

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 21  
Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and  
Doctor of the Church

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near”* (paraphrase, Phil 4:4-5).

**A JOYFUL SUNDAY:** The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. “Gaudete” comes from the Latin words “gaudium,” joy, and “gaudeo,” to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete Sunday is eight to 13 days before Christmas. Advent is a time of joyful expectation and eager preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas. The nearness of the feast is reason for great joy.

**Reasons for Joy:** There is joy in looking forward to the celebration of Christmas, and also joy in recalling the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas. The joy is heightened because he was born to save us from our sins (Mt 1:21b); it also extends to anticipation of the Second Coming, either at the end of physical life or the end of the world.

**A Joyful Color:** Rose represents joy and may be used as the liturgical color for Gaudete Sunday. Violet remains the official color for the Season of Advent, the Third Sunday included, because all of Advent has

a penitential tone, a time to be absolved of sin and be in the state of grace for Christmas. Gaudete Sunday offers a brief respite to focus on the uplifting, upcoming joyful celebration of the Nativity.

**Joyful Prayers:** The prayers in the Missal this Sunday convey a joyful message.

**Joyful Scripture Texts:** Isaiah says that he was sent “to bring glad tidings” (Is 61:1) and that “my God is the joy of my soul” (Is 61:10). In the Responsorial Psalm the Blessed Virgin Mary prays, “My spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Lk 1:47). St. Paul insists that we should “rejoice always” (1 Thes 5:16). The gospel is John the Baptist’s joyful declaration that he was sent by God to testify to the light, the one who is coming after him, the Christ! (Jn 1:7, 27).

Adapted from: <https://www.thecatholicspirit.com/commentary/hotdish/gaudete-sunday-the-third-sunday-of-advent/>

## Advent Fair CANCELED

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

**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.

## 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: \$3,680 / GOAL: \$5,000**



## 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.

# Holy Cross Parish

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

**DECEMBER 15, 2024**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, C*

Zephaniah 3:14–18a

Isaiah 12:2–6

Philippians 3:12–4:2

Luke 3:10–18

## GAUDETE SUNDAY: FAITH CALLS US TO JOY

*Our current circumstances require resilience and the steadfast belief that joy is a healing inner event and a spiritual practice....* Dr. Barbara Holmes

We are not required to fight for our reality; we can just live it. We can be weird and whole and as shapeshifting as necessary, for we are being called to another purpose. We are being invited to awaken to our true nature as spirit beings, energy sharers, and prophets of potential. The joy spoken of in Holy Scripture is accessible, but also has a certain “beyondness” to it: The world didn’t give it and the world can’t take it away. As we hear from Jesus in John 16:22: “So you have pain now; but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

We have to prepare ourselves to live good lives of defiant joy even in the midst of chaos and suffering. This can be done. It has been done by billions of our ancestors and neighbors. Their legacy teaches us to see each intensifying episode of turbulence as a labor pain from which a new creative opportunity can be born. Life will be tough; the only question is whether we will become tougher, wiser, and more resilient... The communities that learn and teach ... spiritual resilience will become vital resources for everyone. (We can hope that some Christian communities will take part in this work.) These individual and communal practices will help us dump bitterness, fear, disappointment, and toxicity and refuel with mercy, vision, anticipation, and equanimity. They will help us ignore what deserves to be ignored and monitor what needs to be monitored. They will help us reframe our narratives, so we can mourn, grieve, and lament ... even as we imagine, celebrate, and labor for the birth of a better future...

To trust in the process is another way of saying to trust in an intelligence wiser than current human intelligence, to trust in a love deeper than current expressions of human love, to trust in a desire stronger and wiser than current expressions of human desire. Christians refer to this wisdom, love, and desire as God or the Divine or the Creative Spirit, and others can find their own ways of naming it... To use familiar biblical language, we will need to walk by faith through the valley of the shadow of death [Psalm 23:4], always holding anticipative space for something beautiful to be born, especially during the most painful contractions.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/faith-calls-us-to-joy/>

## For Reflection

- ★ How can I remind myself to rejoice even in difficult times?
- ★ How can I help others find joy and peace during this Advent season?

<https://young-catholics.com/3449/3rd-sunday-of-advent-year-c/>

# 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 15, 2024

### Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

**Greeter:** Marguerite Webster

**Deacon:** Paul Cerosaletti

**Lector:** Jessica Aikins

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Carol Tyson, Carole Barry

### December 22

**Greeter:** Betty O'Brien

**Lector:** Marguerite Webster

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Toni Zaleski, Annette Hammond, Jen Spivey

### Mass Intention

**In Memory of Norine Feola, Ernest Feola, and William Goodier**

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

### 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.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FUND

Invest in our community: Support local elementary school children getting winter clothes and toy at Walmart (~ \$150/child). Donate on Venmo, @childreschristmas or send checks to Children's Christmas Shopping Fund, c/o Antonio Avanzato, 528 Gifford Hill Road, Oneonta, NY 13820

## Upcoming Events

**12/15: Reconciliation service after mass**

12/17: Taizé Prayer, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

**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., 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Oneonta

**12/22: Jesse Ornament tree decoration after mass**

Penance service, 4 p.m., Sacred Heart Sidney

**12/24: Christmas Eve mass, 4 p.m.**

Christmas Eve mass, 7 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

12/25: Christmas Day mass, 10 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

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

Mass Attendance: 50

Collection: \$678.00

Special collection: \$105.00

Religious retirement: \$155

Flowers: \$145.00 / Holy Day: \$65

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

Mass Attendance: 26