

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, August 4

Saint John Vianney, Priest

Tuesday, August 5

The Dedication of the Basilica of  
Saint Mary Major

Wednesday, August 6

The Transfiguration of the Lord

Thursday, August 7

Saint Sixtus II, Pope and Com-  
panions, Martyrs; Saing Cajetan,  
Priest

Friday, August 8

Saint Dominic, Priest

Saturday, August 9

Saint Teresa Benedicta of the  
Cross, Virgin and Martyr

The **Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major (Our Lady of the Snows)** is one of the oldest and most important shrines in the world dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, built at her request. According to tradition, a Roman Patrician, Giovanni and his wife, were childless and prayed to the Blessed Mother that she would designate an heir for them to bequeath their wealth. They had a vision in which the Blessed Mother told them that she wished to have a church built in her honor on the Esquiline Hill and the sign to verify this dream the prospective layout of the church would be outlined in snow...in the month of August.

When Giovanni approached his friend, Pope Liberius, with this news he was amazed to find out that on the night of August 4th, 352 AD, the Virgin Mary had appeared to Pope Liberius (352-366 AD) as well. She said a miraculous snowfall would occur that would outline where the church was to be built in her honor.

The next day August 5th, snow did fall on the Esquiline Hill in Rome in the middle of a heat wave. The people staked off the outline of the future Basilica before the snow could melt. Pope Liberius immediately ordered the basilica to be built. The event provided us with one of Our Lady's oldest titles, Our Lady of the Snows.

The Basilica houses the most important Marian icon, the Salus Populi Romani. Tradition attributes the image to Saint Luke the Evangelist, the Patron Saint of painters.

The relic of the Holy Crib, the manger in which Baby Jesus was laid to rest, highlights the importance of Saint Mary Major as the "Bethlehem of the West." The first Christmas night Mass was celebrated here; Pontiffs have been keeping this tradition alive for centuries.

Among the Basilica's most important relics are the remains of Saint Matthew and Saint Jerome. Eight Popes are buried in the Basilica: Pope Honorius III (1150–1227), Pope Nicholas IV (1227–1292), St. Pius V (1504-1572), Pope Sixtus V (1521–1590), Pope Clement VIII (1536–1605), Pope Paul V (1550–1621), Pope Clement IX (1600–1669), and Pope Francis (1936–2025).

<https://thecatholictravelguide.com/destinations/italy/italy-rome-catholic-shrines-places-interest/rome-basilica-st-mary-major-lady-snows>; <https://www.basilicasantamariamaggiore.va/en/basilica/storia-e-arte.html>; <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/256284/7-popes-are-buried-at-st-mary-major-pope-francis-says-hell-be-next>

**BUILDING COMMUNITY:** Our next Pastoral Council meeting is Sunday, August 24, after mass. Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend and participate!



# Holy Cross Parish

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

**AUGUST 3, 2025**

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, C

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21–23

Psalm 90

Colossians 3:1–5, 9–11

Luke 12:13–21

*Solitude comes from the word solus, meaning to be alone. People have an enormous number of things to do in life. Many of us are driven. Solitude pokes a hole in that drivenness and helps us stop for a moment and ask: "What is it all for?" It means spending a little time with God to listen to the voice who says, "You are mine, I am yours, I love you. You don't have to prove yourself. You are fine."*

—Henri Nouwen

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1931–2021) envisions God's dream for the world:

Dear Child of God, before we can become God's partners, we must know what God wants for us. "I have a dream," God says. "Please help Me to realize it. It is a dream of a world whose ugliness and squalor and poverty, its war and hostility, its greed and harsh competitiveness, its alienation and disharmony are changed into their glorious counterparts, when there will be more laughter, joy, and peace, where there will be justice and goodness and compassion and love and caring and sharing. I have a dream that swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, that My children will know that they are members of one family, the human family, God's family, My family."

In God's family, there are no outsiders. All are insiders.

Black and white, rich and poor, gay and straight, Jew and Arab, Palestinian and Israeli, Roman Catholic and Protestant, Serb and Albanian, Hutu and Tutsi, Muslim and Christian, Buddhist and Hindu, Pakistani and Indian—all belong... We have heard of God's dream from His prophets throughout history and in modern times from great leaders and humanitarians like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi. King spoke of it... when he dreamed of the day that the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners in Georgia would be able "to sit down together at the table of brotherhood." Gandhi wrote about it in 1929 when he stated that his goal was not just the brotherhood of Indian humanity but "the mission of brotherhood of man." (Today they'd include daughters and sisterhood, too.) The visions and triumphs of these prophets of God helped change their nations and inspire the rest of us in our own struggles for equality.

We can look at the life of Jesus to see what God asks of us. Jesus came into a deeply divided and polarized society. There was the divide between the hated foreign oppressor and the citizens of the vassal state. Within Judaism there were different religious groupings, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Zealots. There was the divide between the Jew, the Gentile, and the Samaritan. And then men were segregated from women. There were free persons and there were slaves. There were the rich; there were the poor. The world saw a veritable miracle unfolding before its very eyes as all sorts and conditions of women and men, rich and poor, slave and free, Jew and Gentile—all these came to belong in one fellowship, one communion. They did not regard one another just as equals. That in itself would have been a huge miracle. No, they regarded one another not just as equals but as sisters and brothers, members of one family, God's family.

<https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-viikkhy-tdduxlkd-yd/w>

### For Reflection

- ★ How do I find lasting purpose in everyday actions?
- ★ How does greed or selfishness affect my relationship with God and others?

<https://young-catholics.com/3617/18th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-c/>

# Holy Cross Parish

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

<https://parishes.rcda.org/holycross/>

Facebook: [tiny.cc/HCMorris](https://www.facebook.com/HCMorris)

*Find our bulletin and Pastoral Council minutes on our website. If you have a notice for the bulletin, please email: [holycrossRCchurch@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossRCchurch@gmail.com)*

## 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.

RECONCILIATION: St. Mary's Oneonta, every Saturday 4–4:45 p.m. Call the parish office (607-432-3920) for a different time.

## PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastoral Associate (Parish Leader)  
Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

## Trustees

Marguerite Webster (607) 263-5478  
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 & RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults]

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

## Ministry to the Homebound

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

# AUGUST 3, 2025

## Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Pat Kristofik

Lector: Kerry L Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Jen Spivey, Carol Tyson, Diane Turner

## August 10

Greeter: The McAdams

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Ministers: Toni Zaleksi, Peg Lilley, Diane Turner

## Mass Intention

If you would like to request an intention for a mass, call Kerry (607) 386-1951 with the intention, your name, and call back number OR use the parish email (see left panel).

## Pray for

- ✠ for the sick, their caregivers, and all who asked for our prayers, especially Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Kathleen Barry, Jo Franklin, Sarah Grogan, Agnes Huff, Maureen Joy, Nadine Joy, Michelle Lee, Fred Lemister, Carol and Jessica MacCumber, Teresa Meyers, Rich Morley, Mark Muller, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, John O'Brien, Kathy Osborne, Maria Papendrea, Scarlett Parry, Evelyn Rowe, Martin Smith, Mike Stensland, Pat Stensland, Joe and Carol Tyson, Janet VanZandt, John Zaleski
- ✠ for all those in our parish family serving in the military and all first responders and emergency personnel: Ryan Barry, Jim Barry, Meghan Barringer
- ✠ for the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends
- ✠ in thanksgiving for the abundance of nature and human stewardship of it (County Fair!)

Holy Father's August intention: When coexistence seems difficult, may we not succumb to battle for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

## Living Caring Community

### 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.
- ✧ My Neighbor's Closet  
3097 County Highway 11, Hartwick NY  
(607) 431-8320/cooperstownangel@gmail.com  
Tues/Sat: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. / Weds: 4–7 p.m.  
*Contact if you need someone to shop for you and coordinate getting you items.*
- ✧ Jail Ministries of Otsego & Schoharie  
Seeking volunteers "helping troubled lives find hope and wholeness in the Christian walk." [www.jmoconline.org](http://www.jmoconline.org).
- ✧ Helios Grief Support  
Group counseling for adults in Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware counties. See [helios-care.org](http://helios-care.org); call (607) 432-5525.
- ✧ Friends of Recovery, Delaware/Otsego  
Grassroots addiction recovery by, about, for individuals and families in recovery  
22 Elm Street, Oneonta NY  
(607) 267-4435  
Mon/Tues/Fri: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Weds/Thurs: 9 a.m.–7 p.m.
- ✧ Holy Sews  
Sew burial layettes for infants: (607) 432-5125; [holysewsoneonta@yahoo.com](mailto:holysewsoneonta@yahoo.com)

## Upcoming Events

08/03: Christian Formation after mass

08/04–08: Wonder Junction VBS, First Baptist Church Morris, 6–8:30 p.m.

08/07: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

08/09: Step Up Men's Conference, St. Edward the Confessor Church Clifton Park

08/10: Coffee Hour after mass

08/13: Catholic Charismatic Renewal Healing Liturgy, Christ Our Light Church Loudonville, 7 p.m. (mass 7:30 p.m.)

08/14: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

08/17: Rosary after mass

08/21: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

08/21–24: Women's Cursillo Weekend, Dominican Retreat and Conference Center Niskayuna; see <https://albanycursillo.org/forinfo>

08/24: Special Collection for Catholic Home Missions

08/28: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

09/14: Diocesan Marriage Jubilee Mass, Christ Our Light Church Loudonville, 3 p.m.

## WHOM HAVE YOU WELCOMED LATELY?

## SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025

Mass Attendance: 54

Collection: \$xxx.00

Collection for Holy Father: \$xx

Holy Day: \$xx