

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, September 3
Saint Gregory the Great, Pope &
Doctor of the Church
Saturday, September 5
Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Virgin

I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things.
—Mother Theresa

DID YOU KNOW? QUIZ YOURSELF!

- ? From what country was Mother Teresa?
- ? Gonxha Agnes, Mother Teresa's baptismal name went to what country at age 18 with the desire to become a missionary?
- ? For which saint is Mother Teresa named?
- ? What is the order of missionaries Mother Teresa established?
- ? After establishing her order in Calcutta, India, in what set of other countries did Mother Teresa establish houses?
- ? Whom did Mother Teresa eventually include in order to better respond to the physical and spiritual needs of the poor?

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026

Mass Attendance: 56
Collection: \$585
Home Missions: \$36

Upcoming Events

- 09/03: Liturgy of the Word
- 09/04: First Friday Devotion, 3 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 09/05: First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 09/06: Fr. Rouleau will be preaching on the Haitian Missions
- 09/10: Liturgy of the Word
- 09/13: Coffee Hour, Pastoral Council meeting (all are welcome) after mass
- 09/17: Liturgy of the Word
- 09/20: Altar server training after mass
- 09/24: Liturgy of the Word
- 09/27: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Catholic Universities
Christian Formation after mass
Annual Diocesan Marriage Jubilee, 3 p.m. Christ Our Light, Loudonville; for info/to register, email marriage.jubilee@rcda.org
- 10/01: Liturgy of the Word
- 10/04: Christian Formation after mass
- 10/08: Liturgy of the Word
- 10/11: Coffee Hour after mass
- 10/15: Liturgy of the Word
- 10/18: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Mission Sunday
Christian formation after mass
- 10/22: Liturgy of the Word

MISSIONARY HEARTED POPE: GREGORY I
Gregory the Great was convinced everything the Church possessed belonged to the poor: "I hold the office of steward to the property of the poor." During famine, he organized priests to go through Rome to care for the poor; he ensured all produce from Church agricultural lands was distributed free. Gregory had grown up wealthy and knew some noble families, too ashamed to beg, were going hungry. He sent these families food from his own table, not as "alms" but as a "gift" from the pope. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/saints/09/03/st--gregory-the-great--pope-and-doctor-of-the-church.html>



AUGUST 30, 2026

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, A
Jeremiah 20:7–9
Psalm 63
Romans 12:1–2
Matthew 16:21–27

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

The Holy Spirit is like a fire kindled within, an inner flame. Let its inspirations come alive, and already life becomes full!

—Brother Roger of Taizé

PROPHETS WORK IN COMMUNITY (Dr. Barbara A. Holmes)
Prophets are difficult to have around. No one wants to claim the title or do the work because of it. In this postmodern age, everybody is uncomfortable with prophets. They yell when you don't want them to. They ask for trouble when it could be avoided. They don't have a politically correct bone in their bodies....

Prophets are leaders, but not leaders of their own choosing. Inevitably, they have some sort of divine encounter. They meet a burning bush, a ram in the bush, or hear a call in the night. They have visions and dreams. They're quirky and more than a little weird. As an example, take Jeremiah—he's crying all the time. Isaiah fasts and lies in the dirt; John the Baptist eats locusts, and Huldah prophesies doom. Finally, one of the most important characteristics of prophets is that they are dangerous to the system....
In bringing messages from God—and God doesn't mince words—God speaks directly through them. They have a relationship and intimacy with the Divine. They communicate with God through prayer and direct speech. God walks and talks with them (perhaps not literally but in other ways). They have gifts, and they offer signs and wonders associated with the verification of the presence of God. They have communal connections. They act on behalf of community, not for their own gain, and are dependent on the community for help when they need it.

There is a neglected but important aspect of the prophetic call. In Numbers 11:24–29, Moses is exhausted with the people. Basically, God says "Okay, okay, assemble the elders. Look to the community. You were never supposed to do this alone. I told you to do it; I didn't tell you to do it alone." How many of us are carrying burdens that are not ours, and are feeling pretty righteous about it? The work of living and dying, raising children, and leading congregations, was never meant to be solitary work. After the elders assemble, Joshua tells Moses that the elders are prophesying, and he says, "Moses, make this stop!" Moses's reply in Numbers 11:29 is, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that God would put God's Spirit on them!"

Let's just sit with that for a minute. Have you ever felt as if God's Spirit was on you? Although many of the prophets in the Bible are presented as single carriers of God's word, often there was a community of other prophets that they came from or were associated with. Who is your community?... If you're called to the prophetic task, and I think in some aspects all of us are—where is your prophetic community that will feed you and support you and guide you and help you?

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/prophets-work-in-community/>

For Reflection

- ★ What does offering my life to God mean in daily life?
- ★ How do I handle suffering and hardship in my faith journey?

<https://young-catholics.com/2900/22nd-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-a/#thoughts>

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/tiny.cc/HCMorris)

Find our bulletin and Pastoral Council minutes on our website. If you have a notice for the bulletin, please email: holycrossRC-church@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

Allan Dangca, Celine Francisco, Scott Kolberg, Chet McAdams, Jackie McAdams, Dana Mochovciak

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

Pope Leo XIV's August intention: That in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel and build community.

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.
- ☼ 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.
- ☼ Holy Sews
Sew burial layettes for infants: (607) 432-5125; holysewsoneonta@yahoo.com
- ☼ Oneonta Community Health Center
No-cost healthcare services for uninsured adults (607) 433-0300
Office hours: Tues. 6–8 p.m.

FAITH AMIDST DOUBTS

This Sunday shows that even the strongest believers struggle. Jeremiah feels trapped between his calling and his emotions. He speaks God's word, but people reject him. He wants to walk away, but he can't. The message inside him burns like fire.

Many people experience this tension. We try to follow God but face challenges. Doubt creeps in, making us wonder if we are on the right path. Jeremiah's story reminds us that faith isn't about never struggling. It's about holding on, even when it's hard.

Jeremiah's words are raw and honest. He doesn't pretend everything is fine. He cries out to God, frustrated but still faithful. His struggle is real, but so is his commitment. He teaches that questioning doesn't mean losing faith.

Doubts don't mean failure. They are part of the journey. Like Jeremiah, we may feel overwhelmed, but God's call remains strong. Faith is about pushing forward, even when things are uncertain.

Paul warns against conforming to the world. Many things fight for attention—money, success, comfort. It's easy to follow what everyone else is doing. But Paul calls for a different path. He tells believers to renew our minds and focus on what is good.

Renewing the mind doesn't happen instantly. It takes effort and time. It means letting go of old habits and learning to see things as God does. It's about making choices that align with faith, even when they are difficult.

Faith is active. It's not about going through the motions. It's about choosing God's way every day. Doubts, struggles, and suffering are part of the journey, but they do not mean failure.

from <https://young-catholics.com/2900/22nd-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-a/#thoughts>

AUGUST 30, 2026

Celebrant

Rev. Joseph Cebula

Greeter: John O'Brien

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Minister: Diane Turner

September 6

Greeters: Deb Newell and Marie Goupil

Lector: Kerry L. Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Jen Spivey

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, Kevin Burke, Jo Franklin, Sarah Grogan, Agnes Huff, Maureen Joy, Pat Kristofik, Jim and Michelle Lee, Fred Lemister, Carol and Jessica MacCumber, Doris Mensch, Jeffrey Meyers, Kelly Meyers, Lucille Meyers, Teresa Meyers, Rich Morley, Mark Muller, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, John O'Brien, Kathy Osborne, Maria Papendrea, Scarlett Parry, Evelyn Rowe, Martin Smith, Mike Stensland, Carol Tyson, Janet VanZandt, Royce Webster
- ✠ 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 journey of life

Did You Know answers: 1) Albania 2) Ireland 3) St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the "Little Flower" (4) almost all communist countries, including the former Soviet Union, Albania, Cuba (5) Male religious (brothers and later priests) and lay people of many faiths and nationalities, Co-Workers of Mother Teresa and Sick and Suffering Co-Workers