

Dear friends,

We welcome the year 2026 with ample gratitude and much hope, with gratitude that we are able to enter into it and with hope that this year might usher in more of the peace, joy, and love of Christ our Lord. We are still basking in the glory of the mystery of the Incarnation. Our church is so beautifully decorated; please, take at least 15 minutes to just sit in front of the manger and allow yourselves to be filled with the peace of the Baby Jesus. Also, do not put away your Christmas decorations until the Baptism of the Lord which will be celebrated on Sunday, January 11, 2026. Soon after that, we will continue with Ordinary Time, and the decorations can come down.

We begin the new year with Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This Solemnity honors Mary's role as the mother of Jesus Christ. Who but her can help us enter into the new year with absolute and unassailable trust in the presence of God. We will celebrate this Solemnity with three Masses: 5 p.m. Vigil on Wednesday, December 31, 2025 and on Thursday, January 1, 2026 at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The month of January is very significant for the Congregation of Holy Cross, as it is observed as Holy Cross Heritage Month. During this time, we will reflect on the great saintly figures of Holy Cross and how they might inspire us to become holy ourselves. The theme chosen for this year is "Year of Mission: Hope Beyond Borders."

Blessing of the Rectory: The long-awaited blessing of the rectory will take place on Sunday, January 18, 2026. Bishop John Noonan, along with Fr. Bill Lies, C.S.C., Provincial of the U.S. Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and other guest priests will concelebrate the Mass at 11 a.m. Immediately following, we will all walk to the rectory for the special blessing and then enjoy a tour of our new home.

The Spirit of Holy Cross Award instituted by the Province of the Priests and Brothers of Holy Cross recognizes and celebrates lay collaborators who strive to enhance the spirit and the charism of the Congregation of Holy Cross. The Spirit of Holy Cross Award acknowledges the critical importance lay collaborators play in living out the vision and mission of Holy Cross founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, "to make God known, loved, and served through education, parish and mission settings." I am deeply honored to announce that the recipient of the Spirit of Holy

Cross Award 2026 is none other than Carrie Seringer. Carrie has been an integral member of our parish and is actively involved in several ministries. We congratulate her and her family for their extraordinary love for the Congregation of Holy Cross.

The Feast of Fr. Moreau and the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church will be celebrated on **January 20, 2026** with a special Mass at 8 a.m. In the evening, we will rededicate the parish hall at 5 p.m. and follow with a presentation on the charism of Holy Cross by **Dr. Chris Haug, Director of Apostolic Mission and Charism** of the United States Province. After some light refreshments, we will end the day with Behold the Lamb of God at 7 p.m. in the church. Please come and make this day a very special and memorable one.

Work on building the wall for the mosaic will commence on January 21, 2026 and may take 8-10 weeks to complete. We hope to finish the wall portion (phase 1) before Holy Week. During this time, daily Masses/Funeral Masses will be held in the Fr. Patrick Peyton Room and/or parish hall. Due to the construction of the wall and noise that will accompany the work, the Adoration Chapel will be closed temporarily; it will be moved to classrooms 8 & 9, same hours. I am very grateful for your patience and understanding during this time, as we pave way for something spectacular.

I wish you all a very blessed and grace-filled New Year 2026!

With limitless love for the Lord and for all of you, I remain your faithful servant,

Fr. John

Please review some of the important dates during the month of January 2026:

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| 1 January | Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God—10 am & 5 pm Masses. |
| 2 January | FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTION—3:00 pm in the Church. |
| 3 January | FIRST SATURDAY MASS & ROSARY- 8:30 Mass 9 am Rosary. |
| 3/4 January | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD |

All nations are invited to sing the Lord's praises for they have been called to hear the good news.

Outreach Sunday

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| 7 January | Feast of Brother Andre Mass & Pancake Breakfast – 8 am
Mass followed by breakfast. |
| 10 January | Medicare Workshop – 9:30 am in rooms 8-9. |
| 10/11 January | THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
<i>He is the light of the nations and the Lord of all creation. To him be all the glory and praise!</i>
Sensory friendly Mass – 1:00 pm in Holy Cross Hall. |
| 13 January | Seedlings of Hope —4:00 pm in rooms 8-9. |
| 17 January | Celebration for Holy Cross Heritage Month —At 8 am in the Hall |
| 17/18 January | SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
<i>In Christ we have been called to be a holy people.</i>
Bishop's Mass followed by Rectory Blessing — Mass at 11 am. |
| 20 January | Feast of Father Moreau & Mass for the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church – 8 am in the Church.
Rededication of the Hall – 5 pm.
Presentation by Dr. Chris Haug – 5:20 pm in the Hall.
Behold the Lamb of God – at 7 pm in the Church. |
| 21 January | Work behind the sanctuary for the mosaic is scheduled to begin
– daily Mass will be held in the Fr. Patrick Peyton Room and the Hall, Adoration held in rooms 8 & 9. |
| 24 January | Rock the Universe for Highschool students – Gather at 1 pm in the Fr. Patrick Peyton Room. |
| 24/25 January | THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME |

Jesus, the Messiah, who heals us of our sin and who is our unity and peace.

31 Jan/1 Feb

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Blessed are the humble of the earth, blessed are the poor in spirit! Such are the ones God has chosen to confound the strong of this world.

