

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, February 10
Saint Scholastica, Virgin

Wednesday, February 11
Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday, February 14
Saints Cyril, Monk & Methodius,
Bishop

For many years, SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA was a slave, but her spirit was always free and eventually prevailed. Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at age seven, sold into slavery, and renamed Bakhita, which means fortunate. In 1883 Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan purchased her.

Two years later, he gave Josephine to his friend Augusto Michieli in Italy. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While there, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine.

When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885.

Saint Josephine Bakhita entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893, and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was

PALMS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

If you have old palms from Palm Sunday, please bring them in to church. Palms are burned for the ashes distributed on Ash Wednesday, which is February 18 this year.

ASH WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Sign up to distribute Ashes to Go at <https://tinyurl.com/AshesWeds>. Mother Tracy will provide ashes and ceremony cards for ministers.

For an introduction to this ministry, visit <https://tinyurl.com/AshesIntro>.

transferred to the city of Schio, northeast of Verona, where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!"

The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later. Saint Josephine Bakhita's body was mutilated by those who enslaved her, but they could not touch her spirit. She who worked under many "masters" was finally happy to address God as "master" and carry out everything that she believed to be God's will for her.

Josephine is the patron saint of Sudan. Her feast day is February 8.

Saint suggested by Jim Lee. Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-josephine-bakhita/>

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: \$4,593 / GOAL: \$6,379



Holy Cross Parish

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, A

Isaiah 58:7-10

Psalms 112

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Matthew 5:13-16

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

As you walk in Christ's footsteps, do not be surprised at his words. 'Whoever puts his hand to the plough cannot look back.' He invites you to leave behind bitterness, regrets, all that corrodes eternity's yes. Could this yes become worn out? Will it no longer keep you awake your whole life long?

—Brother Roger of Taizé

DISSOLVING INTO LOVE: We human beings are forgetful. We need reminders of important things, including the Gospel that feeds the soul and illuminates the divine loving self within. Mindful of the world's beauty and violence, let's steep for a moment in these encouraging and inspiring words:

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has become insipid, how will it be made salt again? It's no longer good for anything then, except being thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill can't be hidden and people don't hide an oil lamp under a two-gallon basket. They put it on a lampstand where it gives light for everybody in the house. Give light for other people. Live so they see your compassionate acts and praise your divine Father (Matthew 5:13-16).

We all need the nourishment of the Gospel's good news so a dire news overload of despotism, division, and moral outrage doesn't glut and dictate our inner lives and outer kind actions. In our stress-heavy days, it's easy to forget how potent salt and light are. So let's remember together.

Salt comes from the ocean by the action of light. So, in this Gospel, Jesus

poetically says, you all are, in essence, the ocean, one made by and of love. May we remember our shared, stable, divine center and that, when by deep listening, we honor the sacred worth of our own and of another's life, our empathy dissolves into transformative compassion. Salt has power to disinfect wounds. May we remember that accepting ourselves and each other—both—as imperfect and "unshakably good," as Father Greg Boyle reminds, is strong medicine that creates a community of cherished belonging. Small kind acts are never small. Salt can also melt snow and ice from roads and walkways, making clear passage. May we remember our kind divine parent, and may this awareness melt iciness of perfectionism, illusion of separation and anxiety, steadying our steps together.

Obviously salt and light look different on the surface, but they both fulfill their powerful natures by giving away or losing themselves. "You are salt and light" is a counter-cultural revolutionary statement, rich with psychological and embodied, empowering wisdom. May we remember that like the wise self-emptying of kenosis, being salt and light reminds us that no matter how broken or broken-hearted by the world's suffering, we are love and are most ourselves when giving ourselves away, embracing grief's salty tears.

May we remember we are God's children. As Howard Thurman writes: "[Whoever] knows this is able to transcend the vicissitudes of life, however terrifying and look out on the world with quiet eyes." May you and I see the world and everyone in it with quiet eyes and may we act in the world with kind hearts, being salt and light. Amen.

adapted from <https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-gtkkhdd-tdduxulkd-f/>

For Reflection

- ★ What does it mean to be "salt of the earth" in my daily life?
- ★ In what ways can I work for justice in my community?

<https://young-catholics.com/2316/5th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-a/#thoughts>

PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING POST-
PONED (COLD).

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

Allen Dangca, Celine Francisco, Scott Kolbery, Chet McAdams, Jackie McAdams, Kerry L. Mess, Dana Mochovciak, Joe Tyson

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 February intention: May children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive necessary medical care, never losing strength.

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.

Upcoming Events

02/08: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Super Bowl of Caring

Coffee hour after mass

Christian Unity choir rehearsal, Gilbertsville Baptist Church, 2 p.m.

Join us for Prayer for Christian Unity Service, 3 p.m., Gilbertsville Baptist Church

02/11: Anointing of the Sick, 12:10 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

02/12: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

02/15: Miracle Sunday after mass

02/18: Ash Wednesday mass, 9 a.m.,

St. Mary's Oneonta masses 7:30, 12:30, 6:30
Ash Wednesday Ashes to Go sponsored by Zion Episcopal

02/19: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

02/20: Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m.

02/22: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Black, Native American & Latin American Mission\

02/26: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

02/27: Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m.

03/01: Christian formation after mass

03/04: Penance Service, 12:10 & 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

03/05: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

03/06: Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m.

03/08: Coffee hour after mass

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Mass Attendance: 37

Collection: \$586.00

The Evangelist: \$220.00

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Chet and Jackie McAdams

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Ministers: Toni Zaleski

February 15

Greeters: John O'Brien

Deacon: Paul Cerosaletti

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Mass Intention

FOR THE SOUL OF JOHN KRISTOFIK

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, Jim Lee, Michelle Lee, Fred Lemister, Carol and Jessica MacCumber, Jeffrey Meyers, Kelly 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, 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 sunshine in a cold time; may it remind us of God's love even in the midst of struggle and challenge.