



HOLY CROSS CHURCH

4112 EAST GENESEE STREET | DEWITT, NY 13214

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Students at Holy Cross School performing
in *The First Christmas*, a nativity musical.

See more photos on page 5.

DECEMBER 17, 2023

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 or grab a welcome guide from the church entrances. Please do not hesitate to reach out and introduce yourself. We'd love to meet you!

Sunday Reflection

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

Sunday Reflections
in your inbox;
subscribe today!



READINGS

Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11
Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks..." (1 Thes. 5:16-18)

To this command from St. Paul today, I think we'd probably say, "Hmm, sorry that's probably not possible, nor could it ever be sustainable even if it were!" How often, especially this time of year, does grief in all its varied forms or the innumerable tasks and errands keep us from being able to rejoice? I could certainly see how we could have moments of rejoicing in our lives from time to time, but not perpetual rejoicing, not perpetual prayer nor perpetual thanksgiving...

"May the God of peace make you perfectly holy...blameless in spirit, soul, and body." (1 Thes. 5:23)

The continuation of Paul's prayer shows us that for us to be able to rejoice, pray, and give thanks in all things, it entails his grace helping us to become blameless and without sin. Only when we start to live our true authentic freedom that God offers do we find the path that leads to real rejoicing. Maybe this is a space where we are reminded that the healing Sacrament of Reconciliation is one that should always lead us to give thanks. Jesus never tires of extending his mercy to those who seek it.

But why? What do we gain by living in this space of heart? The reason we are being invited to rejoice in all things is again a reflection of our Advent season. Amazement and bewilderment should fill us when we ponder God's activity and his persistent desire to share our humanity and our suffering through his Incarnation. God who is perfect and who is in need of nothing, chooses to come

SEE REFLECTION, PAGE 5

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 16

4:00PM VIGIL Joseph Wilczynski / Carol Dwyer

Sunday, December 17

7:30AM Deceased Members of Colao Family / the Stewart Family
10:30AM Alice & Anthony Jastrem / Kirkman Family
5:00PM John J. Ziegler / Elaine Lostumbo

Monday, December 18

7:45AM Hilda Loguidice / Family

Tuesday, December 19

7:45AM Lillian Maio / Ray & Eileen Cariseo

Wednesday, December 20

7:45AM Betty Andrews / Brenda Casinella

Thursday, December 21

7:45AM Parishioners of Holy Cross

Friday, December 22

7:45AM Robert LaClaire / Jack & Marian Glisson

Saturday, December 23

9:00AM Jayne Williams / Holy Cross
4:00PM VIGIL Rose Oltmann / Kim & Joe Hardy

Sunday, December 24

7:30AM Irene DiFlorio / Diane Harrington
10:30AM Daniel Glauber / Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Muench

News & Events



Evening Prayer

SUNDAYS IN ADVENT – DEC 17 | 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. The first three Sundays in 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!

The Light is On

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023

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. Holy Cross Church will be open for quiet prayer, reflection, and confessions.

In Thanksgiving for Gifts from God

SATURDAYS IN ADVENT | 9:30 AM

Following the 9:00 AM Mass on Saturday morning (approximately 9:30 AM), we will pray the Rosary for all bishops, priests, deacons and religious in thanksgiving for their service to our Church. This will begin Saturday, December 2 and continue through all of the Saturdays during Advent. Please join us in this special prayer of thanksgiving.

Sandwich Ministry for Men's Shelter

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023 | 8:15 AM

Please join us in Yeazel Hall on Tuesday, December 19 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!

Christmas Delight / COFFEE & CONVERSATION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023 | 12:00 PM

Join us for our Christmas Delight Luncheon (which will replace Coffee and Conversation) this month at noon on Tuesday, December 19 in Yeazel Hall. Bring a \$5 gift/giftcard to participate in our gift swap. Pizza, salad, and drinks will be available for lunch (\$15/person).

- Contact Jo Oliva at 315-446-3328 with any questions or to learn more.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023 | 5PM - 6PM

“The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the story of God’s love that never turns away from us.” The church will be open for quiet prayer, reflection, and confessions on Wednesday, December 20 from 5 PM - 6 PM. Priests are also available for confession during Adoration on Wednesday evenings from 7 PM - 8 PM.

Needlework Group

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023 | 1:00 PM

The next Knitting Group gathering will be on Thursday, December 21 at 1:00 PM downstairs in Yeazel Hall. We're always looking for new knitters and are happy to help you learn! Questions? Please call Rita at 315-472-1478 or Jo at 315-446-3328.

No Monthly Movie

Please note that there will not be a monthly movie at the end of this month. We'll be back for movies in Jan 2024!



Parish Eucharistic Revival

THE MASS: GREETING

When we come to Mass, we are encountering and worshipping Almighty God. After the Sign of the Cross, the priest says, "The Lord be with you". This greeting helps us prepare to enter more fully into the celebration of the Mass and helps us to realize this will be a sacred gathering with Almighty God present before us. It is a prayer said by the priest asking that the grace, peace, love of God be with each person. The faithful then respond asking a similar grace for the priest by responding, "And with your spirit."

Why do we say, "And with your spirit?" According to several saints and Christian writers, "spirit" refers to the spirit he has received through the sacrament of Holy Orders. As Jeremy Driscoll explains, "The people are addressing the "spirit" of the priest; that deepest interior part of his being where he has been ordained precisely to lead the people in the sacred action. In effect saying, "Be the priest for us now," aware that there is only one priest, Christ Himself, and that this one who represents them now must be finely tuned to perform his sacred duties well." (Edward Sri: A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 28). Now, let's pray together as God's family.

Excerpt from Eucharistic Revival Blog Part 7,
Fr. Luke Spannagel,
December 20, 2022
eucharisticrevival.org

Adoration

Opportunities for Adoration at Holy Cross Church:
Monday morning 8:15 AM in the Adoration Chapel
Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM in the church
Praying in the church or Adoration Chapel anytime
church is open, weekdays 9AM - 3PM.

CHRISTMAS

MASS SCHEDULE

*Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses (12/24) will be at 7:30 AM and 10:30 AM (There will not be a 5 PM Sunday evening Mass as our schedule for Christmas Masses will begin:

- Indicated liturgies will be available via livestream.

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve Vigil

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

- 4:00 PM
6:00 PM

12:00 AM* MIDNIGHT

*Carols begin at 11:30 PM

Christmas Day

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023

- 7:30 AM
• 10:30 AM
5:00 PM

Feast of the Holy Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

- SAT 4:00 PM
7:30 AM
• 10:30 AM
5:00 PM

**No vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary*

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

THE OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS

**Not a Holy Day of Obligation in the USA this year*

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024

- 7:45 AM
10:30 AM

Reflection

Continued from page 2

to us and set us free from all that enslaves us (grief, addiction, sin, etc). O come, O come, Emmanuel, ransom captive Israel! In his goodness, God has not abandoned us (nor will he abandon us) to live in the darkness of our sin, pain, or grief.

So the moments and seasons of life when we struggle to be able to rejoice, pray, and give thanks, are the exact times in prayer when we should open our hearts to receive God's grace anew and specifically recall his Incarnation. In those spaces where we feel most in need or most helpless, we can be reminded that God rushes to pervade our darkness with his light. This is the truth of the Incarnation and the nativity of Jesus, but it's also still true even now, within the interior lives of our hearts and souls. God's healing grace can transform us to be people who can always rejoice, no matter how dire things may seem, so let's strive to always live in his light and in his grace.

Peace,

Rev. Brenda Foley

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in prayer

Margaret Blanchfield,
Connie Chase, Sue Fillinger,
Stanley Jackimeck, Ann Kronner,
Elaine Lostumbo, Abrielle Lynch,
Marianne Mallaber, Faith Muller,
Nancy Patane, John Toole,
and Dorothy Trust



Congratulations to our amazing cast and crew of Carolers and Nativity characters! You all did an amazing job during the Holy Cross School Nativity Play! Thank you to so many who helped with this joyful and festive performance!

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.

To give online, visit holycrossdewitt.org/give



FINANCIAL REPORT

AVERAGE WEEKLY NEED:	\$19,704.88
COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 3	\$16,878.00

Get this bulletin in your inbox;
subscribe to the weekly brief



Helpful Info

HOLY CROSS COMMUNICATIONS

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

HOSPITALIZED OR HOMEBOUND?

Please notify the parish office **315-446-0473** when a parishioner or family member is confined to their home, hospitalized, or entering a nursing home, so that clergy may make arrangements for a sick visit.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please have a family member or the individual contact us to have their name included on our prayer list. The request will be included for three months unless notified otherwise.

GOING AWAY FOR THE WINTER?

If you are planning on going away this winter, please contact the parish office at (315) 446-0473 or info@holycrossdewitt.org so we can pause your envelopes. You will need to provide your name, address, and the dates you will be leaving and returning.

THIS WEEK AT HC

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church
8:15 AM Holy Hour, Church
4:00 PM Light is On (Confessions), Church

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

NO FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEK

7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church
8:15 AM Sandwich Making, Church
12:00 PM Christmas Delight, Church

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

NO FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEK

7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church
5:00 PM Confessions, Church
5:30 PM Alpha, Yeazel Hall
7:00 PM Adoration, Church
7:00 PM Reconciliation, Church

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

NO FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEK

7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church
1:00 PM Needlework Group, Yeazel Hall
6:00 PM Men's Group, Conference Room
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00 AM Daily Mass, Church
9:30 AM Rosary, Church
3:00 PM Reconciliation, Church
4:00 PM Vigil Mass, Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30 AM Mass, Church
9:15 AM Adult Ministry, Rooms 12-13
10:30 AM Mass, Church

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass, Church
6:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass, Church
11:30 PM Pre-Mass Carols Begin, Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

12:00 AM Midnight Mass, Church
7:30 AM Christmas Day Mass, Church
10:30 AM Christmas Day Mass, Church
5:00 PM Christmas Day Mass, Church

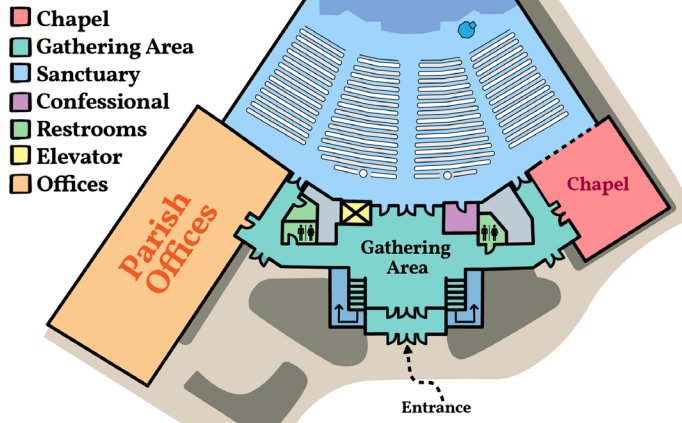
Get the latest event details at
holycrossdewitt.org/events



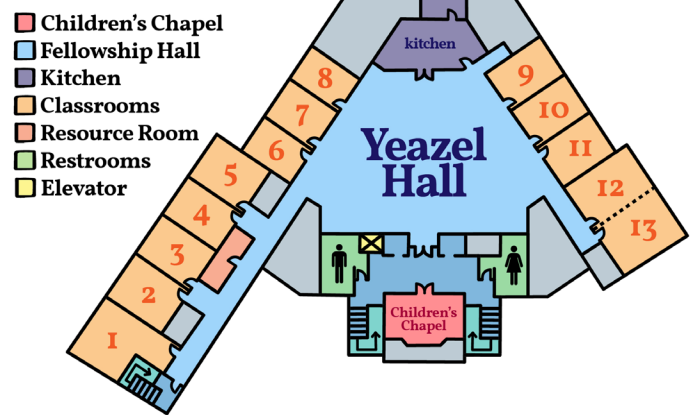
Parish Office

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.

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.

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@syrdiocese.org
Ernest Camerota	Music Ministry & Choir Director	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 & Human Resources	leigh@holycrossdewitt.org
Steve Nepil	Faith Formation (5-12) & Youth Ministry	steve@holycrossdewitt.org
Peg Olson	Parish Office Manager	peg@holycrossdewitt.org
Julie Sheridan	Faith Formation (1-4) & Safe Environment	julie@holycrossdewitt.org
Matt Stano	Maintenance & Facilities	mstano@holycrossdewitt.org

