



Holy Cross Confirmation December 2, 2023

greg taylor
PHOTOGRAPHY



Eucharistic Revival



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

Prepare to Receive Jesus

So let's ask ourselves some questions about how we can prepare ourselves to receive Communion most effectively. How can we maximize our openness to all forms of healing through this sacrament? . . .



According to St. Alphonsus Liguori, we can prepare ourselves. He tells us we can do this by being detached from creatures and by driving from our hearts everything that is not of God and for God. He emphasizes this point by telling a story from the life of St. Gertrude. St. Gertrude asked our Lord what preparation he required of her for Holy Communion. He replied, "*I only ask that you come empty of yourself to receive me*" What does this mean? It means that everything that captures our attention must be directly or indirectly related to God. If something becomes an end in itself, then it distracts us from God. For example, television might not be outrightly evil, but it certainly can become a distraction. Today especially, TV has a great potential to instilling a worldly spirit within us. St. Alphonsus recognized that a worldly spirit, in general, is always assailing us. Even though the harried, preoccupied soul may be in a state of grace and, therefore, still be God's friend, the heart can be so overtaken by a worldly spirit that there is no room to grow in divine love. We need to detach ourselves from any worldly spirit that does not have a direct relationship with God (see 1 John 3:7-10).



- Fr. John Hampsch, C.M. F.

A Thought for reflection: God's revelation to St. Gertrude was that he wanted her to be empty in order to receive him. How can you empty yourself? What obstacles keep you from receiving the Eucharist with peace and devotion?

Oh Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament: the Church grows silent as our attention is focused on Bethlehem. All is ready for your birth, and we wait in peace for your coming to us as a tiny baby. Prepare my heart for the wonder of your coming, both in the mystery of the Incarnation and in the mystery of the Eucharist.

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

MASSSES

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.

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

Saturday 5:30 p.m.	Dec. 23 Lector: Dave Kristovich EMHC: No Ministers Servers: Lydia Durdan, Brody Oliveira
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Dec. 24 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
Sunday Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m.	Lector: Dave Kristovich EMHC: Sharon Kristovich, Margie Hoss Servers: Ethan Weldy, Ungers, McMahon
Midnight	Lector: Sue Berndt EMHC: Peg Swanson, Servers: Ben Summers, Kristina Maloney
Monday Christmas Day 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 25 Lector: Tim Spila EMHC: John Deponai Servers: John Haggin, Joey Haggin, Chris Friedman



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 18

7:00 a.m. Joe, Ruth and Pat Doyle

Tuesday, December 19

7:00 a.m. Christine Kamphaus

Wednesday, December 20

6:00 p.m. Ken Murphy

Thursday, December 21

7:00 a.m. Lena Routh

Friday, December 22

8:15 a.m. Carol Bergeson

Saturday, December 23

5:30 p.m. Mary Elizabeth Warner

Sunday, December 24

8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners

10:00 a.m. Wayne and Marcella Logue

Sunday, December 24- Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Ricardo Galvan

Midnight Joseph Kupsche

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.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION 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.

Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Cross

CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND - Christmas is approaching soon and it's time to order flowers for the Church's decorations. Anyone who wants to offset the 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 in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend, please write his/her name 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; Dolores and Wayne Wade; John and Clara Rakers; Cochrane and O'Brien Families; Helen Vedder; Bingham and Cosgrove Families; Dick and Peggy Valentine, Dick and Lucille York; Barbara Leathers; Elisha Mary Robert and Catherine Swanson; Elmer and Sylvia Nicklas.



FAITHFUL DEPARTED - Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Helen Vedder. May her soul and those of all the Faithful Departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

There is NO Coffee and Donuts Dec. 24th and Dec. 31st



The Parish Office will be closed Christmas Day and Tuesday, Dec. 26th, and will open on Wednesday, Dec. 27th.

The Parish Office will close Friday, Dec. 29th through Jan. 1st. We will open on Tue., Jan. 2nd. Thank you.

Blessings to all during this Christmas Season!



2023 CONFIRMANDI

Congratulations to those who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, December 2nd.
May God's grace fill their lives!

Grace Helen Arend	Jordi Viengele Nsilu
Eireann Byard	Lara Kate Rank
Edward Manuel	Lucy Claire Rank
Campos-Del Valle	Kynnedi Schweighart
Isabella Mauritania Contreras	McKenna Diane Tucker
Faith Antonia Dean	Zora Unger
Darell Jude Feliciano	Elizabeth Anne
Alexis Josephine Hege	Withers-Sickles



MOMS' GROUP IS SEEKING CHILDCARE during their bi-monthly Wednesday morning meeting from 8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. from January to May 2024. If you are interested, please contact Lori, Sarah, or Rachel at hcmomsgroup@gmail.com.

Childcare allows the moms to concentrate on faith and fellowship without interruption, and receive a much needed break from their little ones!

"It takes a village to raise a child,
please consider joining our village!"

Collections

Offering for Dec. 2/3.	\$7,990.50
Tuition Assistance.....	\$608.00
Offering for Dec. 9/10.....	\$6,266.62
Development Fund.....	\$648.00

Thank you very much!



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.



CURSILLO WEEKEND FOR MEN

Champaign-Urbana area men! A Men's Cursillo weekend will be held Jan, 26-28, 2024 at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Urbana. What a great way to start the new year by joining other men, strengthening your faith in Christ and His Church!

Contact Greg Koerner gkoerner@ymail.com or Cathy Koerner cathkern007@gmail.com for information.



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 body 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.



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 - No Fellowship after 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 (No Fellowship after Mass)
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 (Community Mass)
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)



High School of St. Thomas More

217-352-7210

www.hs-stm.org

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.

7th & 8th Grade Student Shadow Visits: Do you have a 7th or 8th grader interested in attending STM? Sign them up for a Shadow Visit Day! Generally on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday of each month, these visits give a prospective student 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 in the menu on the homepage. Questions?

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES- DECEMBER 2023

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

www.apostleshipofprayer.org



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

From the Desk of Principal Koerner:

After weeks of waiting, we can finally say
it's the most wonderful time of the year!

May the bright lights of Christmas bring happiness
in your life and may Jesus bless you
with love, understanding and kindness!

Merry Christmas!



JOB OPENING: 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.

Donate \$50 or more to the
FIRE Foundation of Central Illinois,
between now and December 31, 2023,
and receive a Smelly Elle candle.

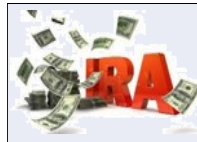
*Smelly Elle candles are locally hand-poured and
created, start to finish, by an individual with autism.*



fire
FOUNDATION
Central Illinois

GOAL: Raise \$5,000 by December 31, 2023

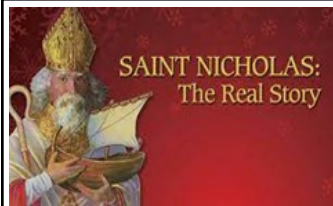
The mission of the Fire Foundation of Central Illinois is to provide children with special needs the opportunity for an inclusive education in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Peoria. Holy Cross School is a partner school and supported by the FIRE Foundation.



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.



SAINT NICHOLAS: THE REAL STORY

Everybody knows the story of Santa Claus, the red-suited figure who lives at the North Pole and distributes gifts to good children every Christmas eve. But is there any historical evidence on which this jolly old character is based? Was there a real Santa Claus? To answer that question, host Mark Wilson, a distinguished historian and archeologist travels not to the North Pole but to modern day Turkey and Italy. There he uncovers clues that lead to the truth about the man behind the legend.



ROOTED

This new 22-episode series guides Catholics through a daily Advent reflection using the Jesse Tree model traditionally practiced by families.

Each seven-minute episode introduces the ancestors of Jesus Christ, shares a Scripture passage, and offers an engaging, practical reflection.

Hosted by Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Rooted helps viewers apply the passage and related teachings to each day of Advent, guided by the Church's teaching.

Sign up here to receive these episodes straight to your inbox and to check out our other great Advent resources: <https://daily.formed.org/advent>

PRAY FOR AN UNBORN CHILD

A priest of this diocese, Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen encouraged people to spiritually adopt an unborn child, and thereby combat the abortion mentality and general anti-life sentiment in our world today. It is said that although the identity of the child you pray for will be unknown to you during your earthly life, there is every hope that you will be united with that child forever in Heaven.

Archbishop Sheen wrote the following daily prayer to spiritually adopt an unborn child: *"Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion. Amen."*

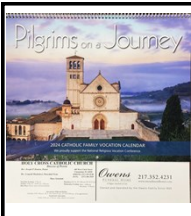
*"And if we accept that a mother can kill
even her own child,
how can we tell other people not to kill one another?
Any country that accepts abortion
is not teaching its people to love,
but to use any violence to get what they want."*

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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.

Freedom



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!

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 Tuft 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.