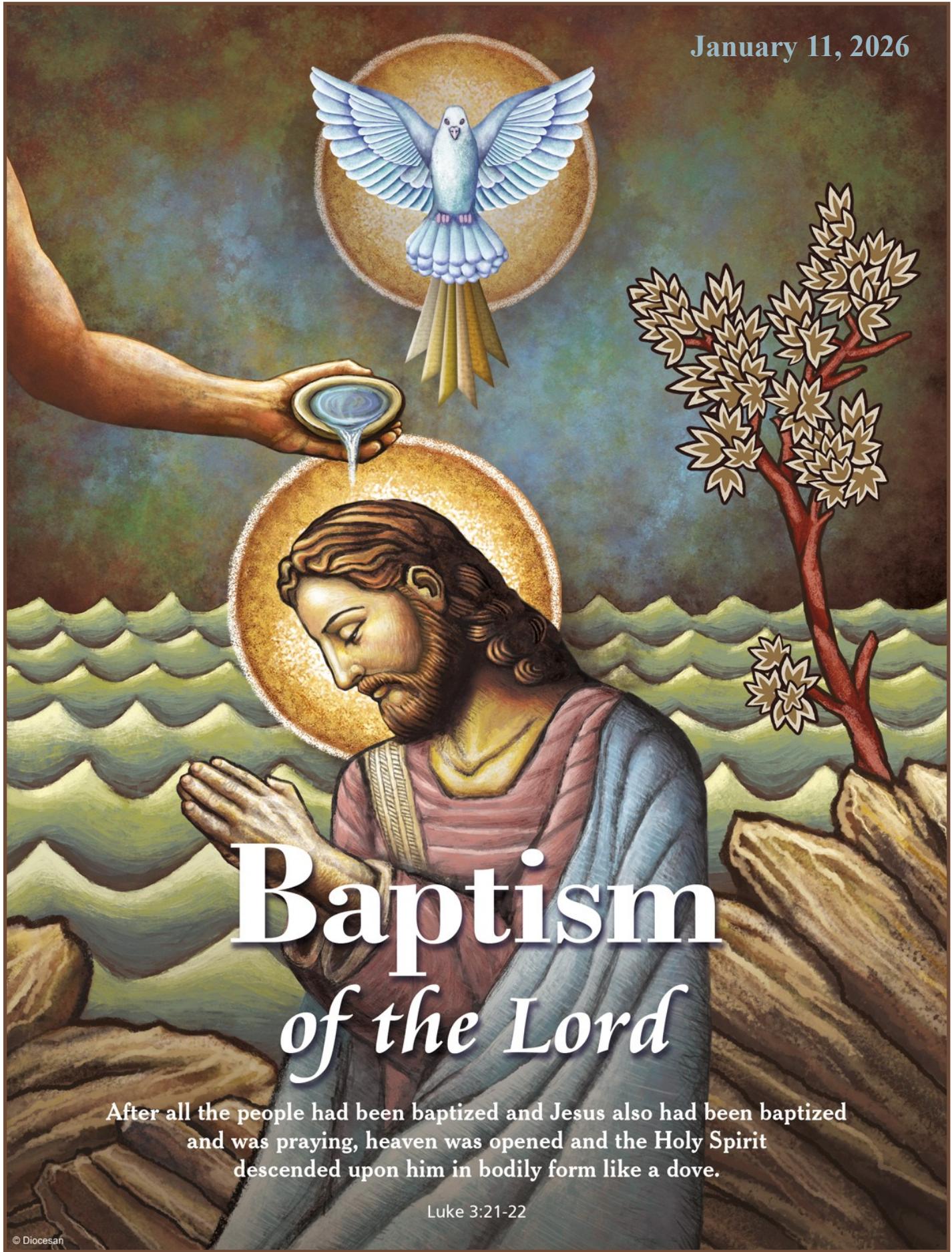


January 11, 2026



Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him.

Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 3:13-17).

Jesus along the Jordan

The Gospel passage begins with a geographical annotation: Jesus goes from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist. On His arrival, Jesus does not declare Himself to be the Messiah, He does not preach. Instead, He stands with everyone else there, wanting to be baptized, thus manifesting his solidarity with the sinful people. Jesus does not isolate Himself, but He goes out among the people, even those marked by the wounds of sin. He puts Himself at risk by being with them, just as He put Himself at risk by becoming Man in the womb of Mary. There is, therefore, a consistent design in how Jesus "moves about" along His "itinerary of salvation".

John the Baptist

"I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" the Baptist says on seeing Jesus. We witness the prophet's bewilderment who just a few verses earlier expressed himself thus: "The one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals ..." (Mt 3:11). It seems to be the same bewilderment Peter experienced in Caesarea when, having reproved Jesus after the revelation of the Passion, death and resurrection that awaited Him, saying, "God forbid, Lord!", hears the Lord's reply, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are not thinking as God does, but as human beings do" (Mt 16:22-23). Another time was in the Upper Room when Peter refused to allow Jesus to wash his feet (cf. Jn. 13:6-8). Reactions such as the Baptist's and Peter's reveal our discomfort at seeing Jesus so weak and yielding.

The Heavens Opened

Jesus' choice is confirmed with the opening of the heavens, with the gift of the Spirit and the voice of the Father that seals Jesus' mission: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased". With the opening of the heavens, "justice" cancels the separation between humanity and God, bringing us back to the dawn of creation when the Spirit hovered over the waters. In Jesus, God the Father shows us the New Man, His beloved, the One who pleases Him. It was as if He were saying: "You make me so happy. I am so proud of you". This happiness exists in each one of us because each of us bears God's image within. We are made in his "image and likeness" (Gn. 1:26). No one can ever erase this image for "God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good" (Gn. 1:31). Jesus' coming tells us that God is interested in us. It's like He is saying, "With you, I want to begin a new story of salvation, a new beginning". We are made new to the extent that we learn to recognize life as a gift of love and that we live in this Love.

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.



Our mission is to bring the Pope's word, image and gestures all over the world.

The Baptism 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. 17	Dave Kristov Sharon Kristov Michele Murray
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Jan. 18	Duncan Oliveira Sue Berndt
10:00 a.m.	Lector: EMHC:	Andrew Zasada Dawn Friedman, Bonita Higgerson
4:00 p.m.	Lector: EMHC:	Ed Seebauer Juliann Seebauer



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, January 12	7:00 a.m.	James Panther
Tuesday, January 13	7:00 a.m.	Herman Nichols
Wednesday, January 14	6:00 p.m.	Phyllis Molina
Thursday, January 15	7:00 a.m.	Anton Tony Kamnick
Friday, January 16	8:15 a.m.	For the Intentions of Bobby Poyton, Jr.
Saturday, January 17	5:30 p.m.	Tom Cosgrove
Sunday, January 18	8:00 a.m.	Randall Paul Baughman
	10:00 a.m.	For the Parishioners
	4:00 p.m.	Ron Davis



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!



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.



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 ~



Holy Cross PTC Presents

WILD WEST SHOWDOWN

14th Annual Trivia Night & Silent Auction
Help us support our school, staff, and students!

FEBRUARY 28, 2026
 Holy Cross School Gymnasium

Appetizers and Bar open at 5:00 pm.
 Silent Auction, Raffle, & Games through the night!
 Trivia contest begins at 7:00 pm.
 Prize to best dressed table!

The Silent Auction runs online February 21st - 28th.

 \$50/person - \$400 table of 8
 Purchase tickets or donate at hctrivianight26.givesmart.com

Registration closes February 23rd.



You may have heard Msgr. mention our upcoming Consecration to St. Joseph. We have decided to push back our start date to February 15th with a Consecration day of March 19th. We will have some books available for those interested or you can purchase your own copy of Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father by Donald Calloway at various locations online, including a Kindle and Audio book version on Amazon.

<https://consecrationtostjoseph.org/introduction.html>

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

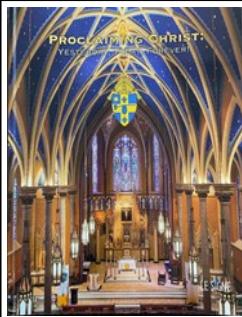
December is fast approaching, and it's not too early to contribute to the flower fund to pay for this year's poinsettia order for the church's Christmas decorations. You may drop your donation in the collection basket in an envelope marked "flower fund" or bring it to the office.

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.



"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

Happy New Year!

Thank you to all who donated items to Kris Kringle 2025. It's now time to start shopping and collecting for 2026! If you received any gifts this year (including from Kris Kringle) that you don't want, we would love to have them for next year! If you like to clearance shop, I would love your help restocking! Christmas clearance items are perfect for Kris Kringle. We always need coffee mugs, tumblers, bath & body products, lip gloss/chapsticks, nail polish, dog/cat toys, dad/grandpa stuff (tape measures, screwdrivers, ice scrapers, flashlights, etc), like new fleece blankets/stuffed animals/games, winter accessories, and items that could be made into baking or movie night gifts. \$4 is the highest price point, so I never exceed that amount when I purchase an item.

If you have items, (**new, not used**), to donate or you come across some good deals while you're out and about, let me know! I hope your students in Kindergarten through 8th grade enjoyed shopping this year. It's fun to see how excited they get to shop for their families!

Thanks so much!

Stephanie Rank

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.



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:





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!**



Pro-Life Discussion Group for January -

Panera's on Kirby 11am-12:30 pm January 19th.

Come and grab a cup of coffee, snack or lunch, and join in a drop-in discussion! Join us for any amount of time for friendship and fellowship!

This is an Ecumenical Group - and we discuss Pro-Life items - from current items in the news, to specific topics with Questions & Discussion

For more information, contact Joy Pace 217 840-0322



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 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!

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.

OSF Healthcare

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

Many Thanks!! We received 2 donations from Thrivent Corp, with \$250 each going to two of our Families and \$ 840 in donations from the St. Matthew Grade School Children!

God is so good!!! Thank you again to everyone who supports us with donations, prayers and presence – we so appreciate you! ... you are giving hope to many local families! God bless you all!

... you are giving hope to many local families! God bless you all!

We are putting those donations toward:

- A single mom with 5 children with 3 at home
- A couple with 4 children, one is a newborn baby
- A year-long bus pass for young man with a new job and needed transportation
- A single mom with one child at home who also helps out her grandmother
- A single mom with 4 boys at home
- A single mom with 4 children

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

~~~ Thank You Note ~~

Here is a note from one of our Moms who receives diapers via Holy Cross and just received the assistance from Trivent Corporation and cash assistance vis St. Matthew Grade School Students:

Mrs. Joy is a HUGE BLESSING TO MY FAMILY ❤️ , over the past few months Mrs. Pace have been providing peaceful prayers over my life and pampers for my children, with the support from the CHURCH I was able to pay a bill, buy groceries and toiletries even Christmas presents for my children!!



THANK YOU to all that support this for my family during this difficult time in my life right now the love from you all is truly appreciated and I wanted to say THANK YOU!! ❤️

.... Before birth the LORD called me, from my mother's womb he gave me my name. ~Isaiah 49:1

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