

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, December 3

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

Friday, December 6

Saint Nicholas

Saturday, December 7

Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER** was one of the first members of the Jesuit order, born in 1506 in Spain. As a young man, he studied at the University of Paris. There, he met and became close friends with Saint Ignatius of Loyola. This friendship changed his life, leading him to become a missionary.

Xavier wanted to bring the Gospel to people who had never heard of Jesus. In 1541, he left Europe, sailing to Asia where he spent the rest of his life spreading the Catholic faith in India, Japan, and other lands. His mission was not easy. He faced many challenges such as language barriers, harsh travel conditions, and resistance from local leaders. Still, he was determined to share the message of Christ. He learned new languages and adapted to different cultures to help people understand the faith.

Saint Francis Xavier died in 1552 on an island near China. He never made it to the mainland. But his work led to many conversions and planted seeds for the Church in Asia. Today, he

is remembered as one of the greatest missionaries of the Catholic Church.

Saint Francis Xavier teaches us what it means to live with purpose. He was a man who left his comfort behind to serve others. He did not let his own desires get in the way of his mission. Instead, he focused on sharing the Gospel with those who had never heard it. We can ask ourselves if we are willing to put aside our own plans when God calls us to serve.

Francis showed us how to be brave in difficult situations. He faced new lands, languages, and cultures with courage. He trusted that God would help him overcome every challenge. In our own lives, we may not be called to cross oceans, but we do face fears and unknowns. We can find strength in Francis' example when we need to be brave, whether it's sharing our faith or helping someone in need.

Saint Francis Xavier also teaches us to care for others, no matter who they are. He respected different cultures and found ways to reach people's hearts. He saw each person as someone loved by God. This reminds us to treat all people with kindness and patience. We are called to be missionaries in our own way—by spreading love, peace, and the message of Christ wherever we are.

Lastly, Francis was a man of prayer. Even in the busiest times, he never stopped praying. He relied on God for guidance. His life encourages us to stay close to God, especially in hard times. Prayer is our way of keeping our hearts focused on Christ, just as it was for Francis.

<https://young-catholics.com/4824/st-francis-xavier/>

## 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: \$1,240 / GOAL: \$5,000**



# Holy Cross Parish

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

DECEMBER 1, 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, C

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

## TO BE LOST AND FOUND

Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel gives us three memorable parables of God's mercy: Jesus tells of the shepherd who rejoices at finding a lost sheep, of the woman who rejoices at finding her lost coin (note the feminine image of God), of the father who rejoices at the return of his prodigal son. These are all images of a loving God being true to God's nature. They are all images of God's justice.

As we can see from these examples, God's justice requires God to go beyond Godself and extend love to others. The shepherd doesn't just wait until the lost sheep wanders back. The woman doesn't just forget about the coin until it shows up. The father doesn't just go about his business; he watches the road every day until his son returns so he can go out to welcome him home. God's love is relentlessly just: God never gives up on those who have forgotten God's love. ...

We get lost. We get so miserably lost that the shepherd has to wander through the craggy wilderness to find us. We get so wholly lost that the housewife has to light her lamp, pick up her broom, and sweep out every nook and cranny of her house to discover what's become of us.

For the record, these versions of lostness aren't trivial. Notice that the searching in these parables is not a show.... What's lost is really, truly lost—even though the seeker is God.

Can we pause for a moment and take in how astonishing this is? God faces genuine stakes when it comes to our lostness. God experiences authentic, real-time loss. God searches, persists, lingers, and plods. God wanders over hills and valleys looking for lost lambs. God turns her house upside down looking for her lost coin....

Maybe the most scandalous aspect of these lost-and-found parables is not that I still get lost. Maybe what's most scandalous is what they reveal about the nature of God...

If Jesus's parables are true, then God isn't in the fold with the ninety-nine insiders. God isn't curled up on her couch polishing the nine coins she's already sure of. God is where the lost things are. God is in the wilderness, God is in the remotest corners of the house, God is where the search is at its fiercest. If I want to find God, I have to seek the lost. I have to get lost. I have to leave the safety of the inside and venture out. I have to recognize my own lostness and consent to be found....

God looks for us when our lostness is so convoluted and so profound, we can't even pretend to look for God. But even in such bleak and hopeless places, God finds us. This is amazing grace. And it is ours.

<https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-snurut-dduxulkd-z/>

## CELEBRATE ADVENT HOPE

### 12/1: ADVENT FESTIVAL

- ✪ Make wreaths; pick up advent calendars
- ✪ Enjoy refreshments and fellowship

### 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](mailto: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](http://myrcia.org) or our parish contact: Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132.

## DECEMBER 1, 2024

### Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

**Greeter:** Pat Kristofik

**Lector:** Kerry L. Mess

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Carole Barry, Annette Hammond, Diane Turner

### December 8

**Greeter:** Jen Spivey

**Lector:** Annette Hammone

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Daphne Thompson, Carol Tyson, Jen Spivey

### Mass Intention

**For John Joy, having back surgery**

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

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

**WHOM HAVE YOU WELCOMED TODAY?**

**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.

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) Oneonta Region will host a candle lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 8 to remember our departed children, grandchildren, or siblings at the UUSO Church, 12 Ford Avenue in Oneonta. Attendees may bring a small photo of their loved one; please plan to arrive at 6:30 p.m. to set the photo on the memory table. Candles provided. Refreshments will be served. For more information, go to [www.tcfoneonta.org](http://www.tcfoneonta.org) or call Chapter Leader Al Davino, 607-746-7396.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024

Mass Attendance: 51

Collection: \$1,022.00

## Upcoming Events

**12/1: Advent Festival after mass, parish hall; Eucharistic minister training for current servers and anyone interested**

12/3: Penance Service, 12:10 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. St. Mary's Oneonta

**12/5: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**

**12/6: Holy Hour, 6:30 p.m.**

**12/7: Bible Study, 9 a.m.**

Angel Tree Party (for children of incarcerated parents), 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. St. Mary's Oneonta (contact for info: Mary Ann Hartman 607-226-1785)

**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

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

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

Archdiocese of New York

**Advent Family Activity Book**

Download at:

<https://archny.org/seasonofjoy/>