



HOLY CROSS CHURCH

4112 EAST GENESEE STREET | DEWITT, NY 13214

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2022

HOLYCROSSDEWITT.ORG | PHONE: 315-446-0473 | FAX: 315-446-7608



Welcome to Holy Cross

A CARING COMMUNITY

"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."

Whether this is your first Mass with us or you are a lifelong parishioner, we are so glad you are here. We hope Holy Cross can be a place for you to call home. If you are new here, check us out online at holycrossdewitt.org to learn more or grab a welcome packet from the church entrances. Please do not hesitate to reach out and introduce yourself. We'd love to meet you!

Sunday Reflection

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Romans 15:4-9
Luke 3:4, 6

Each year in Advent we are prompted toward deeper conversion by the holy Forerunner, St. John the Baptist, who points out to us the Lord and his closeness to us: "There is one among you whom you know not" (John 1:26). Repent is the challenge of John's preaching, literally, metanoia in the Greek, which is a call toward a complete change of one's mind or perspective. Through his baptism of repentance, John calls for a decisive, fundamental change of direction in one's life who needs radical reorientation. This is why his words and appearance are surrounded by a sense of urgency, and another reason why we meditate on him during the season of Advent. Continuing from last Sunday's invitation to 'wake up,' our preparation through Advent helps

us to reorient our lives and priorities around the One most deserving of our love and attention.

Much of our Gospel today needs unpacking, but we won't get carried away! Details of John the Baptist's clothing and why people were leaving the towns and surrounding areas to journey far into the wilderness to meet John at the Jordan River is laden with Old Testament prophetic imagery and fulfillment. It was long foretold that God would lovingly draw his sinful people back to a renewal of covenant, and that God would speak "to their heart" in the desert (Hos 2:14). Both his clothing and message connect him to the long-anticipated return of Elijah, and all this greatly drew the anticipation and attention of onlookers. When the Pharisees and Sadducees show up to investigate, it is clear they are not there with the same desire for repentance. John speaks rather sharply to them because of their misconception

SEE REFLECTION, PAGE 4

MASS INTENTIONS

HOSTS, WINE, AND LAMP

In Memory of John & Lenora Stach

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30AM Bernadine & Victor Becker / Family

10:30AM McManus & Aungier Families / Karen & Erin Markoff

5:00PM Tom Durkin / Elaine Lostumbo

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

7:45AM Eileen Marchant / James Tetreault

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:45AM Parishioners of Holy Cross

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

7:45AM Emilio Pascua / Rita C.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

7:45AM Joan Grabinski / Loretta Nowicki

9:15AM School Mass

5:30PM Jared Mace† / Mom, Sherry Mace

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:45AM Kevin Muller / Kathleen & Stephen Davis

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00AM Tony Caruso / Michael Salce

4:00PM Mary Lawless / Elaine Lostumbo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30AM Deceased Members of the Calao Family / Stewart Family

10:30AM Rod & Nanette Groat / Hall Groat Family

5:00PM Sandra Tetreault / James Tetreault & Family

UPCOMING EVENTS

Food Giving Weekend

DECEMBER 3-4, 2022

This weekend is Food Giving Weekend. Thank you for your generous donations for our local area food pantries and thank you to our volunteers who help with sorting and packaging. We appreciate any volunteers who are able to help with packaging following Mass. Thank you and God bless!

Breakfast with Santa

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022 | 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Join us for Breakfast with Santa at Holy Cross! Doors open on Sunday, December 4 at 9:30 AM and festivities last until 1:00 PM. Come enjoy a hot, delicious breakfast and a chance to meet Mr. Claus. Snap a family photo, have more than a few pancakes, and spend some time with your parish family.

We hope you'll join us for this festive tradition! \$5/person (under 4 are free) | \$20 family max

Advent Day of Reflection

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

There will be a day of reflection led by Dc. Dare Dutter on Monday, December 5 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in Yeazel Hall. 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.

Sandwich Ministry for Homeless Shelter

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022 | 8:15 AM

Please join us in Yeazel Hall on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 8:15 AM (following daily Mass) to prepare a variety of sandwiches for the Catholic Charities Men's Shelter. No need to sign up or RSVP ahead of time. New volunteers are always welcome! For more information, please email Julie Johnson at jjohn27363@aol.com

Advent Book Study

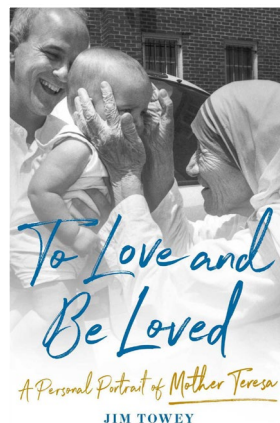
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022 | 6:30 PM

Join us this Advent in reading *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*. Read along each week and then join us at Holy Cross on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM for a reflection on the selected week's passage led by Fr. Foley and Steve Nepil. Following the reflection, spend some time in prayer and Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Books are available to pick up in the Gathering Area.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

THURSDAY, DEC. 8 | 7:45 AM, 9:15 AM, & 5:30 PM

Join us for Mass to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary! Masses will be December 8, 2022 at 7:45 AM, 9:15 AM (school Mass) and at 5:30 PM. There will be no vigil Mass. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a holy day of obligation that recognizes the solemn celebration of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. It is universally celebrated on December 8, nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary, which is celebrated on September 8. The parish office will be closed on Thursday, December 8 in recognition of this holy day.



To Love & Be Loved Guest Speaker

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8,
2022 | 6:30 PM**

Jim Towey worked closely with Mother Teresa the last 12 years of her life and was chosen to be the lector for her Mass of Canonization in 2016. Following evening Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Jim will join us at Holy Cross for a special presentation. In this 30-minute talk he will tell stories of his experiences with Mother Teresa and how your life might reach new heights of love and service. Please join us for this unique opportunity. Book signings will be available following the talk.

SEE MORE **EVENTS, PAGE 6**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Peter Allmayer-Beck, Joe Evans, Nancy Ferrara, Katie Glisson, Jeanette Heick, Ann Kronner, Elaine Lostumbo, Abrielle Lynch, Dinita Machlin, Faith Muller, Nancy Patane, Nash Daniel Stannard, and John Toole

Reflection

Continued from page 2

that simply their ethnic identity provided them membership in God's covenant family. John lays out clearly that repentance is necessary to be a part of this family, and that God can bind anyone to himself who repents from the heart.

Ultimately, John recognizes though that his baptism of repentance pales in comparison to the Baptism that Jesus will offer, and the reality of who Jesus is. John's baptism was merely a visible expression of one's repentance or desire for complete reorientation in preparation for the coming messiah. Rather what makes Jesus' Baptism so powerful—what makes the baptism we have received so different—is that through Jesus, an identity has been imparted to us that we could never have earned on our own. By our Baptism, God freely grafts us onto his family, wipes away the stain of sin and fills us with his Holy Spirit, literally making us his children. It gives us the power to live in a new way that we could not do on our own. The Sacrament of Baptism is not merely an expression or symbol of desiring to live a better life—it actually changes a person, it unites a soul with Christ's death and resurrection, filling it with divine life, so that as a result we have the power to live and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit. May our desire to be reoriented toward the Lord this Advent bring about in us great consolation, a desire for ongoing repentance, and 'wake up' our awareness to His presence constantly breathing life within us!

Peace,



Fr. Foley

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subscribe to the weekly brief

holycrossdewitt.org/subscribe



Giving Tree at Holy Cross

RETURN TAGS BY DECEMBER 4

Wow! The generosity of the Holy Cross community is amazing! Some 300 tags were taken from the Giving Tree over the past few weeks. Please return your unwrapped gift / gift card by Sunday at 11 AM. Thank you so much for helping to make Christmas happier for so many of our neighbors.



CHRISTMAS DINNERS FOR HUNGRY FAMILIES IN NEED

This Christmas season, Holy Cross is supporting Brady Market in their goal of providing 200 hungry families a delicious and dignified holiday meal! These Christmas Dinners, free to families identified through local outreach organizations, will be a full, heat 'n serve holiday meal including ham, all the fixings, sides and pie! Last weekend we took a second collection with a goal of raising \$1800 to purchase 80+ hams for the Christmas dinners. **We raised \$6,139.75!** We cannot thank you enough for your incredible generosity! Not only will we be able to help with Brady's dinners this year, but with future meals for those in need as well! Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT HC

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church
8:15 AM Holy Hour, Church
9:00 AM Euch. Miracles Exhibit, Chapel
10:00 AM Day of Reflection, Yeazel Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

6:45 AM H.S. Faith Form., Yeazel Hall
7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church
8:15 AM Sandwich Making, Yeazel Hall
9:00 AM Euch. Miracles Exhibit, Chapel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

6:45 AM M.S. Faith Form., Yeazel Hall
7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church
8:15 AM Adoration, Church
9:00 AM Euch. Miracles Exhibit, Chapel
6:30 PM Advent Book Study, Church
7:00 PM Adoration & Reconciliation

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

7:45 AM Elem. Faith Form., Yeazel Hall
7:45 AM Mass, Church
9:00 AM Euch. Miracles Exhibit, Chapel
9:15 AM School Mass, Church
5:30 PM Mass, Church
6:30 PM Guest Speaker, Church
6:30 PM Lux Mundi, Yeazel Hall
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church
9:00 AM Euch. Miracles Exhibit, Chapel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:15 AM Euch. Miracles Exhibit, Chapel
9:00 AM Daily Mass, Church
10:00 AM Christmas Luncheon, Yeazel H.
3:00 PM Reconciliation, Church
4:00 PM Vigil Mass, Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:00 AM Euch. Miracles Exhibit, Chapel
7:30 AM Mass, Church
9:15 AM Adult Ministry, Rms. 12-13
10:30 AM Mass, Church
3:30 PM RCIA, Rms. 12-13
4:30 PM Evening Prayer, Church
5:00 PM Mass, Church



Advent Book Study

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT | 6:30 PM

Advent is a season of anticipation, of preparation, of hope—in it, the Church doesn't just limit our reflection to the celebration of the birth of Christ, but also his coming again in glory at the end of time—which challenges us in this age of Apostolic Mission to reflect on how ready or eager are we to witness to the Gospel in our time.

Join us for a talk led by Fr. Foley & Steve Nepil. Following the talk, spend some time in prayer & Adoration. During the week, read along in the book, *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*. (Evening talks will be recorded and available the following day.)

Visit holycrossdewitt.org/advent to listen to the talks.

The Light is On

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022 | 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

"The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the story of God's love that never turns away from us." Join us at Holy Cross for The Light Is On For You. The church will be open for quiet prayer, reflection, and confessions.

Evening Prayer

SUNDAYS IN ADVENT | 4:40 PM

The Liturgy of the Hours, or The Divine Office, is the ancient, structured way of praying Scripture throughout the day, especially the Psalms. We make this commitment of prayer as a way of sanctifying the hours of the day, and to answer the call to rejoice, give thanks, and pray without ceasing. This prayer maintains the form of a dialogue that draws us into the presence of God, fueled with the very words and wisdom of God. Sundays during Advent, we will pray Evening Prayer at 4:40 PM prior to Sunday evening Mass. Consider making this simple, solemn prayer part of your Advent this year!

Get the latest event details at
holycrossdewitt.org/calendar



Upcoming Events

Christmas Luncheon

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022 | 12:00 PM

All are welcome to the Christmas Luncheon catered by the Brewster. Join us on Saturday, December 10 at noon in Yeazel Hall for a delicious meal—chicken francaise, Chantilly potatoes, tenderloin with gravy, rice, vegetables, salad, & desserts. Cost is \$28/person.

- Please reserve your spot **by Monday, December 5** by calling Jo Oliva at 315-446-3328.

Christmas Delight

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022 | 12:00 PM

Join us for our Christmas Delight Luncheon (which will replace Coffee and Conversation) this month at noon on Tuesday, December 20 in Yeazel Hall. Bring a \$5 giftcard to participate in our gift swap. Pizza, salad, and drinks will be available for lunch (\$12/person).

- Make your reservation **by Thursday, December 15** with Jo Oliva at 315-446-3328.

The Story of Christmas

Holy Cross School Christmas Play

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022 | 10:00 AM

Students at Holy Cross School have been faithfully preparing for their upcoming performance of a nativity musical, *The First Christmas*. Kindergarten and first grade students are getting into their roles as characters. Fourth grade students will be singing and narrating, and our fifth and sixth grade students will be caroling. The Holy Cross School community joyfully invites you to come experience the story of the first Christmas as told through the heart-warming voices of our amazing students.

Holy Cross Communications

If you have important news & events related to the activities, ministries, and parishioners of Holy Cross Church & School, please contact news@holycrossdewitt.org.

"For it is in giving that we receive."

- ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Thank You We are so encouraged by all of the ways that you respond to God's faithfulness and share your gifts. Financial gifts are incredible acts of service that allow us to continue our mission to our community and the world.

- Visit holycrossdewitt.org/give to learn more.

FINANCIAL REPORT

AVERAGE WEEKLY NEED: \$19,704.88

COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER 27: \$18,258.00

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COLLECTION: \$560.00

Scan the code to get started with
secure & convenient online giving



International Exhibition THE EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES OF THE WORLD

To get exhibit times, visit holycrossdewitt.org/emotw

Holy Cross has exhibited the Eucharistic Miracles of the World designed and created by Blessed Carlo Acutis since September 14, 2022. Over 500 people have visited the exhibition. This has been a blessing for Holy Cross but there is a greater purpose in the exhibition. It is one of the initiatives leading up to the National Eucharistic Congress in 2024 and beyond. Blessed Carlo wanted to share the truth of Jesus Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist. You can read that truth, deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ, listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, and experience the depth of God's love through the Eucharistic Miracles. The exhibit is available through December 18.

Sign up for emails to stay updated on the national movement for the Eucharistic Revival by contacting hello@newsletter.eucharisticrevival.org

Parish Office

The parish offices are located at the far entrance from East Genesee. Look for the signs for "Office." Parish Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. The church sanctuary is open for private prayer Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Adoration is available on Wednesday from 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM.

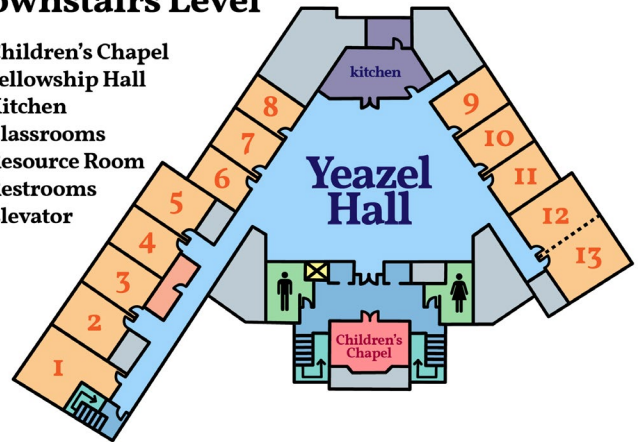
Entry Level

- Chapel
- Gathering Area
- Sanctuary
- Confessional
- Restrooms
- Elevator
- Offices



Downstairs Level

- Children's Chapel
- Fellowship Hall
- Kitchen
- Classrooms
- Resource Room
- Restrooms
- Elevator



Our Staff

Fr. John Kurgan	Pastor	jkurgan@syrdio.org
Fr. Brendan Foley	Parochial Vicar	bfoley@syrdio.org
Fr. Charles Vavonese	Weekend Homilist	cvavonese@syrdio.org
Dc. Dare Dutter	Deacon	dare@holycrossdewitt.org
Nina Walters	School Principal	nwalters@syrdioocese.org
Ernest Camerota	Music Ministry	ecamerota@holycrossdewitt.org
Brette Cooper	Maintenance & Facilities	bcooper@holycrossdewitt.org
Josh Corcoran	Music, Sunday Evening Mass	josh@holycrossdewitt.org
Dan Littlepage	Technology & Communications	dan@holycrossdewitt.org
Leigh Marquis	Finance & HR	leigh@holycrossdewitt.org
Steve Nepil	Faith Formation (5-12) & Youth Ministry	steve@holycrossdewitt.org
Peg Olson	Office Manager	peg@holycrossdewitt.org
Julie Sheridan	Faith Formation (1-4) & Safe Environment	julie@holycrossdewitt.org
Matt Stano	Maintenance & Facilities	mstano@holycrossdewitt.org

"We love because he first loved us."

- 1 JOHN 4:19



@holycrossdewitt

