

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, July 29
Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

Thursday, July 30
Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop
& Doctor of the Church

Friday, July 31
Saint Ignatius of Loyola

Saturday, August 1
Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop
& Doctor of the Church

Upcoming Events

07/26: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Holy Father

07/27: County Fair Women’s Ensemble re-
hearsal, 4:30 p.m. United Methodist

07/30: Liturgy of the Word
County Fair Women’s Ensemble rehearsal,
12 p.m. United Methodist

08/01: First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9
a.m., St. Mary’s Oneonta

08/03: Christian Formation after mass
Morris Hymn Sing, 7 p.m., Otsego County
Fair

08/06: Liturgy of the Word

08/09: Coffee Hour after mass

08/13: Liturgy of the Word

08/16: Rosary after mass

08/20: Liturgy of the Word

08/23: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Catholic
Home Missions

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

Mass Attendance: 74

Collection: \$1,166.00

Insurance: \$20 / Missionary: \$25

Continued from inside

His hands. In one hand, He holds everything the world offers: Success, Money, Comfort, Pleasure, Recognition. In the other hand, He offers Himself. His grace. His mercy. His friendship. His Cross. His Resurrection. His eternal Kingdom. The world says that choosing Christ is giving something up. Jesus says, “You are discovering the treasure.” May we never be afraid to let go of what cannot last so that we may receive the One who lasts forever. Because in the end... The Kingdom of Heaven is not merely worth something. It is worth... Everything.

adapted from <https://deaconpathomily.blogspot.com/2026/07/the-kingdom-is-worth-everything-17th.html>



JULY 26, 2026

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, A

1 Kings 3:5, 7–12

Psalms 119

Romans 8:28–30

Matthew 13:44–52

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

*Jesus our peace, you
never abandon us. And
the Holy Spirit always
opens a way forward,
the way which consists
in casting ourselves into
God as into the depths.
And astonishment aris-
es: these depths are not
an abyss of darkness,
they are God, fathomless
depths of compassion
and innocence.*

—Brother Roger of Taizé

“WHAT IS WORTH EVERYTHING?”

There are moments in life when everything changes. Perhaps it was the day: you met your spouse; your first child was born; you heard the words, “You’re hired.” Or maybe the day you heard difficult news that suddenly made everything else seem unimportant. Those moments reorder our priorities. What once seemed important suddenly isn’t. What once seemed valuable suddenly becomes insignificant. Jesus describes this in today’s Gospel. Not once, not twice, but three different times. Jesus wants us to understand what is very difficult for the human heart to believe: **The Kingdom of God is worth everything.**

Jesus begins with a fascinating story: A man walks through a field. Perhaps he is simply working or digging. Suddenly his shovel strikes something hard. He uncovers a treasure. In Jesus’ day, people often buried their wealth because there were no banks. Wars came. Governments changed. People fled. Many treasures were never recovered. Imagine discovering one of them. Notice the man’s reaction. He doesn’t hesitate, negotiate,

ask for time to think about it. He sells *everything* he owns. Not because he is foolish... But because he realizes something priceless has been placed before him. To everyone else, the field looks ordinary. To him, it is priceless. That is what faith does. Faith allows us to see what others cannot.

Jesus then tells another story. This time it is not an accidental discovery but a merchant who has spent his life searching for beautiful pearls. He knows quality, understands value. Then one day, he finds the pearl. Not just another pearl. *The* pearl. Again, he sells everything. The point is the same. Whether someone unexpectedly discovers Christ or spends years searching for Him, the result is identical. When someone truly encounters Jesus, nothing compares.

Every person treasures something. Some treasure money, others success. Some treasure comfort, others popularity. Some treasure their career, some pleasure, some power. None of those things are evil by themselves, but they make terrible gods because every earthly treasure eventually disappoints. Money disappears. Health fades. Beauty changes. Careers end. Homes wear out. Even relationships, beautiful as they are, end with death until we are reunited in Christ. Only one treasure lasts forever: The Kingdom of Heaven. Everything else is temporary.

Notice something else. Neither man thinks he is making a sacrifice. To an outsider, selling everything looks extreme. To the man, it is the best deal he has ever made. Imagine paying one hundred dollars for a million-dollar home. Would you complain about losing the hundred dollars? Of course not. Because you know what you gained. That is Christianity. God never asks us to give something up without offering something infinitely greater. Sometimes we think discipleship is mostly about what we lose. **Continued inside**

DID YOU KNOW? QUIZ YOURSELF!

- ? In 1582, what pope corrected flaws in the older Julian calendar by advancing the calendar date 10 days to bring the calendar in line with the natural course of the seasons, thus creating the modern calendar?
- ? Who is the 3rd century martyr and saint, not only a patron saint of musicians and poets but, in legend, invented the organ?
- ? For what dictator did Popes Pius XI and Pius XII close the Sistine Chapel “for repairs” to prevent his access?
- ? In 1875, Father Filippo Cecchi invented what scientific instrument that monitors, measures, and records vibrations in the subsurface of the Earth?
- ? Which Italian inventor established and supervised Vatican Radio until his death in 1937?

Source: Frush, S. P. (2009) *Ultimate Catholic Trivia: 1001 Fun and Fascinating Facts*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. pp 93, 96-97, 99. Submitted by Jim Lee (Answers inside.)

For Reflection

- ★ What do I treasure most in my life?
- ★ How do Jesus’ parables challenge the way I live?

<https://young-catholics.com/2840/17th-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 July intention: Pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it is a gift from God.

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.

Continued from front page

We lose sin. We lose selfishness. We lose pride. We lose resentment. We lose unhealthy attachments. But what do we gain? Peace. Purpose. Joy. Mercy. Forgiveness. Eternal life. That is not a loss. That is the greatest exchange in history.

So why do we hesitate? Because we often don't recognize the treasure. We know about Jesus, but we haven't fully discovered Him. We know the teachings, but we haven't experienced the joy. We know the commandments, but we haven't encountered the love behind them. The saints understood this. Saint Francis gave away wealth. Saint Teresa of Calcutta left comfort. Saint Maximilian Kolbe gave his life. Not because they loved suffering. But because they had found something infinitely greater. When you've discovered the treasure, everything else changes.

Then Jesus shifts to a different image. A fishing net gathers every kind of fish, good and bad. Everything comes into the same net. Eventually, the fishermen separate them. Jesus reminds us that the Church welcomes everyone. Saints. Sinners. Those still searching. Those struggling. Those barely hanging on. Everyone is invited. But there comes a day of separation. There comes a day when each of us will stand before God. Not to terrify us, but to remind us that our choices matter. God's mercy is limitless, and it must be received. The Kingdom is offered freely. It cannot be ignored forever.

So today's Gospel asks each of us one simple question. What is your treasure? What occupies your thoughts? What receives your time? What receives your energy? What receives your heart? Because Jesus said: "Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." If Christ is truly our treasure, people should notice. Not because we are perfect, but because we live differently: We forgive more quickly, serve more generously, worry less, love more deeply, pray more faithfully. We carry hope into a world filled with anxiety.

Imagine standing before Jesus today. He opens

Continued on back

JULY 26, 2026

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: John O'Brien

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Minister: Diane Webster

August 2

Greeters: Deb Newell and Marie Goupil

Lector: Kerry L. Mess

Eucharistic Minister: Jen Spivey

Mass Intention

FOR THE SOUL OF LARRY TURNER

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, Jim and Jan Drummy, Jo Franklin, Sarah Grogan, Agnes Huff, Maureen Joy, 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 our community, all those who helped with and attended the picnic

Did You Know answers: 1) Pope Gregory XIII (Gregorian calendar) 2) St Cecilia of Rome 3) Adolph Hitler 4) Modern seismograph 5) Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937)