

December 14, 2025  
Third Sunday of Advent



**The 3rd Sunday of Advent**

is also known as **Gaudete Sunday**.

This Sunday is a time of joyful anticipation for Christ's coming, shifting from a tone of expectation to one of rejoicing.

The Entrance Antiphon for this 3rd Sunday of Advent says it best: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice." (Philippians 4:4-5).

Today we celebrate "Gaudete Sunday" from the Latin word "gaudeamus" or "let us rejoice." Rose is the color of the priest's vestments and the third candle of the Advent wreath, replacing the deep violet of the previous Sundays. We're being hit over the head with joy today in the prayers, readings and colors of the liturgy!

In the Collect Prayer: "Enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation, and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. . ."

In the First Reading from Isaiah: "The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. . ."

In the Second Reading, the apostle James tempers our joy with patience. And in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus asks John's disciples to give him this report:

Go back and report to John what you hear and see: the blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, dead men are raised to life, and the poor have the good news preached to them.

Clearly, those who are touched by the compassionate ministry of Jesus are changed. Their lives are enriched and transformed into something greater than they could have ever imagined. This is definitely a cause for joy!

December is a busy month. That goes without saying! Let's not get bogged down by our over-the-top To-Do lists. Christmas is coming! Are we having joy yet?

—Reflection by Ken Canedo at <https://www.ocp.org/>

Come and Have a Cup of Coffee  
&  
Enjoy Fellowship  
Each Sunday After Mass



**The Holy Cross Catholic Charities  
Mobile Food Pantry**



**Thursday, Dec. 18th**  
**9 a.m.—until supplies  
are gone**

Food Boxes Available &  
Distributed using a drive-  
through format.

Contact Earlyne, if you can volunteer to help.

*Thank You! Thank You!*  
*Thanks to all that donated and helped to  
make the St. Nickalos Feast Celebration  
for the children of the parish. If the  
joyful look and smiles on the children's  
faces were any indication, the day was a  
great success!*

**OTHER ADVENT EVENTS THIS WEEK!**

**"PREPARE THE WAY ADVENT RETREAT"** — MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKERS, ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS ON DEC. 15-17 FROM 6-7:30 PM AT ST. PATRICK, SAND SPRINGS.

**"LESSONS & CAROLS WITH THE RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF MERCY"** ON DEC. 18 AT 7 PM AT ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL MAIN CHAPEL.

**Poinsettias for the Altar at Christmas**

Envelopes are located in the foyer for those that would like to donate **\$15 per plant** to be placed on the altar during Christmas in honor of or in memoriam of a loved one.



**Jubilee Year of Hope is Coming to a Close!**

**Closing Jubilee Mass—For the People of God**

**Sunday, December 28, at 2:30 p.m.**

**Holy Family Cathedral, Tulsa**

**"They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength . . ."—Isaiah 40:31**

*Blessed are they that Hope in the Lord!*

**Feast Days Mass Schedule**

**The Nativity of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)**

Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

5 pm – English @ Holy Cross  
7 pm – St. Vincent de Paul, Coweta  
Midnight – Holy Cross

Thursday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

8:30 am – English @ Holy Cross  
11 am – TLM @ Holy Cross

**Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)**

Wednesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

6 pm – English @ Holy Cross  
7:30 pm – St. Vincent de Paul, Coweta

Thursday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

8:30 am – English @ Holy Cross  
11 am – TLM @ Holy Cross

**Reflection on the Eucharist**

By his Real Presence in the Eucharist Christ fulfils his promise to be with us "always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). "Christ has not left us without his bodily presence in this, our pilgrimage, but he joins us to himself in this sacrament in the reality of his body and blood" (Summa Theologiae, III q. 75, a. 1).

With this gift of Christ's presence in our midst, the Church is truly blessed. As Jesus told his disciples, referring to his presence among them, "Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it; and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it" (Mt 13:17). In the Eucharist, the Church both receives the gift of Jesus Christ and gives grateful thanks to God for such a blessing. This thanksgiving is the only proper response, for through this gift of himself in the celebration of the Eucharist, under the appearances of bread and wine, Christ gives us the gift of eternal life.

Mass Ministers			
	Ushers	Reader	Servers
12/14	Grant Edwards Gary Edwards	Emily Downum	Liam, Makenna, Kaygan
12/21	Seth Yoder Mike Hickman	Paul Stuart	Liam, Elizabeth, Amelia

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Dec. 10 for Mark Sorell**

Requested by Theresa Fosburg

**Dec. 14, 21 for Pat Sanco**

Requested by Sam Sanco

**Our Spiritual Journey of Advent**

As you light your advent candles, may God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation—a time we joyfully await the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king.

**Make this Advent a season of presence and peace!**

At **Dynamic Catholic.com**, sign up for the Best Advent Ever to get Free Daily Advent Reflections by scanning the QR code below or visit their website to sign up.



Other Good Sources of Advent Reflections and Prayers Include: The **Manna App** from National Eucharistic Congress and the **Hallow App** (which also contains reflections and prayers from the bishop all year long). Download these Apps for Free from the App Store or Google Play.

**Prayer for Lighting the Third Candle—Joy:**

*"Gracious God, as we light the third Advent candle of joy, may the joy of your salvation fill us with gladness. Help us to share this joy with others, especially those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."*

*Pray for the Repose of the Soul of  
David Beckes*

*(brother of Ursula Kinzer), that  
passed away on Dec. 8.*

**Additional Contact Information**

**Secretary** Earlyne Hutchens  
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**Religious Education** Katzy Hale  
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**Parish Council** Karol Watson  
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**M&M Altar Society** Kathy Gordon  
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**Men's Group** Seth Yoder  
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918-869-9129

**Music Ministry** Robin Rodriguez-Higginbottom  
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**Mass Ministry Scheduling** Mary Feichtinger (English Masses)  
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Josh Martin (TLM)  
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918-718-4598

**Offerings from December 7, 2025**

General Weekend Collections **\$2,580.00**  
Capital Improvement Fund **\$150.00**  
**TOTAL \$2,730.00**

*Your Generosity & Support is Always Appreciated!*



**Traci Sorell.com**  
Author of inclusive works for inquisitive young minds

**This Week's Readings—Dec 14-20**

Sunday	Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Thursday	Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Friday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Saturday	Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

\*Daily Readings (and link to full biblical text) also available on Holy Cross Website:  
**www.holycross-wagoner.org**

**December M&M Volunteers**

<i>Altar Linens</i>	<b>Kay Rodriguez</b>
<i>Altar Flowers</i>	<b>No Flowers during Advent</b>
<i>Sunday Hostess</i>	<b>12/14-Kay Rodriguez 12/21-Kathy Gordon 12/28-Katzy Hale</b>

**FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING**

Jean Podeyn, sister of Jackie Spieker  
Judy Wright, parishioner  
Becky Harding, parishioner  
Hope Watson, parishioner  
John Spieker, husband of Jackie Spieker  
Marie Herndon, parishioner  
Laura Rodriguez, parishioner  
Bill Scrimsher, parishioner  
Pat Jones, parishioner

**WE PRAY TO THE LORD** 

**Edward Jones** Member SIPC

Working together for your financial future. Give us a call.

 **Seth A Yoder**  
Financial Advisor  
1524 Ok-51, Suite A  
Wagoner, OK 74467  
918-614-0697

MKT-5894Q-A AECSPAD [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)

**The Businesses Above Help Make This Bulletin Possible! Please support, when you can.**  
You Are Invited to Help Support Our Parish By Advertising Your Business Here!  
Contact Karol Watson @ 918-640-5819 or karol\_watson@yahoo.com for advertising opportunities and/or to place information in the bulletin or on the church website.  
Also, **Sign Up** in Flocknotes to receive a copy of the bulletin each weekend in your email!



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

**P.O. Box 710 / 708 SW 15TH ST.  
539-209-9988**

**Email:** holycrosswagoner@gmail.com  
**Website:** <http://www.holycross-wagoner.org>  
**Facebook:** Holy Cross Catholic Church—Wagoner, OK

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**WELCOME VISITORS & NEW PARISHIONERS!**

**MASS TIMES**

**Sunday**  
**8:30 a.m. (English)**  
**11:00 a.m. (Latin)**

**Weekdays**  
**Tuesday & Wednesday — 5:30 p.m.**  
**Thursday & Friday — 8:30 a.m.**  
**First Sat. of Each Month — 8:30 a.m.**

**HOLY HOUR OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
**Wednesdays from 6:00—7:00 p.m.**  
**(following 5:30 p.m. Mass)**

**CONFESSIONS**  
**30 minutes before Masses**  
**or by appointment/request**

**Pastor** **Father Sean Donovan**  
fr.sean.donovan@gmail.com  
539-209-9988

**Deacons** **Dcn Steve Creed**  
slccoweta@hotmail.com  
918-289-5716  
& **Dcn James Ruyle** (Retired)  
jandsruyle@gmail.com  
918-638-7226



**Holy Cross Faith Formation Classes**

**High School Bible Study & Youth Group**  
Each Sunday at 5 p.m.

**Family Catechesis Classes**—Third Sunday of each month after 8:30 a.m. Mass.

**Adult Faith Formation**—Fourth Sunday of each month after both 8:30 & 11 a.m. Masses.

**Bible Study**—Friday mornings at 9 a.m.

**Catholicism 101**—Each Tuesday after 5:30 p.m. Daily Mass

**Holy Cross Mission Statement/Prayer**

Almighty God, the mission of Holy Cross Parish is to bring the love of Jesus Christ to our community and to the world. As your disciples, help us love others, pray for all souls, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and bring all people into the fullness of your Kingdom. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen!

**TODAY'S READINGS**  
*Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11*

**Breaking Bread Book**—Pages 40-41

**Vatican II Hymnal**—Pages 383-384

