

## SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, January 5

Saint John Neumann, Bishop

Thursday, January 6

Saint André Bessette, Religious

Friday, January 7

Saint Raymond of Penyafort

### SAINT JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

This American saint was born in Bohemia in 1811. He was looking forward to being ordained in 1835 when the bishop decided there would be no more ordinations as Bohemia was overstocked with priests. John wrote to bishops all over Europe, but the story was the same everywhere: No one wanted more priests. John was sure he was called to be a priest, but all the doors for that vocation seemed to close on him.

John didn't give up. He had learned English by working in a factory with English-speaking workers, so he wrote to bishops in America. Finally, the bishop in New York agreed to ordain him. To follow God's call to the priesthood, John needed to leave his home and travel across the ocean to a new and rugged land.

In New York, John was one of 36 priests for 200,000 Catholics. His parish in western New York stretched from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania. His church had no steeple or floor, but John spent most of his time traveling from village to village, climbing mountains to visit

the sick, staying in garrets and taverns to teach, and celebrating the Mass at kitchen tables.

Because of the work and isolation of his parish, John longed for community. So he joined the Redemptorists, a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned. John was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. As bishop, he was the first to organize a diocesan Catholic school system. A founder of Catholic education in this country, he increased the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from two to 100.

John never lost his love and concern for the people. On one visit to a rural parish, the parish priest picked him up in a manure wagon. Seated on a plank stretched over the wagon's contents, John joked, "Have you ever seen such an entourage for a bishop!"

The ability to learn languages that had brought him to America led him to learn Spanish, French, Italian, and Dutch so he could hear confessions in at least six languages. When Irish immigration started, he learned Gaelic so well that one Irish woman remarked, "Isn't it grand that we have an Irish bishop!"

Once on a visit to Germany, he came back to the house he was staying in soaked by rain. When his host suggested he change his shoes, John remarked, "The only way I could change my shoes is by putting the left one on the right foot and the right one on the left foot. This is the only pair I own."

John died on January 5, 1860 at age of 48.

adapted from [https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=70](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=70)

## 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: \$4,333 / GOAL: \$6,379**



# Holy Cross Parish

JANUARY 4, 2026

Epiphany of the Lord, A

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

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

*A new beginning! We must learn to live each day, each hour, yes, each minute as a new beginning, as a unique opportunity to make everything new. Imagine that we could live each moment as a moment pregnant with new life. Imagine that we could live each day as a day full of promises. Imagine that we could walk through the new year always listening to a voice saying to us: "I have a gift for you and can't wait for you to see it!" Imagine.*

*We must open our minds and our hearts to the voice that resounds through the valleys and hills of our life saying: "Let me show you where I live among my people. My name is God-with-you."*

*We must choose to listen to that voice, and every choice will open us a little more to discover the new life hidden in the moment, waiting eagerly to be born.* —Henri Nouwen

### THE LIGHT THAT SHINES FOR ALL

The Feast of the Epiphany is a celebration of light. Isaiah's prophecy speaks of a great light shining upon Jerusalem. This light attracts nations and kings. It shows the presence of God and marks the beginning of a new time. This prophecy points to the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, the light for all people.

Isaiah mentions gifts of gold and frankincense, the same as the Magi brought to Jesus. This connection ties Old and New Testaments, showing how the prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus. The gifts of the Magi honor Jesus as king and God.

### THE MAGI AND THE HUMBLE KING

The Gospel of Matthew tells of the Magi visiting Jesus, showing that Jesus is the Messiah for all people. The star guiding the Magi symbolizes God's light leading all nations to Jesus. This light is different from the power of King Herod, powerful and fearful. Jesus shows a different kind of kingship. He is humble and vulnerable, yet He changes the world.

The contrast between Jesus and Herod is clear. Herod hears of a new king and reacts with violence, ordering the killing of male children to protect his power. Jesus, as a baby, is innocent and helpless. Yet, He represents a new kind of authority, which sets the stage for Jesus' ministry, challenging traditional views of power. Jesus' kingship is marked by humility and love. He does not come with force but with gentleness. The Magi, wise and powerful in their own right, bow down to this humble king, showing that true wisdom recognizes the value of humility and love. The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates this revelation: God's kingdom is different from earthly kingdoms. In God's kingdom, the humble are lifted up, and true power is found in love and service.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, we are reminded that Jesus' light shines for everyone. His humble kingship calls us to live with love and service. Let us follow the example of the Magi, seeking Jesus and sharing His light with the world.

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

### For Reflection

- ★ How does the Feast of the Epiphany highlight the universality of Jesus' mission?
- ★ How does Jesus' humble kingship challenge traditional views of power?

# 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 January intention: May praying with the Word of God nourish our lives and be hope for our communities to build a more missionary church.

## 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](mailto: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

01/04: Christian Formation after mass

01/05: Christian Unity Planning Meeting, 5 p.m., The Gatehouse

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

02/01: Christian Formation after mass

02/04: Liturgy of the Word, 10 a.m.

02/06: First Friday Devotion, 2:30 p.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

02/07: First Saturday (Fatima) devotion, 9 a.m., St. Mary's Oneonta

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Mass Attendance: 93

Collection: \$2,408.00

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2026

Mass Attendance: 50

Collection: \$590.00

## JANUARY 4, 2026

### Celebrant

Rev. Chris Welch

Greeter: Pat Kristofik

Lector: Kerry L. Mess

Eucharistic Ministers: Jen Spivey

### January 11

Greeters: Chet and Jackie McAdams

Lector: Marguerite Webster

Eucharistic Ministers: Toni Zaleski

### 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 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 a new year and a fresh start to choose to love in each moment