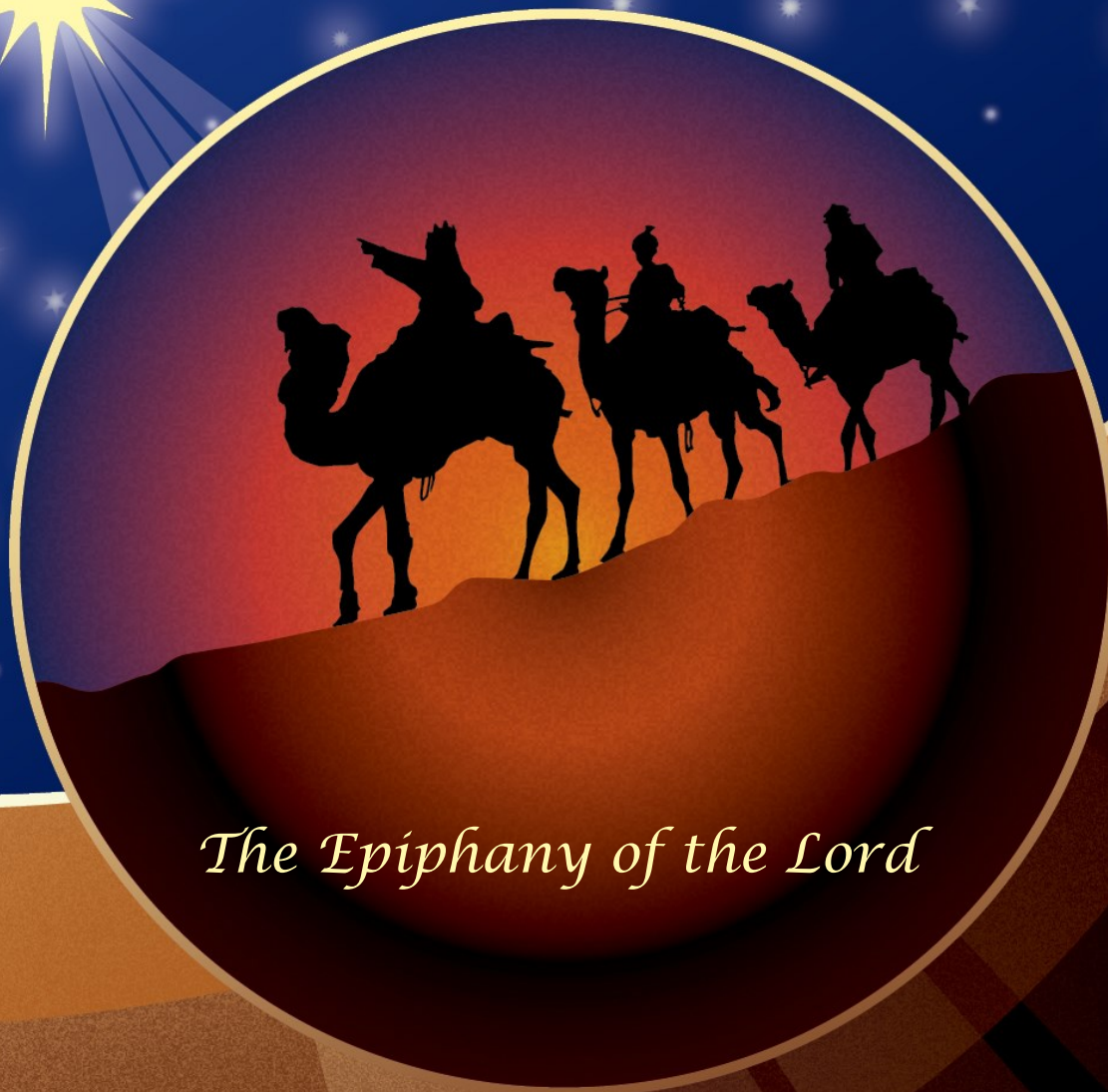


January 7, 2024



The Epiphany of the Lord

*Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage.*

Matthew 2:2

© Diocesan

Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Eucharistic Revival



EXCERPT FROM *A Eucharistic Christmas:* **ADVENT MEDITATIONS ON THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST**



Prayer and any relationship requires time. This is the meaning of the classical devotion of the "holy hour." Though Jesus reproached his disciples for not being able to stay awake and pray with him one hour (see Matthew 26:40-46), there is nothing magical about sixty minutes except that it suggests an extended time to allow things to happen, to allow the love of the one we have received to penetrate us. It is nearly impossible for some

of us to sit still long enough to try this, which only demonstrates how urgent the need is to do it.

As anyone who has tried to pray in this way knows, if one perseveres and remains, the romantic glow fades. Faith is even tested as we wonder if this is all a hoax, if there is nothing here but bread, if we are wasting time in this church all by ourselves. Ideas about things we could be doing and other distractions can besiege us as we try to concentrate in prayer.

Anyone who has been through the experience of living out a committed relationship, undertaking serious study or research, learning a language or how to play a musical instrument or a new game knows similar doubts and fears. Just as many in our times do not persevere... many do not enter deeply enough into prayer to outlast the dryness, the distractions, the doubts. Consequently they never get very deeply into a relationship with our Lord and never develop much interiority.

How should we persevere? The main thing we need to do is to simply stay there and prolong the prayer and devotion we had at the moment we received the Eucharist.

- Fr. Thomas Acklin, O.S.B.

A Thought for reflection: Perseverance is a key to making any long-lasting change in life. Most New Year's resolutions last only a few weeks. How can you persevere in your devotion to the Blessed Sacrament in the year ahead? Make a plan for daily prayer, and ask Jesus to help you stick with it.

Oh Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament, I am full of gratitude that you have taught me about your real presence and the joy that comes from spending time with you. Give me the grace to be faithful, because the most important thing in my life is to surrender to you and know you better. Teach me to serve others – to give my time and resources to those in need. Let me lose myself and find you.



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 Rosary for Holy Cross Parish

PASTORAL STAFF SERVING HOLY CROSS

Fr. Leopold Mushobozi, Parish Administrator
Fr. Deogratias Mpewo, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Ed Mohrbacher
Deacon Michael Smith

TRUSTEES

Tom Murray John Powers

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elizabeth Kelley

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Jonathan Young

TRIBUNAL AUDITOR

Deacon Ed Mohrbacher

MASSSES

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, Thur, 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. 13 Lector: David Kristovich EMHC: Sharon Kristovich, Peg Swanson, Kathy Murray Servers: John Haggin, Joey Haggin
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Jan. 14 Lector: Justine Karduck EMHC: Sue Berndt, Mary Shelden Servers: Wil Karduck, Henry Karduck
10:00 a.m.	Lector: Andrew Zasada EMHC: John Dixon, Pat Dixon, Jessica McMahon, Brooke McMahon Servers: August, Philip, and Camille Christhlf
4:00 p.m.	Lector: Mary Linnenburger EMHC: Anthony Frasca, Jim Linnenburger, Juliann Seebauer Servers: Will Herges, James Linnenburger



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, January 8

7:00 a.m. Joe, Ruth, and Pat Doyle

Tuesday, January 9

7:00 a.m. Elizabeth G. Deponai

Wednesday, January 10

6:00 p.m. Max Hershberger

Thursday, January 11

7:00 a.m. Edith Lynch

Friday, January 12

8:15 a.m. Thanksgivings for Priests & Deacons

Saturday, January 13

5:30 p.m. Charles Wuebben

Sunday, January 14

8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners
10:00 a.m. Loretto and Leonard Doyle
4:00 p.m. Mary Sue Shay

Join us for our Monthly Encounter Nights

2nd Wednesday - after 6:00 p.m. Mass
--> in the Parish Center

Come and learn more about our faith!

4th Wednesday - after 6:00 p.m. Mass
--> in the church

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction

Come and spend time with Him!



Senior Luncheon

If you are 55 or older, Join us for good food, good friends, and fun at the Senior Luncheon Thursday, **January 11th at noon**, and every second Thursday of the month. We look forward to seeing you there. Don't forget to bring a side dish to share!



BEREAVED PARENTS OF THE USA

The Champaign-Urbana chapter will be meeting at 3:30 p.m. **Sunday, January 14th** at Stephen Family YMCA, 2501 Fields Dr. South. We will meet in the community room. We will continue to meet on the 2nd Sunday each month. For more information, contact Jerry or Jane Pica at 217-373-1321.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR PROJECT

A Big Thank You! goes out to everyone who participated in the 2023 Holy Cross Reverse Advent Calendar Project. Over 600 food items were collected for the Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. 40 diapers and 12 grocery store gift cards were collected for our parish's Pro-Life Ministry.



COFFEE AND DONUTS --

Come over to the Parish Center after the Sunday morning Masses for a cup of coffee and a delicious donut. It's been a Holy Cross tradition for over 50 years. Join us for stimulating conversation. Join old friends, make new friends.

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH JANUARY 2024

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church

www.apostleshipofprayer.org

THE ECUMENICAL MEMORIAL PRO-LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

January 22, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Windsor Road Christian Church,
2501 West Windsor Rd, Champaign, IL 61822

Theme: "The Power of an Open Heart"

Speaker: Joy Pace, Holy Cross Pro-Life Committee

For more information:

[Facebook.com/prolifeprayervigilofcentralillinois](https://facebook.com/prolifeprayervigilofcentralillinois)

Or email ProLifePrayerVigil@gmail.com

Join us for this Free event! Reception and fellowship follows.



CURSILLO WEEKEND FOR MEN

Champaign-Urbana area men! A Men's Cursillo weekend will be held Jan, 26-28, 2024 at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Urbana. What a great way to start the new year by joining other men, strengthening your faith in Christ and His Church!

Contact Greg Koerner gkoerner@ymail.com or
Cathy Koerner cathkern007@gmail.com for information.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Flower Fund that made our sanctuary beautiful!

Donations have been made in memory of

Kevin Hodge; Frank Hartman; Finn Whelan Oliveira; Hettinger, Painter, and Wagner Families; Harold, Jo Ann, and Charles Heidbreder; Dolores and Wayne Wade; John and Clara Rakers; Cochrane and O'Brien Families; Helen Vedder; Bingaman and Cosgrove Families; Dick and Peggy Valentine; Dick and Lucille York; Barbara Leathers; Elisha Mary Robert and Catherine Swanson; Elmer and Sylvia Nicklas; Tony Rein; Gene, Elaine and Ross Mayor; Cacioppo, Giuffre and Schwenk Families; Jim and Kathryn Bristow; Regina Robinson; Ed and Jean Bown; Donna Menacher; Tom and Anne Corkery, Ethel G. Cox, and John F. and C. Joan Murray; and Alice McDuffee.



MEALS ON WHEELS

Please consider volunteering for Meals on Wheels. We need at least 4 people for the week of **February 12th thru 16th**. It consists of 1 to 2 hours of delivering meals to senior citizens each day of that week, starting around 10:30 a.m.

If you are interested in volunteering for Meals on Wheels, please call the Parish Office at 217-352-8748 to sign up or for more information. Thank You!



INCOME TAX STATEMENTS

If you would like to receive a statement of your contributions made in 2022 for tax planning

purposes, please fill out this form, cut it out, and drop it in the collection basket at Mass. Or you can also email your request to:

office@holycrosscatholic.org.

Or call the Parish Office at 352-8748.

NAME: _____

Phone Number (optional): _____



FOR THOSE AGE 70½

There is good news if you have reached age 70½ and you would like to help (your parish, school, ministry). If you have an IRA, the government requires you to take out a certain amount each year and be subject to federal tax. However, the law allows you to donate this amount directly to (your parish, school, ministry) during 2023 and have it distributed free of federal income tax!

What a wonderful opportunity for those 70½ to help (parish, school, ministry). Please contact the custodian of your IRA or your tax advisor.

Collection

Offering for Dec.23rd/24th/25th.....\$16,416.02

Thank You Very Much!



High School of St. Thomas More

217-352-7210

www.hs-stm.org

Spring Gala and Raffle Tickets: The High School of St. Thomas More Gala Cash Raffle tickets are available for purchase, please contact the high school at 217.352.7210 to purchase tickets. Payment options are cash or check. The tickets are one for \$20 or three for \$50. Cash prizes are \$3,000, \$1,500, and \$500. The drawing will take place at our 2024 Gala on **Saturday, February 3rd**, at the Pear Tree Estate. Presence is not required to win. Must be 18+ to participate. Proceeds from the gala will fund roof replacement and to support our staff. To purchase Gala tickets visit: stmgala2024.givesmart.com

Admissions Application Open for 2024-25 School Year

STM is accepting admissions applications for the next school year. Go to www.hs-stm.org and click the menu in the upper right corner, then "Apply Now" to get started today. Have questions? Contact the Enrollment Office at admissions@hs-stm.org. We hope and pray to welcome you and your child to the Saber family!

7th & 8th Grade Student Shadow Visits: Do you have a 7th or 8th grader interested in attending STM? Sign them up for a Shadow Visit Day! Generally on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday of each month, these visits give a prospective student a chance to see firsthand what STM is all about by following a current Saber for a day. To sign your son or daughter up, go to hs-stm.org and click the "Visit" button in the menu on the homepage. Questions? Email Rachael McMillan at admissions@hs-stm.org.

Job Opportunities: STM is seeking applications for a Bus Driver. If interested, email Sr. M. Bridget at stmbridget@hs-stm.org, Mr. Corapi at acorapi@hs-stm.org, and Jon Marston, Athletic Director, at jmarston@hs-stm.org.

A Family Blessing

Lord of all, bless our families, be they formed by blood or by circumstance, make them holy. May we find you in our relationships, in our marriages, in our families, in our households, in our communities, in our global humanity.

May we look across all that divides us and see family, and embrace as a family does, and love as a family ought to. For where two or three gather in your name, there are you. Amen

MOMS' GROUP IS SEEKING CHILDCARE

during their bi-monthly Wednesday morning meeting from 8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. from January to May 2024. If you are interested, please contact Lori, Sarah, or Rachel at hcmomsgroup@gmail.com

Childcare allows the moms to concentrate on faith and fellowship without interruption.

"It takes a village to raise a child, please consider joining our village!"



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

From the Desk of Principal Koerner:

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners and snow in the yard?

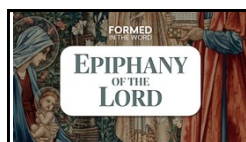
The true meaning of Christmas is love. John 3:16-17 says, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love.

Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Sure, enjoy the season but remember to rejoice as well! After all, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of God's ultimate gift: the birth of Jesus.

WE ARE HOLY CROSS!

Save the Date: for the Annual Cluckin' for Catholic Education Chicken Dinner! Saturday, January 27th at the Holy Cross Parish Center from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the parish office.





THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | FORMED IN THE WORD

Dr. Prothro and Dr. McGrew reflect on the lectionary Mass readings for

The Epiphany of Our Lord. On this day, we ponder the mystery that God has revealed Himself to all nations in Christ, His gift of salvation, and the gift of ourselves back to Jesus.

Follow along with your Bible:

- First Reading: Is 60:1-6
- Psalm 72
- Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6,
- Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



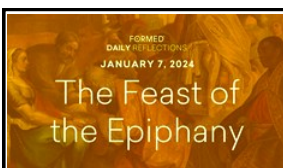
EPIPHANY | THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

What is Epiphany?

Join Dr. Michael Barber to find out.

Watch all of [The True Meaning of Christmas video series with Dr. Michael Barber](#).

To go deeper, be sure to get his accompanying book, ["The True Meaning of Christmas"](#), available on [CatholicMarket](#).



FORMED Daily Reflections DAILY REFLECTIONS / THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - JANUARY 7, 2024

Action Item: Do not take for granted that you can be part of the people of God. Help us share the truth and beauty of the Gospel and reach Catholics worldwide. Become an Augustine Institute Mission Circle Partner.

Follow along with the Daily Readings at

<https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>

Sign up at [FORMED Daily](#) to receive these daily reflections directly to your inbox. Start your day off right. Be inspired and renewed each morning with a short video from Dr. Tim Gray.

View all [Daily Reflections](#). Pray on the [Amen App](#).

Pro-Life and Good Catholic Happenings!

SUPPORTING PRO-LIFE EFFORTS

Diapers/material help:

- ongoing: diaper ordering and delivery

NEW: In November we:

- Paid \$ 808.34 for diapers and household cleaning products.
- Gave \$ 200 cash assistance for travel for a funeral, replacing a car battery, and a state ID.
- Paid \$ 652 (a month's rent) for a woman recovering from surgery who had no paid medical leave
- Donated \$500 toward St. Thomas More High school for students to attend the March for Life in January
- Gave out several gift cards to help families make ends meet.
- Serviced 9 families with 15 children in diapers or pullups.
- Delivered dishes, tea towels and paper goods for a woman who was to have surgery
- Purchased 2 slow cookers (on sale) for our families arranged furniture delivery for tables, chairs, and more!
- Update: We have a not-used car seat donated and we have found a home for that. This family is moving and we will get that seat to them when they are settled.



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.

Kitchen Bath and Cabinet Co.

HOLY CROSS FIRST FRIDAY MEMORIAL

Devall, Desmier, Jensen Families
Menke & Leahy Families
James, Marie, Paul, Joe, & Edward, Knoke
Living & Dec. Mem. of Donato, Pace, Follis Families
Dec. Mem. of Mueller, Neunhoffer, Willard Families
Robert F. Reiser Family
Dec. Mem. of Corkery, Cox, Murray Families
Nichols, Oetzel, Parod & Foltzler Families
Dec. Mem. of Happ, Krueger Families
Ed & Jean Bown
Chuck, Chad, Meghan Schweighart
Larry Hausmann, Bob Soucie
Living & Dec. Mem. of Cler & Flavin Families
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 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 David & Bernice Williams Family
Liv. & Dec. Mem. of Graham, Fellers & Gordon Family
John E. Sullivan Family

Birdie & Edward Cronau
Raymond Timpone
Maxine Timpone
Margaret B. Schwenk
Living & Dec. Mem. of Schwenk Family
Perrodin Family
Living & Dec. Mem. of McNabney Family
Liv. & Dec. Mem. of Eli & Hazel Kinser Family
Menacher & Sizer Families
Leonard & Loretto Doyle
Alan & Patricia Berndt
Thomas McCarthy
Costello Family
Leta & Kenny Porter
Ron Murphy
Dec. Mem. of Murphy & Sullivan Families
Living & Dec. Mem. of Williams, Lykins, Barham Fam.