

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 29

Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

Wednesday, December 31

Saint Sylvester I, Pope

Thursday, January 1

Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, January 2

The Holy Name of Jesus

Saturday, January 3

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

THOMAS BECKET was born in London in 1119 or 1120. His Norman parents settled in England. His father Gilbert was a wealthy merchant and his mother Matilda took care of the home. Although not nobles, they lived well: Thomas received a good education, studying in London and later Paris. He learned quickly and was especially good at speaking and debating. His parents hoped he would have a good career in the Church or the king's court.

After his studies, Thomas worked for a nobleman and later joined the service of Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury. Theobald saw his talent and sent him to train in church law, where Thomas gained important skills. Theobald introduced him to King Henry II, who liked Thomas and made him Chancellor of England. Thomas and Henry became close friends, spending time together, planning for the future. They worked together to strengthen the kingdom.

As Chancellor of England, Thomas Becket had

great power. He controlled the king's money and helped enforce the law: He made sure people paid their taxes and led armies for the king. He lived in a grand house, wore fine clothes, and enjoyed feasts.

In 1162, the Archbishop of Canterbury died. King Henry wanted Thomas to take the position, thinking Thomas would help him control the Church. Thomas did not want the job and warned the king that being Archbishop would change him. But the king insisted.

Once Thomas became Archbishop, his loyalty shifted. King Henry II wanted control over church affairs, but Thomas resisted. The biggest issue was who had the right to punish priests accused of crimes. Henry wanted them tried in royal courts, but Thomas insisted they be tried in church courts.

In 1164, Henry introduced the Constitutions of Clarendon, laws to limit the Church's power, giving the king final say over many church matters, but Thomas refused to accept them. The king turned against Thomas, as did many nobles. Thomas, fearing for his safety, fled to France, where he lived six years in exile and continued to fight for the Church's rights. The Pope supported him, but Henry did not.

Thomas and King Henry II had met in France and agreed to make peace, and in 1170, Thomas returned to England. Soon after returning, Thomas made decisions that angered the king. He punished bishops who had supported Henry against him, challenging the king's authority. Henry became furious and saw Thomas as a threat once again.

One day, in a moment of rage, Henry is said to have shouted, "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest?" Some of his knights took this as an order. Four of them traveled to Canterbury, and on December 29, 1170, they entered Canterbury Cathedral and confronted him. Thomas refused to submit to the king. The knights attacked Thomas in the church, killing him at the altar.

<https://young-catholics.com/524/st-thomas-becket/>

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



DECEMBER 28, 2025

The Holy Family, A

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalm 128

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



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

LESSONS FROM THE HOLY FAMILY: LOOK, WAIT, LISTEN

The time between Christmas and New Year's is a time for us to slow down the speed of joy experienced in Advent and reflect on how God has worked in our lives in the past year and to open ourselves to Him working in our lives in the coming year. Often we also use this time to dream and plan the year ahead; and our dreams and plans may be pretty or idealistic in nature.

But there's really nothing necessarily pretty about the first Christmas. We have Joseph breaking the law, knowing what he should do with a seemingly "adulterous woman."

But Joseph, following the direction of an angel who appears to him in a dream, doesn't divorce Mary as the Law clearly tells him. He chooses instead to protect the dignity of the woman he loves even though he has no direct way of knowing that the baby was conceived by the Holy Spirit except for the angel's words.

Today's Gospel shows us God communicating with Joseph the ideas of **waiting and listening**. Again, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream, telling him to take his newborn son and wife to Egypt and wait for the next message. Joseph must relinquish control to watch for God's next message. Consider our desire to control, our obsession with planning, and our need to be in charge. How many of us would do so well with the direction to flee to another country and then wait for the next message? Think about the amount of trust required to follow God's call: It's enormous. And yet, at every turn, Joseph waits for the Lord's message.

Do we have the capacity to wait like Joseph? So often we rush through the Lord's command. We are in such a hurry that we rush right past the Lord, running past His call, past His invitation, past His direction, and then we're on to the next thing. And, of course, being onto the next thing, we are lost because whenever we are not in His call, we are lost; we've missed seeing God right in front of us.

Consider where God reveals Himself in the Christmas story: This humble, helpless baby who has come to love us in ways that we're not ready to be loved stops us in our tracks; it's not what we expect. No power, no glory, no comfort. Then again, Joseph finds himself in uncomfortable situations he never expected. His choice, like Mary's, to listen to and wait on God shows us how to slow down to pay attention to the physical and the material, the small places and edges where God hides, and to wait and listen for God's direction. And in those places and times, when we least expect, God speaks to us. **Dare we look with open eyes to see God's presence in our broken world? Dare we wait to listen?**

adapted from <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/daily-gospel-reflection-12282025.html>, <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/the-pover-ty-of-christmas-2021-12-20/>

For Reflection

- ★ How can I honor my family members even when relationships are difficult?
- ★ In what ways can I practice compassion and kindness at home?

<https://young-catholics.com/3714/the-feast-of-the-holy-family-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

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; 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

12/31: 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

01/25: Come join us for the Prayer for Christian Unity Service, 3 p.m., Gilbertsville Baptist Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

Mass Attendance: 40

Collection: \$582.00

Poor Box: 70.20 / Holy Day: \$111

Retirement: \$160 / Flowers: \$100

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Vigil

Mass Attendance: 93

DECEMBER 28, 2025

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Marguerite Webster

Lector: Daphne Thompson

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Turner, Toni Zaleski, Jen Spivey

January 4

Greeter: Pat Kristofik

Lector: Kerry L. Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Jen Spivey, 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 Mac-Cumber, 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 our community; may we live as one holy family following in the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus