

Hope

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD.
MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE DESERT
A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD.

ISAIAH 40:3

December 3, 2023



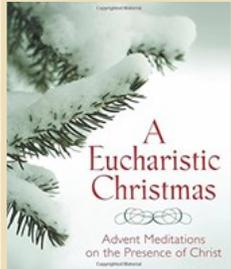
Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Eucharistic Revival



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



Talk to Jesus

At Mass do we really take the opportunity to talk to Christ? Is there any more intimate moment to do this than upon receiving him in the Eucharist? If we miss the intimacy of receiving him who has given himself completely to us, we fail to draw upon the power that lies right under our noses, right in our own tradition. The Church gives us so many avenues toward peace and intimacy, but we

find it especially in the sacramental intimacy with the Lord that we have in the Eucharist.

Rather than spending our days rushing about, nervously talking to ourselves about what is going on or going wrong, let's take the opportunity to deepen our communion with the Lord whom we have received in Holy Communion. This ongoing communion with the Lord takes our prayer into a real relationship.

This may sound pious, but try it. We can have the fruit of union with Jesus and can continue with him personally in words or in wordless love rather than just thinking about him or forgetting about him altogether. It might seem impossible because of all our obligations and preoccupations and our tendency to become absorbed in them. It might seem that it would require enormous willpower and self-discipline, which I know I lack. But for God all things are possible.

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



Thought for reflection: There are a million reasons to be distracted when we receive communion. But what an opportunity we miss! Receiving Communion is really entering into communion with Jesus – it's not just an action; it is a key part of a relationship. This Advent when you go to Mass, try to spend a few minutes beforehand thinking of what you are about to do. More specifically, think about who you are going to receive. Jesus's Body becomes part of your body. What does that mean to you?

Oh Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament, I'm sorry for the many distractions that have kept me from receiving you worthily in the past. I pray that your Holy Spirit will teach me more about this sacrament. Help me to think about you during the week and to look forward to this time of communion with you. I can hardly begin to understand the degree of union you want with me – body and soul. But I want to learn.

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 December we are praying the Litany to Mary, Mother of God



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

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, 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.

First Sunday of Advent

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.

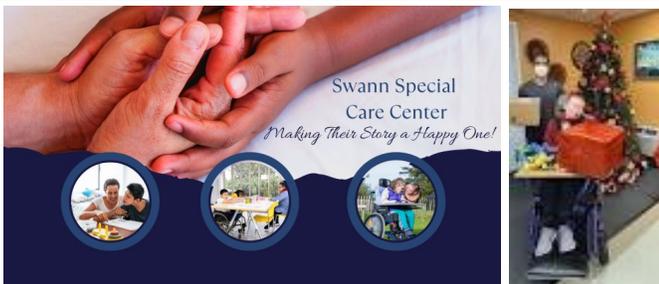
LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30 p.m.	Dec. 9 Lector: Elizabeth Kelley EMHC: John Kelley Servers: Nora Kelley, Ethan Weldy
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Dec. 10 Lector: Sue Berndt EMHC: No Ministers Servers: Avery Natschke, Emma Lwao
10:00 a.m.	Lector: Andrew Zasada EMHC: Bonita Higgerson, Margie Hoss Servers: August Christhilf, Philip Christhilf, Camille Christhilf
4:00 p.m.	Lector: Matthew Korah EMHC: Jan Weber Servers: Will Herges, Isabella Contreras



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 4 7:00 a.m.	In honor of Alfonso Mendoza's Birthday
Tuesday, December 5 7:00 a.m.	James Langemak
Wednesday, December 6 6:00 p.m.	Deacon Bob Ulbrich
Thursday, December 7 7:00 a.m.	Max Hershberger
Friday, December 8 8:15 a.m.	Mary Sue Shay
Saturday, December 9 5:30 p.m.	Charles Leahy
Sunday, December 10 8:00 a.m.	Theresa Ann Brya
10:00 a.m.	Carol Bergeson
4:00 p.m.	For the Parishioners



~Swann Special Care Center Gifts

Gift Cards to brighten their residents' Christmas! Take a name from the list at the parish office or the church vestibule and purchase the gift card listed and drop it off at the Parish Office or in the collection basket! Gift Cards and name tags are to be turned in by December 6th.



If you take a name strip from the "Tree" at the back of the church, please sign your name and phone number on the sheet provided next to the resident's name..



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE



Save yourself the hassle of baking cookies during this busy time of the year. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #1070 will hold their annual Christmas Cookie Sale on **Sunday, December 10th** from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Parish Center.

Cookies are \$7.00 a plate. We have a large variety including nut free and gluten free.

There will also be a Craft Sale of handmade items by the members. Just in time for those last minute Christmas gifts. Children of Hope & Faith will also be holding a Craft Sale.

Proceeds from the sale will go to help pay down college tuition costs for Seminarians from Champaign County and other charities in our area.

Senior Luncheon

If you are 55 or older, Join us for good food, good friends, and fun at the Senior Luncheon Thursday, **December 14th 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!





HOLY CROSS ADVENT PROJECT



Holy Cross parishioners are encouraged in this year of Eucharistic Revival to come to daily Mass to strengthen our faith by receiving the precious body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As a physical sign of your effort in this area, bring with you an item for the Saint Vincent de Paul food pantry or diapers for the Pro-Life Ministry each time you come to Mass.

A calendar with suggested items, called a reverse Advent calendar, is included in this bulletin. May you give something in love and thanksgiving for all God has given you.

Boxes are placed in the church vestibule for the donated items. Sponsored by Holy Cross parish and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Champaign County #1070.



THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES GIVING TREE PROJECT

Thank you to all who have taken an ornament tag from the "Giving Tree" in the vestibule of the church!

The gift items with the tags need to be dropped off at the back of the church, or in the parish office, no later than **Monday, December 4th**, so we can get the gifts to Catholic Charities, and they will pass them along to the families.

Everything we collect here at Holy Cross will be given to families in the local Champaign County area.

If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 217-352-8748.

Thank you so much for your support!



CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND



Christmas is approaching soon and it's time to order flowers for the Church's decorations. Anybody who wants to help to offset cost of purchased flowers can contribute to the Flower Fund.

Donations can be made using special Flower Offering envelopes that are placed at the back of the Church or using the Online Giving platform. If the donation is made in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend, please write their names on the envelope's front.

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



CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT

Holy Cross Choir is looking for more members! With Christmas quickly approaching, we would love to have more singers join us in the choir loft for this Christmas season. The more voices we have, the more powerful the celebrations will be! You do not need to be a professional singer, just someone who loves to sing. We practice on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the church. Those who sing pray twice! Won't you join us?



Bereaved Parents of the USA

The Champaign-Urbana chapter will be meeting at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, **December 10th** 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.

The Knights of Columbus - Twin City Council
invite you to

Wreathes Across St. Mary's

Honoring our Veterans and Priests
Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, 10:00 AM

Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of His Saints.
Psalm 116:15

Contributions Accepted at the Event

St Mary's Cemetery
9 St Mary's Rd
Champaign
Weather Permitting



OSF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

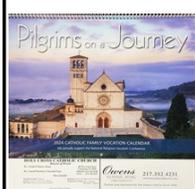


Come volunteer with OSF Hospice!

We have a variety of opportunities that help serve our patients and their families. Available opportunities: visiting with patients, crocheting prayer shawls, sewing fidget blankets, office help, etc. Training is provided.

For more information on requirements or to obtain an application, please call 217-355-4120 Ext 7 or email Mary.Cox@osfhealthcare.org.

On Saturday, December 9 at 10:00 AM,
the Knights of Columbus Twin City Council will be hosting
a wreath laying event at St Mary's Cemetery, to honor
the priests and veterans interred there. All are invited to



2024 CALENDARS

are available next to the bulletins as you exit the church after Mass, as well as in the Parish Office. Many thanks to Owens Funeral Home for providing us with complementary calendars every year!

Collection

Offering for Nov.25th/26th.....\$4,456.00
Thank You Very Much!



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

Madrigal Dinner December 8th & 9th. The Fine Arts Department of The High School of St. Thomas More is announcing the 23rd annual Madrigal Dinners, taking place Friday, Dec. 8th and Saturday, Dec. 9th at 7 p.m. in the STM cafeteria. Come and celebrate the Christmas Season with our lords and ladies at the Madrigal Dinner Feast. Tickets are \$40 and include dinner and the performance. Visit <https://stmmusicanddrama.ludus.com/index.php>

Christmas Break. We will be closed for Christmas Break from Dec. 21 through Jan. 4. The STM Faculty, Staff and Administration wish all a blessed holiday season.

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!

2023–2024 Paideia Award and Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award Nominations: The Paideia Award is presented each year to an individual or married couple who exemplifies true leadership in service to Catholic elementary and secondary education, sustained or substantial contributions of time, talent or treasure to the Champaign Vicariate educational community, and leadership in spreading the Good News through Catholic education.

Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award is presented to an STM alum who has made a positive impact on the community (local, long distance, or international), has displayed exceptional human and ethical qualities, and exemplified success in and out of the classroom or in his/her chosen career. Both awards will be presented at The STM Annual Spring Gala at Pear Tree Estate on Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2024. Nominations are being accepted through Monday, Jan. 1st, 2024. Please complete the forms to submit names and a brief reason why the nominee is deserving of this prestigious recognition. Questions? Contact Joanna Yallaly at: jyallaly@hs-stm.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP EVENT

There is a vicariate High School Youth Group mini event **Today, December 3rd** at Hardy's Reindeer Ranch followed by Monical's Pizza in Rantoul for dinner. St. Anthony's in Hoopston is looking to start a High School Youth Ministry and is wanting to collaborate with area wide Catholic High Schoolers. We will meet at Hardy's Reindeer Ranch around 2:00 p.m. and participate in some of the festivities there and then head to Monical's in Rantoul for dinner.

If you are interested, please contact Kennedy Record at (217) 621-3355 or email krecord@stmatt.net

Hardy's Reindeer Ranch Address: 1356 County Rd 2900 N. Rantoul, IL

Website: www.reindeerranch.com

Hope to see you there!

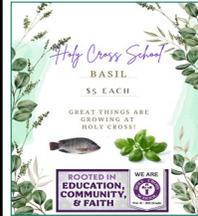


Holy Cross School
 217-356-9521
www.holycrosselem.org

From the Desk of Principal Koerner:

There is a job opening for a full-time Substitute teacher for Social Studies starting in January 2024, for the remaining part of the school year. Please contact the school if interested in this position at 217-356-9521 .

There is an opening for a Teacher's Aid for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Contact the school if interested in this position: 217-356-9521.



The latest endeavor from the Aquaponics Lab is growing Basil. The school is selling the Basil plants that has been harvested for \$5 a plant. Contact the school for more information. 217-356-9251.



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is inspired by Gospel values and leads men and women to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederick Ozanam and its patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

The Holy Cross/St. Matthew Conference is blessed by the generosity of our parishioners who make this outreach possible. Your collective food and generous financial contributions enabled us to assist 1100+ individuals this past year throughout the greater Champaign county this fiscal year. Thank you to all those parishioners whose financial support and various staple items made this possible! We want to also express our special thanks to the students at Holy Cross, St. Matthew and St Thomas More for all the thought and efforts they put into their respective canned food drives, special events, and gift bags they provided throughout the year on behalf of those in need! Please know that you have our deepest appreciation for all your thoughtfulness and caring efforts!

Please continue your support and keep the members of St Vincent de Paul Society and those they help in your prayers. Our donation poor boxes are located in the vestibule of the Church, and during the months of November / December we would greatly appreciate donations of boxed cereals / canned (or plastic bottles of spaghetti sauce or soups as well as personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, hair soaps, or deodorant sticks.

Last but certainly not least, please also note that we are actively seeking additional volunteer members to grow our SVDP team. We currently meet twice a month on Saturday morning (9–10 a.m.) to provide "drive through" food pantry assistance to those in need within our local community. Should you wish additional information either to join us or to further inquire about the assistance we offer, please feel free to contact the parish office or reach out to Julie Franklin, SVDP President @ (309) 826-5370.

" . . . For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. . . " ~ Matthew 25: 34-46

Pro-Life and Good Catholic Happenings!

A Word from Joy

Furniture:

We need: 3 twin box springs, a couch, and chairs to seat 6. We have a table!

Financial Assistance (and more) to Families:

We are doing our October ordering and deliveries. We are helping a family with clothes for their youngster.

NEW: For a single mom of 4: we are providing the last \$600 needed to buy a car and we are putting \$ toward the title and plates.

NEW: For a new foster mom: we bought a car seat, stroller and baby items.

NEW: We have two requests:

-- Funeral expense help for a family dealing with an untimely death of a 39-year-old with no will or life insurance.

-- For a hairdresser with no medical leave for help for Christmas and rent help as she recovers from her end-of November surgery.

Thank You notes:

We received lovely Thank You notes from Alexis, a single mother of 4:

"Our family would like to give you a HUGE THANK YOU! For all of your help and prayers during these trying times for me and my family. We are very grateful: we appreciate you guys so much!

From the bottom of my heart THANK YOU! I'm so grateful to have met Joy. Words cannot express how much I appreciate you! I am forever grateful. Thank you! You give me hope! May God bless you all!

With love, Alexis and family"

Pro-Life Billboards:

Our small but effective pro-life billboards are being erected in the East-Central Illinois area. We have other areas of the state interested. These billboards are erected on privately-owned land or church properties – all labor costs are donated, and the only cost to erect them are for materials! Please pray for their continued success!

Pro-Life Support: We need someone to fashion a monthly newsletter from my weekly bulletin emails. If you want to assist, please contact Joy at 217 840-0322!

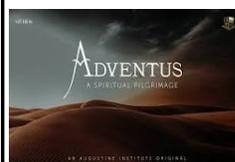
FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND.



ADVENT

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas," or at least that's the assumption based on that familiar holiday song. But what does

that look like at your house? Most of us anticipate the great sales at the mall on the day after Thanksgiving, string lights on the outside of our house, and decorating the inside of our homes. But how exactly are we preparing our hearts for the greatest gift we've ever been given? Through an exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus, this Advent study offers an opportunity to experience the joy of the true meaning of Christmas.



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.

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

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.