

**Pope Leo XIV's December intention: May Christians in war/conflict zones, especially in the Middle East, be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.**

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

#### IN MEMORY / HONOR OF:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ✿ Joanne Clarke                | ✿ Larry Turner                                    |
| ✿ Jennifer and Kelly Collier   | ✿ Mark Turner                                     |
| ✿ Alan Mess                    | ✿ Frances and George Woodman                      |
| ✿ Alice Meyers                 | ✿ Barry Family                                    |
| ✿ Robert Meyers                | ✿ Gehm Family                                     |
| ✿ Marguerite and Joseph Rucco  | ✿ Henehan Family                                  |
| ✿ Robert Rucco                 | ✿ LoBrutton Family                                |
| ✿ Irene and Leonard Starr      | ✿ Schaab Family                                   |
| ✿ Patricia Stensland           | ✿ Sitts Family                                    |
| ✿ John Sr., and Dorothy Thomas | ✿ Tyson Family                                    |
| ✿ John Thomas Jr.              | ✿ Deceased Members of Zaleski Family, Zysk Family |

### PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

**Due: Thursday, January 1, 2026**

Nomination cards at ends of pews; place in collection basket. Council Constitution at back of church (table, bulletin board).

*O God, We ask you to send your Holy Spirit to guide our parish in the selection of members for our pastoral council.*

*Help us find the men and women who will work with our pastor and guide us in our mission.*

*We need men and women who will listen to the wisdom of the spirit and the needs of the people.*

*We need men and women who are open to the ideas of others and who will work to bring us all together in unity as brothers and sisters in Christ.*

*We need men and women who have a great love for you and for our parish.*

*Continue to bless our parish so we can be a people filled with joy and faith as we live out our call to follow your Son, Jesus.*

### Upcoming Events

- 12/24: 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](http://www.eileentully.com)
- 01/25: Come join us for the Prayer for Christian Unity Service, 3 p.m., Gilbertsville Baptist Church**

**HOW HAVE YOU SHARED YOUR JOY AND GOD'S LOVE THIS WEEK?**

**DECEMBER 24, 2025**

*Christmas Eve Vigil, A*

*Isaiah 62: 1-5*

*Psalm 89*

*Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25*

*Matthew 1:18-25*



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

**Welcome to Holy Cross!**

**We're grateful for your presence here celebration today.**

A faith community reminds us continuously of what really is happening in the world and in our lives. The church liturgy and lectionary – commonly used prayers, rituals, scripture passages, and a calendar that follows Christ's life throughout the year – unfold for us, for example, the fullness of the Christ-event. Christ is coming, Christ is being born, Christ manifests himself to the world, Christ is suffering, Christ is dying, Christ is being raised up, Christ is ascending into heaven, Christ is sending the Spirit. These events are not simply events that took place long ago and which are remembered with a certain melancholy, but

they are events that take place in the day-to-day life of the Christian community. In and through the life of Christ, remembered in community and worship, God makes his active presence known to us. That is what Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost are all about. The Church calls our attention to the divine events that underlie all of history and which allow us to make sense out of our own story.

–Henry Nouwen

### CELEBRATION CREATES COMMUNITY

*The more we celebrate, the more we realize that we are in communion. To celebrate is to create community. It is the first sign of the Kingdom proclaimed among us. Celebration is the way in which faith in the God of Life is lived out, whether there are smiles or tears. Celebration reveals the deep undercurrent of joy that flows beneath all of our ups and downs. Jesus rewards us with joy. Not only later, but now. Not only in the happy moments but also in our sorrow. Joy is hidden in our suffering and revealed in our communal life.*

–Henry Nouwen

### For Reflection

- ✿ How does the miracle of Christmas affect my understanding of God's love?
- ✿ How can I build bridges of empathy and kindness in my community?
- ✿ What steps can I take to be Christ's hands and feet on earth?

<https://young-catholics.com/674/christmas-day-the-nativity-of-our-lord/>

*Living the questions runs counter to the mainstream of Christian ministry that wants to impart knowledge to understand, skills to control, and power to conquer. In spiritual listening, we encounter a God who cannot be fully understood, we discover realities that cannot be controlled, and we realize that our hope is hidden not in the possession of power but in the confession of weakness.*

–Henry Nouwen

**We hope you consider celebrating and building community with us in the coming new year.**

# 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

# DECEMBER 24, 2025

## Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

**Greeters:** Jen Spivey, Marguerite Webster

**Deacon:** Paul Cerosaletti

**Lector:** Maureen Joy

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Daphne Thompson, Carol Tyson, Diane Turner

## December 28

**Greeter:** Marguerite Webster

**Lector:** Daphne Thompson

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Diane Turner, Toni Zaleski, Jen Spivey

## Mass Intention

For all those with us today and all those traveling over the holidays

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 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 all those present today

# CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

Holy Cross Church, Morris, NY

Prelude: On That Holy Mountain

**Refrain:** No harm or ruin on that holy mountain. That sacred day shall be filled with knowledge. There shall be peace, led by all the children. On that holy mountain, on that holy mountain, on that holy mountain of the Lord.

**Processional Hymn: Adeste Fideles #300** (first verse in Latin)

**Order of the Mass: #140** in hymnal  
**Sung Mass Parts: #186** in hymnal

Opening Prayer: Fr. Chris Welch

**Readings #870** in hymnal

First: Isaiah 62:1-5

**Psalm 89:** Forever I will sing of the goodness of the Lord, forever I will sing of your love. Forever will I sing.

Second: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

**Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia #264**

Gospel: Matthew:18-25

Homily

**Offertory Hymn: In the Bleak Midwinter #335**

**Communion Hymn: Silent Night #309** (with Night of Silence)

**Post-Communion Hymn: He is Exalted** (see box at bottom right)

**Closing Hymn: Joy to the World #303**

## Night of Silence (Daniel Kanto)

*Cold are the people, winter of life  
We tremble in shadows this cold, endless night  
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping  
Flowers that will echo the sunrise  
Fire of hope is our only warmth  
Weary, its flame will be dying soon*

*Voice in the distance, call in the night  
On wind you enfold us you speak of the light  
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly  
Rumors of a dawn so embracing  
Breathless love awaits darkened souls  
Soon will we know of the morning*

*Spirit among us, shine like the star  
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar  
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely  
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love  
Star unknowing of night and day  
Spirit we wait for your loving Son*

## Road Map for "He is Exalted"

1 & 2 repeat 1 & 2  
3, 3, 2 (repeat last line three times)

1. He is exalted; the King is exalted on high. I will praise Him. He is exalted, forever exalted; And I will praise His name.

2. He is the Lord; forever His Truth shall reign. Heaven and Earth are filled with His Holy name. He is exalted; the King is exalted on high.

3. He is exalted; He is exalted.