

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

Holy Cross Church, Morris, NY

Celebrant: Fr. Chris Welch

Deacon: Paul Cerosaletti

Pianist: Julie DeLaurentiis

Greeter: Jen Spivey

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Servers: Reigan Aikins, Mary Tabone,
Anthony Tabone

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Turner,
Carol Tyson, Carole Barry

Prelude: On That Holy Mountain

Refrain: No harm or ruin on that holy mountain. That sacred day shall be filled with knowledge. There shall be peace, led by all the children. On that holy mountain, on that holy mountain, on that holy mountain of the Lord.

Processional Hymn: Adeste Fideles #300

Order of the Mass: #140 in hymnal

Sung Mass Parts: #186 in hymnal

Opening Prayer: Fr. Chris Welch

Readings #870 in hymnal

First: Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 89: Forever I will sing of the goodness of the Lord, forever I will sing of your love. Forever will I sing.

Second: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia #264

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Homily

Offertory Hymn: The First Noel #328

Communion Hymn: Silent Night #309 (with Night of Silence)

First verse sung in original German (see below), then English

Stille nacht, heilige nacht
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer ruh!

Post-Communion Hymn: He is Exalted (see below)

- 1 He is exalted; the King is exalted on high.
I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted;
And I will praise His name.
- 2 He is the Lord; forever His Truth shall reign.
Heaven and Earth are filled with His Holy name.
He is exalted; the King is exalted on high.
- 3 He is exalted; He is exalted.

Road Map

- 1 & 2, 1 & 2 (repeat last line of 2 twice),
Guitar Interlude
3, 3, 2 (repeat last line twice)

Closing Hymn: Joy to the World #303

**HOW HAVE YOU SHARED YOUR JOY
AND GOD'S LOVE THIS WEEK?**

Holy Cross Parish

DECEMBER 24, 2024

Christmas Eve Vigil, C

Isaiah 62: 1-5

Psalm 89

Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25

Matthew 1:18-25

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

MAKING ROOM FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

Christmas is usually more than I prepare for and requires more space than I, as part of the overly-filled middle class, often have to give. That's why the ancient hymn sings out, of Mary, "Hail, space for the uncontained God." God needs space to expand and contract, just as does the universe, and yet there's so little space to breathe in our days. ... To be virgin means to be one, whole in oneself, not perforated by the concerns of the conventional norms and authority, or the powers and principalities. To be virgin, then, is in a sense to be recollected. ... Because Mary is recollected, she is able to take hold of God. ...

We think we have to make Christmas come, which is to say we think we have to bring about the redemption of the universe on our own. When all God needs is a willing womb, a place of safety, nourishment, and love. "Oh, but nothing will get done," you say. "If I don't do it, Christmas won't happen." And we crowd out Christ with our fretful fears. God asks us to give away everything of ourselves. The gift of greatest efficacy and power that we can offer God and creation is not our skills, gifts, abilities, and possessions.... Those are all gifts well worth sharing.... In the end, when all other human gifts have met their inevitable limitation, it is the recollected one, the bold virgin with a heart in love with God who makes a sanctuary of her life who delivers Christ who then delivers us.

Christmas is about a baby, but it's also about the soul. Mary mirrors the soul's yes to God. Christmas is about the soul, but **it's also about peace.** Christmas is about peace, but not the comfortable peace of the privileged, or the sappy peace of holiday cards and church pageants, but peace as wholeness and healing of the seeds of violence. **It's also about justice,** and not justice cloaked as the authoritarian abuse of power, or justice as righteous license to tear down every group but your own, but justice as compassion enacted in protection for the poor and vulnerable, which we still must believe is possible....

Mary says, "Yes," and in saying "Yes" becomes the mother not only of Christ, but of all who say, "Yes" to birthing God.... The same vital presence pulsing within Mary is the same vital presence arising in our hearts, is the same vital presence we desperately need to dream and enact a new future together. On such silent and holy nights, God the Mother initiates us as mothers, too.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/making-room-for-gods-presence/>

For Reflection

- ★ In what ways can I embrace the presence of God in my daily life?
- ★ How can I live out the humility and compassion of Jesus in my interactions?

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 24, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Jen Spivey

Deacon: Paul Cerosaletti

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Turner, Carol Tyson, Carole Barry

December 29

Greeter: Pat Kristofik

Lector: Kerry Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Turner, Toni Zaleski, Annette Hammond

Mass Intention

For all those travelers going and coming over the holidays

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, Kathleen Barry, Diane DeDominicus, Jo Franklin, Tony Giambra, Agnes Huff, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Rebecca Joy, Michelle Lee, Valerie McCann, Teresa Meyers and son John Patrick, Connie Mockovciak, Rich Morley, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, John O'Brien, Maria Papendrea, Mike Stensland and family, Joe and Carol Tyson, 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

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

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.

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

The little drummer boy gave what he could to the newborn king, his time and drumming talent.

Holy Cross could use your talent. Might you be willing to volunteer to greet, lector, serve, clean, count?

Upcoming Events

- 12/25: Christmas Day mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 12/28: Feast of the Holy Family mass, 5 p.m. St. Mary's Oneonta
- 12/29: Feast of the Holy Family mass, 8:30 a.m. mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 12/31: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God mass, 5 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 01/01: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God mass, 8:30 a.m.**
mass, 10:30 a.m. St. Mary's Oneonta
- 01/04: The Epiphany of the Lord mass, 5 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 01/05: The Epiphany of the Lord mass, 8:30 a.m.**
mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

LESSONS FROM A CHRISTMAS TREE

1. Be a light in the darkness.
2. It's OK to fall over sometimes.
3. Bring JOY to those around you.
4. Sparkle and twinkle when you can.
5. Remember it is perfectly fine to be a little tilted!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Every Saturday 4-4:45 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta. Call the parish office (607-432-3920) for an appointment if you need a different time.