

**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS** (Feast Day December 14) was born Juan de Ypres y Alvarez in Fontiveros, Avila, Spain in 1542. His father, an accountant for his family's prosperous business, was disowned when he married a poor woman. This poverty caused the family to suffer greatly. His father died when Juan was 3; his older brother Luis died of malnutrition 2 years later.

Juan, sent to a religious boarding school for poor and orphaned children, chose to pursue a religious life from a young age. He became an acolyte at an Augustinian monastery and later attended a Jesuit school. In 1563, he joined the Carmelite Order as “John of St. Matthias”; the next year he took vows and was sent to university in Salamanca to study theology and philosophy. He became an expert in the Bible.

St. John boldly dared to translate the Bible into Spanish beginning with “The Song of Songs.” This was bold and controversial: The Church at the time forbade translation of the Bible from Latin into any vernacular languages as it was felt it was the only way to preserve and protect the true meanings within the scripture.

Although attracted to the simple cloistered life of the Carthusian monks, John encountered Carmelite nun Teresa of Avila, who hoped to reintroduce into her Order a routine of devotion to prayer and a simple lifestyle. Her followers, called discalced Carmelites, went barefoot.

In 1568, Teresa founded a new monastery the same day John changed his name to “John of the Cross.” John and his fellow friars relocated to a larger monastery, but in 1572, Teresa asked John to return to Avila as her confessor

and spiritual guide. Teresa's attempts at reform were not met with universal enthusiasm. She, her followers, John, and his friars were met with open hostility. In 1577, a group of Carmelites kidnapped John and dragged him to the Order's main house in Toledo to try him for disobedience. Sentenced to imprisonment in a cell so small he was unable to lie down, he was taken out once a week and publicly whipped. His friar guard smuggled John paper on which he wrote poetry. After 9 months, John managed to escape to rejoin the Discalced Carmelites in Toledo. He was sent on to Andalusia to support the group there. In 1580 Pope Gregory authorized the split between the Discalced Carmelites and the rest of the Order.

During the last few years of his life, John traveled and established new houses throughout Spain. He was canonized by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XI in 1926. He is known as “the mystical doctor.” Considered one of the foremost Spanish poets his “Spiritual Canticle” and “Dark Night of the Soul” are widely considered masterpieces of Spanish poetry both for their formal style and their rich symbolism and imagery. He is the patron of Contemplatives, mystics and poets. Because his feast day falls on a Sunday this year, it takes a back seat to Sunday Mass.

submitted by  
Jim Lee; source, [https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=65](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=65)

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

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



# Holy Cross Parish

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

**DECEMBER 14, 2025**

*Third Sunday of Advent, A*

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10

Psalms 146

James 5:7–10

Matthew 11:2–11

*The more we share  
with simplicity what  
we have, the more life  
becomes welcoming for  
those entrusted to us.  
Simplifying enables us  
to offer a welcome to  
others, even with very  
little.*

–Brother Roger of Taizé

Today, Gaudete Sunday, reminds us we can wait with patience, hope, and **JOY**. May we open our hearts to receive the joy of God's presence as St. John of the Cross did. And may we open our hearts to share with simplicity what we have with others to help “thy kingdom come...on earth as it is in heaven.”

Please pray for wisdom as we seek to expand our Pastoral Council. Consider nominating yourself or someone else.

**Glosa á lo Divino**

I would not sacrifice my soul  
for all the beauty of this world.

There is only one thing  
for which I would risk everything:  
an I-don't-know-what  
that lies hidden  
in the heart of the Mystery.

The taste of finite pleasure  
leads nowhere.  
All it does is exhaust the appetite  
and ravage the palate.  
And so, I would not sacrifice my  
soul  
for all the sweetness of this world.

But I would risk everything  
for an I-don't-know-what  
that lies hidden  
in the heart of the Mystery.

The generous heart  
does not collapse into the easy  
things,  
but rises up in adversity.  
It settles for nothing.  
Faith lifts it higher and higher.

Such a heart savors  
an I-don't-know-what  
found only in the heart of the  
Mystery.

The soul that God has touched

burns with love-longing.  
Her tastes have been transfigured.  
Ordinary pleasures sicken her.  
She is like a person with a fever;  
nothing tastes good anymore.

All she wants  
is an I-don't-know-what  
locked in the heart of  
the Mystery....

I will never lose myself  
for anything the senses can taste,  
nor for anything the mind can  
grasp,  
no matter how sublime,  
how delicious.

I will not pause for beauty,  
I will not linger over grace.  
I am bound for  
an I-don't-know-what  
deep within the heart of the  
Mystery.

St. John of the Cross, translated by Mirabai Starr

**For Reflection**

- ★ In what ways do I see God's promises being fulfilled in my life?
- ★ How can I bring joy to others during this Advent season?

<https://young-catholics.com/3706/3rd-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://tiny.cc/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 December intention: May Christians in war/conflict zones, especially in the Middle East, be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

## 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; [holysewsoneonta@yahoo.com](mailto:holysewsoneonta@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

12/14: Giving Tree tags due back to church, Coffee hour after mass, parish hall

12/17: Holy Hour and Night Prayer, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

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: Deadline for Pastoral Council nominations  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, mass 9 a.m.  
Mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

01/04: Christian Formation after mass

01/08: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

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, DECEMBER 7, 2025

Mass Attendance: 45

Collection: \$870.00

Poor Box: \$49 / Flowers: \$55

Advent Fair: \$39

## DECEMBER 14, 2025

### Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

**Greeter:** Chet and Jackie McAdams

**Lector:** Maureen Joy

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

### December 21

**Greeter:** John O'Brien

**Deacon:** Paul Cerosaletti

**Lector:** Kerry L. Mess

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

### 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 dedicated service of our trustees Rich Meyers & Marguerite Webster