



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Merry Christmas



DECEMBER 25, 2023



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 packet from the church entrances. Please do not hesitate to reach out and introduce yourself. We'd love to meet you!

Christmas Message

DECEMBER 25, 2023

Dear friends, Merry Christmas!

As we gather as Church family to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, we view the crèche, a symbol of simplicity, that transports us back to a time and place that seems ever-more foreign to us. Given the complexity and business of our daily lives, especially during this sacred time of year, we can only hope that we take time as families to recognize that all of the blessings we have in this life are from our Savior Jesus.

The crèche reminds us that our lives need not be complicated or even planned out. Mary and Joseph did not plan the birth of Jesus; God bestowed it upon them at a time in their life when neither were prepared for such a responsibility, but they had faith! Even as the couple traveled looking for a safe place for the birth, and as others rejected them, the couple did not plan to deliver the Christ child in a manger, but they had faith! The fact that the birth occurred in such

a simple place reminds us of what is truly important, faith, simplicity of heart, and faithfulness to the word of God. Material goods or comfort was not important. Mary and Joseph realized that they were each other's gift; this gave them strength to bring forth the ultimate gift to the entire world. We must remember that God the Father gifts his children what they need.

This Christmas season let us continue to celebrate the fact that Christ child calls us to himself, calls us to accept his teachings, and to follow in his way. Let us look to Mary and Joseph as stalwart examples of faithfulness in the face of trepidation, always doing what is generous, good and right. When we follow their example, we indeed walk in the footsteps of the Christ child and have the ability to choose life over death. Without the Christmas miracle, we would not know salvation.

Christmas Blessings!

REV. JOHN KURGAN
PASTOR

Mass Intentions

Sanctuary Lamp

Jennie L. Sala
by Sala, DiFulvio, Millar Families

Host & Wine

Christopher Harrison
by MaryBeth Harrison, mom

Sunday, December 24

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

7:30AM Alan Haley /
Julia & Bob Maguire

10:30AM James Quartier /
Erin & Karen

5:00PM Frederick & Virginia Alsante /
Robert & Laurie Faiola

Monday, January 1

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

7:45AM Parishioners of Holy Cross

10:30AM Daniel Gaworecki /
Noni Burgen & Judy Bell

News & Events

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024

Join us for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Masses will be at Holy Cross Church at 7:45 AM and 10:30 AM. Please note that the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year in the US in accord with the complementary norm to canon 1246 §2.

Parish Office Closed

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 & JANUARY 1, 2024

The parish office will be closed Monday, December 25 and January 1, 2024 in observance of the holidays.

Sandwich Ministry for Men's Shelter

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024* | 8:15 AM

Please join us in Yeazel Hall on Wednesday, January 3 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! ***Please note the change in date.**

Food Giving Weekend

JANUARY 6-7, 2024

Our next food collection is the weekend of January 6-7. The December collection was overwhelmingly perfect! Our pantries received all that they needed, and were so grateful. Thank you for your thoughtful generosity! Thank you to all volunteers who processed and transported all 200 bags of these wonderful necessities!

To get the list of recommended pantry donations or find other ways you can support our teams of volunteer ministries, visit holycrossdewitt.org/serve.

Holy Cross Faith Formation

RESUMES JANUARY 9, 10, & 11

Faith Formation will resume the second week of January! See more at holycrossdewitt.org/youth. Enjoy break!



World Marriage Day Mass

FEBRUARY 11, 2024 | 2:00 PM AT CATHEDRAL

The Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia invites all married couples & their families to join him in celebrating World Marriage Day on Sunday, February 11 at 2:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception with Mass and opportunity for all couples in attendance to renew their commitment to Holy Matrimony.

If celebrating your 25th, 50th, or 50+ year anniversary in 2024, please contact the parish office to receive a special invitation from Bishop Lucia. Call us at **315-446-0473** or info@holycrossdewitt.org.

Giving Tree at Holy Cross

THANK YOU HOLY CROSS PARISH!

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.

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. Please join us!

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 monetary gifts are incredible acts of charity that allow us to continue our mission and the work of the Church.

- Visit holycrossdewitt.org/give to learn more.

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



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/ocia

Sign up to get the Sunday Read in your inbox



Adoration

"Be still and know that I am God."

- PSALM 46:11

From the earliest teachings of the Church, the Catholic Church has understood that Jesus, on the last night of his life, took bread and wine and in a literal way changed it into his actual Body and Blood. Even today, the Church teaches that the Eucharist is no symbol, but actually God himself. The Church developed a special time of prayer with the Eucharist. Taking a piece of consecrated host, the Eucharist is placed in the center of a display case, known as a monstrance, in order for the faithful to gaze at Jesus and to pray within his midst. This exposition, or praying before the Eucharist is called Adoration and is one of the most intimate and personal methods of prayer for many Christians.

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.

"We love because he first loved us."

- 1 JOHN 4:19



FOLLOW ALONG

@holycrossdewitt

