

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, October 5
Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin
Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

Tuesday, October 6
Saint Bruno, Priest
Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin

Wednesday, October 7
Our Lady of the Rosary

Friday, October 9
Saint Denis, Bishop and Companions, Martyrs
Saint John Leonardi, Priest

CATHOLIC CIVICS FOR ELECTION SEASON 2

“Men and women have the specific duty to move always towards the **truth**, to respect it and bear responsible witness to it. Living in the truth has special significance in social relationships. In fact, when the coexistence of human beings within a community is founded on truth, it is ordered and fruitful, and it corresponds to their dignity as persons.

Modern times call for an intensive educational effort and a corresponding commitment on the part of all so that the quest for truth cannot be ascribed to the sum of different opinions, nor to one or another of these opinions.”

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 198

CATHOLIC CIVICS FOR ELECTION SEASON 3

“Man can turn to good only in **freedom**, which God has given to him as one of the highest signs of his image: “For God has willed that man remain ‘under the control of his own decisions,’ so that he can seek his Creator spontaneously, and come freely to utter and blissful perfection through loyalty to Him...”

Freedom is the highest sign in man of his being made in the divine image and, consequently, is a sign of the sublime dignity of every human person... Every human person, created in the image of God, has the natural right to be recognized as a free and responsible being. All owe to each other this duty of respect. The right to the exercise of freedom, especially in moral and religious matters, is an inalienable requirement of the dignity of the human person.”

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 135, 199

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Mass Attendance: 55

Collection: \$691

Catholic University: \$157

Upcoming Events

10/04: Christian Formation after mass

10/08: Liturgy of the Word

10/09: Harvest Festival, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Sacred Heart Sidney

10/10: Harvest Festival, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sacred Heart Sidney

10/11: Altar server training, 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

10/25: Christian Formation after mass

11/01: Christian Formation after mass

11/05: Liturgy of the Word

11/06: First Friday Devotion, 2:30 p.m., St. Mary’s Oneonta

11/07: First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary’s Oneonta

11/08: Coffee Hour, Pastoral Council meeting after mass



OCTOBER 4, 2026

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, A

Isaiah 5:1–7

Psalm 80

Philippians 4:6–9

Matthew 21:33–43

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

Happy those who can say: ‘I live for God!’ Happy those who draw the meaning of their life from the crystal clear fountain of God!

–Brother Roger of Taizé

THE VINEYARD: A RELATIONAL FIELD OF JUSTICE, GRATITUDE, LOVE

This week’s readings continue the motif of the vineyard as a symbol of the relational field, the dynamic interactiveness of the kingdom of God. In Isaiah, God plants the vineyard (the earth) for His beloveds (us), crafting it lovingly to ensure a plentiful harvest to sustain His chosen ones (all of us). And yet, we choose to make a ruin of the gift through individual and collective sin and injustice, separating ourselves from the love of and union with God and harming God’s creation, our home, and each other. God seems exasperated—Isaiah likely was. Yet, like the Israelites in Ezekiel last week, we often grumble that God has it out for us or that we’re being unfairly punished. As Ezekiel pointed out last week and God’s exasperation in Isaiah notes, “judge between me and

my vineyard: What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done? Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?” We are the ones who choose separation (sin) from God’s kingdom, causing ourselves, each other, and our Earth harm.

Jesus’s parable of the vineyard owner and his tenants follows directly from Isaiah’s words. The vineyard is again a symbol of God’s love and desire for relationship with us. Yet, when the owner (God) sends his servants (the lowly ones in Jesus’s day) to the tenants (chief priests and elders), they choose to beat and kill the servants rather than share the produce. Their greed—the desire to protect themselves—is so intense, they choose to kill the vineyard owner’s son. Here, Jesus foreshadows His own death. He tells the chief priests and elders that “the kingdom of God will be taken away from you” because they are so consumed with their own self-interest rather than the well-being of God’s people, the community. Such disunion harms God’s loving kingdom.

Paul provides the path to staying in union with God, the owner of the vineyard. Gratitude is the frame Paul advocates for in our prayer. Henri Nouwen put it this way: “The opposite of resentment is gratitude (from the Latin gratia = favor). Gratitude is more than an occasional ‘thanks be to God.’ Gratitude is the attitude that enables us to let go of anger, receive the hidden gifts of those we want to serve, and make these gifts visible to the community as a source of celebration.” St. Thérèse of Lisieux, whose feast day we celebrated this past week (October 1) taught that “legalism and negativity aren’t true. Jesus does not demand great actions from us but simply surrender and gratitude.” Paul tells us, “whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” and be grateful for them and God’s love.

For Reflection

- ★ What “wild grapes” in my life might need to change?
- ★ How do I use the gifts and responsibilities God has given me?

<https://young-catholics.com/2944/27th-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

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

Adult: Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Youth: Bridgette Shepardson (607) 287-324

Ministry to the Homebound

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Pope Leo XIV's October intention: May the Church establish a mental health ministry, helping to overcome stigma and discrimination of those suffering.

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.

A CATHOLIC GUIDE: FAITH BEFORE POLITICS

The call of Christian discipleship is not to abandon our civic responsibility, but to make our faith the center of our actions as citizens. Instead of walking lockstep with a political party or ideology, faithful citizens are tasked with bringing our Catholic faith to transform parties or groups to which we belong to protect the lives and good of all people.

As followers of Christ, we must take seriously the call to form consciences in light of the Church's social tradition, lessons of Scripture, and wisdom of our Holy Father. As Pope Leo teaches, Catholic Social Teaching "offers itself as a foundation for collective discernment, helping to recognize and promote whatever serves the dignity of persons, the vitality of communities and the common good."

We place the sacred dignity of each person at the center of our public life, working to protect the lives and good of all people, never separating our love for God from our love for our neighbor.

Who Is My Neighbor?

Like the Good Samaritan, we are called to care for the most vulnerable, cross social divides, and help those in need, responding to the law to "love your neighbor as yourself." Every one possesses God-given dignity, so our political choices must respect and protect everyone, seeing each person as neighbor, child of God with mercy, compassion, justice.

Living Together as One

Politics can feel full of vitriol and make us think of our neighbors as adversaries. Pope Francis reminded us: politics is "an expression of our compelling need to live as one...to build as one the greatest common good." This shared effort calls us to practice love in our communities, working across differences.

As for the Good Samaritan, standing with our neighbors sometimes means caring for people whom society finds difficult to love, even when it provokes pushback or disapproval. This is the challenge of discipleship that Jesus helps us carry. As Christ's disciples, we seek to bring the light of the Gospel into every aspect of our lives and put our faith before politics. <https://www.usccb.org/resources/faith-politics-handout>

OCTOBER 4, 2026

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeters: Deb Newell and Marie Goupil

Lector: Kerry L. Mess

Eucharistic Minister: Diane Turner

October 11

Greeters: Jackie and Chet McAdams

Lector: Maureen Joy

Eucharistic Minister: Carol Tyson

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, Jo Franklin, Sarah Grogan, Agnes Huff, Maureen Joy, Nadine Joy, John Kristofik, 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 the gift of life and each one of us, precious in God's eyes and worthy of love and respect