Jesus is a bit like an initiation ritual. In order to prepare themselves for a lifetime of discipleship, his followers must first pass through an intensive period of spiritual formation, much like a novitiate in a monastery or training camp in football or boot camp in the army. During this concentrated time, they were to learn, in their bones, the essentials of this new way of life. So the disciples learn a new way of radical dependency upon God.

Now what does all of this have to do with us? You say, "I'm a fifty-year-old man with a wife and kids and job and responsibility; I can't very well go drifting off in a boat, trusting in the providence of God."

True enough, but you can, for instance, go on a retreat every year; spend a week once a year at a monastery or a retreat center, living the spiritual life intensely; live Lent more severely and more radically this year, perhaps undertaking a difficult fast or giving alms until it hurts. These are things that any of us can do.

In today's Gospel, Jesus' call to become "fishers of men" is not just an invitation to discipleship but a radical reorientation of life's purpose. For the disciples, it meant abandoning their careers and family ties to embark on an uncertain journey. For us, it might mean different sacrifices or changes—perhaps a change in lifestyle, priorities, or attitudes. The call to follow Jesus is both personal and transforming, demanding a response that is as immediate and decisive as that of the first disciples.

Today's Gospel also speaks to us about the nature of Christian vocation. Each call is unique and tailored to the individual's life and circumstances. The immediacy of the disciples' response underscores the urgency and relevance of the Gospel in our lives. It invites us to discern how Jesus is calling us in our current situations and to respond with openness and trust.

Taken from: <https://www.wordonfire.org/reflections/b-ordinary-wk2-sunday/>, <https://young-catholics.com/3119/3rd-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-b/>

For Reflection

- ★ Reflecting on the immediacy of the disciples' response to Jesus, how can I be more responsive to God's call in my daily life, and what might be holding me back from fully embracing the Gospel message?

CELEBRATE CHRISTIAN UNITY
We host the Service for Christian Unity TODAY AT 3 P.M.

Come meet your neighbors in Christ. We invite and welcome your presence and participation.

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

JANUARY 21, 2024

Liturgical Leaders

Deacon: Paul Cerosaletti

Mel Sperti

Lector: Annette Hammond

Eucharistic Minister: Carol Tyson

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, 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 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

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 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.

JANUARY 22, 2024: DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

Pope Francis has said respect for life is not just about the unborn child in the womb, but also about the least of our brothers and sisters. Yes, it is even upon the undocumented resident alien who has no voice but ours. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are all called to protect the voiceless.

LET US PRAY... Good and gracious God, you blew into our nostrils the breath of life. You are the One to whom we owe our very existence. Give us the courage to take that unpopular position of protecting those who have no voice, the unborn child in the womb to the person taking his or her last breath. The life you have given us is a gift beyond measure. Embolden us to speak the truth about protecting the child, the elderly, and the one without a voice in the public square. With thankful hearts, we ask all this of the One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Upcoming Events

01/21: Service for Christian Unity Sunday, January 21, 3 p.m.

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

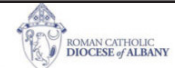
01/25: Christ's Call to Paul and Us. See lower left information box.

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

01/30: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m. Bible study after
Taizé prayer, 7 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

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.



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]



SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

Mass Attendance: 45

Collection: \$1,685.00