

January 4, 2026

THE FEAST OF

Epiphany of the Lord



When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

Mt 2: 1-2

Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



A Reflection for Epiphany

Live the Eucharist: A Reflection for Epiphany
Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi

We are still joyfully celebrating the Christmas season even as we begin a new year and a new month. And the Christmas season, in all its mystery and joy, is a wonderful time to ponder this most fundamental dimension of our faith — the blessed Eucharist — the “source and summit” of our lives as Christians. It is, after all, the life of Christ that we celebrate and consume in the Blessed Sacrament.

At every Mass, we recall and ponder in our hearts and minds the assuring words of Jesus from Saint John’s gospel: “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise you on the last day.” How overwhelmingly privileged we are to be nourished week in and week out, and at daily Mass, by our living Lord Jesus—life in Christ. Holy Communion plants, as it were, the fertile seed of the resurrection deep within us. This seed will grow, silently but assuredly, until it sprouts forth and yields the flower and fruit of life eternal, the pledge of eternal life promised to us.

‘Do This In Memory of Me’

As Jesus took, bless, broke and gave the bread at the Last Supper, and as Jesus himself went immediately thereafter where he was taken, blessed, broken and given, so too you and I are challenged in this dismissal in a similar way. We are challenged to be taken, blessed, broken and given, in effect, to put into action in our own concrete and daily lives, by the grace and transforming power of this Holy Sacrament, the Love we have just celebrated.

Food for the Journey

There is a beautiful hymn, perhaps you know it, entitled: “Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.” (Where charity and love are, there is God.) Holy Communion is the feast of love, the love of a cross, the love of humble service. As we are transformed more and more in communion with Jesus in the Eucharist, we take on his love in our actions. Where charity and love are, there is he. The Eucharist makes him visible and possible in our lives. It is how we live the Mass.

Live the Mass!

The Eucharist is, after all, “the source and summit of our lives” as followers of Jesus Christ. That is why we cannot live authentic Catholic lives without the Eucharist—lives committed to loving as Jesus loves. With the Eucharist, the Bread of Life, Jesus gave his disciples, and each of us, a power of love that knows no limits and that is efficacious in every human condition. All we are and all that we become are rooted in this sacrifice of love. The Eucharist is both gift and command. It rests at the very heart of our spiritual lives as his followers, followers committed to humble service, sacrificial love after his example, living and pulsating members of his body, a body broken out of love for us in the Upper Room and on Calvary itself and in the upper rooms of our lives.

Taken from:

Live the Eucharist: A Reflection for Epiphany | Franciscan Media



DEVOTION AND MASS

Please join our parish family on Wednesday evenings for Devotion and Mass.

The Devotion begins at 5:30 p.m. in the church, followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m.

In January, we are praying the Litany to Mary, Mother of God.

PASTORAL STAFF SERVING HOLY CROSS

Msgr. Brian Brownsey
Father Joseph Baker
Deacon Ed Mohrbacher
Deacon Michael Smith

TRUSTEES

John Powers John Kelley

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elizabeth Kelley

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Jonathan Young

TRIBUNAL AUDITOR

Deacon Ed Mohrbacher

MASSES

Saturday: 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m.
Weekdays: 7:00 a.m. Mon., Tue., & Thurs.
6:00 p.m. Wed.; 8:15 a.m. Fri.

DEVOTION

5:30-6:00 p.m. Wednesday

HOLY CROSS PARISH OFFICE

405 W. Clark St., Champaign, IL, 61820
Phone: 217-352-8748 Fax: 217-366-2929
e-mail address: office@holycrosscatholic.org
website: www.holycrosscatholic.org

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Greg Koerner, Principal
410 W. White, Champaign, Illinois, 61820
Phone: 217-356-9521 Fax: 217-356-1745

ADORATION

Fridays after the 8:15 a.m. Mass with Benediction at 2:30 p.m.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Mon, Tue, Thurs 6:30-6:45 a.m., Fri 7:45-8:00 a.m.
Or by appointment.

BAPTISM: Second and fourth Sunday of the month, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Parents must be registered members and attend baptismal preparation sessions, preferably before the birth of the child. Contact the Parish Office 3 months in advance to schedule.

MATRIMONY: Couples contemplating marriage should call the Office at least 8 months in advance. At least one partner must be a registered parishioner at Holy Cross and be actively practicing the faith. If you have had a previous marriage, set no marriage date until you have discussed this with your Pastor.

CARE OF THE SICK: Call the Parish Office to make arrangements at any time for Communion and/or the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Two Wednesdays prior to the bulletin in which the information will be posted.

The Epiphany of the Lord

OUR PARISH

HOLY CROSS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Catholic Community of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is to provide a home for all who wish to join our spiritual family and share our Catholic beliefs and values. We are here to continue the life-giving works of Jesus Christ, to make His name known and loved, and to live our lives according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, under the leadership of the Bishop of the Peoria Diocese.

LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30 p.m.	Jan. 10 Lector: EMHC:	Dave Kristovich Peg Swanson, Sharon Kristovich, Joslyn Unger
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Jan. 11 Lector: EMHC:	Judi Sherman Sue Berndt, Ray Tucker
10:00 a.m.	Lector: EMHC:	Michael Roedelbronn John Dixon, Pat Dixon
4:00 p.m.	Lector: EMHC:	Mary Linnenburger Jim Linnenburger



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, January 5

7:00 a.m. Bernie Hammel

Tuesday, January 6

7:00 a.m. Herman Nichols

Wednesday, January 7

6:00 p.m. William H. Baughman

Thursday, January 8

7:00 a.m. Mary Kondrad

Friday, January 9

8:15 a.m. Karen Santarelli

Saturday, January 10

5:30 p.m. Dean Schwenk

Sunday, January 11

8:00 a.m. Elizabeth G. Deponai

10:00 a.m. For the Parishioners

4:00 p.m. Lawrence and Bernadine Toohill



Thank You to our Art & Decoration Ministry for your many hours of dedication toward making Holy Cross a beautiful space in which to worship. When it comes to Christmas décor, Holy Cross takes top honors!

Thank You to our talented *Music Ministry* for your inspiring songs, and the beautiful organ music by our top-notch organist Jonathan Young. The choir concert before Midnight Mass was so inspirational.

Thank you to all of the Liturgical Ministers: Lectors, Ministers of Holy Communion, and Altar Servers who signed up to help with the Christmas and New Year Masses. And many thanks for the generous contributions toward all the needs of Holy Cross Parish and School.

~ Always Home, Always Family ~



The ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY FOOD PANTRY is in need of donations. Thank you to all who have responded to the call for help thus far.

The number of people in need, including families with children, increases often. Any non-perishable food item is appreciated. Gifts can be dropped off at the back of the church or at the Parish Office. **Monetary gifts are also welcome.**

Please make checks out to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.



COFFEE AND DONUTS - There's a nip in the air. Enjoy a cup of hot coffee or tea, a glass of milk or orange juice, and a delicious donut after the Sunday morning Masses. Join friends or meet new ones at the parish center.



FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR FR. LEO

We will be having a reception after the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 18, 2026 for Fr. Leo Mushobozi. Join us after Mass, or come around 11:00 a.m. to the Parish Center.

Fr. Leo will be returning home to Tanzania to stay and serve in his home Diocese of Rulenge-Ngara, Tanzania.

Thank you Fr. Leo for your guidance, love, and the time you have given us. You are truly a special priest and a kind and wonderful person! We wish you the best and will be praying for you. Many blessings as you journey back home!

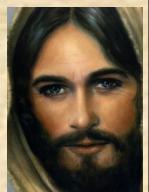
God is Good, All the Time!



ADORATION ON FRIDAYS

Please consider signing up for a half-hour or more to visit Our Lord on Fridays beginning after the 8:15 a.m. Mass and ending with Benediction at 2:30 p.m.

Jesus would so love your company!



Collections

Offering for December 20th/21st.....\$20,136.25

The offering for December 27th/28th will be in next week's bulletin due to the New Year's printing schedule.

Thank You Very Much!

Yeehaw! Mark your calendars to attend the Trivia Night & Silent Auction on Saturday February 28, 2026!! The theme for this year's Trivia Night will be "Wild West Showdown!"

Saddle up because it's our biggest PTC fundraiser and a night you won't want to miss! Hot & cold appetizers are served, along with beer and wine.



There will be NO BINGO in January.

The next Bingo will be on Friday, February 6, 2026



The 2026 Calendars are here. Thank you to Owens Funeral Home for providing these calendars to Holy Cross! You can pick one up in the Parish Office or at one of the church doors.

APOSTLESHP OF PRAYER

JANUARY 2026

FOR PRAYER WITH THE WORD OF GOD

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

www.apostleshipofprayer.org



CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

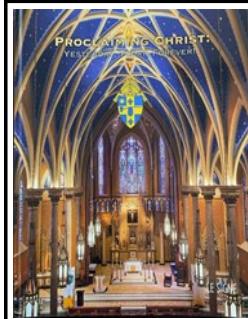
December is fast approaching, and it's not too early to contribute to the flower fund to pay for this year's poinsettia order for the church's Christmas decorations. You may drop your donation in the collection basket in an envelope marked "flower fund" or bring it to the office.

If you want to make your donation in memory or in honor of family members or friends, please write those names on a slip of paper and include it with your donation.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Donations have been made in the memory of:

Hettinger, Painter, and Wagner Families; John and Clara Rakers, and Wayne and Dolores Wade; Kevin Hodge; Finn Whelan Oliveira; Jean and Ed Bown; Frank Hartman and Bernie Hammel; Jim and Kathryn Bristow; Bingaman and Cosgrove Families; Karen Santarelli; Owen Families; Donna Menacher; Tom and Anne Corkery, John and C. Joan Murray, Ethel Cox; John and Joyce Hipskind; and Robert and Verna Kerber.



150th Anniversary Book Orders

If you would like to be added to the list to purchase one of these books with photos of all the churches in the Diocese of Peoria, reply to this email or call the parish office. Books will arrive around Easter time. Books will be shipped directly to Holy Cross. Only a limited supply is available.



St. Patrick's Food Pantry

Located at St. Patrick Parish Center

304 East Vine Street, Tolono, IL

Open Weekly

Mondays, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

(A stylized illustration of a basket overflowing with food items is shown to the right of the text.)

"You Pick" ... Choose the food you need with no restrictions related to residency, income, age, race, religion or frequency.

Jan Blaney, Coordinator, 217/621-5694



HEAVENLY DUSTERS

We are looking for volunteers to help keep our church clean and welcoming. Very light cleaning. If you feel called to serve in this quiet but meaningful ministry we would love to have you join us. Volunteers would come once a week for one month. Please contact Tricia Baughman at takking50@gmail.com or Katrina Covello at kmcovello@yahoo.com

Thank you!



High School of St. Thomas More
217-352-7210
www.hs-stm.org

Admissions Application Open for 2026-27

STM is accepting admissions applications for the 2026-2027 school year. Go to www.hs-stm.org and click on the menu in the upper right corner, then "Apply Now" to get started today. Have questions or need help with the application? Contact the Enrollment Office at admissions@hs-stm.org.

If you submit a completed application by February 1, 2026, you will be eligible to receive a 2% discount. We hope and pray to welcome you and your child to the Saber family!

2026 STM Gala: Rooted in More

Saturday, February 21, 2026 • Pear Tree Estate

Join *The High School of Saint Thomas More* for our **2026 Rooted in More Gala!** This special evening celebrates the mission and impact of Catholic secondary education in Central Illinois. Proceeds will benefit academic and classroom enhancements, facility upgrades, and enrollment growth initiatives. Purchase tickets and explore sponsorship opportunities at <https://hs-stm.org/page/gala>.

2025-2026 Paideia Award and Distinguished Alumni

Award will be presented at the Gala on February 21st. Please help us recognize those who are champions of our mission by submitting your nominations for this year's honorees *no later than January 16th*. Additional details and nomination forms can be found at <https://www.hs-stm.org/page/gala>. Questions? Email us at give@hs-stm.org.

Shadow Visit - Come spend a day at STM with a Saber! Shadow visits are not mandatory but a great way for a 7th or 8th grader to see The High School of St. Thomas More. Please sign up with this form: <https://forms.gle/4j4KVFc3m5ypBX4d8>

STM Job Opportunities: STM is currently seeking applications for a Part-Time Spanish Teacher, a Girls Track Coach and an Athletic Bus Driver. If interested email: **Sr. M. Bridget** at srmbridget@hs-stm.org and **John Delaney, Athletic Director** at jdelaney@hs-stm.org.



Holy Cross School
217-356-9521
www.holycrosselem.org

From the Desk of Principal Greg Koerner -
Thank You from the School as We Enter 2026

As we step into the year 2026, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our students, parents, staff, and community members. Your dedication, support, and enthusiasm continue to inspire us every day. Together, we are building a brighter future, full of promise and opportunity.

In the New Year, the school will be creating a state-of-the-art 3D lab. We're excited for the innovative learning opportunities ahead for our students.

Again, thank you for your continued support and here's to a successful and exciting year ahead.

WE ARE HOLY CROSS!

Job Opportunities:

Holy Cross School is looking for aftercare workers. The position entails supervising, and planning activities from 3:00-5:30pm Monday-Friday fulltime or part-time. Please call the school office if interested. (217) 356-9521.



"Untilled ground, however rich, will bring forth thistles and thorns; so also the mind of man."

— St. Teresa of Avila



CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Are you or someone you know in need of prayer support? Call the Parish Office at 217-352-8748 with your special needs and they will be forwarded to the Circle of Prayer, a group of Holy Cross parishioners who pass prayer requests to each other through a phone chain or email. If you would like to be a part of this circle, please call the Parish Office for more information.

STM EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

SIGN UP FOR A 30-MINUTE TIME SLOT TODAY!

THURSDAYS
10:30AM-3:15PM



tinyurl.com/STM-Adoration

1ST ANNUAL HOLY CROSS TROOP 9 SPAGHETTI DINNER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST, 2026
AFTER 5:30 MASS
HOLY CROSS PARISH HALL



PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ONGOING NEEDS OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH



- ALL YOU CAN EAT SALAD, BREAD, SPAGHETTI, MARINARA, AND MEATBALLS.
- TROOP 9 SCOUTS AND STM STUDENTS WILL BE YOUR SERVERS FOR THE EVENING.
- BRING YOUR OWN WINE FOR THE EVENING.
- DESERT WILL BE PROVIDED
- FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED.

Interested in take out? Complete this form:





ADVENTUS: A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

On behalf of the Augustine Institute, we are offering Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage to everyone this Advent and Christmas Season. In light of the separation we face as communities, this special documentary allows Catholics all around the world to unite and make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land to see the places associated with Christ's Birth.



ANGELS & SAINTS | CATHOLIC SAINTS

Angels and saints are present throughout Catholic theology and devotion, but what exactly are these beings? What makes a person a saint, and how can I become one? Are angels real, and how do they impact my life? Dive into these questions and more in this series with Dr. Elizabeth Klein and Taylor Kemp.



ELIZABETH ANN SETON: SEEKER TO SAINT

Elizabeth Ann Seton: From Seeker to Saint, a new mini documentary on the life of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, made its debut on EWTN on January 4, 2021. This significant date marked the 200th anniversary of Elizabeth Seton's death and entrance into eternal life. Now you can watch Elizabeth Ann Seton: From Seeker to Saint and learn about the remarkable life of the first American-born Saint.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

The advertisements that appear completely defray all publishing costs with which the church would otherwise be burdened. Please patronize these sponsors as a thank you for their kind generosity.

Gold Nugget Coins

~~~~~ New News ~~~~~

Our babies are doing fine, including the early-birth baby!

We have some assistance for two families via Thrivent Corporation! We are getting details together now!

November recap!

We distributed over 1,948 diapers to 17 children in 10 families.

We have two new babies! Please keep both of these families in your prayers!

We had a donation of a dining table and chairs and we matched that with a local family. Thank you to the donating family and our movers!

We have some furniture to match with our families – a bureau and mirror and a twin bed, and a microwave.



SAVE THE DATE(S):

Save January 21 and January 22 - two Pro-Life events:

Micaella Clay, an Abortion Survivor, Speaker and Adoption Advocate, will be here in Champaign-Urbana area for a talk at St. John's Catholic Newman Center, on January 21, 6:00pm(ish), and the Ecumenical Memorial Pro-Life Prayer Vigil, on January 22 at 7:00 pm, at the Savoy United Methodist Church.

Stay tuned for more info!



FAMILIES IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE

If anyone wants to help families who need assistance, please consider making a donation to the Holy Cross Pro-Life committee.

You can donate by:

- on-line giving (see special area for Pro-Life with TJ's picture),
- in the collection basket (*please put you're your name and contact info, and that the \$ is for Pro-Life, or
- check (** please be sure to put Pro-Life in the memo line **)

For more info – please call Joy at 217 840-0322.

Thank you and God bless you!

Please keep everyone in your prayers!

HOLY CROSS FIRST FRIDAY MEMORIAL

Deval, Desmier, Jensen Families

Menke & Leahy Families

James, Marie, Paul, Joe, & Edward, Knoke

Living & Dec. Mem. of Donato, Pace, Folis Families

Dec. Mem. of Mueller, Neunhoffer, Willard Families

Robert F. Reiser Family

Dec. Mem. of Corkery, Cox, Murray Families

Nichols, Oetzel, Parod, Foltzler & LoGrasso Families

Ed & Jean Bown

Chuck, Chad, Meghan Schweighart

Larry Hausmann, Bob Soucie

Liv. & Dec. Mem. of Pastore, Buzinsky, & Piccolo Families

Lamendola/Smith/Hammers Families

Hammel & Mitsdarfer Families

Margaret & Eldon Tufte and Dec. Mem. of their family

Barham & Bosch Families

Tangora & Kovera Families

William & Mary McMahon, Linda & Mike Wesolowski

McNamara & Mulcahey Family

Living & Dec. Mem. of Giuffre & Cacioppo Families

Boudreau & Arseneau Family

Aloysius J. Winka

Charlie & Evelyn Bell

Zeilenga Family

Rentfrow Family

Towner Family

Haggin Family

Rakers-Wade Families

Hershbarger & Kick Families

Dec. Mem. of Cochrane-O'Brien families

Liv. & Dec. Mem. of Graham, Fellers & Gordon Family

John E. Sullivan Family

Theresa Brya

Birdie & Edward Cronau

Raymond Timpone

Maxine Timpone

Margaret B. Schwenk

Living & Dec. Mem. of Schwenk Family

Perrodin Family

Menacher & Sizer Families

Leonard & Loretto Doyle

Alan & Patricia Berndt

Thomas McCarthy

Costello Family

Ron Murphy

Dec. Mem. of Murphy & Sullivan Families

Living & Dec. Mem. of Williams, Lykins, Barham Fam.

Dan Crawmer