

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, February 27

Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot
and Doctor of the Church

PRAYING FOR ONE WHO HAS HURT YOU

“You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” –Matthew 5:43-45

Loving Father, it is so difficult to let go of the hurt. First I ask you to cleanse my heart of my resentment towards NAME. Grant me the grace to forgive him/her for this pain I feel. Heal my brokenness and give me peace. I believe you have the power to do this. I trust in your justice.

I lift up NAME to you in prayer. I don't know what caused him/her to hurt me in this way. Only you can see what is in another person's heart. Please call to him/her and draw him/her closer to you. I know you have a tremendous love for all of your children, including NAME. In your compassion, grant him/her whatever grace s/he needs today.

I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord
Through the power of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

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 ensure our parish and Diocese can be your partner in faith.

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

HOW HAVE YOU SHARED GOD'S LOVE THIS WEEK?

FREE TAX PREPARATION

AARP: Elm Park Methodist Church
Oneonta; by appointment; call (607)
376-5542.

SUNY Oneonta: Alumni Hall 145;
Wednesday evenings, Saturday mornings;
by appointment; call (607) 436-2171;
email: vita@oneonta.edu

Hartwick College: Richfield Springs
Community Center; Friday, Feb. 7, 10
a.m. – 3 p.m.; for info call (315) 735-7534
or (607) 431-4338; for appointment email
vita@hartwick.edu

**ARE YOU CURIOUS? IS THERE SOMEONE
YOU WANT TO INVITE?
RCIA MAY BE CALLING YOU.**

DIOCESAN APPEAL

As you plan your budget, consider a pledge. Use your bank's Bill Pay for auto-payments or use envelopes on the back table.

<https://thediocesanappeal.org/>

CURRENT STATUS: \$3,830 / GOAL: \$5,000



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

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, C

1 Samuel 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23

Psalm 103

1 Corinthians 12:45–49

Luke 6:27–38

THE DIFFICULT WORK OF LOVING OTHERS

Jesus taught, “But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” —Matthew 5:44

Our enemies always carry our own shadow side, the things we don't like about ourselves. We will never face our own shadow until we embrace those who threaten us (as Francis of Assisi embraced the leper in his conversion experience). The people who turn us off usually do so because they carry our own faults in some form.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says in essence, “If you love those who love you, what's so great about that?” (Matthew 5:46). It's simply magnified self-love. Instead, we are called to love the stranger at the gate, the one outside of our comfort zone. Until we can enter into love with them, Jesus is saying we really have not loved at all.

And what's Jesus' motivation for doing this? Some translations say, it's to “be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). In my opinion, a more useful and accurate understanding of the word translated as “perfect” is “whole.” Jesus and Francis met a God who is One, whole, and all inclusive. Be all inclusive as our God is all inclusive and all merciful. This is the heart of the gospel. Jesus' and Francis' goal was imitation of a loving, forgiving God.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968) modeled how to “integrate the negative” by facing the realities of racism, poverty, and war, while insisting that we follow Jesus' command to love our enemies:

Let us be practical and ask the question, How do we love our enemies?

First, we must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive.... Forgiveness does not mean ignoring what has been done or putting a false label on an evil act. It means, rather, that the evil act no longer remains as a barrier to the relationship. ...

Second, we must recognize that the evil deed of the enemy-neighbor, the thing that hurts, never quite expresses all that they are. An element of goodness may be found even in our worst enemy. ...

There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies. When we look beneath the surface, beneath the impulsive evil deed, we see within our enemy-neighbor a measure of goodness and know that the viciousness and evilness of their acts are not quite representative of all that they are. We see them in a new light. We recognize that their hate grows out of fear, pride, ignorance, prejudice, and misunderstanding, but in spite of this, we know God's image is ineffably etched in their being. Then we love our enemies by realizing that they are not totally bad and that they are not beyond the reach of God's redemptive love.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/the-difficult-work-of-loving-others/>

For Reflection

- ★ How can I show understanding and compassion in my daily life?
- ★ How can I practice showing mercy to those who have hurt me?

<https://young-catholics.com/3494/7th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-c/>

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. If you have a notice for the bulletin, please email: holycross-rcchurch@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: Every Saturday 4–4:45 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta. Call the parish office (607-432-3920) for an appointment if you need a different time.

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

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Ministry to the Homebound

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Jenn Spivey (907) 539-5094

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132 [RCIA]

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Joe Tyson

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Turner, Toni Zaleski, Jen Spivey

March 2

Greeter: Pat Kristofik

Lector: Kerry L Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Toni Zaleski, Jen Spivey, Diane Turner

Mass Intention

For Pope Francis and his health

If you would like to request an intention for a mass, simply call the office to schedule: (607) 263-5143.

Pray for

- ✠ for the sick, their caregivers, and all who have asked for our prayers, especially Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Kathleen Barry, Jo Franklin, Tony Giambra, Sarah Grogan, Agnes Huff, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Nadine Joy, Michelle Lee, Fred Lemister, Teresa Meyers, Connie Mockovciak, Rich Morley, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, Betty O'Brien, John O'Brien, Maria Papendrea, Mike Stensland, Joe and Carol Tyson, 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 dedicated service of Fr. Chris Welch

Pope Francis's February intention: That the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel called to serve.

Engage in Living Community

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.

ONEONTA WARMING STATION: IN NEED

Bottled water/juice boxes
Breakfast/granola/protein bars
Single serve oatmeal packets/lg box of oats
Single serve snack items (try to avoid nuts)
Shelf stable, single serve microwavable items (e.g. Chef Boyardee, soups, Hormel meals, tuna, single serve cereal, mac and cheese, noodle cups)
Paper towels, toilet paper

Sacred Sparks: A Catholic Singles Social

For men/women ages 21-29; Saturday, March 1, 12–4 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle School Gym/Cafeteria, Adams Place in Delmar

Generations of Faith Sponsored Social

Wednesday, March 26, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Corpus Christi Church Parish Hall, 2001 Route 9, Round Lake; Presenter: Bishop Sharfenberger

Upcoming Events

- 02/23: Pastoral Council meeting**
- 02/25: Lenten Fish Dinner planning meeting, Parish Hall, 6:30–7:30 p.m.**
- 02/26: Vacation Bible School planning meeting, United Methodist Church, 5:30 p.m.
- 02/27: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 02/28: Blood Drive, 3–7 p.m., Laurens Central School
- 03/01: Bible study, 9 a.m., Parish Hall**
- 03/02: Faith formation after mass**
- 03/03-04: Ecumenical, Interfaith Advocacy days, Westminster Presbyterian Church Albany; register: <https://bit.ly/4hh1yBh>
- 03/05: Ash Wednesday mass, 9 a.m.**
10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 03/06: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 03/07: First Friday Adoration, 3 p.m.**
Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m.
- 03/08: Bible study, 9 a.m., Parish Hall**
- 03/09: Special Collection for Black, Native American & Latin American Mission**
Start of Busy Person's Retreat using *Come into the Silence*, Sundays after 10:30 mass, St. Mary's Oneonta
- 03/29: Ignite Men's Conference; for info or to register see: www.ignitecatholicmen.org/
- 03/30: Special Collection for Catholic Relief Services Annual Appeal**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Mass Attendance: 11

Collection: \$180.00

Utilities: \$10.00