

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 17

Saint Patrick, Bishop

Tuesday, March 18

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop
and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday, March 19

Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

Legends about **SAINT PATRICK** abound; truth is best served by seeing two solid qualities in him: humility and courage. The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ.

Details of his life are uncertain. Patrick may have been born in Dunbarton, Scotland, Cumberland, England, or in northern Wales. He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. Irish raiders captured him (age 16) and a large group of his father's slaves and vassals and sold them as slaves in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold.

After six years Patrick escaped and later returned to Britain at 22. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion. He may have studied at Lerins, off the French coast; he spent years at Auxerre, France, and was consecrated bishop at the age of 43. His great desire: To proclaim the good news to the Irish.

In a dream vision it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. Despite opposition from those who felt his education had been defective, he was sent to carry out the task. He went to the west and north—where the faith had never been preached—obtained the protection of local kings, and made numerous converts.

Because of the island's pagan background, Patrick emphatically encouraged widows to remain chaste and young women to consecrate their virginity to Christ. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and urged people to greater holiness in Christ.

Criticized in both England and Ireland for the way he conducted his mission, he suffered much opposition from pagan druids. In a relatively short time, the island experienced deeply the Christian spirit and was prepared to send out missionaries whose efforts were greatly responsible for Christianizing Europe.

Patrick was a man of action with little inclination toward learning. He had a rock-like belief in his vocation. One of the few certainly authentic writings is his Confessio, an act of homage to God for having called unworthy sinner, to the apostolate. There is hope rather than irony in the fact that his burial place is said to be in County Down in Northern Ireland, long the scene of strife and violence. Patron saint of engineers, Ireland, and Nigeria.

from <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-patrick/>

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.

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: \$3,970 / GOAL: \$5,000



Holy Cross Parish

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

MARCH 16, 2025

2nd Sunday of Lent, C

Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17–4:1

Luke 9:28b–36

ETERNALLY PRESENT LOVE

Divine love is the source of the universe and of the dinosaurs, the planets, the elements, and the air, the force that sparked us into existence and baffles us all while we exist, the current of love and joy and beauty that runs through the human experience... All life flows into being out of one source, Divine Love; it is forever deeply related and responsive to that love. That love defines, holds, and promises to be present to the lives that God calls into being. That eternally present love is, most simply stated, the definition of grace.

God does not stay at a distance from us but constantly seeks to transform our lives by asking us to awaken to the divine presence. God is a mysterious, creative, sustaining life force... God is there all the time. The challenge for us is to open our eyes, ears, hands, minds, and hearts to receive the truth of God's real, persistent presence, God's grace. When we open ourselves to it, we are changed by it. The way we perceive the world shifts, like a radically refocused camera lens, and we experience life differently. You see everything around you as suffused with God's love. You see God's grace everywhere, saturating all existence. This process of awakening to what is already true, but you haven't previously seen it, is called conversion—a word that literally means "to see anew."

Sin simply refers to all aspects of life where the reality of grace is not manifest and evil flourishes. It's what happens when we've got the wrong story about reality in our heads. If we do not recognize grace, we latch onto lies about who we are. These lies are manifest in an endless variety of godless dispositions: hatred, violence, greed, injustice, pride, despair, isolation, self-loathing, unbridled arrogance, a hardened heart, a cold soul. When these lies are aggregated over time, they get compressed into social systems and cultural patterns that look to us as if they are true when in truth they are not. They are evil and profoundly destructive. This is what it means to be godless—to not be awakened to the light of God's love. It describes grace-asleep people as well as whole grace-asleep societies...

This constant tension between sin and grace in our lived experience doesn't mean, however, that they are equal partners in determining our destiny. Because grace is of God, it ultimately wins. We are forgiven by God, whatever horrors we commit or are done to us, however unmeritorious our deeds and broken our lives, because that's who God is. Grace is free; we don't earn it nor are we required to deserve it. That's what makes grace grace. It comes unbidden to us all.

**HOW HAVE YOU SHARED
GOD'S LOVE THIS WEEK?**

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/eternally-present-love/>

For Reflection

- ★ In what ways can I reflect God's light to others?
- ★ How can I show kindness, love, and generosity in my daily life?

<https://young-catholics.com/3505/2nd-sunday-of-lent-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]



MARCH 16, 2025

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Pat Kristofik

Lector: Kerry L Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Carol Tyson, Daphne Thompson, Diane Turner

March 23

Greeter: Joe Tyson

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Turner, Carol Tyson,

Mass Intention

For healing for all people, our parish, our country, and our world

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, 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 our musicians, Julie and Sheila for their loving service

Pope Francis's March intention: That broken/in crisis families may find the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering gifts in difference.

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.
- ☼ Jail Ministries of Otsego & Schoharie
Seeking volunteers "helping troubled lives find hope and wholeness in the Christian walk." See www.jmoconline.org.
- ☼ Helios Grief Support
Group counseling for adults in Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware counties. See helioscare.org; call (607) 432-5525.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN? BEGIN WITH THE HEART. —St. Julian of Norwich

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

Upcoming Events

03/16: Rosary after mass

Watch *The Chosen*, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

03/19: Communal Reconciliation Services, 12:10 and 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

03/20: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

03/21: Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m.

03/22: Bible study, 9 a.m., Parish Hall

03/23: Watch *The Chosen*, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

03/26: Holy Hour and Night Prayer, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

03/27: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

03/28: Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m.

Lenten Fish Dinner, 4:30–6:30 p.m.

03/29: Bible study, 9 a.m., Parish Hall

Ignite Men's Conference; for info or to register see: www.ignitecatholicmen.org/

03/30: Special Collection for Catholic Relief Services Annual Appeal

Communal Reconciliation Service, 4 p.m., Sacred Heart Sidney

04/13: Coffee Hour after mass

04/18: Special Collection for the Holy Land

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

Mass Attendance: 38

Collection: \$640.00

Special Collection: \$286

Flowers: \$60/Religious Ed.: \$80