

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, June 30

The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

Tuesday, July 1

Saint Junipero Serra, Priest

Thursday, July 3

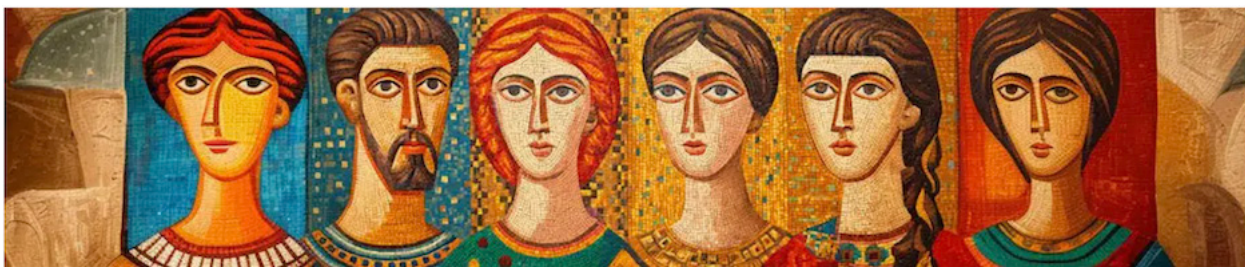
Saint Thomas, Apostle

Saturday, July 5

Saint Anthony Zaccaria, Priest;
Saint Elizabeth of Portugal

In the early years, the Church was small. Most Christians lived quietly, gathering in homes to pray, sharing meals and listening to the stories of Jesus; they tried to live good lives. At first, Roman leaders didn't notice Christians much, but as they grew, people began talking. Some saw Christians as a threat: They did not join in the festivals or the Roman ways. People started to spread lies about them.

By the time Nero ruled, the Church in Rome had grown with Jews and non-Jews. Some rich, most poor, they all followed Jesus and lived in peace, not



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 continues the process for realizing our vision (top of front page) and mission (inside left panel). **The Council meets today after mass. Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend and participate!**

expecting the terror that was coming.

In 64, a fire broke out in Rome that lasted several days and destroyed much of the city. People were angry and afraid. Many believed that Nero had started the fire himself. To stop the anger, Nero blamed the Christians, which gave him a reason to arrest them; and he ordered them put to death.

The punishments were cruel. Some were covered in animal skins and torn apart by dogs. Others were nailed to crosses. Some were burned alive at night to light the gardens. Nero watched the deaths, like a show. Even those who did not like Christians thought it was too much, but the attacks went on. The Christians who died during this time were the first martyrs in Rome who died because they would not give up their faith.

Adapted from: <https://young-catholics.com/78439/1st-martyrs-of-the-holy-roman-church/>

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: \$4,470 / GOAL: \$5,000



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

JUNE 29, 2025

Saints Peter & Paul Apostles, C

Acts 12:1-11

Psalms 34

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Matthew 16:13-19

And something beyond all our hopes arises...How aware are we of this: It is by giving ourselves that we forge our identity? And the day comes when we are granted what we never even expected. The roads in shadow, the long nights with almost no light, lie behind us. Dead end situations and struggles, far from weakening us, can even help us grow.

—Brother Roger of Taizé

SAINT PAUL & LIVING VISIBLE MODELS: The foundation of Jesus' social program is what could be called non-idolatry, or the withdrawing of our enthrallment from all kingdoms except the kingdom of God. Freedom from loyalties to human-made domination systems is the best way to protect people from religious zealotry or any kind of antagonistic thinking or behavior. While there are certainly things we are against, we must concentrate on the big thing we are for!

Paul tries to create some "audiovisual aids" for this big message, which he calls "churches." Paul knows we need living, visible models of this new kind of life to make evident that Christ's people really follow a way different from mass consciousness. They are people who "can be innocent and genuine ... and can shine like stars among a deceitful and underhanded brood" (Philippians 2:15). To people who asked, "Why should we believe there's a new or better life possible?"

Paul could say: "Look at these people. They're different. This is a new social order." In Christ, "there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

In Paul's thinking, we were supposed to live inside of an alternative society, almost a utopia, and from such fullness "go to the world." Instead, we created a model whereby people live almost entirely in the world, fully invested in its attitudes toward money, war, and power—and sometimes "go to church." This doesn't seem to be working! In Christianity, groups like the Amish, the Bruderhof, Black churches, and members of some Catholic religious orders probably have a better chance of actually maintaining an alternative consciousness. Most of the rest of us end up thinking and operating pretty much like our surrounding culture.

Many people now find this solidarity in think tanks, support groups, prayer groups, study groups, house-building projects, healing circles, or community-focused organizations. Perhaps without fully recognizing it, we're actually heading in the right direction. Some new studies indicate that Christians are not so much leaving Christianity as they are realigning with groups that live Christian values in the world—instead of just gathering again to hear the readings, recite the creed, and sing songs on Sunday. Jesus does not need our singing; we need instead to act like a community. Actual Christian behavior might just be growing more than we realize. Behavior has a very different emphasis than mere membership.

Remember, it's not the brand name that matters.

It is that God's heart be made available and active on this earth.

adapted: <https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-sktttdl-tdduxulkd-v/>

For Reflection

- ★ How does Peter's story encourage me to trust God, even after mistakes?
- ★ Are there areas in my life where you feel God is calling me to change, like Paul?

<https://young-catholics.com/8483/saints-peter-and-paul-apostles/>

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

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

JUNE 29, 2025

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Marguerite Webster

Lector: Kerry L Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Peg Lilley, Diane Turner, Carol Tyson

July 6

Greeter: Pat Kristofik

Lector: Kerry L Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Tony Zaleski, Carol Tyson, Jen Spivey

Mass Intention

If you would like to request an intention for a mass, call (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, Betty O'Brien, John O'Brien, Kathy Osborne, Maria Papendrea, 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 all those who serve at Holy Cross in any capacity

The Holy Father's June intention: That each of us find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus and learn to have compassion on the world.

Engage in Living 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.
- ✧ Helios Grief Support
Group counseling for adults in Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware counties. See 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.

Upcoming Events

06/29: Pastoral Council meeting after mass, parish hall

07/03: Liturgy of the Word

07/05: First Saturday (Fatima) Devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

07/06: Christian Formation after mass

07/10: Liturgy of the Word

07/12: Rosa Mystica Shrine Feast

Day Celebration, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Edmeston; for more info and schedule, see QR code

07/13: Coffee hour after mass, parish hall

07/17: Liturgy of the Word

07/19: Holy Cross Food Sale, Morris Yard Sale Day

07/27: Special Collection for the Holy Father

07/27-08/01: Hartwick Seminary Institute of Theology

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



If you or someone in your family is in need of temporary assistance with food, health care expenses, home energy needs, check out <https://mybenefits.gov/screening/>. This site prescreens for many of the programs the state sponsors.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025

Mass Attendance: 44

Collection: \$510.00

Maintenance: \$10.00

Candles: \$9.50