

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, December 23

Saint John of Kanty, Priest

Thursday, December 25

Nativity of the Lord

Friday, December 26

Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

Saturday, December 27

Saint John the Apostle, Evangelist

St Peter Kanis—later Latinized to Canisius—was born in the Netherlands, May 1521 to a wealthy public official Jacob; his mother Aegidia died soon after Peter's birth. Peter began university studies in Cologne around age 15. At 19, he received his Master's degree.

Despite his father's decision that Peter should marry, he decided to remain celibate and enter the Society of Jesus under the influence of (Blessed) Peter Faber, one of the first companions of (Saint) Ignatius Loyola.

Only one year after ordination, Peter accompanied the Bishop of Augsburg to the Council of Trent as a theological adviser. He combined both pastoral and academic work in his life.

Peter Canisius became a decisive figure in the Catholic Counter-reformation that responded to the 16th century spread of Protestantism. His efforts as a preacher, author and religious educator strengthened the Catholic faith in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and

parts of Central Europe during a period of doctrinal confusion. Involved in discussions with Protestants during 1557, Peter made a strong case for the Church by showing how the adherents of Protestantism could not agree with one another in matters of doctrine.

Canisius' service to the Council of Trent continued after the Council concluded. He kept up a demanding schedule of preaching and establishing universities while also working to ensure that the council's decrees were received and followed. His tireless efforts over the next two decades contributed to a major revival of German Catholicism.

A mystical experience in 1584 convinced Canisius he should remain in Fribourg, Switzerland for the rest of his life. Despite a near-fatal stroke in 1591, the Dutch Jesuit saw writing as an essential form of apostolic work, a view supported by the continued use of his catechism and its two shorter versions for several centuries after his death December 21, 1597.

St Peter Canisius was simultaneously canonized and declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XI in May 1925. In a famous saying, the Jesuit priest revealed the secret behind the accomplishments of his energetic and fruitful life: "If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all."

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

—Jim Lee

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/st-peter-canisius-91>

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 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent, A

Isaiah 7:10–14

Psalms 24

Romans 1:1–7

Matthew 1:18–24

Some people are troubled by the impression that God is silent, as if his presence were linked to what we feel. But God is still present even when any apparent resonance fades away.

—Brother Roger of Taizé

THE HIDDEN WORK OF GRACE: ADVENT HEALS THE HURT

Author Stephanie Duncan Smith writes about her experience of suffering a miscarriage during the Advent season: For the first time in my life, I did not go to the Christmas Eve service. I couldn't stomach that kind of joy... I couldn't participate straight-faced in this remembrance of the ultimate pregnancy narrative, this birth story to end all birth stories, in which God made it from embryo to first howling breath—but my daughter did not.

Cole Arthur Riley writes, "There is no greater exhaustion than a charade of spirituality." I simply had no energy to keep up the charade. When you're hurting, the only thing worse than the hurt itself is the intimate injury of being told your hurt isn't that bad, that your pain is somehow unjustified. There is no greater trauma than this invalidation when what you most need is empathetic witness. That's what Advent felt like to me.

But it wasn't Advent itself I was bucking against. It was the saccharine, the spin, the half story with the full gloss that rendered this complex coming of God into one-dimensional joy that excludes all other experiences. The Incarnation always brings good news, but it never minimizes the realness of our pain. Advent declares the hope that a light is coming, but first it declares the truth that the world right now is so very dark. In all the festivities of this season, the threads of Advent and Christmas are commonly confused. The celebration of Christmas only means so much if it bypasses the great waiting, the great groaning, of Advent itself. But this is where the story—and the sacred year itself—begins. The first language of this expectant season is not bell carols but groaning—the audial ache of a hurting world.

The God of Advent is not a God of indifference, but the God who imagined mirror neurons into existence—the cell network responsible for so much of what makes us human, which is the basic ability to read and respond to the emotional needs of others. Every human encounter of empathy begins with mirror neurons firing in witness to pain.

It is fitting, then, that the sacred year begins with Advent. Human pain is the call—every nerve ending crying out. The Incarnation is the response—every mirror neuron of God firing, volcanic in awakening. God hears the crash and cries of our great fall and, like a mother, comes running. Emmanuel rushes through time and space to be not just near our hurt, but human with us in it. What I had missed was the very essence of Advent: This is an entire season dedicated to hearing the hurt and naming the night. We are not just allowed to do so, we are openly called to do so.

<https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-gttdldld-dduxulkd-e/>

For Reflection

- ★ How does God's promise in Isaiah give hope?
- ★ Why is it important to remember that salvation is for everyone?

<https://young-catholics.com/3710/4th-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

Find our bulletin and Pastoral Council minutes 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.

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
- ☼ Oneonta Community Health Center
No-cost healthcare services for uninsured adults (607) 433-0300
Office hours: Tues. 6–8 p.m.

Upcoming Events

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 Council nominations
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, mass 9 a.m.

Mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

01/02: First Friday Devotion, 2:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

01/03: First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta
01/04: Christian Formation after mass

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

01/11: Coffee Hour and Pastoral Council after mass

01/15: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

01/18: Rosary after mass

01/22: 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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

Mass Attendance: 55

Collection: \$582.00

Retirement Fund: \$160

Flowers: \$75/ Holy Day: \$111

DECEMBER 21, 2025

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: John O'Brien

Deacon: Paul Cerosaletti

Lector: Kerry L. Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Jen Spivey, Carol Tyson

December 24

Greeters: Jen Spivey, Marguerite Webster

Deacon: Paul Cerosaletti

Lector: Maureen Joy

Eucharistic Ministers: Daphne Thompson, Carol Tyson, Diane Turner

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, Kelly 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 Van-Zandt, 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 Julia DeLaurentiis and Sheila Geer and their gift of beautiful music