



*greg taylor*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Holy Cross Confirmation  
December 7, 2024

**Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**December 15, 2024**



## Eucharistic Revival



### MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT



**Sunday, December 15** – Set aside the anxieties, worries, and tensions that come along with the materialistic views of Christmas. Write down what you can do to serve the spiritual needs of your family during the next ten days.

**Monday, December 16** – “She brought forth her firstborn son.” Mary and Joseph were patient and understanding with their son, Jesus. How can you be more patient, understanding, and loving with your own children during this Christmas season?

**Tuesday, December 17** – “She wrapped him in swaddling clothes.” He renounced all earthly possessions from the day He was born. He could have chosen to be born in a palace with fine clothing and other earthly possessions. Instead, He came to this Earth in humility and left the Earth in humility. Would you be willing to give up your earthly possessions to follow in Christ’s footsteps? Give up one thing today that you desire to have and offer your sacrifice up as a prayer.

**Wednesday, December 18** – “She laid him in a manger.” Why would God preordain that His son be laid in a manger? Is there a message for us in this simple act of humility? “Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.” Are you meek? Are you humble of heart? Learn from the Christ child, who was willing to be placed in a manger.

**Thursday, December 19** – “She laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” God can be loved anywhere — in a cave, a car, an office — anywhere. Try to make an act of love in a different place every day — in your car, in your office, in your kitchen, in the bathroom of your house. Make room for the Christ child in your heart.

**Friday, December 20** – “I bring you good news! ... an infant ... lying in a manger.” Can you “tell a book by its cover?” What would you think if you saw a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, in a cave, surrounded by animals? Are you willing to look for Jesus in everyone you meet? Are you willing to look beyond the “cover” and accept people as they are?

**Saturday, December 21** – “We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” The three kings had everything money could buy. But they were not content. Something was missing — the Christ child. Is there something missing in your life? If so, seek out the Christ child and you will find true happiness.

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



### 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

*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](mailto:office@holycrosscatholic.org)  
website: [www.holycrosscatholic.org](http://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.

# Third 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

<b>Saturday</b> 5:30 p.m.	<b>Dec. 21</b> Lector: Dave Kristovich EMHC: Kathy Murray, Sharon Kristovich, Peg Swanson Servers: Tom Murray, Brody Oliveira
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 22</b> Lector: Jay Geistlinger EMHC: Sue Berndt, Barry Dickerson Servers: Nicolette Burton, Landen Douglas
10:00 a.m.	Lector: Joe Mefford EMHC: Ben Laws, Jay Ehlman, Jessica McMahon, Brooke McMahon Servers: Ben Summers, Camille Christhilf
4:00 p.m.	Lector: Ed Seebauer EMHC: Katrina Covello Servers: Lucy Rank, Sophie Rank



This little baby is born again  
Been reborn in the hearts of men  
Every Christmas, this child is born again!



### HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



#### Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m.

**Midnight Mass - 12:00 a.m.**

Music at 11:30 p.m.

#### Christmas Day

9:00 a.m.

#### **VICARIATE PENANCE SERVICE:**

To prepare for Christmas, there will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of a parish Penitential Service. Several priests will gather to celebrate the Lord's forgiveness.

Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. at  
St. Matthew Church 1303 Lincolnshire Dr - Champaign



### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### **Monday, December 16**

7:00 a.m.

Living & Deceased Members of Catholic Daughters of Illinois

#### **Tuesday, December 17**

7:00 a.m.

Jennifer Deponai

#### **Wednesday, December 18**

6:00 p.m.

Alice McDuffee

#### **Thursday, December 19**

7:00 a.m.

Joe, Ruth & Pat Doyle

#### **Friday, December 20**

8:15 a.m.

Santiago Gonzalez

#### **Saturday, December 21**

5:30 p.m.

Deacon Ed Ulbrich

#### **Sunday, December 22**

8:00 a.m.

For the Parishioners

10:00 a.m.

Mary Elizabeth Warner

4:00 p.m.

Carol Breen

### FAITHFUL DEPARTED



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Mary Ann Volker. May her soul and those of all the Faithful Departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



*Thank You!*

Many thanks to Troop 9 and the Girl Scouts for the gift of an AED (Automated Defibrillator) for the Great Hall. When they approached me about giving the gift I was surprised to learn that we didn't already have even one, either in the Great Hall or the Church. This modest gift will undoubtedly save a life or two over the course of its lifetime. If you are looking for Christmas gift ideas for your Church, another one for the Church vestibule would be very much appreciated—both by your Church community and undoubtedly one day by the family member who will be rescued with it.



### FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Each Friday, after the 8:15 a.m. Mass until 2:30 p.m., Jesus holds a special open house in our beautiful church. He invites us to spend quiet time with Him to give thanks for blessings received and to tell Him about our pressing concerns.

Come visit Jesus. He would so love your company!

The Parish Office will be closed:  
Tuesday, December 24th through Thursday, December 26th. The office will reopen Friday, December 27th.

The Parish Office will be closed:  
Tuesday, December 31st through Thursday, January 2nd. The office will reopen Friday, January 3rd.

**Blessings to all during this Christmas Season!**



### 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



### 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.

### 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.



### Do you see someone at Mass you don't recognize?

Go up and say hello. You may just be the one who welcomes this new member into our Parish Family.



### 2024 CONFIRMANDI

Congratulations to those who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, December 7th. May God's grace fill their lives!

Kendall Baumann	Kadair Ouedraogo
Mary Ella Blakeman	Jordyn Reed
Sophia Decker	Gian Rubico
Melany DeJesus	Rihana Samu
Sam Easton	Lillyana Schmidt
Teddy Ghiotto	Paige Smalley
Joseph Haggin	Sarah Surratt
Will Herges	Orsela Tembo
Jack Lamkin	Ursula Tembo
Olivia LeFaivre	Ethan Weldy
James Linnenburger	Mark Elliott Woolwine
Emma Lwao	McKenzie Yacko

### CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

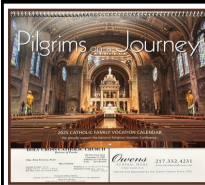
December is fast approaching, and it's not too early to contribute to the flower fund to pay for this year's poinsettia order for the church's Christmas decorations. You may drop your donation in the collection basket in an envelope marked "flower fund" or bring it to the office.



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; Frank Hartman; Finn Oliveira; Rein and Cobb Families; and William and Beverly Lynch.

Thank you in advance for your generosity



**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 December 7th/8th.....	\$11,076.00
Development Fund.....	\$1,050.00
Retirement Fund for Religious.....	\$848.00

Thank you very much!



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

**Admissions Application Open for 2024-2025.** STM is accepting admissions applications for the next school year. Go to [www.hs-stm.org](http://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](mailto: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!

**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](http://hs-stm.org) and click the "Visit" button on the menu on the homepage. Questions? Email Rachael McMillan at [admissions@hs-stm.org](mailto:admissions@hs-stm.org) for more information.

**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 [srmbridget@hs-stm.org](mailto:srmbridget@hs-stm.org), Mr. Corapi at [acorapi@hs-stm.org](mailto:acorapi@hs-stm.org) and John Delaney, Athletic Director at [jdelaney@hs-stm.org](mailto:jdelaney@hs-stm.org).



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

### From the Desk of Principal Greg Koerner:

When fall has given way to winter, and snow covers the ground, you know Christmas will soon be here. When lights twinkle from house to house, you know Christmas will soon be near. When you see decorated Christmas trees everywhere you look, you know Christmas will soon be here.

Christmas is one of the most important Catholic and cultural holidays of the year, but what is the true meaning of Christmas?

Christmas is a time of spiritual reflection on the important foundations of the Catholic faith. It's a celebration. It's when Catholics celebrate God's love for the world through the birth of the Christ child: Jesus.

For Catholics, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Savior, Jesus Christ. We know that through belief in Christ we are daughters and sons of God.

So, as we drive around looking at all the twinkle lights, remember that this is a chance to truly take in the wonder and awe of Jesus.

The school staff want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**WE ARE HOLY CROSS!**

*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)

### 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.



### 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](mailto:dennysantarelli2@gmail.com) or 217-778-0575.



### PRO-LIFE DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday December 16th at 3:30 p.m.

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. in Champaign.

For more information, please contact Joy at: [joypace@msn.com](mailto:joypace@msn.com) or (217) 840-0322


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.



**MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS  
THIS ADVENT, LEARN TO PRAY!  
CHRIS STEFANICK SHOW**

**PRAYING WELL** Advent just like John the Baptist: preparing the way for the Lord! This episode is a little different in that he didn't have any guests, but he shares practical tips to prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth at Christmas.

In this episode, we're talking about prayer. What does it look like to pray? How do we pray well? What do we do with our hands?! Chris walks us through it all. Let's dive in together.



**THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:  
BEHOLD WITH SR. MIRIAM JAMES**

Let the Holy Family be your light through Advent as you receive the healing power of Christ.

In this beautiful guided video series, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT—author of the bestselling book *Restore*, and co-host of the *Abiding Together* Podcast — walks with you as you explore familial wounds with the help of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Each week of Behold will focus on a different theme that you can connect to your life in a practical way:

**Week 1:** Motherhood—Receive Mary as your mother and let her tender love soften your heart toward your earthly mother;

**Week 2:** Fatherhood—Adopt Joseph as your father and embrace his loving strength as you seek healing in your relationship with your own father;

**Week 3:** Childhood—Become childlike with Jesus and remember the core of who you are as you release your inner joy and playfulness; and

**Week 4:** Stable—Restore peace and unity in your family and regain hope.


**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.

**Westgate Apts**

**Pro-Life News**

**Ecumenical Memorial Pro-Life Prayer Vigil**



January 22, 2025, 7:00 p.m.  
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.

Free. Refreshments following.  
Good-will offerings gratefully accepted.

The family we have been helping now has two twin beds, so they are all set! THANK YOU to the families donating furniture and household goods to this family. THANK YOU to the moving people. Because of all of you, this family has a household that they can live in! God bless you all!

We have offers of other furniture that this family does not need – and we are trying to make the match with our other families! Thank you for your generosity

We will be arranging for the twin bed to go to a Holy Cross family. We are working with St. Matthew School to get help for 3 families

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

Financial needs: we are looking to raise \$ for: and that is

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

Want to help or know more?  
Contact Joy Pace at 217 840-0322 or [joypace@msn.com](mailto:joypace@msn.com)

**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  
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  
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 Cramer