



# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

*Merry Christmas*



**D E C E M B E R 2 5 , 2 0 2 2**

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



FOLLOW ALONG



@holycrossdewitt

# 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](http://holycrossdewitt.org) 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 25, 2022

### READINGS

Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6  
Hebrews 1:1-6  
John 1:1-18

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, 'Your God is King'"*

- ISAIAH 52:7

As part of our Advent preparation as a parish, we worked through the recent book, *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission* which urges us forward to embody this simple line from the prophet Isaiah. Rather than find ourselves despairing at the apparent decline of the Church or the state of our wider culture, we instead have found new zeal with what an exciting and hope-filled time it is to be a disciple. Unlike the rest, we have real hope, we have a Gospel worth living for—and today we celebrate that this

Gospel has taken flesh, the Incarnate Word dwells among us.

We often speak of our faith as being *incarnational*, meaning that it is something we must embody—the unseen aspects of our faith and of our spiritual life must become a living force in us and through us. For someone outside of the Church to truly receive the Good News that we announce this day, we must bear this Truth in our bodies by the way we live and the way we speak. The responsibility is on **all of us** to be the feet of the Gospel and to bear the Good News in to the world that has forgotten or neglected it.

Pope St. Paul VI describes this for us well: "The task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. It is a task and mission which the vast and profound changes of present-day society make all the more urgent. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. **She exists in order to evangelize.**" Earlier in Advent Paul's Letter to the Romans makes this hit home for us:

SEE REFLECTION, PAGE 4

## Mass Intentions

### Hosts, Wine, and Lamp

Stephen Oliva / Wife & Family

### Sunday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord

- 12:00AM** Living & Deceased  
Parishioners of Holy Cross
- 7:30AM** Living & Deceased  
Parishioners of Holy Cross
- 10:30AM** Living & Deceased  
Parishioners of Holy Cross
- 5:00PM** Living & Deceased  
Parishioners of Holy Cross

### Monday, December 26

**7:45AM** Stephen Oliva Sr. /  
Wife & Family

### Tuesday, December 27

**7:45AM** Holy Cross Parishioners

### Wednesday, December 28

**7:45AM** Tim Reynolds /  
Amy & Paul Sansone

### Thursday, December 29

**7:45AM** Dr. Carl Auston /  
Austin Family

### Friday, December 30

**7:45AM** Joan Garbinski /  
Maio Family

### Saturday, December 31

- 9:00AM** Oscar I. Criollo Chugchilan /  
Charles Kelly & Bernadette Tierney
- 4:00PM** James Tout, Mary-Jo  
Rosenblatt, & Terriann McNeil /  
Wife & Mother

Get the bulletin  
in your inbox;  
subscribe today!



# News & Events

## Parish Office Closed Monday

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2022 & JANUARY 2, 2023**

The parish office will be closed Monday, December 26 and January 2, 2023. Daily Mass will still be at 7:45 AM in the church with Monday morning Holy Hour following.

## Monthly Movie

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2022 | 1:00 PM**

This month's feature is *The Girl Who Believes in Miracles*. Sara is unlike other kids: she takes God at His word. When one day a preacher says that prayer can move mountains, she begins to fervently do so. The Lord doesn't disappoint her. The movie is free to attend and will be shown in Yeazel Hall. We hope you can join us!

## Food Giving Weekend

**DECEMBER 31 - JANUARY 1**

Grab a tote this weekend, fill it with non-perishable food items, and bring it back next weekend, Dec. 31 - Jan. 1, to any of the Masses. Thank you in advance for your generous donations! We're also looking for some volunteers following 4 PM Saturday Mass (12/31) to help sort. Please stick around if you can. Pantries have emphasized the need of the following items:

- hairbrushes
- shampoo/conditioner
- deodorant
- pasta and sauce
- laundry & dish soap
- mayo/mustard/ketchup
- cereal/oatmeal
- pancake mix/syrup
- coffee/tea/hot cocoa
- canned fruits & veggies
- canned beans/soup
- peanut butter & jelly
- canned tuna & chicken
- pet food

## Sandwich Ministry for Homeless Shelter

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022 | 8:15 AM**

Please join us in Yeazel Hall on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 8:15 AM (following daily Mass) to prepare 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](mailto:jjohn27363@aol.com)



## World Marriage Day Mass

**FEBRUARY 19, 2023, 2:00 PM**

Bishop Douglas Lucia invites all married couples and their families to join him at a Mass celebrating World Marriage Day on Sunday, February 19th, 2:00 PM, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. All married couples who attend will be invited to renew their commitment to Holy Matrimony.

Couples married 25, 50, or more years in 2023 will be recognized in a special way. Please contact the parish office so that we can send you a personal invitation. Call **315-446-0473** or send us an email at [info@holycrossdewitt.org](mailto:info@holycrossdewitt.org)

## Pray the Rosary Daily

Join us Monday through Friday after 7:45 AM Mass (around 8:15 AM) to pray the rosary. It is informal and open to anyone who would like to pray.

## Adult Ministry

**SUNDAYS AT 9:15 AM**

Interested in joining a group of parishioners who meet regularly to learn more about our faith and engage in discussion on a topic or book? Check out our Adult Ministry that meets on Sunday mornings. You can find them most Sundays downstairs in rooms 12 & 13 at 9:15 AM. No need to register or RSVP, just join in if you can.



## Reflection

Continued from page 2

"...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. **But how** can they call on him in whom they have not believed? **And how** can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? **And how** can they hear without someone to preach? **And how** can people preach unless they are sent?" (Rom 10:13-15). The short answer is that our lives must bear the 'fragrance of Christ' and proclaim the joy of the Gospel.

Today we celebrate the birth of our Savior who *really* took on our flesh and *really* became incarnate in the womb of Mary. We shouldn't let the sentimentality of this celebration overshadow the reality of this moment. Jesus bore our flesh and spent months in Mary's womb, his heart beat within her, and upon his birth God allowed himself to be completely dependent on her care. Our humanity is forever elevated because of Jesus' life in the flesh and for us now we see what is possible when the grace and presence of God enters us and transforms us. When the Gospel and the Sacraments change our lives, Jesus continues his life in our flesh. He has done this for no other motivation but love.

May we respond courageously to that love anew both this day and in the new year to come with gratitude that the Incarnate Word dwells among us and we continue to see his glory.

Peace,

Fr. Brendan Foley

## New to Catholicism?

If you're new to the Catholic faith, curious about the Church, or just checking it out, we'd love to accompany you on your journey. We know Catholics from all walks of life and all with different stories on finding their faith. If you have questions on Christianity, Catholicism, or the Church, get in touch with us at [holycrossdewitt.org/hello](http://holycrossdewitt.org/hello)

Sign up to get the  
Sunday Read in your inbox



## Outreach

If you are looking for ways to serve and help others in the upcoming new year, check out some of these local opportunities to get involved.

### BE A BOOK BUDDY!



Volunteers commit to one hour a week for the school year working each week with the same students in 30-minute blocks

**Mon-Thurs  
Starting January  
2023**

Book Buddies connects community volunteers with students in grades K-3 in the Syracuse City School District.

Seymour Dual  
Language Academy  
Bellevue  
Elementary  
Roberts K-8

To volunteer or to learn more contact  
Laurie Black at:

[BookBuddies@unitedway-cny.org](mailto:BookBuddies@unitedway-cny.org)



### BOOK BUDDIES

A PARTNERSHIP WITH  
THE SYRACUSE CITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Jamesville Ecumenical Food Pantry

Every month, Holy Cross parishioners collect food to give to local food pantries. One pantry we have a long legacy of support and close partnership with is the Jamesville Ecumenical Food Pantry. Consider volunteering with the food pantry or joining their board.

To learn more, save the date for their next board meeting on **Thursday, January 19th at 5:30 PM** at the pantry. The food pantry is located at 6486 E Seneca Turnpike, Jamesville, NY 13078. Phone: (315)-469-5093

## Parish Team at the Samaritan Center

Join our team of parishioners that prepare and serve a meal on Sunday afternoons about once a month at the Samaritan Center. If you'd like to learn more, contact Rick Coughlin at [rcoughlin@irr.com](mailto:rcoughlin@irr.com)



## Christmas Message

### Dear Friends,

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

When 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.

I, along with Father Foley, Father Vavonese, Dc. Dutter, 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!

*Rev. John Kurgan*

**REV. JOHN KURGAN**  
PASTOR



## Giving

"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. Gifts of prayer, time and talent serve and support our community in so many meaningful ways. And financial gifts are incredible acts of service that allow us to continue our mission and the work of the Church.

- Visit [holycrossdewitt.org/give](http://holycrossdewitt.org/give) to learn more.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

AVERAGE WEEKLY NEED: \$19,704.88

COLLECTION FROM DECEMBER 11: \$16,728.00

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



### PRAYER REQUESTS

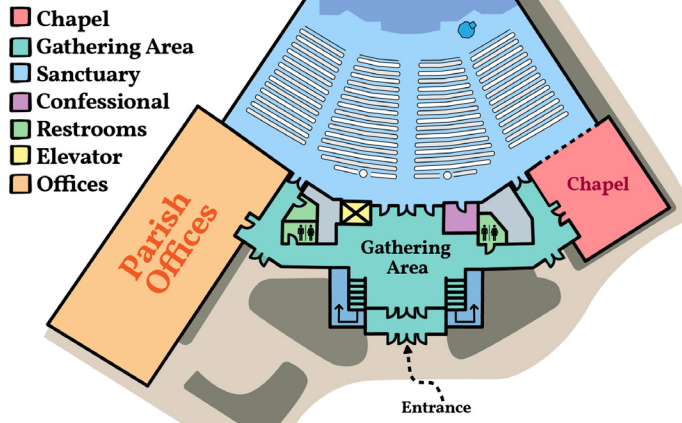
Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Joe Evans, Nancy Ferrara, Celia Flaver, Jeanette Heick, Ann Kronner, Elaine Lostumbo, Abrielle Lynch, Dinita Machlin, Faith Muller, Nancy Patane, Nash Daniel Stannard, and John Toole

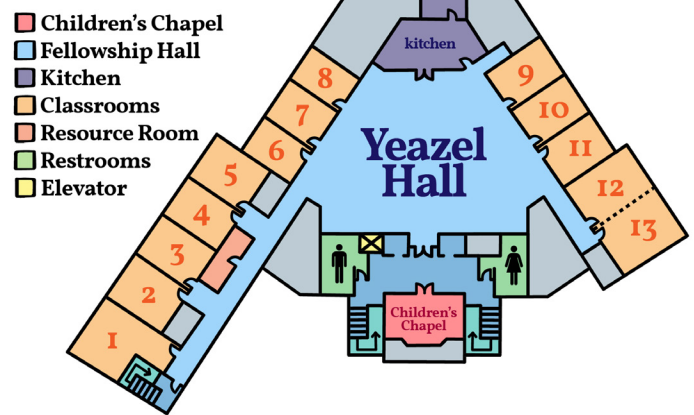
# Parish Office

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



## Downstairs Level



## OUR STAFF

Please know that all of us at Holy Cross are here to be of service to you. Please never hesitate to seek our support whenever it may be needed. The parish office can be reached by phone at (315) 446-0473.

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



# Our Story

## Our History

The parish began as a mission of Our Lady of Solace, in 1943. The mission was founded by then pastor of the parish, Monsignor Edward P. Buttimer. A small house at 4112 East Genesee Street was purchased on October 30, 1942. It became home to the mission church and catechetical center. The first Mass was said on Pentecost Sunday, June 13, 1943.

In May 1944, the property between the house and St. Mary's Cemetery was purchased from Dr. G. Leslie and Miss H. Leslie with the intention of building a church on the site. Because of the scarcity of building materials during World War II, ground was not broken until September 11, 1949, and the church was dedicated on April 23, 1950. In November of that year, Reverend Joseph I. Ritchie was named as the first pastor, which he held until his death on March 18, 1964.



As DeWitt and the surrounding area developed and grew over the years, so too did the community at Holy Cross. Due to the generosity of this community, Holy Cross saw the expansion and addition of land, buildings, and staff. Construction of a rectory was finished in March of 1951. A convent was added in 1957. And Holy Cross School opened its doors to students in September of 1958.

## Our Church Home

Because of continued growth in the area, a new church building was needed to accommodate the people and activities of Holy Cross. In 2002, then pastor of the parish, Msgr. J. Robert Yeazel and the Parish Council voted unanimously to build a new church. On September 14, 2006, that church was dedicated on the Feast of the Holy Cross.

## Today

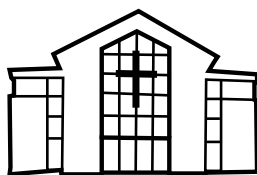
Today, Holy Cross continues its tradition of being a caring community devoted to the needs of our families, neighbors, and society. We value our faith and the food God gives us for the journey. We are committed to our families and youth, to providing a safe environment to form their faith. We build our lives in the image of Christ through worship and prayer. We serve and accompany our neighbors in need and those on the margins. We share our faith with others to spread the Gospel. To be faithful stewards of Holy Cross, we are accountable to God for responsibly sharing our time, talents and treasures. We work as a parish to establish and implement our goals and objectives, mindful of our diverse community and ever-changing needs.



Check out our gallery of historical photos at [holycrossdewitt.org/about](http://holycrossdewitt.org/about)

"We love because he first loved us."

- 1 JOHN 4:19



@holycrossdewitt

