

Peace

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED...

PRINCE OF PEACE.

ISAIAH 9:6

December 10, 2023



Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Eucharistic Revival



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

Connected to the Power Source.



Fulton Sheen used to say the hour of power drives from our hearts any spiritual mediocrity, laziness, indifference, and fear. The life of love in the Eucharistic heart of Jesus will see our own hearts on fire with ardent love for him.

Then we will go with courage and conviction to bring the whole world to Jesus. Then will Jesus's desire come closer to fulfillment.

"I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!" (Luke 12:49).



Jesus told St. Faustina that there are two thrones of his mercy in the world: the tabernacle and the confessional. Jesus in the Eucharist sustains us in our daily lives and also sustains our work of evangelization by equipping us with the power of the Holy Spirit. Just as a power tool disconnected from its power source won't work, so the Catholic disconnected from the Eucharistic Lord becomes ineffective. Countless demands and activities of all sorts sweep us along so that we easily become disconnected from the Lord. He will daily recharge the batteries of our life and ministry during the hour of power. As we pray before the tabernacle and maintain our living relationship with Jesus, we will find ourselves abundantly blessed and better able to communicate God's mercy to a broken world.

-Fr. Andrew Apostoli, C. F.R.



A Thought for reflection: Two sacraments, penance and the Eucharist, connect us to God's mercy. This mercy is not just for us, but for all the world. The season of Advent is an excellent time to go to confession. Have you been recently? If not, what is holding you back?

Oh Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament, I know that I have sinned and wounded my relationship with you and with others. Have mercy on me, and forgive my sins. Let me be a sign of your love to all that I meet, as I experience your merciful love here in your holy presence.

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!



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.

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. 16 Lector: Dave Kristovich EMHC: No Ministers Servers: Lydia Durdan, Brody Oliveira
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Dec. 17 Lector: Barry Dickerson EMHC: No Ministers Servers: Nicolette Burton, Landen Douglas
10:00 a.m.	Lector: Joe Mefford EMHC: John Dixon, Pat Dixon Servers: Ben Summers, Ursula Tembo, Nolan Kiser
4:00 p.m.	Lector: Mary Linnenburger EMHC: Jim Linnenburger Servers: Kristina Maloney, James Linnenburger



Bereaved Parents of the USA - The Champaign-Urbana chapter will be meeting at 3:30 p.m. **today, 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.

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 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; and Dolores and Wayne Wade and John and Clara Rakers; and Cochrane and O'Brien Families.

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.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 11

7:00 a.m. Ralph McGinnis

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 a.m. Michael Swart

Wednesday, December 13

6:00 p.m. David Smith

Thursday, December 14

7:00 a.m. People who are seeking their Vocations

Friday, December 15

8:15 a.m. Deacon Ed Ulbrich

Saturday, December 16

5:30 p.m. In honor of Dave and Penny Devall's 50th Anniversary

Sunday, December 17

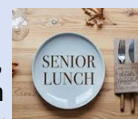
8:00 a.m. Jennifer Deponai

10:00 a.m. Leo Dhom

4:00 p.m. For the Parishioners

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!



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 **today, 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.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS FOR HOLY CROSS CHURCH

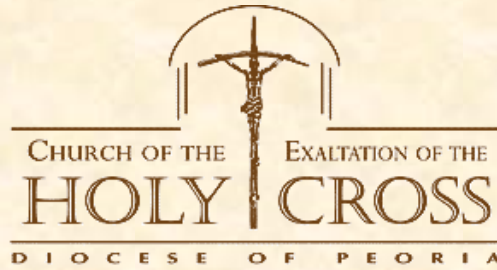
CHURCH INCOME	FISCAL YEAR <u>2022/23</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2021/22</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2020/21</u>	
Sunday & Holy Day Collections	634,727	587,401	555,391	
Gifts/Donations for the Church	64,340	68,408	85,087	
ADA Rebate	—	—	—	
Development Fund Collec. Used for Church	93,629	54,143	20,224	
Tuition Assist. Collections & Donations	31,408	29,396	35,602	
Federal Tax Reimbursement - COVID - Parish	32,804	97,815	--	Employee Retention Credit
Other Revenue (Rent, Interest, Fees)	53,648	22,549	101,516	Includes PPP Loan
TOTAL REVENUE	910,557	859,711	797,820	
CHURCH EXPENSES				
Church Payroll & Benefits	369,190	357,234	331,120	
Church Operating Expenses	144,116	137,877	120,683	
Repairs & Improvements	162,505	86,612	59,293	
STM High School Assessment	56,489	47,359	53,838	
STM Tuition Assistance Expense	21,325	22,932	11,842	
HC Tuition Assistance Expense	49,538	57,958	48,471	
ADA Shortfall	19,618	7,577	—	
Church Support for Holy Cross School	359,922	172,680	128,298	Includes PPP Loan
Federal Tax Reimbursement - COVID - School	(168,543)	(452,970)	--	Employee Retention Credit
Other Expenses	30,398	22,775	6,199	
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,044,557	460,088	759,744	
NET INCOME/ (Loss)	(134,000.13)	399,623.80	38,075.86	

Note: Please read the Holy Cross Finance Committee's letter explaining Parish finances on next page.

Note: A detailed version of our annual financial statement is available for your review in the Parish Office. If you would like to examine it, please call the office at 217-352-8748 to schedule a visit.

DIOCESAN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

Aid to Churches in Eastern Europe	\$2,027.50	Extra Parish Collection 2022/23	
Catholic Relief Services	\$1,548.30		
The Holy Land	\$1,946.00	Missionary Appeal, Tanzania	\$8,658.02
Peter's Pence—Holy Father	\$340.00	Well Project (Pork Chop Dinner)	\$1,571.07
Mission Sunday	\$2,428.00		
Campaign for Human Development	\$1,172.00		
Bishop's Seminarian Appeal	\$1,236.00		
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$2,510.00		
Total	\$13,207.80		



Holy Cross Annual Financial Statement Letter – 2023

We know that scripture speaks to us in our modern times as much as it has throughout history. At recent weekend Masses we heard from Proverbs that the value of a wife “is far beyond pearls” and that “her works praise her”. We know that the Church is the bride of Christ. Additionally, the exhortation of Paul to the Thessalonians was to “let us not sleep”, but to “stay alert and sober.” Finally, we heard in the Gospel the parable of the talents and the familiar “for to everyone who has, more will be given.” The beautiful homily we preached focused on the theme of stewardship of the gifts with which we have been entrusted.

In our letter to the parish last year, we highlighted many of the windfall benefits that had come to Holy Cross as part of the pandemic relief from government sources. Those programs have ended, and so we must step up to an ever-higher standard of stewardship for the financial well-being and future of Holy Cross. It is a calling to be “alert and sober”. We know that while the church and school have been hit hard by economic realities, so too have our families. As you will note, we have seen an increase in giving year-over-year, for which our gratitude runs deep. However, because expenses have increased at an even higher rate, a gap exists in our bottom line, and it is one which must be addressed. We are working hard to reduce or maintain expenses and continue to search out sources of additional revenue from cost saving programs and grants.

What will stand out this year is the amount spent to support the school. This is not just a school family issue, but a parish issue. If we are going to form our children in spiritual and intellectual truths, and provide for the future of the faith, Catholic education must be central to our mission. In order to have excellent teachers who can earn a fare living which is still below what they could make in the public school system, and to have a fee structure that affords more students the opportunity to attend, we must manage salaries and tuition as equitably as possible.

Ultimately, the leadership of the school is working hard to build up enrollment, but we know that with the sunset of the Invest in Kids Act, many families will see an important source of tuition assistance dry up. Holy Cross has had a supplemental Tuition Assistance Program to cover some shortfalls from the Empower and Spalding Scholarships. While not the same tax benefit as Empower, this is still a charitable contribution that would be a way to lend an important financial hand to students.

As stressed last year, with parish infrastructure comes deferred and emergency maintenance that must be addressed for safety and cost efficiency since future costs will only escalate with inflation. Specific projects, while mostly funded through government COVID grants, have tapped into some of our diocesan held reserves. If parishioners found it within their ability to make special gifts, for an effort like our west wall school windows, it could make a significant impact on our financial health for the current fiscal year and is again a charitable and deductible gift. Other projects on the immediate horizon that could be “adopted” with special gifts are maintenance of the parking lot and exterior of the parish center. While these may not seem like “wow” projects, if they fall too far into disrepair the expenses could be an even more substantial blow to the budget.

Please know that if you have particular concerns or ideas and would like to talk to a member of the Finance Committee, reach out to us (check your directory!) or contact the parish office and we can set a time to meet. If you have thought about Holy Cross as part of your estate plan, this too is an incredible way to impact the future of the parish. You can visit with Stephanie Rank if you have questions. In addition to monetary support, please continue to pray fervently for our parish. As we see the Growing Disciples plan evolve, it is clear we are fortunate and blessed to be part of this wonderful community. Lastly, if you know of someone who may have stepped away from Holy Cross during the pandemic, a personal outreach may be just the thing to get them to come back because we are “Always Home, Always Family.”

One final scripture from Luke for us all to consider as we discern what we might be called to do in our support of that home, the Church, the bride of Christ—“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

Thank you, and God bless.

Holy Cross Parish Finance Committee.



SIMBANG GABI 2023

Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition, is a series of novena Masses in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Please join us in celebrating the Simbang Gabi novena Masses in our local churches listed below. Masses will be in English with some Tagalog songs. Everybody is invited to attend.

Simbang Gabi Novena Mass Schedule

Dec. 15, Friday	7:00 p.m.	Holy Cross
Dec. 16, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	St Patrick (Community Mass)
Dec. 17, Sunday	5:30 p.m.	St. Matthew (Community Mass)
Dec. 18, Monday	7:00 p.m.	St. Matthew
Dec. 19, Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Chapel
Dec. 20, Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Holy Cross (Community Mass)
Dec. 21, Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Our Lady of the Lake
Dec. 22, Friday	7:00 p.m.	St. Patrick
Dec. 23, Saturday	5:30 p.m.	St. Matthew (Community Mass)

St. John's Chapel - 604 E. Armory Ave., Champaign
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)



DINE TO DONATE

Support Catholic Charities of Champaign and Piatt Counties on Tuesday, Dec. 12th, at Texas Roadhouse in Champaign. They will donate 10% of total food purchases to Catholic Charities.

Check the Dec. 3rd and 10th "Holy Cross Happenings" (in your email) for more information and to print the flyer to present to Texas Roadhouse.



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 2024. 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.



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?



THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES GIVING TREE PROJECT

Thank you to all who participated in the "Giving Tree Project" to make Christmas brighter for families in need. Thank you so much for your support!

~Swann Special Care Center Gifts



Thank you to all who participated in the SWANN Center Christmas Wish List! Your generosity will help the residents of SWANN Care Center have a Merry Christmas!



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.