



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”
- Lk 3:5-6

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

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Christmas Mass Schedule 2021

Christmas Eve Masses - Friday, December 24
4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 12:00am Midnight Mass
Christmas Day Masses - Saturday, December 25
7:30am and 10:30am
All Are Welcome!

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.”

Would you like to join us as new parishioner?

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

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.



Mass Times

Daily Mass: 7:45am
Saturday: 9:00am
Reconciliation:
Wed. 7:00-8:00pm
Sat. 3:00-3:30pm
Sunday Mass
Vigil Sat.: 4:00pm
Sun.: 7:30am, 10:30am & 5:00 pm
Watch Masses online at
holycrossdewitt.org

Upcoming Events:

Please check page 4 of the bulletin for information on this week’s events.

Check holycrossdewitt.org for the latest information on Masses, events, & changes in safety protocols. For information call the office at 315-446-0473.

**Sun., Dec. 5th - Second Sunday of Advent**

7:30am Christian Hall/ Maureen Hall & Family
 10:30am Aungier - McManus Families/ Karen & Erin
 5:00pm Maria Arnesano Musto/ Flavia Musto

Monday, December 6th

7:45am Bill Sovik/ Lil Maio
 9:00am - 3:00pm Private Prayer & Devotion

Tuesday, December 7th

7:45am Agnes Flaherty/ Maureen Murphy
 9:00am - 3:00pm Private Prayer & Devotion

Wednesday, Dec. 8th - The Immaculate Conception

7:45am David & Pat Bean/ Family
 9:15am School Mass—Parishioners of Holy Cross
 9:00am - 3:00pm Private Prayer & Devotion
 5:30pm Alyce & John McNamara/ Family

Thursday, December 9th

7:45am Mary Dougherty / Mimi Weiner
 9:00am - 3:00pm Private Prayer & Devotion

Friday, December 10th

7:45am James Collins & Catherine Bona Collins/ Family
 9:00am - 3:00pm Private Prayer & Devotion

Saturday, December 11th

9:00am Intentions of Parish Rosary Group/
 Margaret Ingraham
 4:00pm Lu & John Stack/ Carol Blake
 3:00 to 3:30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sun., December 12th - Second Sunday of Advent
 7:30am Bernadine & Victor Becker/ Family
 10:30am Herbert & Angeline Silvestri/ Family
 5:00pm Hilda Loguidice / Agnes, Rose & Karen

Next weekend's second collection is:
 Cathedraticum

Sunday December 5—Second Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist is such a pivotal figure for us not just in Advent, but all year round. If you think about it, nearly everything we read about him in the Gospels shows us that he exists simply to point all others toward Christ. In his humility, he doesn't proclaim a message about himself but rather he proclaims to others the path of salvation and how to find it. John points out the presence of the One who will transform lives and hearts, the presence of the One who will ultimately save us from our sins. In essence, John's life continually echoes what we hear in our first reading: Take off your robes of mourning and misery and be clothed with the splendor and glory of God!

For this to become a reality for our lives, consider St. Paul's letter to the Philippians today. Paul is confident that God has begun a good work in each of us and that God will continue to carry it out the more we let him. The same was true with John the Baptist. The "good work" God is accomplishing within us is not simply for our own sake, but rather it is also meant to clothe us with His splendor and draw everyone around us closer and closer to Him. When we radiate the compelling joy of knowing the Lord, it is ultimately contagious for others. The witness of John the Baptist's life was tremendously fruitful, and our witness can be too, the more we allow God's 'good work' to come to fruition in us. Because from the moment we choose to accept His invitation, or to live out our true vocation, the splendor of our lives will then point others toward Christ.

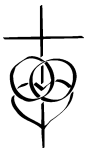
St. John the Baptist, please pray for us!

Peace,

Fr. Foley

Banns of Marriage

Alexandra Decker & Agostino Zona

**Week of December 5****Host, Wine & Sanctuary Lamp**

In Memory Of: Len Smith/ Family & Friends

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

\$18,485.04 Collection of November 21st

\$15,185.25 Collection of November 28th

\$ 513.00 Human Development Collection

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT
 OF YOUR PARISH!**

Your 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 5, 2021

- Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
- Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18



Prayer REQUESTS

Andy Agrasto, Meg Barone, Garth H. Bishop, Eden & Mackenzie Bishop, Barbara Boyd, Oliver Brown, Terry Chylinski, Armand Cincotta, Tom Coyne, Mark Cywilko, Tony Dimento, Joanne & Aidan Gallagher, John Galletta, Sharon Kieffer, Ann Kronner, Elaine Lostumbo, Abrielle Lynch, Dinita Machlin, Monique Missoff, Mary Elizabeth Morgan, Faith Muller, Nancy Patane, Patricia Pool, Stephen Smith, Rita Smookler, Rev. Georg Stockert, John Toole and Jon Zubieta.

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 include them for three months unless you notify us otherwise. Thank you.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday, December 8th

Masses for this holyday of obligation will be :
7:45 am, 9:15am (School Mass) and 5:30pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of the Americas! December 12 is the day her feast is celebrated by the Church. Since it falls on a Sunday this year, it is being observed the day before: **Saturday, December 11**. So please join us for a special celebration at **St. Anthony of Padua** (1515 Midland Ave. Syracuse) **Beginning at 10am**, an outdoor procession around the Church with a statue of Our Lady will precede the celebration of the Eucharist (in Spanish). Following the Mass, all are invited to stay for coffee, refreshments, and fellowship! All are welcome and encouraged to attend regardless of Spanish-speaking ability! Any questions please inquire with Fr. Foley!

Attention: Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers:

We have posted sign-up sheets for any Altar Servers, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers who would like to serve the Christmas and the New Year's Day Masses. Please sign up near the main entrance of the church.

Attention Lectors

Your 2022 Workbook for Lectors is available. Please stop by the office to pick up your copy.

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

We begin the hour in the church with Adoration & conclude with Solemn Benediction.

Confession Wednesday Evenings – Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every **Wednesday from 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 Church and the forgiveness of our Savior.

Eucharistic Adoration



ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Day of Reflection

There will be a day of reflection led by Deacon Dare Dutter on **Monday December 6th** from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. What better way to prepare for the coming of the Lord than to reflect on the stories and scriptures of this wonderful season. We will start with morning prayer and then dig into the readings to find the peace, joy and love that our God has sought for us since the beginning of time. Please join us.

Contact Jo Oliva to register 315-446-3328 lunch will be provided from Brooklyn Pickle - \$12

Opportunities for Reconciliation

“The Light is On For You” - Confessions will be heard on **Monday, December 20th** from 4-7pm at most of the Churches of the Diocese.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Wednesday, December 15th & Dec. 22nd from 5-6pm.
- Wednesday, December 8th, 15th, & 22nd from 7-8pm
- Every Saturday in December (except 12/25) from 3:00 - 3:30pm

Private Prayer Hours

The Church will be open for Private Prayer & Devotion between 9am and 3pm Monday thru Friday.

Formed

An Advent and early Christmas gift for our parishioners! Go to formed.org and create an account. Select our parish and follow the rest of the easy instructions to create your account. Check out movies, children's, youth, adult and family programs and shows. There are free books to read online, studies, digital audios and a store to buy from. Sign up for Formed daily, Formed Now and search for great Advent selections.

Plus the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE NEW APP: **Amen: Catholic Meditation** is the free Catholic app that brings you beautiful prayers, faithful meditations and nourishing Scripture to draw your mind, body and soul to rest in God. Includes Daily Mass Readings, Catholic Meditations, Bible in a Year, The Life of Christ, Opening the Word, Daily Reflections, One Minute Inspirations, Pray the Rosary, Evening Psalms & Stories for Sleep, Catholic Prayers, Truth & Life Audio Bible, Family Content. Find it in the Play Store and Apple apps.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sunday, December 5th - Food Giving Weekend

- 8:15 AM RCIA - Downstairs
- 9:15 AM Adult Ministry - Yeazel Hall rooms 12 & 13
- 11:30 AM Breakfast With Santa - Yeazel Hall
- 6:00 PM Parent Mini-Retreat - Church

Monday, December 6th

- 8:15 AM Holy Hour - Church
- 10:00AM Day of Reflection - Yeazel Hall

Tuesday, December 7th

- 6:45 AM Faith Formation (HS) - Yeazel Hall
- 8:15 AM First Tuesday Sandwiches - Yeazel Hall
- 6:30 PM PTA Meeting - Yeazel Hall

Wednesday, December 8th

- 7:00 PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation - Church

Thursday, December 9th

- 7:45 AM Faith Formation (ES) - Yeazel Hall
- 7:00 PM Advent Study - rooms 12 & 13

Saturday, December 11th

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

Sunday, December 12th - Giving Tree Deadline For Gifts

- 8:15 AM RCIA - Downstairs
- 9:15 AM Adult Ministry - rooms 12 & 13
- 4:30 PM Confirmation Group Session - Yeazel Hall

Breakfast with Santa This Weekend

Plan to join us in Yeazel Hall on **Sunday, December 5 after the 10:30 Mass (11:30am)** for a delicious breakfast and a visit from Santa.

Cost: \$20 family, \$7 adults & teens (13 & up), \$5 children ages 5 to 12, free for children ages 4 and under.



Holiday Mass & Luncheon Saturday-December 18th

All are welcome to this year's Mass & Luncheon at noon in Yeazel Hall. Please make your reservations by **Monday, December 13rd** by calling Jo Oliva 446-3328. Tickets \$26

Mark Your Calendars !

- **Sandwich Making** - December 21
- **Christmas Delight** - Tuesday, Dec. 21 - 12:00pm
- **Monthly Movie** - Tuesday, Dec. 28 - 1:00pm

Watch the bulletin for more details.

Now Available

Holy Cross Church Calendars and “The Little Blue Book” for Advent and Christmas are available near all the exits. Please take one per family so there will be enough for all to enjoy.



The Parish Office will be closed on **Wednesday, December 8th**. You may leave a message on the office phone. (315) 446-0473.

HOPE Appeal 2021
“Your Are The Salt Of The Earth”

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.



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. If you are not able to make the minimum gift of \$325.00, please give your best gift. If we all give, we will easily meet Holy Cross’ 2021 HOPE Appeal goal of \$92,649.06. **If we exceed our 2021 HOPE Appeal goal, 100 percent of the excess will be returned directly to our parish.** We plan to use these funds to continue the mission of Holy Cross Parish.

Please prayerfully consider your gift to this year’s HOPE Appeal. Bring your completed pledge card to Mass and drop it in the box along with your weekly contribution or mail it by the office. If you would rather pledge your gift online you may do so at syrdio.org. **We would like to wrap up this year’s drive soon.**

Join us for the Listening Sessions for the Synodal planning.



Listening is an integral part of the planning. Below is the schedule for sessions in our area. All are welcome to attend.

Thurs., Dec. 9th	6:30-8:30PM	Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Syracuse
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ADVENT WEEKLY REFLECTION FOR 2021:
Week 2

To prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight God’s path, let us reflect on how much God has given to us in overflowing love as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As we wait in joyful hope, let us be aware of God’s many gifts to us, such as the Earth which is the vehicle so essential for life and also our consciousness that the Earth is a great gift we are called to cherish. What can we as individuals and as communities do to better cherish God’s Earth so as to make God’s path to us more straight??

The Lord truly has done great things for us!

Currently we are not taking donations of clothing. Please do not bring any clothing articles to church since we are not able to store them at this time. Thank you!

Faith In Action Opportunities

The caring and generosity of our parish community is amazing! You truly are Christ's hands at work.

Please return your unwrapped gifts or gift cards with tags attached by Sunday, December 12th 11am. Gifts may be returned during weekend Masses or brought to the parish office during the week. If you are returning gift cards, please deposit them in the collection box in the Gathering Area.



Thank you to our wonderful giving tree volunteers who have helped make this another successful year: Katie Deehan, Peggy Foraker, Cindi Gamage, Maria Lorenzo, Mary Malay, Cathy Relihan, Sheila Relihan, Brigid Ristau, Carla Semmel and Mary Beth Smith.

Volunteers needed to assist with the Food Collection Today

We are in need of helping hands at all Masses:

- Before each Mass please cart the food to Yeazel Hall & if time permits, place on tables
- After Mass (except 5pm Sunday) unpack the donations, sort by category, prep the empty bags, and repack bags per instructions (on the clipboards) from the receiving pantries. Even 15 minutes would be a big help.
- Monday morning at 9am to prepare for distribution

We are providing our donations to 4 pantries each month and this necessitates organizing so we can get the groceries out quickly. Thank you for contributing!

Jail Ministry 2021 Christmas Party

Jail can be a sad & lonely place during the holiday season. Jail Ministry is preparing for the holiday season & we are asking for donations for our 400 gift bags, one for each inmate. We try to bring a message of hope & God’s love & mercy when we prepare & deliver gift bags while singing Christmas carols on the pods with the inmates.



This year we are requesting:

- First class postage stamps or
- Instant Coffee from the Dollar Stores

Please drop your donation in the baskets by the front door by **December 12th.**

Thank you for your generosity! For more information, contact Beth Schafer 315-416-4576.


Sandwich Ministry

The First Tuesday Sandwich Ministry will be meeting on **Tuesday, 12/7 at 8:15 AM.** Please join us in Yeazel Hall after daily Mass to prepare our usual variety of sandwiches for Catholic Charities homeless shelter.



New volunteers are always welcome.

Help bring joy this season

Buy your gifts at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) or with AmazonSmile ON in the app and Amazon donates 



Do you shop on Amazon? When you do, use amazon smile and support Holy Cross School. There is no cost to you but just by signing up, your shopping will make a difference and help Holy Cross School. Sign up today and do your regular Amazon shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/26-3789417](https://www.amazon.com/ch/26-3789417) and Amazon donates to Friends of Holy Cross.

Virtual Advent Retreat December 9 from 12pm to 1:30pm

Pray and See the Mystery Unfold with Dr. Caroline Farey. Slow down and nourish your soul this Advent. Come and listen to the psalm from midday prayer while contemplating Sacred Art from the ages. See in a new way, the momentous mystery of God becoming man for our sake, in images that will be deep and inspiring. Offering you a moment of God’s loving presence beautifully portrayed. Register for Zoom Meeting @bit.ly/joyfulhope2021

EDUCATE - A - KID

Holy Cross parish has a glorious history of never turning a student away who seeks a Catholic Education. Some parents cannot afford school tuition in whole or part. Your contribution helps provide a Catholic Education for a student. Tuition & operating expenses per student exceeds \$7,800.00 annually.

Holy Cross School is incorporated as “Friends of Holy Cross School Inc.” Many companies will match donated funds. The Friends of Holy Cross School Federal Tax I.D.# is 26-3789417.

If you are interested in supporting tuition for a child please complete the form below!

God bless you for bringing a child closer to Him.

Yes, I wish to help a family afford a Catholic education.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Cost per student - Yes, I am interested (\$7,800)

_____ Partial Scholarship - Amount of Donation \$ _____

Join us for a Live Nativity Celebration at Assumption Church with Christmas Carols! Live Animals!

Sunday, December 19th at 2 PM

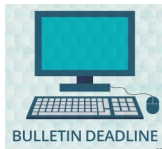
812 N Salina St, Syracuse

All are welcome to come experience the wonder of Christmas!

Deadline Changes for Upcoming Bulletins

Please make note of the following changes:

- The deadline for the bulletin of December 19 is **Wed., December 8.**



All notices should be received by 9am on the deadline date. Notices after this deadline will be published in the following weekend’s bulletin. Thank you!

SACRAMENTS

Baptism ~ Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

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

†To request either the **Anointing of the Sick** or **Communion to the Sick** please call the Parish Office.†

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. Brendan Foley, ext. 16
- Rev. Charles S. Vavonese, Weekend Homilist
- Deacon Dare Dutter, ext. 21
- James Buttner, Seminarian
- Ernest J. Camerota, Director of Music, ext. 38
- Brette Cooper, Maintenance
- Josh Corcoran, Communications Assistant & Music Ministry, ext. 13
- Dan Littlepage, Director of Technology, ext. 33
- Leigh C. Marquis, Director of Finance & Human Resources, ext. 24
- Stephen Nepil, Dir. Faith Formation 7-12 & Dir. Youth Ministry ext. 19
- Peg Olson, Office Manager & Administrative Assistant, ext. 22
- 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