

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, October 29
SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

CELEBRATING MARY: QUIZ YOURSELF

Mary holds a special place in the Church: She said Yes to God. Mary has 18 feast days a year:

- ☾ Jan. 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- ☾ Jan. 8: Our Lady of Prompt Succor
- ☾ Feb. 2: Presentation of the Lord
- ☾ Feb. 11: Our Lady of Lourdes
- ☾ Mar. 25: Annunciation
- ☾ May 13: Our Lady of Fatima
- ☾ May 31: Visitation
- ☾ Jun. 27: Our Mother of Perpetual Help
- ☾ Jul. 16: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- ☾ Aug. 15: Assumption
- ☾ Aug. 22: Queenship of Mary *continued inside*

CATHOLIC CIVICS FOR ELECTION SEASON 9

The Bible teaches us that responsibility is inseparable from **stewardship**. We ultimately will be held accountable for the way in which we use what God gives us. In Luke 12:41-48, Our Lord reminds us that we are like stewards who are placed in charge of the household while the Master is away. “Who, then, is the wise and trustworthy steward whom the master will place over his household to give them at the proper time their allowance of food? Blessed is that servant if his master’s arrival finds him doing just that.” But if the servant abuses his master’s trust, saying “My master is taking his time coming” and sets about beating the men-servants and the servant-girls, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know.”

—Archbishop Thomas Cardinal Collins, Well Done Good & Faithful Servant

Upcoming Events

- 10/25: Christian Formation after mass
- 11/01: **All Souls Altar of Remembrance:**
Bring your photos for the back table
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 after mass
- 11/12: Liturgy of the Word
- 11/15: Coffee Hour after mass
- 11/19: Liturgy of the Word
- 11/22: **SPECIAL COLLECTION: Campaign for Human Development**
- 11/29: **Advent Fair after mass (see box below)**
- 12/04: First Friday Devotion, 2:30 p.m., St. Mary’s Oneonta
- 12/05: First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary’s Oneonta

🕯 **November 29: Advent Fair after mass** 🕯
Join us in the parish hall for coffee or juice, share some holiday goodies, make an advent wreath, sing along to favorite carols to usher in the new church year! To share art, a craft, food, ornaments, something else with the parish community, contact Matthew Tabone.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026
Mass Attendance: 62
Collection: \$733; Mission Sunday: \$444

**WHEN DID AN ACT OF LOVE
CHANGE EVERYTHING?**



OCTOBER 25, 2026

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, A
Exodus 22:20–26
Psalm 18
1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10
Matthew 22:34–40

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

The experience of peace and reconciliation comes when people are very honest and compassionate with one another, when they are vulnerable and open about their mistakes and weaknesses. The seed that falls into broken ground bears much fruit. So perhaps it is wise to begin to shift our thinking. We want to move away from emulating successfulness and begin to dream about a life of fruitfulness. –Henri Nouwen

LOVE IS JUSTICE

What is justice? Modern society still largely operates on the “eye for an eye” model of justice. Jesus, however, simplifies the law into a single action: Love. First the Pharisees try trapping Jesus (last week) with the whole, “Should we pay the imperial tax to Caesar?” Then the Sadducees try trapping Jesus with the question of a woman who marries each of seven brothers after being widowed by each one. The Sadducees want to know whose wife she’ll be at the resurrection. Here too, the religious authorities cannot catch Jesus; he chides them for not knowing the Scriptures or God’s power. So the Pharisees jump back in to ask what the greatest commandment is (today). Jesus provides one action with two directions: Love—Love God, Love neighbor.

Loving God may not be as easy as we think. God tells us through Isaiah, “My thoughts are not your thoughts; my ways are not your ways.” This is the God who pays the latecomer as much as the first workers of the day; the God who creates the most luscious vineyard for people who destroy it; the God who invites the lost and forsaken to the banquet when the comfortable

classes don’t have the time for Him. Can we forgive and Love this God who loves and cares for the strangers, the foreigners, our enemies? Loving this God takes effort; it requires us getting over ourselves. Then loving God also happens when we love *all* of our neighbors.

Cynthia Bourgeault says of loving our neighbors as ourselves, “...we almost always hear that wrong: ‘Love your neighbor as much as yourself.’ (And of course, the next logical question then becomes, ‘But I have to love me first, don’t I, before I can love my neighbor?’) If you listen closely to Jesus however, there is no ‘as much as’ in his admonition. It’s just ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’—as a continuation of your very own being. It’s a complete seeing that your neighbor is you. There are not two individuals out there, one seeking to better herself at the price of the other, or to extend charity to the other; there are simply two cells of the one great Life. Each of them is equally precious and necessary...” This is what God is about in Isaiah: “You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.” God reminds the Israelites (and us) that we are interconnected; our neighbors are a part of us. We are called to see our own weaknesses in others and recognize that we are not any different than widow or orphan, stranger, foreigner, or enemy. God’s justice is one of Love: Don’t charge interest when lending money; return your neighbor’s cloak before sunset if you borrow it so your neighbor is not left cold. The question of “What’s in it for me?” must be one of “What’s in it for us?” because when we love our neighbors as ourselves, we become community (*with unity*), God’s relational field of Love. In today’s contentious, divided society, Jesus calls us to open our hearts with Love. How will we respond?

For Reflection

- ★ Who in my community is vulnerable or in need?
- ★ How can I help?

<https://young-catholics.com/2975/30th-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/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:

When did an act of Love change everything?

Looking for parishioners interested in joining the Parish Planning Committee to support the Pastoral Council's work. See or call Kerry L. Mess.

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 helioscare.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

CATHOLIC CIVICS FOR ELECTION SEASON 8

Christ reveals to human authority, always tempted by the desire to dominate, its authentic and complete meaning as service. God is the one Father, and Christ the one Teacher, of all mankind, and all people are brothers and sisters. Sovereignty belongs to God. The Lord, however, "has not willed to reserve to himself all exercise of power. He entrusts to every creature the functions it is capable of performing, according to the capacities of its own nature. This mode of governance ought to be followed in social life.

"The way God acts in governing the world, which bears witness to such great regard for human freedom, should inspire the wisdom of those who govern human communities. They should behave as ministers of divine providence."

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 383

- ✧ Sept. 8: Birth of Mary
- ✧ Sept. 12: The Most Holy Name of Mary
- ✧ Sept. 15: Our Lady of Sorrows
- ✧ Oct. 7: Our Lady of the Rosary
- ✧ Nov. 21: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- ✧ Dec. 8: Immaculate Conception
- ✧ Dec. 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

- ? What feast day celebrates the Angel Gabriel telling Mary she will bear the Son of God?
- ? Who visits whom in the Visitation?
- ? Why does this Visitation take place?
- ? What event does the Immaculate Conception celebrate

<https://marian.org/mary/feast-days>

Celebrating Mary 1) Annunciation 2) Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth 3) Mary learns Elizabeth is also pregnant 4) St. Anne's conception of Mary (not Mary's conception of Jesus; that's the Annunciation.)

OCTOBER 25, 2026

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Marguerite Webster

Deacon Candidate: Rob Bohm

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Lee

November 1

Greeters: Deb Newell and Marie Goupil

Lector: Kerry L. Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Turner

Mass Intention

FOR MICHELLE LEE AND FAMILY

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).

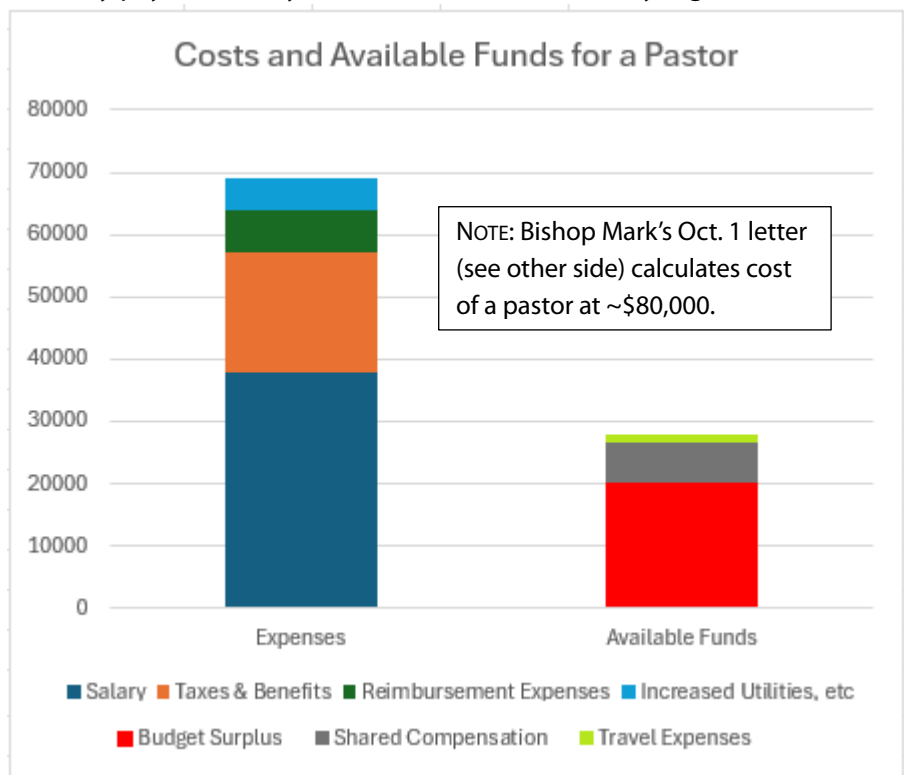
Pray for

- ✧ Nora Weidman, newly baptized, and her family
- ✧ for the sick, their caregivers, and all who asked for our prayers, especially Kathleen Barry, Kevin Burke, Jo Franklin, Sarah Grogan, Agnes Huff, Maureen Joy, Pat Kristofik, 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, all first responders, emergency personnel: Ryan Barry, Jim Barry, Meghan Barringer
- ✧ for the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends
- ✧ in thanksgiving for autumn sun and leaves

WHEN DID AN ACT OF LOVE CHANGE EVERYTHING?

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 pastor (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.

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

* NOTE: Holy Cross is currently completely staffed by volunteers.

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!