

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, October 19
Saints John de Brébeuf and Issac Jogues, Priests and Companions, Martyrs

Tuesday, October 20
Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest

Thursday, October 22
Saint John Paul II, Pope

Friday, October 23
Saint John of Capistrano, Priest

Saturday, October 24
Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

CATHOLIC CIVICS FOR ELECTION SEASON 7
St. Thomas Aquinas defines **humility** as “consisting in keeping oneself within one’s own bounds, not reaching out to things above one, but submitting to one’s superior.”
Summa Contra Gent., bk. IV, ch. Lv.

In his message for the 52nd World Day of Peace on January 1, 2019, Pope Francis noted that “Jesus tells us that, ‘if anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all’ (Mk 9:35). In the words of Pope Paul VI, ‘to take politics seriously at its different levels – local, regional, national and worldwide – is to affirm the duty of each individual to acknowledge the reality and value of the freedom offered him to work at one and the same time for the good of the city, the nation and all mankind.’”

- OCTOBER, MONTH OF MARY: THE ROSARY**
1. How many promises does the Blessed Virgin Mary offer to those who pray the Rosary?
 2. The Hail Mary is based on which two passages from the Gospel of Luke?
 3. In the Rosary, how Hail Marys are said after naming a Mystery and praying Our Father?
 4. Praying all 15 decades of a traditional Rosary is called what?
 5. What prayer is typically the recited at the end of the Rosary?
 6. What Marian prayer is considered “an abridgment of the whole Gospel”?
 7. What are the names for the different Mysteries in a complete Rosary?
 8. How many Mysteries does each set contain?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026
Mass Attendance: 84
Collection: \$1,218 / Insurance: \$144



OCTOBER 18, 2026
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, A
Isaiah 45:1, 4–6
Psalm 96
1 Thessalonians 1:1–5b
Matthew 22:15–21

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

When we walk with Jesus we can know that we have a fellow traveler, someone-with-us. Jesus is God-with-us, the one we can trust with our whole life, the one who shows us the way.
–Henri Nouwen

LIVING IN INTEGRITY, LIVING MY FAITH
This week’s readings provide a road map for how we live need to live our faith, our relationship with God. In Isaiah, God speaks, reminding us God is in charge. God grasps the right hand of Cyrus, a foreign ruler, and opens doors for him. God says, “It is I who arm you, though you know me not.” Cyrus the Great is a Persian, who seizes Babylon and issues an edict allowing all exiles to return; thus God uses him to free the Israelites from exile. Like the master in last week’s Gospel who invites all to the feast, God can work through all people even those who don’t know or follow God. People sometimes say, “God works in mysterious ways.” This speaks to a universality; we never know where we may find God—in a stranger, a foreigner, even in someone we view as an enemy.

Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians praises the people for how they live their faith, “your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope...” The people of Thessalonica, despite fierce opposition, continue to live their faith through their lives. The Thessalonians are “people of their word.” They exhibit love and hope in all they do, demonstrating that believing in Jesus is not just a matter of mind or thought, but a matter of action. The adage, “Actions speak louder than words” applies here.
This is what Jesus challenges the Pharisees with. For the last several weeks Jesus has challenged people about how they respond to God, grumbling at God’s generosity, destroying God’s works, refusing God’s invitation. The Pharisees are often at the front of the line in these situations; they may speak pious words or put on pious airs, but they do not live honest, holy lives in their day to day actions. Their challenging of Jesus is one example. They hope to trap Jesus the way they perhaps trap other Jews to be able to condemn Him. Jesus, however, understands their game and exposes their dishonesty. By telling the Pharisees to give to “Caesar what belongs to Caesar,” he acknowledges we have responsibilities in this world. By telling them to “give to God what is God’s,” he illustrates like Isaiah’s reading that God is in charge; and following God requires more than words and appearances. God knows the hearts of people, which really shows up in our actions. Are we truly loving? Do we actually work to recognize the humanity, made in the image of God, in every person? Do we treat all people with that recognition? Faith requires living in integrity, which when following Jesus means living through action. Our relationship with God cannot flourish without it.

For Reflection
★ Do I ever act like the Pharisees, saying the right words but not living in integrity with my faith?
★ What steps can I take to ensure my faith is honest and not just for show?
<https://young-catholics.com/2967/29th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-a/#thoughts>

- Upcoming Events**
- 10/18: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Mission Sunday**
Christian formation after mass
- 10/21: Holy Hour & Night Prayer, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary’s Oneonta
- 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**
- 11/12: Liturgy of the Word**
- 11/15: Rosary after mass**
- 11/19: Liturgy of the Word**
- 11/22: SPECIAL COLLECTION: Campaign for Human Development**
Christian Formation after mass

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/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) 287-3251

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.

CATHOLIC CIVICS FOR ELECTION SEASON 6

"We can identify three distinct moments as prudence is exercised:

- to clarify and evaluate situations
- to inspire decisions, and
- to prompt action.

The first moment is seen in the reflection and consultation by which the question is studied and the necessary opinions sought. The second moment is that of evaluation, as the reality is analyzed and judged in the light of God's plan. The third moment, that of decision, is based on the preceding steps and makes it possible to choose between the different actions that may be taken."

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 547

Prudence makes it possible to make decisions that are consistent, and to make them with realism and a sense of responsibility for the consequences of one's action. The rather widespread opinion that equates prudence with shrewdness, with utilitarian calculations, with diffidence or with timidity or indecision, is far from the correct understanding of this virtue. It is a characteristic of practical reason and offers assistance in deciding with wisdom and courage the course of action that should be followed, becoming the measure of the other virtues.

Prudence affirms the good as a duty and shows in what manner the person should accomplish it. In the final analysis, it is a virtue that requires the mature exercise of thought and responsibility in an objective understanding of a specific situation and in making decisions according to a correct will.

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 198

HOW HAVE I SHARED GOD'S LOVE?

OCTOBER 18, 2026

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Peg Lilley

Deacon: Paul Cerosaletti

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Minister: Jen Spivey

October 25

Greeter: Marguerite Webster

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Lee

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).

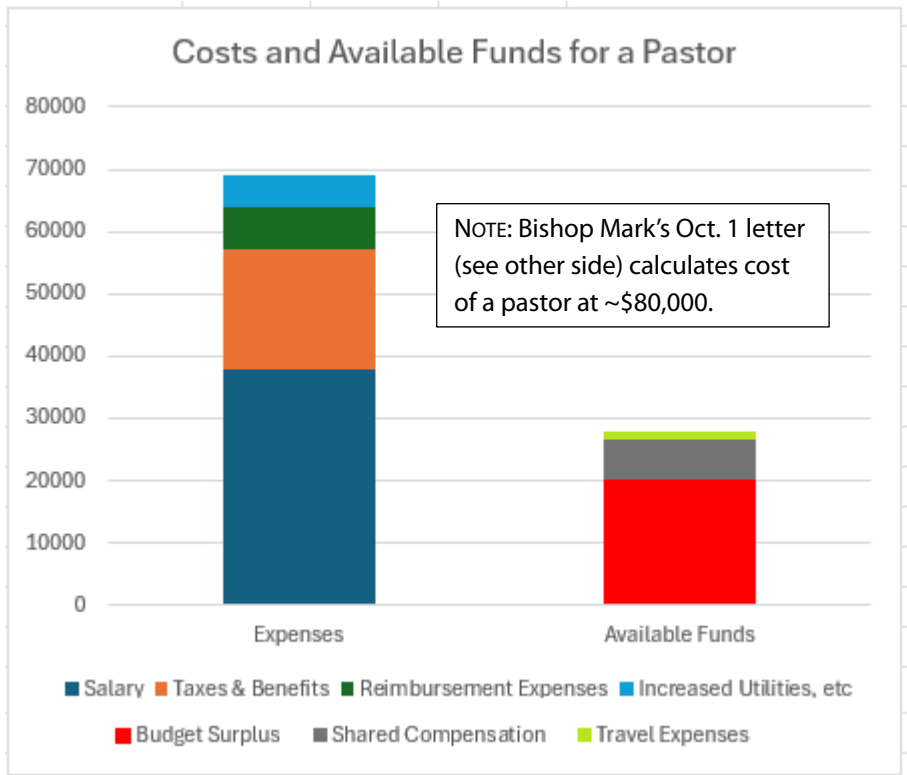
Pray for

- ✠ 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 voices of the parish in song and for Mary Tabone's voice in the choir

October, Month of Mary: The Rosary 1) 15 2) Annunciation, Visitation 3) 10 4) Dominican Rosary 5) Hail, Holy Queen [Salve Regina] 6) Rosary 7) Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, Luminous 8) 5 Sources: Frush, S. P. (2009). *Ultimate Catholic Trivia*. Marshall Rand Publishing, pp 54, 55, 57, 81, 85, 87.

Can Holy Cross afford a Pastor?

Bishop Mark has said he can bring more priests into the diocese so that each parish may have its own pastor if it is able. Below is a breakdown of the cost a Diocese of Albany parish must cover for a priest (left) and the available funds Holy Cross has, including our budget surplus and funds we currently pay to St. Mary's Oneonta or Fr Chris directly (right).



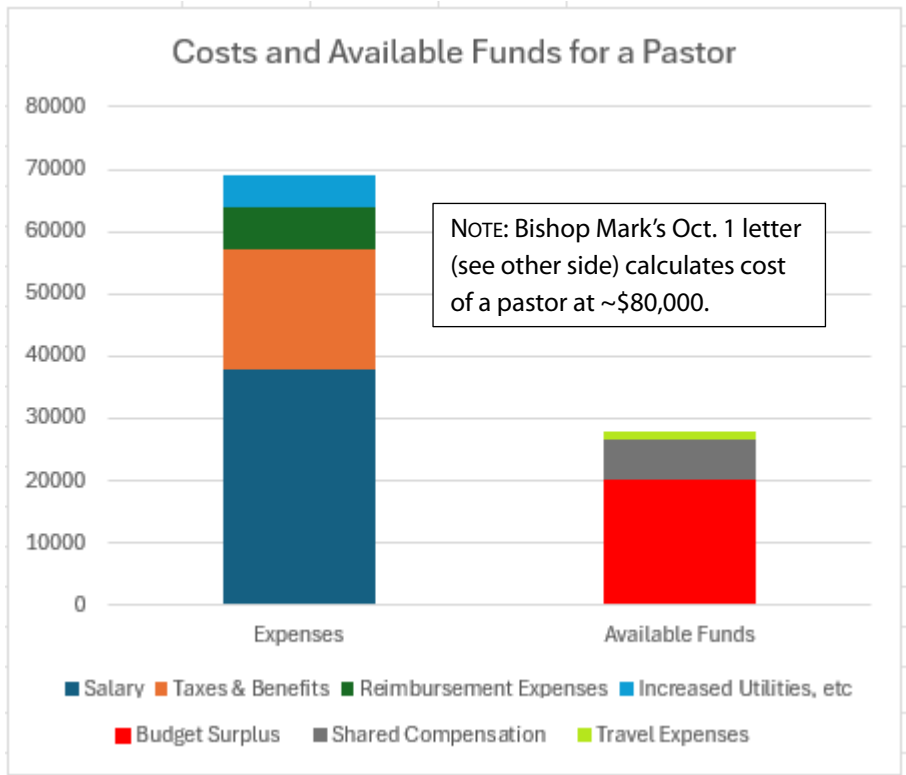
The question for Holy Cross is: How can we bridge this \$41,000 gap? Here are three ways to have a pastor at Holy Cross:

- We would have to raise at least \$1,850 a week, a 75% increase from our current average of \$1,060. (The most important, reliable parish income is weekly collections.) This is currently not sustainable.
- We could explore having our pastor provide some service to St. Mary's, which shares the pastor's expenses.
- We could bring more of our friends, family, and neighbors to the faith and to the church. If we succeed in our goal of sharing the Good News, we would be able to have a pastor at Holy Cross.

We are open to other thoughts and suggestions to make a pastor a reality.

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Reality and Renewal: Planning Holy Cross Parish's Future

Over the summer, Holy Cross invited parishioners to vision what it would like to see Holy Cross be/become. Now we have a road map for planning.

The October 1, 2026 edition of *The Evangelist* featured a letter from Bishop Mark as the centerspread. In his letter, the bishop laid out 10 areas for parishes to consider in their five-year plan for sustainability of the parish. Here are the 10 areas:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Availability of the Sacraments
<i>serve the people of the parish geography using parish registration</i> | • Capital Plan & Buildings
<i>realistic outlook for capital needs and timetable</i> |
| • Liturgical Character
<i>examine our liturgy to build community (active participation)</i> | • Charity/Outreach
<i>identify focus for efforts (non-active, non-Catholics)</i> |
| • Community Building
<i>nourish faith/fellowship beyond Mass (consider traditions to keep, let go of)</i> | • Financial Sustainability
<i>path to a balanced budget, (electronic giving, Appeal)</i> |
| • Evangelization & Faith Formation
<i>missionary disciples: OCIA, vocations awareness, faith formation: all ages</i> | • Collaboration
<i>appropriate shared ministry/staff/outreach/resources</i> |
| • Affording a Priest (see other side) | |
| • Appropriate Staffing
<i>staffing we can afford to increase sustainability*</i> | <i>* NOTE: Holy Cross is currently completely staffed by volunteers.</i> |

Holy Cross's parish plan is due to the Diocese by the first day of spring, March 20, 2027. Over the next five months, Pastoral Council will engage in a planning process. We invite everyone to participate in this process.

For the next two weeks, we will have a poster up with the 10 parish plan areas for consideration. Post-its will be available for people to share their thinking about/ideas for each area.

Our next Pastoral Council meeting is Sunday, November 8 after mass with the coffee hour. Please join us in the parish hall for a review of collected ideas and next steps, including the formation of a Parish Planning Committee, open to all parishioners. Come help build community!

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Availability of the Sacraments

Every territory in the Diocese is assigned to a parish. Catholics within those boundaries have a right to the Sacraments when properly prepared and in good standing. Some churches also carry particular missions (for example, serving an ethnic community). A sustainable parish must be able to provide the Sacraments to those it is bound to serve. The American custom of parish registration, while not required by canon law, should be respected. Parishes attract others through their spirit and welcome, never by “poaching.”

Community Building

A parish is a community of persons under the guidance of a pastor or officially named leader — not the building, but the People of God. What does your parish do beyond the Sacraments to nourish faith and fellowship? Regular or annual events? Charitable activities that unite people? Organizations with which the parish is associated? Is the community healthy, and what would make it healthier? What traditional activities could usefully be revived? Which have passed their usefulness and now drain rather than build the parish? What new initiatives could bring fresh energy?

Affording a Priest

Not every parish needs a resident pastor; Albany has a long and often effective tradition of lay leadership. Yet every parish must be able to afford priestly ministry. A full-time priest currently costs approximately \$80,000 per year in salary and benefits. These costs can be split between parishes. I have already shown that we can bring in carefully vetted priests from outside the Diocese for a parish that needs and can afford one. Each July, the Diocese moves priests to fill gaps and to send them to meet the most critical needs. If a priest is your greatest need, or the key to growth, include the ability to cover this cost in your plan. In addition, the Diocese needs more churches that can afford a Parochial Vicar so that we can properly assign our newly ordained or acquired priests. This would allow other priests, who can no longer be pastors for a variety of reasons, to be assigned elsewhere.

Liturgical Character

We have a wide variety of liturgical styles in Albany. None is preferred by me over another, provided they remain within the liturgical law of the Church. What matters is that the liturgy reflects the desires of the people of the territory and fosters holiness: reverence for the Eucharist, appropriate music and homilies, and active participation by the laity. Examine your liturgies not to criticize but to build an even more faithful community. The Liturgy Office under Msgr. Anthony Barratt will be available for consultation.

Collaboration

In many situations, collaboration with neighboring parishes or within the network offers the most sustainable path. Most of our parishes are in a network with a shared pastor. These relationships are critically important but they are not set in stone. Shared ministry, staff, outreach, and resources should be seriously considered rather than attempting to carry every responsibility alone. The appropriate number of Masses within a Network and commuting area based on the number of attending Catholics should also be carefully considered among the parishes.

Financial Sustainability — Balanced Budget and Stewardship

The financial landscape has changed dramatically. Relying principally on the collection basket is no longer sufficient. Every parish needs reliable electronic/recurring giving. We are studying platforms (Flocknote, E-Catholic, and options through bulletin companies) and will offer recommendations; we will not mandate a single provider. Parishes cannot rely on savings accounts or leases to cover operating expenses year after year. Savings may help with transition, but they are not a long-term strategy. Plans must be realistic and sustainable. Each parish must have a concrete path to a balanced budget that includes participation in the Diocesan Appeal (accounting realistically for shortfalls when necessary). We are one Church with a singular mission supported locally, regionally, and worldwide.

Appropriate Staffing

What can the parish afford? Which positions should be prioritized? Is the parish over or understaffed relative to its financial reality? Looking five years ahead, what ideal staffing would increase sustainability (music, faith formation, pastoral associate, etc.)?

Evangelization and Faith Formation

What does your parish do to attract and form new disciples? Who lives in the neighborhood now, and how do you reach them? Is the parish still oriented primarily toward a past community to the exclusion of those who live there today? Do parishioners know how to evangelize? Plans must clearly address the mission of evangelization, including strong efforts in:

- OCIA and welcoming new Catholics
- Vocations awareness and encouragement
- Faith formation for children and youth
- Ongoing adult formation and discipleship

The goal is to form **missionary disciples**, not merely maintain programs or parishioners.

Most parishes have sacramental preparation. Fewer offer robust adult, young-adult, or small-group formation. Programs such as ChristLife and similar initiatives often prove especially fruitful. What currently works?

What more could be done with realistic resources?

Capital Plan and Buildings

Develop a realistic outlook of major capital needs and a timetable, then begin by focusing on the next five years. We must look honestly at our buildings and properties. Is each asset still serving the parish's mission as originally intended, or could repurposing, shared use, or other arrangements better sustain the mission while reducing burdens?

Charity/Outreach

Every parish should maintain outreach to the poor and marginalized — locally or elsewhere in the Diocese. Each parish has some responsibility for the Missions throughout the world as well. Identify the needs in your parish and answer the question, "Where should efforts be focused?" This is an especially important area for inviting non-Catholics and non-active Catholics to participate