

Christmas 2019



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Holy Cross Church ~ DeWitt, New York

Christmas Message

Christmas 2019

Dear Parishioners,

We would like to take this time to wish each and every one of you a Blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year!

As we began the celebration of Advent we also began a new liturgical year. Advent is the time of preparation for the coming of Christ. The Advent wreath has demonstrated that Christ's light continues to increase in our lives. Each year we celebrate Advent and Christmas to remind ourselves that Jesus is always with us, that His light can burn within our heart, our families and our faith communities if we allow Him to be present. That light that we seek culminates with the celebration of the birth of Christ on Christmas day. Indeed, the Christmas daytime prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours offers this pray for our reflection:

**Almighty God and Father of light,
a child is born for us and a Son is given to us.
Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven
in the silent watches of the night,
and now Your Church is filled with wonder
at the nearness of her God.
Open our hearts to receive His life
and increase our vision with the rising of dawn,
that our lives may be filled with His glory and His peace,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us pray this prayer today and each day of the Christmas Season to remind ourselves that Christ has come down to us, fully human and fully divine, like us in all things but sin, and that His purpose for coming to Earth was and continues to be, to teach us how to live in the light of purity and goodness, and to reject the darkness of error and sin. Each of us individually and as Church should be filled with wonder that our God loves us so much that He would bless us with His only begotten Son.

As the Christmas season accompanies us into our new year, a new year that is filled with hope for the future, we pray that all of us enter this new year with the hope that the Christ child offers to all people.

In prayer,
Fr. John Kurgan
Fr. Matthew Rawson
Fr. Charles Vavonese
Deacon Dare Dutter

Welcome to Holy Cross Church!

We'd love to have you join our parish. We have a multitude of opportunities for service, education, and ministry, and invite you to join us in ministering, serving and celebrating the opportunities that God has given us to be community. If you are new to Christianity or Catholicism and want to learn more, check out our RCIA program. Parish registration packets can be found in the Gathering Area near the bulletins. Introduce yourself to one of the priests or call the parish office (315) 446-0473 for more information.

Opportunities for Worship

Join us for Mass at Holy Cross

Mass is held every day, Monday through Friday at 7:45 am and on Saturdays at 9am.

Our Sunday liturgies begin with a vigil Mass at **4:00 PM** on Saturday evenings. On Sundays, we offer three Masses: an early **7:30 AM** Mass, a **10:30 AM** Mass with worship led by our choir and music director at the helm of our pipe organ, and an evening Mass at **5:00 PM** with peaceful piano music led by our worship leader. We hope you will join us!

Sacrament of Penance

Priests are available for Confession on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm, Saturdays from 3-3:45 pm, and by appointment.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Wednesday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament available in the main church from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. You are invited to come to this hour for as long or as little as you like. This is a great opportunity to spend some quiet time with the Lord. The hour concludes with Solemn Benediction.

Priests are available for Confession every week during this hour.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

You are welcome to come to our Chapel any weekday during office hours (8:15am to 4:00pm) to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

Opportunities for Growth

Sacraments

There are seven sacraments that touch all the stages and important moments of Christian Life. They are: Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance, the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. Anyone interested in receiving a Sacrament should call the office and we can help you with the preparation.

Faith Formation

Holy Cross offers a Faith Formation program for youth from first grade to twelfth grade. Our goals are to proclaim Christ's message, to extend efforts to develop community, to lead children in worship and prayer, and to motivate students to serve others.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry works in a combined effort with Faith Formation to bring teens to a deep & profound relationship with Jesus. Whereas Faith Formation works to form the intellect of our young people ("You cannot love what you do not know"). Youth Ministry is ordered toward moving the heart. Using events that are relaxed; including games, skits, talks & small groups, Youth Ministry builds on the intellectual foundation received in Faith Formation to bring them to a personal encounter with the God who loves them profoundly. Learn more and check out upcoming events at holycrossdewitt.org/youth

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The process is for:

- Those never baptized who would like to become Catholic
- Those baptized in another Christian Church who would like to become Catholic or
- Those already baptized as a Catholic but who have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation.
- Those who are already Catholic & interested in knowing more about our Catholic Faith are welcome.

Holy Cross School

Holy Cross School is a private, Pre-K through 6th grade Catholic educational community. Our students get a superior education in an innovative learning institution that produces outstanding overall academic performance year after year. They also learn lifelong values that never change, including faith, service, honesty, courtesy, and compassion. Since family is a key value, we also offer flexible hours for busy parents with before and after school programs and foster a safe environment for children. Nationally accredited by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools. To learn more visit the school's website at www.hcschooldewitt.org or call (315) 446-4890.

Opportunities for Service

Food Pantries

On the first weekend of each month, we collect non-perishable food and sundries donations at all weekend Masses. Volunteers sort & pack these donations for distribution to parish families and food pantries: Downtown Emergency Center, St. Lucy's, All Faiths at St. John the Baptist, and the Jamesville Ecumenical Food Pantry.

Funeral Reception Ministry

Possibly you are looking for a way to give of yourself in a very distinctive way. Through the Holy Cross Funeral Reception Ministry, you can give comfort to others in a particular time of their neediness. As part of this intentional ministry, they will prepare Yeazel Hall, serve food & beverage and / or clean-up.

Pastoral Care Ministry

Jesus tells us: "Whatsoever you do for the least of my brothers & sisters, you do it for me... When I was ill, you visited me and cared for me." Would you be interested in visiting the sick & homebound parishioners of Holy Cross? Our Pastoral Care Ministry serves over two hundred sick & homebound people who are our brothers & sisters in Christ.



Schedule

New Year Vigil Mass

December 31st at 4:00pm

New Year Day Mass

January 1st at 8:00am & 10:30am

Weekend Mass Schedule

Vigil Mass, Saturday at 4:00pm
(Confession heard at 3:00pm)

Sunday at 7:30am, 10:30am

And 5:00pm

Choir sings at 10:30am

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.

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."

Faith in Action Ministry

Faith in Action ministry at Holy Cross invites you to get involved in the community through one or more of our many outreach activities. Whether it is joining a parish team at the Samaritan Center on a Sunday afternoon, making sandwiches for a homeless shelter on Tuesday after daily Mass, or helping our befriended refugee family, opportunities to make a difference in the community abound! Our Neighbors Helping Neighbors program offers a way to help a person from our parish family; a request for help is sent via email which allows you to respond if you are available to help.

I am Beth Schafer, Director of Faith in Action. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you so we can discuss the ways you can join with other members of our parish family as we serve the community within and the world that surrounds us. Get in touch with me by 315-416-4576 or beth@holycrossdewitt.org

Knitting Group and Angel Blankets

There is an ongoing need at our local hospitals for Angel Blankets. You only need to be able to sew a simple stitch to make these blankets. There is also a group that meets twice a month to knit or crochet hats for newborns.

HOLY CROSS PARISH

4112 E. Genesee St., DeWitt, NY 13214
Church Office – Phone: 315 446-0473, FAX: 315 446-7608
Website: hccparish.com ■ E-Mail: info@holycrossdewitt.org

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: moleary@syrdiocese.org

School Staff ~ Name and Title

Martha O'Leary, School Principal
Joanne Markert - Administrative Assistant, Nina Walters - Nurse

Holy Cross Parish Staff ~ Name, Title and Phone Extension

Rev. John J. Kurgan, Pastor, ext. 15
Rev. Matthew E. Rawson, Parochial Vicar, ext. 36
Rev. Charles S. Vavonese, Weekend Homilist
Deacon Dare Dutter, ext. 16
Ernest J. Camerota, Director of Music, ext. 38
Brette Cooper, Maintenance
Josh Corcoran, Music Sunday 5pm Mass
Patty Kirwan, Administrative Assistant ext. 10
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. 13
Julie Sheridan, Dir. Faith Formation 1-6 & Evangelization, ext. 12
Matt Stano, Maintenance

— HOLY CROSS MISSION STATEMENT