

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, February 17

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Wednesday, February 18

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Saturday, February 14

Saint Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Maybe because he was orphaned and had been treated shabbily by one of his brothers, **SAINT PETER DAMIAN** was very good to the poor. It was ordinary for him to have a poor person or two with him at table, and he liked to minister personally to their needs.

Saint Peter escaped poverty and the neglect of one brother when another brother, archpriest of Ravenna, took him under his wing. This brother sent him to good schools and Peter became a professor.

Peter was very strict with himself. He wore a hair shirt under his clothes, fasted rigorously, and spent hours in prayer. He left his teaching to give himself completely to prayer with the Benedictines of the reform of Saint Romuald at Fonte Avellana. They lived two monks to a hermitage. Peter was so eager to pray and slept so little that he soon suffered from severe insomnia. He found he had to use prudence in taking care of himself. When not praying, he studied the Bible.

The abbot commanded that when he died,

Saint Peter Damian should succeed him. Abbot Saint Peter founded five other hermitages and encouraged his brothers in a life of prayer and solitude, wanting nothing more for himself. The Holy See periodically called on him, however, to be a peacemaker or troubleshooter, between two abbeys in dispute or a cleric or government official in some disagreement with Rome.

Finally, Pope Stephen IX made Saint Peter Damian the cardinal-bishop of Ostia. He worked hard to wipe out simony—the buying of church offices—and encouraged his priests to observe celibacy. He urged even diocesan clergy to live together and maintain scheduled prayer and religious observance. He wished to restore primitive discipline among religious and priests, warning against needless travel, violations of poverty, and too comfortable living.

Saint Peter wrote many letters. Some 170 are extant. We also have 53 of his sermons and seven lives, or biographies, that he wrote. He preferred examples and stories rather than theory in his writings. The liturgical offices he wrote are evidence of his talent as a stylist in Latin.

He asked often to be allowed to retire as cardinal-bishop of Ostia, and finally Pope Alexander II consented. Saint Peter Damian was happy to become once again just a monk, but he was still called to serve as a papal legate. When returning from such an assignment in Ravenna, he was overcome by a fever. With the monks gathered around him saying the Divine Office, he died on February 22, 1072. In 1828, he was declared a Doctor of the Church.

adapted from: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-peter-damian/>

## 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 15, 2026**

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, A

Sirach 15:15–20

Psalm 119

1 Corinthians 2:6–10

Matthew 5:17–37

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

*However you choose to be part of this community, please know this: You belong here. You matter. And we are thankful for the many ways you share in this quiet, faithful work of love.*

—Henri Nouwen Society

## FREEDOM FROM OUR PASSIONS

In the psychological climate of our own times, our emotions are almost always considered to be virtually identical with our personal authenticity, and the more freely they flow, the more we are seen to be honest and “in touch.” A person who gravitates to a mental mode of operation is criticized for being “in his head”; when feeling dominates, we proclaim with approval that such a person is “in his heart.”

In the Wisdom tradition, this would be a serious misuse of the term heart. Far from revealing the heart, Wisdom teaches that the emotions are in fact the primary culprits that obscure and confuse it. The real mark of personal authenticity is not

how intensely we can express our feelings but how honestly we can look at where they're coming from and spot the elements of clinging, manipulation, and personal agendas that make up so much of what we experience as our emotional life today. . . .

In the teachings of the Christian Desert Fathers and Mothers, these intense feelings arising out of personal issues were known as the “passions,” and most of the Desert spiritual training had to do with learning to spot these land mines and get free of them before they did serious psychic damage. In contrast to our contemporary usage, which tends to see passion as a good thing, indicating that one is fully alive and engaged, the Desert tradition saw passion as a diminishment of being. It meant falling into passivity, into a state of being acted upon (which is what the Latin *passio* actually means), rather than clear and conscious engagement. Instead of enlivening the heart, according to one Desert Father, the real damage inflicted by the passions is that “they divide our heart into two.” . . .

The heart, in the ancient sacred traditions, has a very specific and perhaps surprising meaning. It is not the seat of our personal affective life—or even, ultimately, of our personal identity—but an organ for the perception of divine purpose and beauty. . . . Finding the way to where our true heart lies is the great journey of spiritual life. . . . The core practice for cleansing the heart, for restoring the heart to its organ of spiritual seeing, becomes supremely, in Christianity, the path of kenosis, of letting go. The seeing will come, and it's a part we still have to work on in Christianity, but the real heart of emotion is the willingness to let go, to sacrifice . . . your personal drama, the letting go at that level, so that you can begin to see.

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

## For Reflection

- ★ How does anger or hatred affect my relationships?
- ★ How can I bring more love and justice into the world?

<https://young-catholics.com/2338/6th-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](mailto: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](mailto: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

- 02/15: 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.  
02/22: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Black, Native  
American & Latin American Mission  
Pastoral Council meeting after mass  
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.  
First Friday Devotion, 2:30 p.m., St. Mary's  
Oneonta  
03/07: First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9 a.m.,  
St. Mary's Oneonta  
03/08: Coffee Hour after mass  
03/12: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.  
03/13: Reconciliation, 5-7 p.m.  
03/15: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Catholic Relief  
Services Annual Appeal  
Rosary after mass  
03/20: Knights of Columbus fish fry, Oneonta

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Mass Attendance: 30

Collection: \$520.00

Utilities: \$150.00

## FEBRUARY 15, 2026

### Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

**Greeter:** John O'Brien

**Lector:** Daphne Thompson

**Eucharistic Minister:** Diane Turner

### February 22

**Greeters:** Deb Newell and Marie Goupil

**Deacon:** Paul Cerosaletti

**Lector:** Maureen Joy

### Mass Intention

**FOR THE SOUL OF MAUREEN DUGAN**

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, Jim Lee, Michelle Lee, Fred Lemister, Carol and Jessica MacCumber, Doris Mensch, 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 a parish that likes to sing