



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Official Prayer For The Year of Vocations

God, My Father, You created me with a specific purpose for my life; this is my vocation. By following your plan, I will be happy on earth, earn the reward of heaven, & help others to do the same. Please help me to hear, understand, and follow Your call with my whole heart, especially when it seems most difficult. Saint Joseph, patron of the universal Church, pray for me to know and accept God's will for my life. Amen.

Mass Times

Daily Mass: 7:45am
Saturday: 9:00am
Reconciliation:
Wed. 5-6pm & 7-8pm
Sat. 3:00-3:30pm
Sunday Mass
Vigil Sat.: 4:00pm
Sun.: 7:30am, 10:30am & 5:00 pm

View Sunday & Daily Mass on online - holycrossdewitt.org

Are you a new parishioner or visiting for the first time?

Welcome! Please introduce yourself to one of the priests. We invite you to become an active participant of our parish community and welcome you. Please take a census envelope from the racks at each exit or contact the Parish Office.

OUR MISSION "We are a community of Catholics who draw our strength from the celebration of the Eucharist, so that Christ may live in us and we may express the values He taught by our loving service to family, neighbor and society."

Stay connected with your parish family!

We are so glad you are here with us at Holy Cross! We invite you to connect with our community. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to get the latest news, photos and stories or subscribe to our weekly brief delivered right to your inbox. Visit

www.holycrossdewitt.org/subscribe to see more.



Upcoming Events:

Please check page 4 of the bulletin for this the schedule of Christmas Masses & Reconciliation

PLEASE WATCH THE HC WEBSITE FOR CURRENT INFORMATION ON MASSES, REGISTRATION OF MASSES & DEVOTIONS & REGULATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE.

**Sunday, December 20th–Fourth Sunday of Advent**

7:30am Joan Elardo Sansone/ Paul & Amy Sansone

10:30am Bernadine & Victor Becker / Family

5:00pm William Sheridan/ Family

Monday, December 21st

7:45am Charles E. Farne III/ Prince Family

9:00am- 3:00pm Private Prayer & Devotion

Tuesday, December 22nd

7:45am Palumb & Wallace Families/ Carol Blake

9:00am - 3:00pm Private Prayer & Devotion

Wednesday, December 23rd

7:45am Ann Wright/ Holy Cross Staff

9:00am - 3:00pm Private Prayer & Devotion

7:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Penance

Thursday, December 24th**Private Prayer & Devotion cancelled Today**

7:45am People of Holy Cross

4:00pm Living & Deceased Members of Holy Cross

6:00pm All The Victims of Covid 19

10:00pm Pope Francis

Friday, December 25th - The Nativity Of The Lord**Private Prayer & Devotion cancelled Today**

12:00am Deceased Members of Holy Cross

7:30am People of Holy Cross

9:00am Living and Deceased Priests of the Diocese

10:30am People of Holy Cross

5:00pm Seminarians of the Diocese

Saturday, December 26th

9:00am Frank Szatanek/ Susan Thomson

4:00pm Stephen Oliva, Sr./ Wife & Family

3:00 - 3:30pm Penance

Sun., Dec. 27th–The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:30am Vincent A. Donnelly/ Nancy & Frank Daly

10:30am Frank Cappelletti/ Family

5:00pm John & Norma Kurgan/ Father John

Sunday December 20, 2020

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Psalm 89

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

How many times do you say “yes” on a daily basis? Depending on what we are agreeing to or saying yes to will affect our answer. When we think about a task or a topic, we will often consider all aspects of the task before we answer. When we look at the Blessed Mother in the Gospel today, we see a very devoted and faith-filled person.



In the Gospel today, we hear the story of the annunciation. The Angel comes to Mary and says you will bear the Son of God. You can imagine the stress and the emotions raging but she did not let this bother her. Her faith was strong and well rooted. She put her trust in God and said, “may it be done to me according to your word.”

When we say yes are we making a conscious decision out of our faith or are we just saying yes to appease people? Saying yes to the will of God may not always sound as heroic as what Mary did, but when we put this in the context on Matthew’s Gospel it can be quite different. When we think of this in the context of Matthew 25, when Jesus says “whatever you did for the least of my people you did for me,” we know that what we do for those around us we do in the name of Christ. This can be something as simple as helping someone when they need it, listening to those around us, and simply being there for a person this Christmas season who has no one to be with. We all know that this Christmas will be different in so many ways; let us be willing to say yes to the will of God in our lives and understand the true meaning of Christmas. What is God asking you to say yes to in your life today?

Fr Matt Rawson

Week of December 20th**Host, Wine & Sanctuary Lamp***In Memory Of:* Herbert & Angeline Silvestri*Requested By :* Family**PLANNED GIVING FOR OUR PARISH**

Please consider our parish through:

- Your Will or Trust
- Retirement Assets
- Life Insurance Policies

A Life Income Gift which will provide you with payments for life and ultimately will benefit our parish.

YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT**\$19,704.88 Average weekly need**

\$14,947.37 December 6 collection

786.00 Human Development collection

December 13 collection will be reported next week

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT
OF YOUR PARISH!****Your end of the year support is invaluable.****Thank You**

During these uncertain times, please continue to support Holy Cross parish & her ministries & programs through weekly or monthly offerings. Because of your goodness, we have been able to adapt to this changing landscape & provide updated communications, resources, support & programs to our community and to our neighbors in need. Please remember to help support our mission. You may become an online giver by visiting www.holycrossdewitt.org/give. Online giving is through Vanco, which is a secure site. **You have the option of giving using your credit card number or by having an electronic fund transfer.** Or mail in your gift to the Parish Office (4112 E. Genesee Street, DeWitt, New York 13214).

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2020

- SUN 12/20** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
- MON 12/21** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
- TUE 12/22** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
- WED 12/23** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
- THR 12/24** Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
- FRI 12/25** Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
- SAT 12/26** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
- SUN 12/27** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00 - 8:00pm on Wednesdays.

Please register online as you do for Mass if you are planning on attending. We begin the hour in the church with Adoration & will conclude with Solemn Benediction.



Confessions Wednesday Evenings – Chapel

Sacrament of Reconciliation is being offered every **Wednesday from 5 to 6pm and 7 to 8pm**. The peace of mind and soul which this sacrament imparts to us is one for which there is no substitute. Come enjoy the quietness of our Chapel and the forgiveness of our Savior.

PRAYER REQUESTS

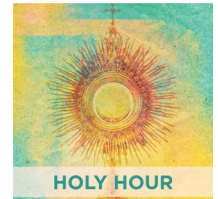
Garth H. Bishop, Eden & Mackenzie Bishop, Terry Chylinski, Armand Cincotta, Mark Cywilko, John Galletta, Stanley Jakimek, Sharon & Joe Kieffer, Elaine Lostumbo, Abrielle Lynch, Monique Missoff, Faith Muller, Patricia Pool, and Rita Smookler.

If you would like us to add someone to this list, we ask that only family members call the office or email Peg@holycrossdewitt.org. We will keep them on for three months unless you notify us otherwise.

Thank you.

Holy Hour 8:15 to 9:15AM

Join us on Mondays following the 7:45 Mass for a Holy Hour that will be held in the Main Church.



Monday Night Prayer



Each Monday Night at 8:00 pm, we will be offering Night Prayer live on our Facebook page. Please join us for this time of prayer and reflection.

Catholic Media - Augustine Institute

FORMED

Listen: There is Life in the Womb - Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Youth: Watch: YDisciple: Advent, Session 4: The Gift

Family: Watch: O Holy Night - Brother Francis

Family: Listen: Glory to the Newborn King - Lindsey Todd (Traditional Christmas carols)

Read: The Blessings of Christmas by Joseph Ratzinger



Christmas and New Year's Schedule 2020

Christmas Eve Masses - Thursday, December 24
4:00 pm, 6:00pm, 10:00pm
12:00am Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Masses - Friday, December 25
7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am & 5:00pm

New Year's Vigil Mass - Thursday, December 31
4:00pm & 6:00pm

New Year's Day Masses - Friday, January 1, 2021
7:30am and 10:30am

All Are Welcome!

Please note that reservations, masks & social distancing are required. Sign up on the Holy Cross website (holycrossdewitt.org).

The Masses at 4:00pm Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve can be viewed on-line via the Holy Cross website.

Holy Cross is currently located in an **Orange Zone**. Services are limited to **25 people**. We are offering extra Mass locations at this time to accommodate more individuals. Be sure to make note of the *location* and time you are registering for and follow all instructions and guidelines. Please refer to the Holy Cross website for any updated information.

Holy Cross Church Calendars and "The Little Blue Book" for Advent & Christmas are available near all the exits.

Christmas Message

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate Christmas, I am reminded of the struggles Mary and Joseph encountered as they sought a place for the infant to be born. They must have been fearful as the blessed moment drew ever closer, yet I am sure like all parents, we're looking forward to a bright future. After all, God does not disappoint! I believe we are very much like Mary and Joseph this Christmas. Our lives have been turned upside down and we are not able to honor our normal patterns of celebration, many finding no place to celebrate Mass together, and yet we long and hope for a better future. Christ will provide us with that future that we long for this year!

I, along with Father Rawson, Deacon Dare, our Seminarian James, and the entire staff of Holy Cross wish you a joyous, anticipation-filled Christmas, as we look forward to the blessings that a new year with our savior, Jesus the Christ, will bring us all!

May the peace of the infant Jesus reside within us all!

Fr. John Kurgan
Pastor



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

All events are subject to change. Please watch the bulletin and check on-line to make sure the event will take place or may have changed to remote or online. Sign up for the bulletin brief and up-to-date information will be emailed to you. You may do this by visiting the Holy Cross website, then go to "News" & "Subscribe".

Spiritual Adoption Program Month Four - "I had a dream"

Your baby's brain has begun maturing - a process that will continue until they are about 14 years old. The baby's eyelids are now sealed and will re-open at 7 months. Their taste buds are now working. Nutrients consumed by their mother are passed on within an hour or two.

Three hundred quarts of fluid a day are sent to the baby via the umbilical cord. Fine hair begins to grow on head, eyebrows and eyelashes. Facial expressions similar to parents of the baby can be seen at this time. This month REMS (rapid eye movements) have been recorded - a sign of dreaming. Your baby is now about 9 inches in length. Thank you for praying!



CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

*Wednesdays during Advent &
last Monday of Advent*

Diocese of Syracuse

Annual
HOPE
Appeal

Opportunities for Reconciliation

"The Light is On For You" - We welcome all for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions will be heard in the Chapel

- Wednesdays in December from 5-6pm
- **Monday, December 21st from 4-7pm** at Holy Cross and most of the Churches of the Diocese.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Wednesdays from 7-8pm
- Every Saturday in December at 3:00- 3:30pm

Looking for a way to put your Faith in Action?

For more information or to volunteer, contact Beth Schafer: 315-416-4576 or beth@holycrossdewitt.org

Pandemic restrictions:

The recent surge in Covid-19 cases has had an impact on Faith in Action service activities. For our regularly scheduled activities, please call ahead or check the parish website for updated information.

December Collections

During the month of December we are collecting colorless chapstick donations for Sr. Maura Rhode's ministry at the Jamesville Prison. Thank you so much for your generous care for prisoners during the holiday season!

Refugee Closet

Children's winter clothing is in demand as the weather turns colder. Please donate only freshly laundered clothing, especially coats, snow pants & boots. Children's clothing donations can be placed in the Faith in Action Closet downstairs.



Refugee Assistance Group:

Members of the group are actively involved in supporting the AliKhel family with their goals regarding education and finding work. As it is for all families, online learning for the children is an ongoing challenge. Joan Willard has been diligently working with the children and their teachers. Thank you Joan! If you would like to join us to plan an online winter party for the family next month, please contact Beth for more information: Beth@holycrossdewitt.org

Laudato Si Circle Online:

This winter may be the right time for you to join this online group! Join fellow parishioners engaged in energetic discussion about God's love for creation. Plans are underway for joyful and inspiring spring activities. This a safe opportunity to meet with one another and nurture hope during this long winter season. To join the group, please contact Beth: beth@holycrossdewitt.org

2021 Samaritan Center Dinners

If you are interested in helping with a Sunday meal at the Samaritan Center Soup Kitchen, our 2021 dates will be: January 24th, March 21st, April 18th, 2021. There are now 2 options for helping with the Sunday meals: 9am to noon or noon to 3pm. Only 5 volunteers are allowed for each shift. Masks & social distancing are required in order to serve the take-out meals. To sign up, contact Rick: philipcoughlin@gmail.com

2020 Giving Tree

Thank you for your generous donations to our 37th Annual Giving Tree Program! We adjusted our requests this year to accommodate our limited attendance due to covid restrictions: this year we worked with 8 local agencies to provide 300 gifts for families in need. Thank you for your generous response & prompt return of gift cards with tags.

For the first time, we created an Amazon wish list to make shopping both safe and easy for those who must quarantine or limit contact with others. Thank you Mary Beth Smith for helping to make this project a success!

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, thank you for being 'the hands and feet of Christ' by helping families in need during this difficult time. Merry Christmas!



THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sunday, December 20th

9:00 AM RCIA Session - remote

Monday, December 21st

8:15 AM Holy Hour - Church

4:00 to 7:00 PM "Light Is On For You" (confessions) - church

8:00 PM Night Prayer - Live on HC Facebook

Wednesday, December 23rd

5:00-6:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation - Chapel

7:00 PM Holy Hour - Church

7:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation - Chapel

Saturday, December 26th

3:00 - 3:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation - Chapel

Sunday, December 27th

9:00 AM RCIA Session - remote

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

- ◆ Thursday, Dec. 24th, Friday, Dec. 25th, and Friday, Jan. 1st the Parish Office will be Closed.
- ◆ Private Prayer and Devotion will not take place on these days.

Deadline Changes for Upcoming Bulletin

- The deadline for the bulletin of January 3 will be **Monday, Dec. 21 at 9am.**

All notices received after these deadlines will be published in the following bulletin. Thank you!



HOPE Appeal 2020 - We are nearing our goal!

Thank you to all who have pledged their support to the HOPE Appeal ministries, programs, and services that benefit so many throughout Central New York, including many in our own parish.

We would ask you to prayerfully consider a gift to the HOPE Appeal. If we all give, we will easily meet the goal of \$101,362.59. You may bring your completed pledge card to Mass next weekend **and drop it in the box along with your weekly contribution. You may also drop it by the office or mail it to the parish office. If you would rather pledge your gift you may do so at syrdio.org.** We would like to wrap up this year's campaign on December 31, 2020.

Together, when we pledge our gift to the Annual HOPE Appeal, we are giving thanks to Christ for the innumerable gifts we've been given and helping our friends and neighbors who benefit each year from the diocesan good works funded through our annual appeal.



THANK YOU
for your generosity



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Molly Abrams	Aiden Post
Isabella Balash	Will Reed
Dylan Borer	Mia Renna
Payton Cameron	Christian Ruddy
Harrison Le Dang	Vincent Santoro
Adrianna DeMarchi	Kate Schlegel
Leona Gasiorowski	Rose Schlegel
Willem Groat	Julia Searing
Claire Malay	Zeeke Soltau
Izzy Mamorella	Nicholas Soper
Wyatt McIntosh	Hayley Synakowski
Gerry McNamara	Jackson Thorpe
James O'Connor	Christian Vigneault
Jack Oyer	Dominic Zappola
Ryan Parker	

To all the children (and their parents) of Holy Cross who celebrated **First Communion** during the Summer & Fall of 2020...

We pray you feel heaven's blessings shining down on you
And just as on your special day, remember that God's love
will always be there to comfort you, guide you, & bless you.
You have a special place in this parish family and in heaven.
God be with you and your family.

EDUCATE - A - KID

Holy Cross parish has a glorious history of never turning a parish student away who seeks a Catholic Education. Some of our parents cannot afford the tuition in whole or part. If you are able to help Educate-A-Kid, please help us provide a Catholic Education for a boy or girl. Tuition is \$5,500.00.

We have a Holy Cross School Incorporation that also allows matching funds from many companies. Call the Parish Office for more information. It is "Friends of Holy Cross School, Inc." – Federal Tax ID is 26-3789417.

Please complete this form if you can help.

God bless you and I know He will for bringing a child closer to Him.

I wish to help a family afford a Catholic education.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Full Scholarship - Yes, I am interested (\$5,500)

_____ Partial Scholarship - Amount of Donation \$ _____

NOVENA PRAYER FOR AN END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and world-wide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son's throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician. Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

SACRAMENTS

Baptism ~ Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements
Classes required for 1st child's Baptism
†To request either the **Anointing of the Sick** or **Communion to the Sick** please call the Parish Office. †

Marriage ~ Please make an appointment with a priest at least 6 months prior to wedding

Reconciliation ~ Wednesday 7-8pm, Saturday 3 - 3:30pm
Or by appointment

HOLY CROSS PARISH

4112 E. Genesee St., DeWitt, NY 13214

Church Office – Phone: 315 446-0473, FAX: 315 446-7608

Website: holycrossdewitt.org ■ E-Mail: info@holycrossdewitt.org

Holy Cross Parish Staff ~ Name, Title and Phone Extension

Rev. John J. Kurgan, Pastor, ext. 15
Rev. Matthew E. Rawson, Parochial Vicar, ext. 16
Rev. Charles S. Vavonese, Weekend Homilist
Deacon Dare Dutter, ext. 13
James Buttner, Seminarian
Ernest J. Camerota, Director of Music, ext. 38
Brette Cooper, Maintenance
Josh Corcoran, Music Sunday 5pm Mass
Dan Littlepage, Director of Technology, ext. 33
Leigh C. Marquis, Director of Finance & Human Resources, ext. 24
Maureen McManus, Sacristan
Stephen Nepil, Dir. Faith Formation 7-12 & Dir. Youth Ministry ext. 19
Peg Olson, Office Manager & Administrative Assistant, ext. 22
Beth Schafer, Director of Faith in Action Ministry, ext. 21
Julie Sheridan, Dir. Faith Formation 1-6 & Evangelization, ext. 12
Matt Stano, Maintenance

PARISH INFORMATION

- **Please notify the Parish Office** when a parishioner or family member is confined to home, hospitalized, or entering a nursing home. Hospitals no longer notify us of a patient's admittance. Also, please notify us with change of: address, phone number or email.
- Bulletin items need to be in the parish office no later than Monday at 9am for the upcoming weekend. (holiday deadlines will change)
E-mail preferred; please send to: peg@holycrossdewitt.org
- Hearing impaired ear phones are available in the Robing Room in the front lobby.
- Pregnant and Need Help? Please call Catholic Charities 424-1800

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

4200 E. Genesee St., DeWitt, NY 13214

School Office – Phone: 315 446-4890, FAX: 315 446-4799

Website: hcschooldewitt.org

E-Mail: rmccrone@syrdiocese.org

Staff ~ Name and Title

Robert McCrone, School Principal
Joanne Markert - Administrative Assistant, Nina Walters - Nurse