

In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist plays a crucial role as a witness to the light of Christ. How can we each embody the humility and dedication of John the Baptist in our own lives as Christians?

A TAPESTRY OF JOY AND LIGHT

Considered together, today's readings intertwine to create a rich tapestry of anticipation and illumination. In Isaiah, we hear the jubilant proclamation of good news, liberty, and divine favor, a vivid depiction of the joyous fulfillment that comes with the Messiah's arrival. This joy, as echoed in Thessalonians, is not a fleeting emotion but a state of being, sustained by continuous prayer and gratitude, deeply rooted in the promise of Christ's transformative presence. Just as Isaiah speaks of being clothed in the garments of salvation and righteousness, so too are we invited to clothe ourselves in the joy and thanksgiving that come from God.

In John's Gospel, we encounter John the Baptist, embodying the role of a witness to the one true Light, Jesus Christ. This Light is the same Light that Isaiah foretells will bring freedom and renewal. The call in Thessalonians to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances is a response to this Light that illuminates our path, revealing the way to truth and salvation.

As we journey through Advent, we are reminded that our preparation for Christ's coming is not only a remembrance of a historical event but an active participation in the unfolding of God's redemptive plan. The convergence of joy from Isaiah, the testimony of John the Baptist, and Paul's exhortation to continual prayer and thanksgiving, shapes our Advent season as a time of deep spiritual renewal and expectant waiting for the fullness of God's salvation.

<https://young-catholics.com/3069/3rd-sunday-of-advent-year-b/>

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!

We REJOICE in Gratitude For

- ★ Julie DeLaurentiis and Sheila Geer for their beautiful music on Sunday.
- ★ Carol Tyson for keeping the altar in tip-top shape, and Joe Tyson for his continued service.
- ★ Parish Pastoral Council members and their willingness to take on new roles.

HELP ME KNOW WHO I AM AN IDENTITY PRAYER

Dear God,
Help me to know who I am.
Let me see myself as you see me.

As you gaze upon me
show me that you love me
in my strengths and my weaknesses.

Open my heart so I can
hear you call me
"Beloved Daughter" or
"Beloved Son".

Then, secure in my identity,
let me act so that others
see you through me.

Rid me of the need to
draw attention to myself.
May I always point to you.

Glory to you forever. Amen.

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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.

<https://thediocesanappeal.org/>



Holy Cross Parish

DECEMBER 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent, B

Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11

Luke 1:46–50, 53–54

1 Thessalonians:16–24

John 1:6–8, 19–28

GAUDETE SUNDAY: REJOICE!

In the Gospel, we encounter John the Baptist, a pivotal figure who came to testify to the light. This light is not just a physical entity, but a profound metaphor for the clarity and vision Jesus brings into our lives. When we embrace Christ, our perception of the world undergoes a remarkable transformation. This divine light illuminates our path, revealing truths once shrouded in darkness. With Christ as our guiding light, we navigate life's journey with greater clarity, avoiding obstacles that once tripped us up. Our understanding of the world, relationships, and our purpose becomes clearer under this heavenly light.

John's role in this narrative is crucial yet humbling. He understood he was not the light; he was merely its witness and bearer. His mission was to transmit this light to others, not to claim it as his own. In this, John exemplifies a profound humility that we are called to emulate.

The light of God we carry within us, brightening the lives of those around us, is not of our own making. It is a divine gift, passing through us like rays through a window. Our task is not to boast of this light as if it were our own achievement, but to humbly acknowledge its true source and purpose. We become conduits of this light, tasked with spreading it without claiming ownership.

This Gospel invites us to reflect on our role bearing the light of Christ. Like John, we are called to be humble messengers, illuminating the world with the light we receive. It enables us to see the beauty and truth in God's creation, to discern our path more clearly, and to help illuminate the way for others. It is a reminder that in following Christ, we not only walk in light, but also become bearers of that light to the world. Our journey, therefore, becomes a testament to the transformative power of Christ's light, guiding us and others towards the path of truth, clarity, and ultimate fulfillment.

We REJOICE in Gratitude For

- ★ Carole and Jim Barry who generously donated the nativity scene on the lawn.
- ★ Sheila Geer who brought new Rosary books (on back table).
- ★ Richard Meyers who redid the steps at the front entrance of church.
- ★ Larry and Diane Turner who donated their snow blower to the church.
- ★ All parishioners who completed the parish survey: Thank you! Your time and honesty is deeply appreciated. Parish Council will meet in January to review surveys and plan next steps.*

For Reflection

- ★ How can I cultivate a habit of gratitude, even in less-than-ideal circumstances? How can gratitude change my perspective on life's challenges?

adapted from: <https://young-catholics.com/3069/3rd-sunday-of-advent-year-b/>

*If you have not yet filled out a parish survey, please see Kerry L. Mess or Matthew Tabone to arrange to do so. We welcome your feedback!

Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street
PO Box 118
Morris NY 13808
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 Pastoral Council Chair

Kerry L. Mess (607) 386-1951

Parish Pastoral 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 17, 2023

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Lector: Annette Hammond

Eucharistic Minister: Carole Barry

Mass Intention

Norine Feola

An individual may request a Mass for a certain intention. 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 our prayers, especially Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Amy O'Brien, John O'Brien, Jo Franklin, Aggi Huff, Louisa Joy, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Rebecca Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Clara Murphy, Diane Neczesny, Maria Papendrea and sister Camella, Karina Tabone and (welcome to) new baby Thomas 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

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.
Holy Cross Parish RCIA Contact:
Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132

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

SPREAD JOY: OTSEGO COUNTY & BEYOND:

- ★ **Volunteer:** Thursday—Saturday, December 20-23 (many options/shifts)
- ★ **Bake & Share:** Deliver Christmas goodies (cookies or sweet breads) on Thursday, December 21, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., to First United Methodist Church, Oneonta
- ★ **Donate:** Contribute online or by check payable to Friends of Christmas, c/o Saturday's Bread, 66 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820

See below for more information.



VISIT FRIENDSOFCHRISTMAS.ORG OR
CALL 607-431-8025

TO RSVP FOR IN-PERSON, TAKE OUT AND DELIVERY MEALS, REGISTER AS A VOLUNTEER OR DONATE

- 📅 Saturday, December 23, 2023
- 🕒 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
- 📍 First United Methodist Church
66 Chestnut St. Oneonta
- 👉 Always free. RSVP by 12/20/23
- 🤝 ALL ARE WELCOME



PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US!

Anyone interested in helping decorate the church: We will work after mass, the fourth Sunday in Advent, December 24.

Upcoming Events

12/17: Communal Reconciliation service, 4 p.m., Sacred Heart, Sidney

12/19: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
Taizé Prayer, 7 p.m., St. Mary's

12/24: Christmas Eve mass, 4 p.m., 6 p.m. & 8 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

12/25: Christmas mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

12/26: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m., in memory of Fr. John Burns

01/01: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, mass 10 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

01/02: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.
Bible study, "Praying the Names of God" after mass

PRAYING THE NAMES OF GOD

Pope Francis designated 2024 a Year of Prayer to prepare for Jubilee 2025. Join Holy Cross in a year-long bible study praying the names of God Tuesdays after mass.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

Mass Attendance: 39

Collection: \$1085.00