

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, December 31
Saint Sylvester I, Pope

Wednesday, January 1
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, January 2
Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Friday, January 3
The Holy Name of Jesus

Saturday, January 4
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

image and text from:
<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/segni-del-giubileo.html>



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.

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.

JUBILEE is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. The yobel, the ram's horn, was used to proclaim the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. This Jewish holiday occurs every year, but it takes on special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year. We can find an early indication of it in the Bible: A Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an “extra” year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). Even though it wasn't easy to organize, it was intended to be marked as a time to reestablish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus' mission: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord,” (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a “Holy Year,” since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us. The frequency and way in which Jubilee Years are marked has changed through the centuries.

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

Holy Cross Parish

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

DECEMBER 29, 2024

The Holy Family, C

Micah 5:1–4a

Psalm 80

Hebrews 10:5–10

Luke 1:39–45

THE HOLY FAMILY: HONORING JESUS' EMBODIMENT AND OUR OWN

I have often wondered if Mary, even with full knowledge and proclamation of the glory of her womb, felt shame for it. As her body changed and belly grew, did she question if it was worthy to hold the divine?... Or did she see her flesh for what it was—holy? Weak, powerful, human, and holy.

For me, the story of God becoming body is only matched by God's submission to the body of a woman. That the creator of the cosmos would choose to rely on an embodied creation. To be grown, fed, delivered—God put faith in a body. In Mary's muscles and hormones, bowels and breasts. And when Christ's body is broken and blood shed, we should hold in mystery that first a woman's body was broken, her blood shed, in order to deliver the hope of the world into the world.

We are remarkably material beings. When we speak of bearing the image of God, I believe no small part of that is a physical bearing. You may have heard it said, “You don't have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body.” I'm not sure exactly where this notion came from, but the sentiment survives. Many of us, in pursuit of the spiritual, become woefully neglectful of the physical. We concern ourselves with a doctrine of salvation that is oriented around one underlying hope: heaven. And our concepts of heaven are often disembodied—a spiritual goal to transcend the material world eternally....

Our tales of Christian escapism lead us to the place where the physical is damned and the immaterial is gloried. Where the only holy things are invisible. How could you expect me to believe this when I've met a God who drank from the breast of his creation?

An Advent prayer, reminding us to honor experiences of our own helplessness:

God of the womb,

It is not lost on us that you submitted to the body of a woman, trusting in it to protect and grow you. As we remember the nine months you dwelt in the womb, the body of God being nurtured and carried, remind us that our own bodies are worthy of such care and tenderness. May this be a season of sacred pause, as we allow time to be near to our own bodies, to protect and strengthen them. In a world that demands so much of us, remind us that Christ did not come to us in physical independence, allowing the world to take and use him without limitation. Show us the face of the Christ who was gravely dependent, who needed to be held, fed, washed. Who needed to be soothed and rocked to sleep. If we are to honor the divine in us, may it be this divinity—fully embodied, fully dignified in the body. AMEN.

—Cole Arthur Riley

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/honoring-jesus-embodiment-and-our-own/>

For Reflection

- ★ What does finding my place in God's family mean to me?
- ★ How can I seek God's will for my role in the family?

<https://young-catholics.com/3459/the-feast-of-the-holy-family-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

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 29, 2024

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Pat Kristofik

Lector: Kerry L Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Turner, Toni Zaleski, Annette Hammond

January 5

Greeter: Pat Kristofik

Lector: Kerry L. Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Carole Barry, Annette Hammond, Diane Turner

Mass Intention

For the soul of Valarie McCann

If you would like to request an intention for a mass, simply call the office to schedule: (607) 263-5143.

Pray for

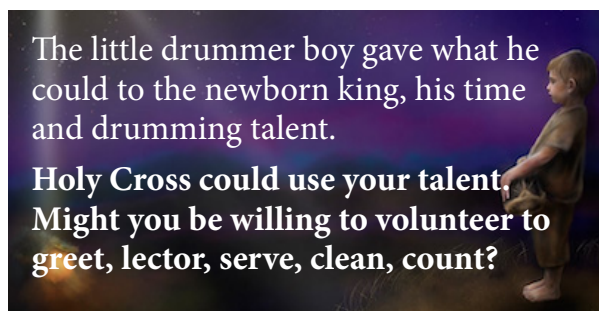
- ✠ the sick, their caregivers, and all who have asked for our prayers, especially Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Kathleen Barry, Jo Franklin, Tony Giambra, Agnes Huff, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Connie Mockovciak, Rich Morley, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, John O'Brien, Maria Papendrea, Mike Stensland, 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

Upcoming Events

- 12/29: Feast of the Holy Family 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: First Saturday Fatima Devotions, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
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
Jubilee Year Opening, Diocese of Albany, 1:30 pm., see www.rcda.org/jubilee-2025
- 01/11: Young Adult Semi-Formal Epiphany Ball, 6-10 p.m., St. Mary's Church Crescent, Waterford (see QR code, right)



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

Mass Attendance: 47

Collection: \$1860.00

Christmas Offerings: \$800

Flowers: \$20.00 / Holy Day: \$10

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
Attendance: 116