

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 9

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, December 10

Our Lady of Loreto

Wednesday, December 11

Saint Damasus I, Pope

Thursday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Friday, December 13

Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Saturday, December 14

Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, a Spanish priest, mystic, and poet, was born Juan de Yepes y Álvarez in 1542 in Fontiveros, a small town in Spain. His family was poor and faced many hardships. His father died when John was very young, leaving his mother, him, and his brothers alone. Despite their poverty, John's mother valued education and found ways for her children to learn. John went to a school for poor children in Medina del Campo to receive a basic education. He loved learning and often helped at a nearby hospital, caring for the sick.

At a young age, John felt drawn to prayer

and a life of service. He studied at a Jesuit school, where he learned more about literature, philosophy, and theology. John wanted a life focused on prayer, simplicity, and service. At age 21, in 1563, he decided to join the Carmelite Order, a religious community known for its devotion to prayer and contemplation.

As a Carmelite, John was drawn to a deeper spiritual life. He desired a stricter form of poverty and prayer. He considered leaving the Carmelites to become a Carthusian monk, known for their solitude. Meeting Saint Teresa of Avila changed his path. She encouraged John to help reform the Carmelite Order, making it more focused on simplicity and prayer. Inspired by Teresa's passion, John joined her efforts to establish the Discalced Carmelites, a branch of the order with a stricter rule of life.

Together, John and Teresa faced many challenges. Not all Carmelites supported the reforms. Despite resistance, their friendship and shared mission strengthened them. They founded new monasteries and friaries based on their ideals of simplicity and deep prayer.

The collaboration between John and Teresa also deepened their own spiritual journeys. They encouraged each other to grow in prayer and union with God. Their friendship remains one of the most important partnerships in the history of Catholic spirituality. Saint John's legacy is found in his teachings on spiritual detachment, prayer, and the "dark night." His insights offer guidance for believers who face challenges in their spiritual lives.

<https://young-catholics.com/437/st-john-of-the-cross/>

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 offertory and Diocesan Appeal to ensure our parish and Diocese can be your partner in faith.

DIOCESAN APPEAL

As you plan your budget, consider a pledge. Use your bank's Bill Pay for auto-payments or use envelopes on the back table.

<https://thediocesanappeal.org/>

CURRENT STATUS: \$2,540 / GOAL: \$5,000



Holy Cross Parish

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

DECEMBER 8, 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent, C

Baruch 5:1-9

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

RETURNING TO JOY AND HOPE

The first reading speaks of a joyful return to God. Baruch invites the people to take off their garments of sorrow and put on the beauty of God's glory, symbolizing a transformation from despair to hope. It reminds us God is always ready to restore us, no matter how far we have strayed. Baruch speaks of God leading His people back with mercy and justice. This journey back to God is not just a physical return, but a spiritual one. As we prepare for the coming of Christ, we are called to examine our hearts and return to God with joy and trust. This theme of restoration emphasizes Advent as a time for spiritual renewal and hope. God promises to make the path smooth and fill the valleys, making the journey easier.

JOYFUL PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

The second reading offers a message of joyful partnership from Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul begins by thanking God for the Philippians' faith and their partnership in spreading the gospel. This gratitude is a reminder of the joy that comes from working together in faith. It shows that our journey towards God is not meant to be walked alone, but with the support and encouragement of others. Paul expresses confidence that God, who began a good work in the Philippians, will bring it completion. This assurance can comfort us, reminding us that God is always at work in our lives. Even when we face challenges, we can trust that God is guiding us and helping us grow in faith. Paul's prayer for the Philippians is that their love may abound more and more, filled with knowledge and insight. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we too should pray for growth in love and understanding. This prayer encourages us to deepen our relationships with others and with God.

CLEARING THE PATH FOR CHRIST

This week's Gospel invites us to prepare our hearts for Jesus. John the Baptist urges us to make our paths straight, removing anything that stands between us and God. We all face different challenges, such as pride or comfort, which can hinder our spiritual journey. This Advent, we are called to address these obstacles and make room for the Lord. John the Baptist's message was compelling because people were

overwhelmed by the difficulties of their time. He offered them hope by announcing that change was coming and they needed to be ready. This preparation wasn't passive; it required active effort. John's call to baptism was a call to leave behind old habits and prepare for something new. It was about transforming their hearts and lives to welcome Jesus. To do this effectively, we must first confront and overcome our own obstacles.

Adapted from: <https://young-catholics.com/3444/2nd-sunday-of-advent-year-c/>

CELEBRATE ADVENT HOPE

12/8: ADVENT FAIR

- ★ Bring in your home-made crafts to sell
- ★ Enjoy refreshments and fellowship

Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street, PO Box 118
Morris NY 13808

<https://parishes.rcda.org/holycross/>
Our bulletin and Pastoral Council minutes are posted on our website. If you have a notice for the bulletin, please email: holycrossrcchurch@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.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastoral Associate (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

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS PARISH!

CURIOUS? BEING CALLED?

RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults into the Catholic faith. For information, see myrcia.org or our parish contact: Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132.

DECEMBER 8, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Jen Spivey

Lector: Annette Hammond

Eucharistic Ministers: Daphne Thompson, Carol Tyson, Jen Spivey

December 15

Greeter: Marguerite Webster

Deacon: Paul Cerosaletti

Lector: Jessica Aikins

Eucharistic Ministers: Carol Tyson, Carole Barry

Mass Intention

Dec. 8: Enrichment of Holy Cross Parish

Dec. 9: For Ginger Eway for healing

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

Pray for

- ✠ 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, Agnes Huff, John Joy, 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
- ✠ the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends

Advent Family Activity Book
<https://archny.org/seasonofjoy/>

Pope Francis's December intention: May this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith to recognize the Risen Christ in our lives and make us pilgrims of hope.

Engage in Living Community

SHARING OUR LOVE: HOLIDAY GIVING TREE

This year Holy Cross is partnering with the Rotary Club to support those in need.

Choose a card from the parish Christmas tree. Donate a grocery, Walmart, or generic (Visa) gift card (any amount) by Dec. 15.

ONEONTA WARMING STATION: IN NEED

Bottled water/juice boxes

Breakfast/granola/protein bars

Single serve oatmeal packets/lg box of oats

Single serve snack items (try to avoid nuts)

Shelf stable, single serve microwavable

items (e.g. Chef Boyardee, soups, Hormel meals, tuna, single serve cereal, mac and cheese, noodle cups)

Paper towels, toilet paper

HAVE 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.

Upcoming Events

12/8: Advent Fair after mass, parish hall

12/9: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 9 a.m. mass

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Turner, Toni Zaleski

12:10 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. mass St. Mary's Oneonta

12/10: Holy Hour, 6:30 p.m. St. Mary's Oneonta

12/11: Chobani Holiday Drive-Through Distribution, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., South Side Mall Oneonta; for more information (607) 965-0153 (while supplies last)

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

12/14: Holiday Bazaar Craft Fair, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurens Central School

12/19: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

12/20: Senior brunch, Morris Central School; must call (607) 263-6100 and sign up *before* December 20

12/21: Friends of Christmas Dinner, 12:30-2:30 p.m., First United Methodist Oneonta

12/22: Penance service, 4 p.m., Sacred Heart Sidney

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

Mass Attendance: 51

Collection: \$892.00