



HOLY CROSS CHURCH

4112 EAST GENESEE STREET | DEWITT, NY 13214

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

D E C E M B E R 2 4 , 2 0 2 3

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 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 24, 2023

READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, the season shifts from expectation to immediacy. The introduction of the "O Antiphons" on the Seventeenth of December prepares us for this coming shift. The "O Antiphons" are prayed for seven days in preparation for Christmas and are based on Isaiah's prophecies and reveal the different titles given to the Messiah. This shift helps us realize that the Christ Child has almost arrived among us.

The Scripture readings for this week-end describe that the time of fulfillment is at hand. God the Father has revealed the mystery hidden from our eyes. We can only say that God works what seems impossible, and he does this for the benefit of all humankind!

Sunday Reflections
in your inbox;
subscribe today!



As the waiting of Advent is nearly over. Mary and we are to believe that God has done the impossible. Mary is to believe that she will be the mother of the Lord, but also, to believe that her kinwoman Elizabeth is with child. This is all because nothing is impossible for God.

What are we to believe? Certainly, we believe in the motherhood of Mary, the coming birth of the Christ Child, and the miracle that takes place with Elizabeth and the birth of John the Baptist. We are also to believe that God is active in our life. What miracles is God the Father working through and for us? Do we attribute the miracles of our life as great, unexpected gifts from God? Do we somehow attribute those miracles to our own doing? This is the perfect time to explore how God is active in our life!

May the Christ Child bless you this Christmas!

Fr. John

Mass Intentions

Sanctuary Lamp

Jennie L. Sala
by Sala, DiFulvio, Millar Families

Host & Wine

Christopher Harrison
by MaryBeth Harrison, mom

Saturday, December 23

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

4:00PM Living & Deceased
Parishioners of Holy Cross

6:00PM Parishioners of Holy Cross

Monday, December 25

12:00AM Parishioners of Holy Cross
7:30AM Parishioners of Holy Cross
10:30AM Parishioners of Holy Cross
5:00PM Parishioners of Holy Cross

Tuesday, December 26

7:45AM Marie Damico /
Carol & Marty Drexler

Wednesday, December 27

7:45AM Msgr. John Heagerty /
Elaine Lostumbo

Thursday, December 28

7:45AM Parishioners of Holy Cross

Friday, December 29

7:45AM Bruno & Luisa Primerano /
Family

Saturday, December 30

9:00AM Kathleen Nappi /
Mary Beth Dutter
4:00PM VIGIL Dr. Carl Austin /
Austin Family

Sunday, December 31

7:30AM Alan Haley /
Julia & Bob Maguire
10:30AM James Quartier /
Erin & Karen
5:30PM Frederick & Virginia Alsante/
Robert & Laurie Faiola

CHRISTMAS

MASS SCHEDULE

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

- Indicated liturgies will be available via livestream.

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve

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

News & Events

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!

Sandwich Ministry for Men's Shelter

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024 | 8:15 AM

Please join us in Yeazel Hall on Tuesday, January 2 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!

Needlework Group

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024 | 1:00 PM

The next Knitting Group gathering will be on Thursday, January 4 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.



Giving Tree at Holy Cross

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone for your kindness and extraordinary generosity in making this year's Giving Tree program such a huge success! Hundreds of gifts were donated by our parish and school communities to brighten the lives of so many during the Christmas season.

Council Update

Parishioners,

Reminding you of Pastoral Council's goal "to increase parishioner connection to Holy Cross through our work," we have been discussing ways we can support the National Eucharistic Revival and share thoughts with the Syracuse Diocesan Pastoral Council. The Syracuse Diocese has perhaps best defined this work through its definition of evangelization: "It is bringing people into a relationship with Jesus. We are invited to discover Jesus through a personal encounter with him, follow Jesus by becoming his disciple, and proclaim the good news to be a witness of Jesus." Being the year for Eucharistic Revival, the Council spent time discussing Adoration and Mass Participation with the Eucharist and how we can invite and welcome increased participation.

The Council has suggested the sharing of short videos and personal Holy Cross parishioner testimonials about experiences of Adoration and the worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Council members discussed the value of listening, reflecting, and hearing Jesus' message and experiencing his love for us as he accompanies us on our earthly journey. They also want to hear from you about ways we can best welcome post-Covid people back to church, how we can best provide lay assistance to our priests, how we can best connect and support new community members and baptized parishioners, and could/should we designate a day per month intended for us to pray together for peace/special intentions and reflection with Jesus Christ? If you have thoughts and suggestions about these areas, please share them with a Council member before or after Mass.

Council Members: Father Kurgan, Father Foley, Karen Markoff, Bill Leiker, Beth Schafer, Kay Sgarlata, Ron DeLuca, Carl Thomas, Mark Bentz, Cathy Relihan, Rita Chanthasensak, Mary Haley, Paul Sansone, Jolie Johnston, Margaret Reith, Nina Walters, Tom Griffith and Claude Pilon.

The Council also welcomes a student representative to our January meeting: Alaina DiBiase. Thank you, Alaina, for volunteering to offer youth perspective to our Council. January 25, 2024 at 5:30 PM, is our next Council meeting in Yeazel Hall, and we invite all parishioners to please come and share with us any thoughts about how we can best serve you. At the same time, we welcome Alaina, we pray for the loss of one of our members and a Holy Cross Trustee, Cookie Dunham. She was the lead on the Hospitality Committee and beginning our Greeters for every Mass. She will be greatly missed by all who experienced her smile and acts of kindness.

Most of all, on behalf of the Holy Cross Pastoral Council, we wish you a Merry Christmas, filled with faith and love as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, and we wish you a blessed New Year 2024!

Karen Markoff,
HC Pastoral Council President



Parish Eucharistic Revival

THE MASS: PENITENTIAL ACT

During the entrance rite, we recall that we are in the presence of God. If we are truly sincere in realizing that God is in our midst, then we recognize the need for purification. We recognize that when we encounter God, we must draw near with a pure heart. So, we call to mind our sins and failings, and we ask the Lord to forgive and heal us. After our time of silence, the priest (or deacon) leads the community in prayer.

This honest look inside ourselves helps us to be aware of our sin and our need for God to help us overcome sin. This brief reflection recalls the places in our lives where we know we need Christ more. This might be a great time to ask specifically for help in overcoming a particular sin or perhaps further healing from the effects of previous sins. We believe that the Mass is our most powerful prayer because Jesus himself is truly present, joining together with Him in the perfect worship of God the Father. In the Mass we take part in the perfect sacrifice of the Cross where Christ offered Himself so that our sins could be forgiven. Realizing Jesus will be present on the altar or thinking about how the Mass is a sharing in the Cross, this moment can actually be one of great hope. What a great gift!

Excerpt from Eucharistic Revival Blog Part 8,
Fr. Luke Spannagel,
December 5, 2023
eucharisticrevival.org

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 10 | \$22,836.00 |
| COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 17 | REPORTED IN NEXT ISSUE |

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 25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

NO FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEK

7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

NO FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEK

7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church

7:00 PM Adoration, Church

7:00 PM Reconciliation, Church

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

NO FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEK

7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

7:45 AM Daily Mass, Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

9:00 AM Daily Mass, Church

3:00 PM Reconciliation, Church

4:00 PM Vigil Mass, Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

7:30 AM Mass, Church

9:15 AM Adult Ministry, Rooms 12-13

10:30 AM Mass, Church

5:00 PM Mass, Church

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

7:45 AM Mass, Church

10:30 AM Mass, Church

PRAYER LIST

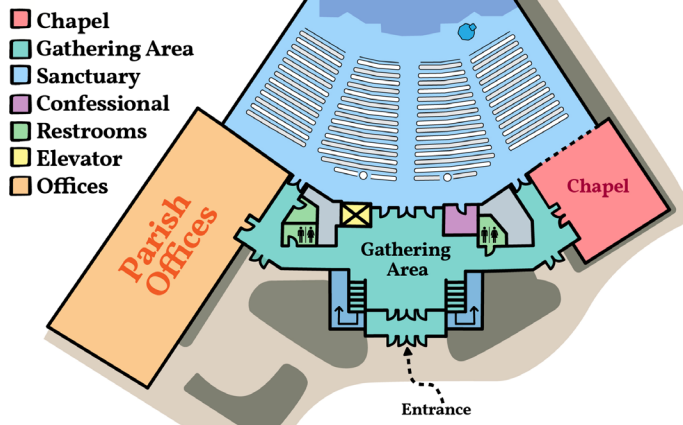
Please keep the following
people in prayer

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

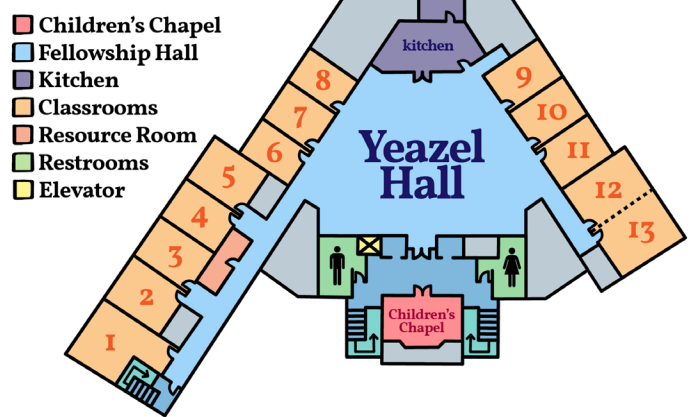
Parish Office

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 and Adoration chapel is open for private prayer Monday - Friday, 8:15 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.

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|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 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 |