

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 6

Saint André Bessette, Religious

Tuesday, January 7

Saint Raymond of Penyafort,  
Priest

### SAINT ANDRÉ BESSETTE (Montreal, Canada)

**Unlikely Vocation:** The superior of Holy Cross Brothers in Montreal could not help doubt the vocation of 25 year-old Alfred Bessette (1845-1937), who showed up at his door. Orphaned at 12, desperately poor, Alfred had been an itinerant worker most of his life. The jobs he held were brief as Alfred suffered poor health from birth and could not work as much as an ordinary laborer. He was also illiterate and asking for admission into an order of teaching brothers. Everything told the superior to reject this applicant, but Alfred's pastor gave a note: "I am sending you a saint."

The superior first turned Alfred away; but the bishop of Montreal intervened, and the Holy Cross Brothers accepted "Brother André." His community could only think to have him answer the boarding school door. "At the end of my novitiate," Brother André joked, "my superiors showed me the door, and there I stayed for 40 years."

**The Porter:** Something happens when the same person answers the door for hundreds of people day in and out for years. They come to know him, and some intuit this brother prays more than most. They tell him their sufferings. He prays with the sick, asks God to heal them, and commends

them to St. Joseph, whom he loves. Word spreads quietly through the city: That simple brother who doesn't know how to read? God has given him the gift of healing. People at the door no longer come to see those inside; they want the porter.

The other brothers begin to grumble. He's a fraud, a danger to the order. But Brother André cannot understand that complexity. Of course I don't heal, he says. I pray to St. Joseph; he intercedes for them with his foster Son. So many people come for healing that Brother André's superiors ask him to receive visitors at the nearby trolley station. Soon, 80,000 letters arrive for him a year.

**"Go to Joseph":** To everyone, Brother André's message was the same: "Go to Joseph. He will help you. Come, we'll pray together." In 1904, Brother André asked the Archbishop permission to build a small chapel to honor St. Joseph across from the school. You can build only what you have money for, the bishop replied. Brother André had no money, so he began to give haircuts, 5 cents apiece. In a few years he had enough to build a small roofless hut. Over many years came better walls, a roof, heating, and thousands of pilgrims, so many there were plans for the wooden chapel to become a basilica. To this place of miracles, where God visited the broken, those who came brought the wounds of their hearts, the sufferings of their bodies, and their faith to St. Joseph and to his friend, this simple brother who received them and helped them pray. When he died January 6, pilgrims came in gratitude: in a week, a million people filed past the coffin of the illiterate brother who had accompanied them through their sorrows and sufferings, and who had been for them a kind of doorway to heaven.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/saints/01/06/st--andre-bessette.html>

## 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: \$3,830 / GOAL: \$5,000**



# Holy Cross Parish

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

JANUARY 5, 2025

*Epiphany of the Lord, C*

Isaiah 60:1-1

Psalms 72

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

### EPIPHANY: THE DIVINE IN THIS AND IN US

Often people—from sincere laypeople to priests and nuns—still imagine God to be elsewhere. Before we can take the "now" seriously, we must shift from thinking of God as "out there" to also knowing God "in here." Here is the best access point! Only inner experience can bring healing to the human-divine split. Transformation (epiphany) comes by realizing our union with God right here, right now—regardless of any performance or achievement on our part. That's the core meaning of grace, and we have to know this for ourselves. No one can do this knowing for us.

Authentic Christianity overcame the "God-is-elsewhere" idea in at least two major and foundational ways: Through the incarnation, God in Jesus became flesh; God visibly moved in with the material world to help us overcome the illusion of separation (John 1:14). Secondly, God as Holy Spirit is precisely known as an indwelling and vitalizing presence. The incarnation and Indwelling Spirit are known only through participation and practice, as we actively draw upon such Infinite Sources. Think of it as a "use it or lose it" situation! Good theology helps us know that we can fully trust the "now" because of the incarnation and the Spirit within us.

Jesus teaches and is himself a message of now-ness, here-ness, concreteness, and this-ness. Virtually the only time Jesus talks about future time is when he tells us not to worry about it (see Matthew 6:25-34). Don't worry about times and seasons, don't worry about when God will return, don't worry about tomorrow. Thinking about the future keeps us in our heads, far from presence—with God, with ourselves, and with each other. Jesus talks about the past in terms of forgiving it. Jesus tells us to hand the past over to the mercy and action of God. The full and participatory meaning of Christmas is that this one universal mystery of divine incarnation is also intended for us and continues in us! It is not just about trusting the truth of the body of Jesus, but trusting its extension through the ongoing Body of Christ—which is an even bigger act of faith, hope, and love and which alone has the power to change history, society, and all relationships.

Adapted from: <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/the-divine-in-this-and-in-us/>

### For Reflection

- ★ How does Jesus' humble kingship challenge traditional views of power?
- ★ What does the Feast of the Epiphany teach me about God's kingdom and my place in it?

<https://young-catholics.com/3095/the-feast-of-the-epiphany-of-our-lord/>

**Christmas is a season, not a day! The Catholic celebration of Christmas is 12 days—from Christmas through Epiphany. Some folks draw it out even longer until the Baptism of the Lord, February 2nd! So go ahead and keep watching the movies, listening to the music, eating the treats, and celebrating! For unto us is born a Savior!**

# Holy Cross Parish

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

<https://parishes.rcda.org/holycross/>  
*Our bulletin and Pastoral Council minutes are posted on our website. If you have a notice for the bulletin, please email: [holycross-rcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:holycross-rcchurch@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:** Every Saturday 4–4:45 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta. Call the parish office (607-432-3920) for an appointment if you need a different time.

## PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Pastoral Associate (Parish Leader)**

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

**Trustees**

Michael Stensland (607) 783-2764

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**

Daphne Thompson (607) 263-2410

**Ministry to the Homebound**

Matthew Tabone (360) 559-4098

Jenn Spivey (207) 539-5094

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults**

Maureen Joy (607) 263-5132 [RCIA]



## JANUARY 5, 2025

**Celebrant**

Rev. Chris Welch

**Greeter:** Pat Kristofik

**Lector:** Kerry L. Mess

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Carole Barry, Annette Hammond, Diane Turner

January 12

**Greeter:** Marguerite Webster

**Deacon:** Paul Cerosaletti

**Lector:** Annette Hammond

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

**Mass Intention**

If you would like to request an intention for a mass, simply call the office to schedule: (607) 263-5143.

**Pray for**

- ✘ the newly baptized Crew Patrick Meyers
- ✘ the sick, their caregivers, and all who have asked for our prayers, especially Sr. Theresa Ahern MSBT, Kathleen Barry, Jo Franklin, Tony Giambra, Agnes Huff, Lynn Joy, Maureen Joy, Michelle Lee, Teresa Meyers, Connie Mockovciak, Rich Morley, Clara Murphy, John Neary, Diane Neczesny, Karen Newell, John O'Brien, Maria Papendrea, Mike Stensland, Joe and Carol Tyson, John Zaleski
- ✘ all the men and women of our parish family serving in the military and all first responders and emergency personnel: Ryan Barry, Jim Barry, Meghan Barringer
- ✘ the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends

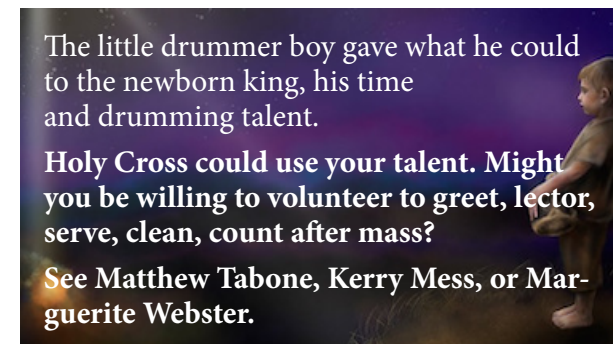
**Pope Francis's January intention: Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, may their right to an education always be respected.**

## Engage in Living Community

**HAVE 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.

**Come sing with us:** The Christian Unity Service choir would love your voice. See Upcoming Events for rehearsal schedule.




The little drummer boy gave what he could to the newborn king, his time and drumming talent.

**Holy Cross could use your talent. Might you be willing to volunteer to greet, lector, serve, clean, count after mass?**

**See Matthew Tabone, Kerry Mess, or Marguerite Webster.**

**BUILDING COMMUNITY:** The Parish Pastoral Council continues to plan to realize our vision and mission. **The next Council meeting is next Sunday, January 12, after mass with the coffee hour. Meetings are open; you are welcome to attend and participate!**

## Upcoming Events

- 01/05: The Epiphany of the Lord mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta  
Jubilee Year Opening, Diocese of Albany, 1:30 pm., see [www.rcda.org/jubilee-2025](http://www.rcda.org/jubilee-2025)
- 01/09: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 01/11: Young Adult Semi-Formal Epiphany Ball, 6–10 p.m., St. Mary's Church Crescent, Waterford (see QR code) 
- 01/12: Coffee hour after mass, Pastoral Council meeting after mass—ALL are welcome!**
- 01/14: **Come sing with us:** Rehearsal for Christian Unity Service, 12 p.m., UMC Morris
- 01/16: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 01/18: **Come sing with us:** Rehearsal for Christian Unity Service, 10:30 a.m., UMC Morris
- 01/19: Rosary after mass**  
Christian Unity Service, 3 p.m., United Methodist Church Morris
- 01/23: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**
- 01/25: Bible study, 9 a.m., parish hall**
- 01/26: Faith formation after mass**
- 01/30 Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.**

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024

Christmas Eve Attendance: 116

Collection: \$1682.00

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

Mass Attendance: 72

Collection: \$675.00

Christmas Offerings: \$35.00

Initial Offering: \$10.00

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025

Mass Attendance: 26

Collection: \$639.00