

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, December 6

Saint Nicholas

Thursday, December 7

Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

Friday, December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday, December 9

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

### Saint Nicholas's Day – December 6

The custom of St. Nicholas's Day is said to have begun with a poor family with three daughters in Nicholas's village. In those days, a girl needed a dowry to get married, but the family did not have money to spare. Nicholas wanted to help them without anyone knowing. He didn't want to become proud of sharing what he had.

One night, while the family was sleeping, he quietly went up to their door. The girls had left their shoes outside so as not to track mud in their little house. Nicholas put several gold coins in each shoe, enough for the girls to get married.

Patron Saint of children, those seeking husbands, coopers, sailors, fishermen, merchants, broadcasters, the falsely accused, repentant thieves, brewers, pharmacists, archers, and pawn-brokers.

<https://young-catholics.com/439/st-nicholas/>

### The Immaculate Conception of Mary

The Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception holds that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was conceived without original sin. This belief is deeply rooted in biblical references and theological foundations. Although the term "immaculate conception" is not explicitly mentioned in the Bible, there are passages alluding to Mary's unique status. For instance, in Luke's gospel, the angel Gabriel greets Mary as "full of grace," indicating her purity and favor with God.

Pope Pius IX officially declared the doctrine in 1854, affirming the belief that Mary was preserved from the stain of original sin from the moment of her conception. This declaration was based on the understanding that Mary's role as mother of Jesus required her to be free from sin, as she would bear the Son of God.

The Immaculate Conception is a significant aspect of Catholic theology and devotion to Mary. It highlights her exceptional holiness and sets her apart from all other human beings. This doctrine emphasizes the belief in Mary's unique role in salvation history and her integral connection to the mission of Jesus Christ. By being conceived without original sin, Mary is seen as the perfect vessel through which God chose to enter the world. Her purity and obedience to God's will make her a model of faith.

The Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is a central tenet of the Catholic faith, reflecting the reverence and devotion given to Mary as Mother of Jesus, a symbol of faith and purity.

Text and image from: <https://young-catholics.com/442/immaculate-conception-blessed-virgin-mary/>

DECEMBER 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent, B

Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b, 64:2–7

Psalms 80

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Mark 13:33–37

# Holy Cross Parish

### ADVENT: A NEW LITURGICAL YEAR, A NEW START (Bishop William A. Wack, C.S.C.)

As we begin another liturgical year, the readings pick up where we left off last week, focusing on the second coming of Christ. Whereas in the gospel, Mark presents Jesus issuing a stern warning ("What I say to you I say to all: Watch!"), the prophet Isaiah sets a different tone: "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down." It seems as though Isaiah is reminding God of God's attributes, as though he were telling God something new: You are mighty, you are our father, you are the potter, you are our redeemer.

Yet throughout the reading the prophet also asks for mercy, forgiveness, and for a swift coming in glory. To me, it sounds like he is saying: "You will always forgive us, ... right?" Or: "You are a father who wouldn't forget his children. ... aren't you?" It's a curious blend of praise and petition, assurance and supplication.

Yet I think that this describes our life with God quite well. We come together as a church to sing God's praises and to adore God with all kinds of titles: Father, Redeemer, Lord, Savior, Shepherd, and so forth. And in almost the same breath we are so bold as to ask God to act in those ways: Be a Redeemer. Be a loving shepherd. Be patient with us.

This is not wrong. In fact, Jesus Christ himself told us to pray this way. "When you pray, say 'Our Father ... Hallowed by thy name ... give us our daily bread....'" Even though our Father knows what we need before we ask, it is right and just that we should lift up our hearts in praise, our hands in petition. [Pope Francis has named this liturgical year a year of prayer to prepare for the 2025 Jubilee. More in coming weeks.]

When I first saw the 2011 translation for the text of the Mass, I was surprised at the exhortation of the celebrant before the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, which now reads: "...we dare to say..." What a strange wording! But considering that we are about to invoke a very tender and intimate image of God and ask for things we want/need at the same time, it is entirely appropriate. Like Moses in the Pentateuch, we dare to remind God who God has revealed the divine nature to be. It's as though we are saying, "If you are a loving God..." The sense is not one of skepticism; rather it is a statement of fact: "Since you are a loving God..."

Advent is a time of waiting, and a time of prayer. Isaiah teaches us how to do both at the same time. We and all of God's creation cry out, "Come, Lord Jesus!" And God says to us, in effect, "I am coming. Are you ready?" Isaiah puts it best: "Would that you might meet us doing right."

Yes, we watch and we wait. But we must do more. In prayer, song, worship, and service, we call upon our good God, and thus we get ourselves ready to meet the Lord.

Reflection from: <https://uscatholic.org/articles/202311/a-reflection-for-the-first-sunday-of-advent-3/>; question from: <https://young-catholics.com/3014/1st-sunday-of-advent-year-b/>; image from: <https://young-catholics.com/3014/1st-sunday-of-advent-year-b/>

WE ARE THE  
CLAY AND YOU  
THE POTTER.  
WE ARE ALL THE  
WORK OF YOUR  
HANDS.

ISAIAH 64:7

### For Reflection

- ★ How will I renew my commitment to God's plan this Advent, and what does embracing the season's uncertainty look like in my life?

"HAIL, MARY,  
FULL OF  
GRACE;  
THE LORD IS  
WITH YOU..."

# Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street  
PO Box 118  
Morris NY 13808

[holycrosschurch@gmail.com](mailto:holycrosschurch@gmail.com)

## MISSION

To care for the poor, abandoned, and the marginalized.



## SCHEDULE

**Mass:** Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

**Liturgy of the Word:** Tuesday, 10 a.m.

## PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

### **Parish Leader**

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

### **Trustees**

Michael Stensland (607) 783-2764

Richard Meyers (607) 263-5588

### **Parish Council Chair**

Kerry L. Mess (607) 386-1951

### **Parish Council Members**

Dana Mochovciak, Jenna Turner, Carol Tyson, Marguerite Webster

### **Liturgical Ministry**

Marguerite Webster (607) 263-5478

### **Faith Formation**

Daphne Thompson (607) 263-2410

### **Ministry to the Homebound**

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Jenn Spivey (207) 539-5094

## DECEMBER 3, 2023

### **Celebrant**

Rev. Chris Welch

**Lector:** Becky Barringer

**Eucharistic Minister:** Carol Tyson

### **Mass Intention**

#### **For Larry Turner**

(requested by Carol and Joe Tyson)

If you would like to request an intention for a mass, simply call the office to schedule: (607) 263-5143.

### **Pray for**

- ✠ the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends
- ✠ the sick, their caregivers, and all who have asked for prayers: Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Amy O'Brien, John O'Brien, Jo Franklin, Aggi Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Nadine Joy, Rebecca Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Clara Murphy, Diane Neczesny, Maria Papendra and sister Camella, Karina Tabone, Joe and Carol Tyson, Lorraine Tyson, Fr. Chris Welch, John Zaleski
- ✠ all the men and women of our parish family serving in the military and all first responders and emergency personnel: Ryan Barry, Jim Barry, Meghan Barringer

**Pope Francis's intention for December: For people with disabilities to be at the center of attention in society and institutions to value their participation**

## Engage in Living Community

### **FRIENDS OF CHRISTMAS DINNER, DEC. 23**

Be part of our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Friends of Christmas dinner, in partnership with Saturday's Bread. Ways to Spread Joy:

- ♥ Volunteer: December 20-23, drivers, food prep, servers, dishwashers, and clean-up crew
- ♥ Bake & Share: Deliver Christmas cookies or sweet breads, Dec 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. to First United Methodist Church, 66 Chestnut St.
- ♥ Donate: Contribute with a tax-deductible check to Friends of Christmas, send to: Saturday's Bread, 66 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820.

Get Involved: Visit [friendsofchristmas.org](http://friendsofchristmas.org) or call 607-431-8025 to sign up.

Thank you for making this festive season brighter for those in need!

### **WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS PARISH! CURIOUS? BEING CALLED?**

RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults into the Catholic faith.

For more information, go to [myrcia.org](http://myrcia.org).

**Holy Cross Parish RCIA Contact:**

Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132

## 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 offeratory and Diocesan Appeal to help ensure our parish and Diocese can be one of your partners in faith. Thank you!

## DIOCESAN APPEAL

As you plan your budget, consider a pledge. Use your bank's Bill Pay feature to set up automatic payments or use envelopes on the back table (Please change date to 23-24).

<https://thediocesanappeal.org/>



### Upcoming Events

**12/03: Coffee Hour after Mass**

**Religious education classes**

12/03, 10: Positive Conflict Resolution and Compassionate Communication Training, St. Mary's Oneonta; call to register.

**12/05: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**

12/05: Taizé Prayer, St. Mary's Oneonta, 7 p.m.

12/07: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary mass, St. Mary's, 6:30 p.m.

**12/08: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary mass, 9 a.m.**

12:10 p.m. mass, St. Mary's

12/09: Unleashing Love: A Diocesan Women's Conference, St. Pius X Church, Loudonville, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. <https://www.rcda.org/UnleashingLove>

**12/12: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**

### **How Catholics Read & Interpret the Bible**

Get an introduction to Historical Critical Method, the Catholic approach to Scripture, with Dr. Carmel Ann Sperti.

St. Mary's, Oneonta. For information and to preregister, call: (607) 432-3920.

Location TBD. Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023**

Mass Attendance: 56

Collection: \$819.31