

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, December 9

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Wednesday, December 10

Our Lady of Loretto

Thursday, December 11

Saint Damasus I, Pope

Friday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, December 13

Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

## YOU'RE INVITED: SAY "YES!" TO GOD

**Dear Holy Cross Parishioners (yes, you!):**

This week we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary and several other Marian feasts or connections to Marian Feasts (Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego at Guadalupe). We have this season of hope and wonder because Mary chose to say yes to God. Here is Author Stephanie Duncan Smith on Mary's yes to God as a choice for expansion over contraction, mirroring God's own yes in creation:

*Genesis tells the story of God's radical*

## 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.

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

*choice for expansion over happiness, and the world is born. Advent echoes and reprises this divine choice, and the world is reborn. First, life from the womb of God, now, life from a woman who made a radical choice for expansion, not just over happiness, but over personal comfort, safety, and reputation. Expansion was the call, and against its many risks, the mother of God said yes—stretching her body as well as her imagination for just what kind of hope this might be, growing now within her.*

(<https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-gtldukt-tdduxulkd-e/>)

Matthew Tabone with his wife Karina's support graciously said yes to expansion, keeping Holy Cross Parish alive.

Now Holy Cross aims to expand its reach (vision and mission), and **we need your help**. Today we begin a drive for filling our Pastoral Council with 8-11 members.\* **We ask that you prayerfully consider nominating someone (including yourself!) to join this new Pastoral Council.**

Nomination cards are at the ends of the pews. Return them in the collection basket.

Please reach out to Matthew Tabone or Kerry L Mess if you have questions!

\*NOTE: Our trustees are ex-officio members of the Council.

## 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: \$4,208 / GOAL: \$6,379**



# Holy Cross Parish

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

**DECEMBER 7, 2025**

*Second Sunday of Advent, A*

Isaiah 11:1–10

Psalms 72

Romans 15:4–9

Matthew 3:1–12

*God of all loving, you call us to live lives rooted in you. Even were we to leave you, by your Holy Spirit you remain present. And your presence in us is not for one moment only, but for all time.*

—Brother Roger of Taizé

*You are not here to verify, / Instruct yourself, or inform curiosity / Or carry report. You are here to kneel / Where prayer has been valid.*

—T. S. Eliot, "Little Gidding"

Everybody looks at the world through their own lens, a matrix of culturally inherited qualities, family influences, and other life experiences. This lens, or worldview, truly determines what we bring to every discussion. When Jesus spoke of the reign of God, he was trying to change people's foundational worldview. When Francis of Assisi described his "marriage to Lady Poverty," he was using a lovely metaphor to explain his central thesis for life. When Americans identify money as "the bottom line," they are revealing more about their real worldview than they realize.

We would do well to get in touch with our own operative worldview. It is there anyway, so we might as well know what this highly influential window on reality is. It's what really motivates us. Our de facto worldview determines what catches our attention and what we don't notice at all. It's largely unconscious and yet it drives us to do this and not that. It is surely important to become conscious of such a primary lens or we will never know what we don't see and why we see other things out of all perspective.

**Until we can allow the gospel to move into that deepest level of the unconscious and touch our operative worldviews, nothing substantial is going to change. It will only be rearranging the furniture, not constructing a new room. True conversion is about constructing a new room—maybe even a whole new house!**

Our operative worldview is formed by three images that are inside every one of us. They are not something from outside; they have already taken shape within us. All we can do is become aware of them, which is to awaken them. The three images to be awakened and transformed are our image of self, our image of God, and our image of the world. A true hearing of the gospel transforms those images into a very exciting and, ideally, truthful worldview. When we say Christ is the truth, that's what we mean. Christ renames reality correctly, according to what reality honestly is, putting aside whatever we think it is or whatever we fear it is. Reality is always better than any of us imagined or feared; there is joy associated with a true hearing of the gospel.

All together, we could put it this way: "What should life be?" "Why isn't it?" "How do we repair it?" When these are answered for us, at least implicitly, we have our game plan, and we can live with safety and purpose in this world.

## For Reflection

- ★ What areas of my life need repentance and renewal (a new room or house)?
- ★ How can I prepare my heart for Christ this Advent?
- ★ How can I work for justice and peace in my community?

<https://young-catholics.com/3701/2nd-sunday-of-advent-year-a/>

# Holy Cross Parish

96-98 Main Street, PO Box 118  
Morris NY 13808

<https://parishes.rcda.org/holycross/>

Facebook: [tiny.cc/HCMorris](https://www.facebook.com/HCMorris)

*Find our bulletin and Pastoral Council minutes 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.

RECONCILIATION: St. Mary's Oneonta, every Saturday 4–4:45 p.m. Call the parish office (607-432-3920) for a different time.

## PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Pastoral Associate (Parish Leader)**

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

## Trustees

Marguerite Webster (607) 263-5478

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 & RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults]

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

## Ministry to the Homebound

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Pope Leo XIV's November intention: May those tempted by suicide find support, care, and love they need in their community and be open to life's beauty.

## Living Caring Community

### 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.
- ☼ My Neighbor's Closet  
3097 County Highway 11, Hartwick NY  
(607) 431-8320/cooperstownangel@gmail.com  
Tues/Sat: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. / Weds: 4–7 p.m.  
*Contact if you need someone to shop for you and coordinate getting you items.*
- ☼ Helios Grief Support  
Group counseling for adults in Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware counties. See helios-care.org; call (607) 432-5525.
- ☼ Friends of Recovery, Delaware/Otsego  
Grassroots addiction recovery by, about, for individuals and families in recovery  
22 Elm Street, Oneonta NY  
(607) 267-4435  
Mon/Tues/Fri: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Weds/Thurs: 9 a.m.–7 p.m.
- ☼ Holy Sews  
Sew burial layettes for infants: (607) 432-5125; [holysewsononeonta@yahoo.com](mailto:holysewsononeonta@yahoo.com)
- ☼ Oneonta Community Health Center  
No-cost healthcare services for uninsured adults (607) 433-0300  
Office hours: Tues. 6–8 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

- 12/07: Faith Formation after mass**  
Advent Organ Recital, 3 p.m., Gilbertsville First Presbyterian Church; cost is free, donations for the Food Pantry gratefully accepted
- 12/08: Immaculate Conception mass, 9 a.m.**  
Mass, 12:10 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 12/10: Penance Service, 12:10 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 12/11: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 12/14: Giving Tree tags due back to church, Coffee hour after mass, parish hall**
- 12/18: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 12/21: Joshua Tree after mass**
- 12/24: Christmas Eve Mass, 4 p.m.**  
Christmas Vigil, 7 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 12/25: Christmas Mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 12/31: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Vigil mass, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 01/01: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, mass 9 a.m.**  
Mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
- 01/24: A Day of Healing & Hope (for women experiencing miscarriage, stillbirth, infant loss), 9 a.m.–4 p.m., St. Clement's Church Saratoga Springs; [www.eileentully.com](http://www.eileentully.com)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

Mass Attendance: 44

Collection: \$613.00

**DECEMBER 7, 2025**

## Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

**Greeter:** Pat Kristofik

**Lector:** Kerry L. Mess

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Jen Spivey, Carol Tyson, Diane Turner

## December 14

**Greeter:** Chet and Jackie McAdams

**Lector:** Maureen Joy

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Toni Zaleski, Carol Tyson, Jen Spivey

## Mass Intention

*If you would like to request an intention for a mass, call Kerry (607) 386-1951 with the intention, your name, and call back number OR use the parish email (see left panel).*

## Pray for

- ✠ for the sick, their caregivers, and all who asked for our prayers, especially Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Kathleen Barry, Jo Franklin, Sarah Grogan, Agnes Huff, Maureen Joy, Nadine Joy, John Kristofik, Michelle Lee, Fred Lemister, Carol and Jessica MacCumber, Jeffrey Meyers, Teresa Meyers, Rich Morley, Mark Muller, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, John O'Brien, Kathy Osborne, Maria Papendrea, Scarlett Parry, Evelyn Rowe, Martin Smith, Mike Stensland, Joe and Carol Tyson, Janet VanZandt, John Zaleski
- ✠ for all those in our parish family serving in the military and all first responders and emergency personnel: Ryan Barry, Jim Barry, Meghan Barringer
- ✠ for the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends
- ✠ in thanksgiving for Matthew Tabone for stepping up to lead the parish