

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 8  
Baptism of the Lord

### THE PROPHETIC INVITATION

The readings for the Baptism of the Lord begin with an invitation from Isaiah 55:1-11, a call to freely receive God's abundance and mercy. This passage highlights God's gracious invitation to all, reminding us of the divine generosity that surpasses human understanding, a generosity that culminates in the baptism of Jesus.

### THE AFFIRMATION OF IDENTITY

The heart of this feast is in the Gospel, Mark 1:7-11. John the Baptist, a prophetic figure preparing the way, baptizes Jesus in the Jordan River. This moment is transformative, not only for Jesus, but for all of humanity. As Jesus emerges from the water, the heavens open, and the Spirit descends like a dove.

This event marks the beginning of Jesus's public ministry, but more than that, it reveals His identity as the beloved Son of God. In this act of baptism, God publicly affirms Jesus, not only as His Son but as the One in whom He finds joy and pleasure.

This moment in the Jordan River is not just about Jesus; it speaks to each one of us. In our baptism, we too are claimed as God's beloved children. The voice that declared Jesus as be-

loved echoes through time, calling each baptized individual into a special relationship with God. This affirmation of identity is crucial; it reminds us that before we do anything, we are loved and cherished by God.

Our baptism also anoints us as priest, prophet, and king. We are called to serve as part of the universal priesthood, to courageously speak God's truth as prophets, even when it's unpopular, and to strive to grow the Kingdom of God as kings. Our baptism is not just a symbol; it is a call to action, a mandate to live out these anointed roles in our daily lives.

### LIVING AS GOD'S BELOVED

In the second reading, we find an expansion of this theme of belovedness. Belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the reading tells us, is synonymous with loving God and obeying His commandments. This obedience is not burdensome; rather, it is the natural response of the beloved children of God. Our faith in Jesus and our baptismal identity compel us to live in a certain way, loving God and our neighbors, just as Jesus did.

The Baptism of the Lord invites us into a deep reflection on our identity and calling as baptized Christians. We are reminded of God's abundant invitation to us, a call that Jesus Himself answered in the Jordan River. We are affirmed as God's beloved, just as Jesus was, and this identity shapes our way of living.

<https://young-catholics.com/3110/baptism-of-the-lord-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 offertory 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/>





# Holy Cross Parish

**JANUARY 7, 2024**  
*Epiphany of the Lord, B*  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72  
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

### EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: SEEK GOD'S WISDOM

St. Anselm of Canterbury, a Benedictine monk and influential theologian, left a lasting impact on Christian thought. One of his notable works, *The Proslogion*, has great significance in philosophy and spirituality. Anselm's philosophy centers around the idea that faith precedes reason. He believed that by embracing a belief in God, one can attain a deeper understanding of Him.

Anselm's approach challenges the notion that reason alone can lead to a comprehensive understanding of God. Instead, he posits that faith is the gateway to divine wisdom. By acknowledging the existence of God and surrendering to His divine presence, individuals can embark on a journey of spiritual enlightenment.

Anselm's perspective aligns with the belief that true knowledge of God requires a genuine and heartfelt connection with the divine. Through prayer and contemplation, individuals can cultivate a profound relationship with God, allowing them to experience His presence and gain in-

sights into His nature. The prayer attributed to St. Anselm, invoking the spirit of Epiphany, seeks divine guidance in understanding and aligning with God's desires. It expresses a deep yearning to know and find God, acknowledging that despite God's gifts and creation, the seeker has yet to truly understand their purpose. May we seek and discover Christ, aspiring to bring gifts—not just physical, but of the heart and spirit—that are in harmony with God's will.

<https://young-catholics.com/236/anselms-prayer/>

### For Reflection

- ★ Consider the significance of the gifts brought by the Magi. If you were to bring a gift to Jesus, symbolic of your talents and devotion, what would it be? Why?
- ★ The Epiphany is a call to recognize and celebrate the revelation of Christ to all. What practical steps can I take in my community to live out this message of revelation and inclusivity?

### SAINT ANSELM'S PRAYER

O my God teach my heart where and how to seek you,  
where and how to find you...

You are my God and you are my All and I have never seen you.  
You have made me and remade me,  
You have bestowed on me all the good things I possess,  
Still I do not know you...

I have not yet done that for which I was made....

Teach me to seek you...

I cannot seek you unless you teach me  
or find you unless you show yourself to me.  
Let me seek you in my desire, let me desire  
you in my seeking.

Let me find you by loving you, let me love  
you when I find you.

# 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

## JANUARY 7, 2024

### Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Lector: Kerry L. Mess

Eucharistic Minister: Carole Barry

### Mass Intention

**For Elizabeth Ann Kempton**

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, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Clara Murphy, Diane Neczesny, 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](http://myrcia.org).  
**Holy Cross Parish RCIA Contact:**  
Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132

**Pope Francis's January intention: For the gift of diversity, may we recognize different charisms in the community and discover richness in our traditions.**

## Engage in Living Community

### Keeping Our Community Warm One Brick At A Time

Catholic Charities is conducting a fundraising campaign to help with emergency assistance to individuals and families who need help with heat and utility costs. It is selling bricks for a fireplace, which will be displayed in the front windows of Catholic Charities on Main Street in Oneonta. As a community member, please consider sponsoring this fundraiser by purchasing a paper brick for the fireplace. Bricks are \$25.00 each. If you would like to purchase a brick, you can stop down to a Catholic Charities office, located in Cobleskill, Oneonta, or Sidney, Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 1:30–4:00 p.m. and Thursday, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 1:30–6:30 p.m., or you can mail a check to the agency at: Catholic Charities, 176 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820. One hundred percent of the money raised will be used in your local community to help keep children, seniors and adults warm this winter.

## Upcoming Events

- 01/09: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.  
Bible study after
- 01/10: Catholic Charismatic Renewal Healing Liturgy, Christ Our Light, RC Church, 1 Maria Dr., Loudonville, 7:30 p.m.; info: <https://albanyccr.org/>
- 01/14: Religious Education, Parish Pastoral Council meeting in rectory
- 01/16: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.  
Bible study after
- 01/21: Service for Christian Unity  
Sunday, January 21, 3 p.m. (See below.)
- 01/23: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.  
Bible study after
- 01/25: Christ's Call to Paul and Us. See lower left information box.



Office for Discipleship Formation

invites you to join us for a presentation by  
**Fr. Richard Fragomeni**  
- a virtual reflection on  
**the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul:  
Christ's Call to Paul and Us.**

registration via QR  
or call 518-453-6670

**January 25, 2024**

**[3 - 4:30 pm via zoom webinar]**



## CELEBRATE CHRISTIAN UNITY

We host the Service for Christian Unity, January 21 at 3 p.m. We need:

- 2 collection ushers (food pantry)
- Refreshments after the service
- Your presence and participation!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Mass Attendance: 50

Collection: \$2152.00