

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 23

Saint John of Kanty, Priest

Thursday, December 26

Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

Friday, December 27

Saint John, Apostle, Evangelist

Saturday, December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

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

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.

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

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



SAINT STEPHEN is known as the first Christian martyr. He is called the "Protomartyr," meaning the first to die for faith in Jesus Christ. His story is in the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament. He was chosen to be one of the first deacons of the early Church.

Stephen was a man of strong faith and filled with the Holy Spirit, known for his service to the poor and for boldly preaching about Jesus. His words and actions showed his deep love for God. He shared the good news with courage, even when it was risky.

Stephen's teachings upset some of the Jewish leaders at that time. They accused him of speaking against the Law of Moses and the Temple. He was brought before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish council. He bravely defended his faith, even as he faced false accusations.

Stephen was sentenced to death by stoning. As he was dying, he prayed for God to forgive his killers, showing mercy like Jesus did. His martyrdom inspired early Christians to remain strong in their faith, even in the face of persecution. His example of faithfulness and forgiveness continues to inspire Christians today.

<https://young-catholics.com/456/st-stephen-protomartyr/>



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

DECEMBER 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent, C

Micah 5:1–4a

Psalm 80

Hebrews 10:5–10

Luke 1:39–45

BORN ANEW: ADVENT, MARY, SAYING "YES" TO GOD

Anglican hermit Maggie Ross describes an experience of God's indwelling presence:

December is the season of Advent, the time of expectancy, of hushed hearts and quiet waiting. And though many Christians don't make too much of her, it is the season of Mary... One day I had my own annunciation. The raked winter sun was streaming through the east window of the hermitage, illuminating various items stuck on the rough sawn wall, including a little icon of our Lady of Guadalupe. ... As the angled shaft of light set the icon on fire ... I realized that the angel was greeting not only her but also me; that the intimacy of bread made God and God made Bread was possible only because of her obedience; that sacrament is the earthly and tangible culmination of her yes and our yes to participate in the fact of the Incarnation.

Annunciations are events of infinite and immense silence, for all that the Gospel records of conversation. The walls or scenery push back, become transparent to reveal all that is, was, will be, and then converge within. That morning I came to understand that it is by baptism that we say, "Be it unto me according to your Word," to bear that Word by the power of the Holy Spirit, and to bring it to fruition in our lives. It's difficult to describe the impact of sunlight on a piece of printed paper stuck to fiberboard, and the insight may seem obvious, but it shook me to the heart. ...

I took another step when the story of Nicodemus was read at the Eucharist the morning I was to leave for retreat at a Cistercian abbey. His question, "How shall this be?" awoke the echoing voices of Mary and Zechariah, of Abraham and Sarah's laughter over God's preposterous proposal that he at a hundred years, and she in her nineties would bear a son. ... To bear the Word, to enter the kingdom, we must indeed be born from the Spirit, not for the second time in the womb of our natural mothers, but continually in the love of the Mother of God that brought forth her son, and like her, in the same movement, to bear Christ as well. Mary, then, is my mother in this second birth, just as she is for Nicodemus.

That my heart is still not big enough to encompass this paradox I readily admit. I still feel unease about Mary sometimes... But if nothing else, Mary has taught me to say yes: as Abraham and Sarah said yes, as Elizabeth and Zechariah said yes, as Jesus said yes to the cup that did not pass from him. And each time that cup is passed to me at the Eucharist, I look into its depths beyond the dark wine shimmering gold and, trembling, I say, "yes." <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/born-aneu/>

For Reflection

- ★ How can I be more open to recognizing God's presence in everyday moments?
- ★ How does Elizabeth's joy at recognizing Jesus challenge me?
- ★ What are some small signs of grace I might have overlooked?

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 22, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Betty O'Brien

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Ministers: Toni Zaleski, Annette Hammond, Jen Spivey

December 24

Greeter: Jen Spivey

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Turner, Carol Tyson, Carole Barry

Mass Intention

In memory of all those remembered in flower donations (list at back of church)

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

12/22: **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, 10:30 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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

Mass Attendance: 55

Collection: \$1608.00

Candles: \$10

Flowers: \$80.00 / Holy Day: \$35