

Second Sunday of Advent

“It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: “A voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’”

Matthew 3:3



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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 8, 2024

© Diocesan

Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Eucharistic Revival



MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT

Sunday, December 8 – Have you worked toward accomplishing your spiritual goal for Advent? Is there anything else you can be doing on a spiritual level to prepare for the coming of Christ? Take the time now to write down what else you should be doing to prepare for the coming of our Lord.

Monday, December 9 – “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” Zachary doubted and was struck dumb. How often do we doubt the word of God? How often do we question our faith? Let us pray for trust and faith this Christmas season so that we are not blinded by doubt but instead enlightened by the grace of God to accept His will at all times.

Tuesday, December 10 – “How have I deserved that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” Elizabeth knew, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, that Mary was the mother of God. She realized that God came to her through Mary. Do you realize that God comes to you through other people? Holy people? Do you realize that you have the opportunity to bring God to other people by your loving example and assistance?

Wednesday, December 11 – “He who is mighty has done great things for me.” How often do we “take credit” for something that we do? Always? We think we are great because of our abilities and achievements. When someone compliments us on something we have done, we should take the time to pray silently, He who is mighty has done great things for me. Give credit where credit is due and you will be one step closer to the true meaning of Christmas.

Thursday, December 12 – “The babe in my womb leapt for joy.” How was it that Elizabeth’s son, John the Baptist, leapt in his mother’s womb at the approach of the Christ child? Was Elizabeth’s unborn son worthy of life? Yes, he was a precious new life who was an intricate part of God’s grand design, just as every unborn life is an intricate part of God’s grand design. Are you willing to remember all the unborn children in your daily prayers during Advent? The Christ child would expect you to.

Friday, December 13 – “Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months.” All Mary needed to know was that her elderly cousin was in need of assistance and she was there to help. Are you willing to make a special effort this Christmas season to show love for an elderly person? During Advent, make an effort to visit an elderly relative or a “stranger” at a nursing home. You may see Christ in the person whom you visit.

Saturday, December 14 – “There was no room.” Now what? No room in the inn? Why is it that we always seem to have these monumental problems? Was that Mary and Joseph’s reaction? Were they faced with a “problem” or an “act of Providence”? They were faced with an act of Providence — a situation that God allowed them to go through in order to bring them closer to Him. Isn’t that what our problems are, acts of Providence that are intended by God to bring us closer to Him? Next time you have a problem, take advantage of the problem and use it as an opportunity to grow closer to God.

<https://adoration.com/meditations-for-advent/>



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12

PASTORAL STAFF SERVING HOLY CROSS

Msgr. Brian Brownsey
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, 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.

Second 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. 14 Lector: Tim Spila EMHC: John Bingaman, Patty Bingaman Servers: Emma Lwao, Ethan Weldy
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Dec. 15 Lector: Sue Berndt EMHC: Lynette Barham, Ray Tucker Servers: Trevor Tucker, McKenna Tucker
10:00 a.m.	Lector: Michael Roedelbronn EMHC: John Dixon, Pat Dixon, Bonita Higgerson, Jay Ehlman Servers: Ben Summers, Lincoln Wood
4:00 p.m.	Lector: Mary Linnenburger EMHC: Jim Linnenburger Servers: James Linnenburger, Lydia Durdan



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 9

7:00 a.m. Hannah Breer

Tuesday, December 10

7:00 a.m. For Larry & Patricia Engles & Family

Wednesday, December 11

6:00 p.m. Tricia Hare

Thursday, December 12

7:00 a.m. Mary Sue Shay

Friday, December 13

8:15 a.m. William & Beverly Lynch

Saturday, December 14

5:30 p.m. Leo Dhom

Sunday, December 15

8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners

10:00 a.m. Charles Leahy

4:00 p.m. Carol Breen

VICARIATE PENANCE SERVICE on December 18th

St. Matthew Church at 7:00 p.m.
1303 Lincolnshire Rd in Champaign, IL



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 15th** 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.

All proceeds will go to charity.



Senior Luncheon

If you are 55 or older, Join us for good food, good friends, and fun at the Senior Luncheon Thursday, **December 12th 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!

Thank you to all who participated in the **SWANN Special Care Christmas Wish List** and the **Catholic Charities Giving Tree** projects!! As always, Holy Cross has come through by providing gifts to those with special needs and those families in need to make a difference this Christmas season.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

~ Always Home, Always Family ~



Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, Altar Servers:

Please go to the sacristy to sign up; call or email the Parish Office

to help out during Christmas.

For those sensitive to incense: Please note that it will be used at the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass.

Donations to the Flower Fund are welcome now for Christmas. The names of those you wish to remember in honor or memorial will be listed in the bulletin.

Free Advent Meditation Booklets from *The Word Among Us* are available at the back of the church.



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

Encounter Night: Our next Encounter Night will be December 11th after the 6:00 p.m. Mass. Please join us!



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS MEETING

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Champaign County #1070 will be meeting on **Thursday, December 12th at 5:30 p.m.** at Holy Cross Parish Center – 405 W. Clark St. in Champaign.

All Catholic women 18 and older are invited to join us. The Court has been active in helping Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Craft Sale for the Children of Hope and Faith, 40 Days for Life, Catholic Education scholarships and many other worthy causes.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheri Rakers, Regent at 217/417-6041 or crakers@comcast.net. (There will be no January meeting)

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.

Donations have been made in the memory of Harold, Joann, Charles, and Steve Heidbreder; Kevin Hodge; Hettinger, Painter and Wagner Families; and Frank Hartman



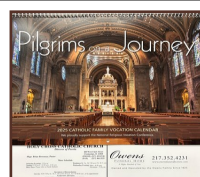
ST. MARY'S CEMETERY DONATIONS

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Champaign is asking for donations to help cover lawn mowing and general maintenance of the cemetery for 2025. All donations are appreciated and no donation is too small!

Please send your donation to:
St. Mary's Cemetery, care of
St. Mary's Catholic Church
612 E. Park St,
Champaign, IL 61820.



For additional information, please contact Denny Santarelli at dennysantarelli2@gmail.com or 217-778-0575.



2025 CALENDARS are available at all exits of the church, as well as in the Parish Office. Many thanks to Owens Funeral Home for providing us with complementary calendars every year!

Collections

Offering for November 23rd/24th.....	\$7,685.75
Bishop's Seminarian Appeal.....	\$580.00
Cath. Campaign for Human Development.....	\$1,406.00
Offering for November 30/December 1st.....	\$8,204.17
School Tuition Assistance.....	\$930.00



Simbang Gabi: a Filipino Christmas tradition, is a series of novena masses in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Simbang Gabi, literally "going to mass in the evening," is also known as Misa de Aguinaldo or mass at dawn.

It is a practice that began during the early years of Christianity in the Philippines

some four hundred years ago and is still widely practiced throughout the country. Filipino immigrants in the United States continue to uphold this tradition as well.

Originally, the Simbang Gabi was held at around 4:00 am to accommodate farmers before they go to the fields. In recent years, however, Simbang Gabi masses in the Philippines have been held both in the morning and in the evening, the latter to accommodate the volume of churchgoers and urban life. Filipino immigrants in the United States have been observing evening masses since Catholic churches are still closed at dawn.

The Filipino community of East Central Illinois (Champaign, Urbana, Mahomet, & Danville) has celebrated Simbang Gabi since 2005. This year's Simbang Gabi masses start **December 15th and end on the 23rd**. Please refer to the schedule below for location and time. In the Philippines, it is typically a common practice after the Simbang Gabi masses for churchgoers to have a fellowship & share light snacks. We continue this tradition here in East Central Illinois. Everyone is invited to attend not only the mass, but also to partake of the light snack brought by the mass sponsors.

Simbang Gabi Novena Mass Schedule

Dec. 15, Sunday	5:30 p.m.	St. Matthew (Community Mass - No Fellowship after Mass)
Dec. 16, Monday	7:00 p.m.	St Patrick
Dec. 17, Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Our Lady of the Lake
Dec. 18, Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Holy Cross (Community Mass)
Dec. 19, Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Holy Cross
Dec. 20, Friday	7:00 p.m.	St. Matthew
Dec. 21, Saturday	5:30 p.m.	St. Matthew (Community Mass)
Dec. 22, Sunday	7:00 p.m.	St. Matthew (Community Mass)
Dec. 23, Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Holy Cross

Holy Cross - 405 W. Clark St., Champaign
St. Matthew - 1303 Lincolnshire Dr., Champaign
St. Patrick - 708 W. Main St., Urbana
Our Lady of the Lake - 501 W. State St., Mahomet

For further information, please contact:
Evelyn Ondevilla (217) 841-9710 or Marvin Brigoli (217) 721-4245



PRO-LIFE DISCUSSION GROUP. Every 3rd Monday of the month at 3:30 p.m. We will be in the Holy Cross mezzanine (second floor of the Parish Center), 405 W. Clark St. We are currently unpacking Gender Ideology **Next meeting:** Dec. 16th at 3:30 p.m.

Please contact Joy at: joypace@msn.com or (217) 840-0322 for more info. Pro-Life affects more than just abortion – and living a pro-life life helps inform and guide every decision. We truly believe every human must be treated fairly and with dignity, simply because they are human.



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

STM Madrigal Dinner. Enter into the Advent and Christmas Season with your STM Madrigals! This beautiful holiday themed evening of revelry, food and song is sure to have you in the Christmas Spirit! Join our kingdom as we come together for an evening of soaring melodies, raucous comedy, and most importantly the story of the baby born in the manger. Two different opportunities this year to join us! A dessert-only option for those who are in for more of a concert and our traditional meal shows! Tickets for Thursday are General Admission, and for our Friday and Saturday shows you will have an assigned table. Tickets are on sale now at <https://stmusicanddrama.ludus.com/index.php>. For more information, contact the Music and Drama Department at mad@hs-stm.org.

Parent Wine & Wisdom. Thursday, December 12, 2024, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (6:30 p.m. Fellowship Begins, 7:00 p.m. Talk Begins) at The High School of Saint Thomas More, 3901 N Mattis Ave., Champaign. Adults, please join us for fellowship, formation, wine, and snacks with Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck and his parents, Kim and Mike. Did you know that Fr. Chase was a professional soccer player before becoming a priest? How did he stay faithful while traveling the world? Come hear Fr. Chase and his parents speak about balancing a serious athletic life with a serious spiritual life.

Save the Date! Join us Saturday, February 8th, 2025 for our 25th Jubilee Gala at Pear Tree Estate. We invite you to an evening of elegance, celebration, feasting, and mirth! Help celebrate 25 years of STM and our amazing Saber family. The event will benefit two upgrades to our school: the HVAC control panel and our sound and lighting systems for our cafetorium. More information is coming soon!

Shadow Visit Days for 7th and 8th Graders: Do you have a 7th or 8th grader interested in attending the High School of St. Thomas More? Sign them up for a Shadow Visit Day! Generally, on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday of each month, shadow visits give prospective students 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 on the menu on the homepage. Questions? Email Rachael McMillan at admissions@hs-stm.org for more information.

Admissions Application Open for 2024-2025. STM is accepting admissions applications for the next 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. Apply by December 1, 2024 and receive 5% off tuition for your first year. We hope and pray to welcome you and your child to the Saber family!

Rome Odunze Youth Football Camp at STM! Star Chicago Bears Wide Receiver Rome Odunze will be having a youth football camp for ages 6-16 here at STM on July 12th, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. For more information, go to: <https://www.flexworksports.com/camps-1/rome-odunze-champaign%2C-il>

STM Job Opportunities: STM is currently seeking applications for a Bus Driver. If interested, email Sr. M. Bridget at srbridget@hs-stm.org, Mr. Corapi at acorapi@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:

Scripture is full of commands for us to praise and give thanks to our Lord, so it really does matter. What a delight it should be for us to thank him.

For those around us who don't follow Christ will enjoy the four-day weekend as they too gather with friends and family to express gratitude to one another—and perhaps to thank Mother Nature for the change of weather and the Man Upstairs for letting them live another year free of disaster. But we, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, can do much more than that. We are profoundly grateful to our Creator for creating, loving, saving, and sustaining us to the praise of his great glory.

Every single breath we draw is a gift from our God. That simple and profound truth is too often lost on us. We are surrounded by a contemporary culture where entitlement rules. People are convinced they deserve to be happy, healthy, rich, and empowered. Self-absorption creeps in and takes root.

More than anything else, we are most thankful for the inexpressible gift of grace in the salvation that we have in Christ alone.

The staff at Holy Cross School hope you had a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving filled with joy and grace.

WE ARE HOLY CROSS!

Holy Cross School Job Opportunities:
 Middle School Religion Teacher for 2nd semester

May our schools continue to be beacons of light which enable all to live the Gospel message – 'Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.'
 (John 13:34)



WINTER CARNIVAL WITH SANTA AT STM

Calling all families to a fun morning of games, crafts, a Christmas Cookie Walk, face painting, photos with Santa and more on **Sat., Dec. 14 from 9 – 11 a.m.** at the High School of St. Thomas More, 3901 N. Mattis Ave. in Champaign.

The cost is \$30 per family and includes unlimited games as well as coffee, donuts and light refreshments. Register online at <https://forms.gle/K4YdtTZraah44CHx5> and pay by Venmo or check. Proceeds benefit STM Parent Association. For more information contact pa@hs-stm.org. See you there!

FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND.



FORMED NOW! THE MEANING OF THE PRIESTHOOD TODAY

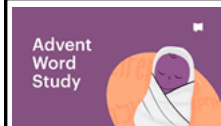
(Recorded Live on April 21, 2020)

For more content on the priesthood, check out "A Priest is Not His Own" by Archbishop Fulton Sheen



THE JESUS STORIES

Created to help children apply the lessons found in the parables of Jesus, each 10 minute episode includes a story situation that children today can relate to, a parable, and a thought-provoking way to apply it.



ADVENT: WORD STUDIES THE BIBLE PROJECT

Catholics have long observed the Advent season by meditating on peace, hope, joy, and love. Study these rich biblical words with the Bible Project's Advent series. The Bible Project is a nonprofit group dedicated to spreading the Word of God. Through dynamic and engaging videos, they aim to present the story of the Bible as a unified whole leading to and culminating in Jesus Christ. View all of the Bible Project here.

Our Parish has a FORMED subscription. To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

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

Pro-Life and Good Catholic Happenings!

Delivery: We delivered the table with 5 chairs, a computer desk, coffee table, end tables and lamps/vacuum and more to a family!

New: We just delivered – a queen and a twin bed, with linens! Thank you!

We have newly donated wooden table and chairs and a full-sized bed. We have homes for those already and will arrange a delivery!

BIG thanks to August, Rich and Rich who moved an adjustable bed, 2 dressers, a loveseat, 2 end tables, a desk and chair set, makeup mirror and matching chair, a rocking chair and cleaning and some kitchen items.

God bless you for your hard work!

THANK YOU MOVING CREW and DONORS!

We need more movers, who will only be called when needed. Contact joy!

We have offers of other furniture and we are trying to make the match with our other families! Thank you for your generosity! **We Still Need:** 2 twin beds.

Financial needs: we are looking to raise \$ for:

- A parish family that has less working hours and that is making paying bills difficult
- A single mom of 4 who is several months behind on her garbage collection bill
- A single mom always on the edge of financial difficulty
- Looking ahead to help pay for the Spring room and board for a college freshman, Dashaun, who is the first in his family to attend a 4-year school. His mom is a single mother of 4, a CNA and cannot afford the \$1,600 per semester bill for room and board.

Contact: Joy Pace 217 840-0322 or joypace@msn.com

Save the Date: **Ecumenical Memorial Pro-Life Prayer Vigil**

January 22, 2025, 7:00 p.m. at Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, 2010 3 Hierarchs Ct, Champaign, IL 61820



Featuring speaker Hope Miller.

Director of Youth Outreach, Pro-Life Action League

We honor and pray for all those lives lost and affected by abortion. Join us for scripture readings, song, rose and candle pre-session, testimony and fellowship with Catholic, Protestant and Greek Orthodox Churches and individuals.

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, Fotzler & LoGrasso 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 & 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
Hershberger & 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
Theresa Brya

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.
Dan Crawmer