

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, December 3

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

Thursday, December 4

Saint John Damascene, Priest and  
Doctor of the Church

Saturday, December 6

Saint Nicholas, Bishop

### ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS OR ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

A priest and religious, he became a doctor of the Church and is the last Church Father. The Church regards the age of the Church Fathers as ending in the East with the life of St. John of Damascus, who died around A.D. 749. (In the West, the age of the Church Fathers is commonly reckoned as ending with St. Isidore of Seville, who died in A.D. 636.)

John was born into a wealthy Christian family in A.D. 675 or 676, and he lived to about 75, dying around A.D. 749. At an early age he assumed the role, perhaps already held by his father, of treasurer of the Caliphate. Very soon, however, dissatisfied with life at court, he decided on a monastic life and entered the monastery of Mar Saba, near Jerusalem around 700. He never again left the monastery but dedicated his energy to self-discipline and literary work, and engaged in a certain amount of pastoral activity, as is shown by his numerous homilies.

John was born in Damascus, in the modern state of Syria, just north of Israel. It's the same city St. Paul was traveling to when he experienced his conversion. Damascus is about 135 miles north of Jerusalem. He is also known as "Chrysorrhoas" (Greek),

## PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Advent is a season of hope. We look forward to love in the world and work to share our love with one another.

For the seasons of Advent and Christmas, Holy Cross is asking for nominations for Council. Please consider nominating someone or yourself.

Nomination cards are at the ends of pews. You may put filled out cards in the collection basket. Thank you.

meaning "streaming with gold" or "gold-pouring," indicating the quality of his writings.

John was among the first to distinguish, in the cult, both public and private, of the Christians, between worship ('latreia'), and veneration ('proskynesis'): The first can only be offered to God, spiritual above all else, the second, on the other hand, can make use of an image to address the one whom the image represents. This was a matter of great debate in the Islamic world, which accepts the Jewish tradition of the total exclusion of cult images. Christians, on the other hand, in this context, have discussed the problem and found a justification for the veneration of images.

John was an eyewitness of the passage from the Greek and Syrian Christian cultures shared by the Eastern part of the Byzantine Empire to the Islamic culture, which spread through its military conquests in the territory commonly known as the Middle or Near East.

adapted from: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/260819/7-things-to-know-about-the-last-church-father>

## 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: \$3,508 / GOAL: \$6,379**



# Holy Cross Parish

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

**NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

*First Sunday of Advent, A*

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:37-44

*To respond to Christ's call to the very end, prepare yourself for fidelities. In you will be forged a humanity permeated with kindness—not an illusory love that would be satisfied with words, but a heart as wide as the world.*

—Brother Roger of Taizé

### CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS

The first Sunday of Advent invites us to look at Isaiah's vision of a world united in peace. Isaiah describes nations coming together, setting aside their weapons, and choosing understanding over conflict. This picture of unity shows God's hope for humanity, a world where we seek peace with one another. Advent is a time to reflect on how we, too, can create peace in our families, communities, within ourselves.

Being a peacemaker doesn't mean ignoring problems or pretending there's no conflict. It means working for solutions that bring people closer together instead of tearing them apart. Just as Isaiah speaks of nations working side by side, we are called to find ways to understand each other, even in disagreement. This vision reminds us that we each play a role in creating harmony wherever we are.

As we prepare for the coming of Christ, peace becomes more than a distant hope; it's something we can practice. Advent encourages us to be peacemakers with patience, love, and respect. We can ask ourselves how we can bring a little more peace to our relationships. By doing so, we participate in God's vision for unity and readiness to welcome Christ into our world.

### CHOOSING TO LIVE IN THE LIGHT

Paul's message reminds us to live in the light and leave behind actions that keep us in darkness. He describes a life of kindness, honesty, and hope as a way to step forward. Advent is a season to think about our actions and to choose the light, putting aside behaviors that keep us far from God's love and from each other.

Living in the light doesn't mean we're perfect, but it means we make an effort to reflect Jesus in our daily lives. It can be small actions like choosing kindness over anger or being truthful in situations where we might not want to be. Paul encourages us to keep working to make choices that reflect who we want to be as followers of Christ. These choices help us be ready to welcome Him.

As Advent begins, we're invited to let go of darkness, such as selfishness, impatience, or fear. We're called to step forward, choosing the light in how we think, act, and treat others. This Sunday calls us to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming by living with faith, even when it's hard. As we choose the light, we open ourselves to God's love and grace.

<https://young-catholics.com/3697/1st-sunday-of-advent-year-a/>

### For Reflection

- ★ How can I bring more peace into my relationships during Advent, especially with those closest to me?
- ★ How can I invite more honesty and kindness into my actions and conversations?

# 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

Pope Leo XIV's November intention: May those tempted by suicide find support, care, and love they need in their community and be open to life's beauty.

## 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](mailto: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

11/30: Advent Fair after mass, parish hall

12/04: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

12/06: SUNY Oneonta Craft Fair, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Hunt Union

12/07: Faith Formation after mass

Advent Organ Recital, 3 p.m., Gilbertsville First Presbyterian Church; cost is free, donations for the Food Pantry gratefully accepted

12/08: Immaculate Conception mass, 9 a.m.

Mass, 12:10 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

12/10: Penance Service, 12:10 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

12/11: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

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

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: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, mass 9 a.m.

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

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Mass Attendance: 37

Collection: \$515.00

Human Development: \$102.00

## NOVEMBER 30, 2025

### Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: John O'Brien

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Ministers: Carol Tyson, Toni Zaleski, Diane Turner

### December 7

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, 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 Carol and Joe Tyson who have long served the parish; may their example inspire us to serve how we can