



“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means “God is with us.”

Matthew 1:23

December 22, 2024

Christ is Born

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© Diocesan

*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:5

Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Eucharistic Revival



MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT

Sunday, December 22 –

How are you going to carry the Christmas spirit into the new year? Write down one spiritual resolution for the new year. Are you willing to attend Mass more than once a week? Are you willing to pray a daily Rosary? Are you willing to make spiritual reading a part of your daily routine? Make the commitment right now by writing it down.

Monday, December 23 –

“Love one another as I have loved you.” How much did Jesus Christ love you? Enough to be born in a cave. Enough to die on the cross in order to win salvation for you. Would you give up all your possessions for the one you love? Would you voluntarily submit to being nailed to a wooden cross for the one you love? “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Tuesday, December 24 –

“She laid Him in a Manger.” Do you know what the definition of a “manger” is? A manger is “an eating trough” — something that animals eat out of. Do you know what “Bethlehem” means? It means “house of bread.” The Bread of Life was placed in an eating trough after being born in the house of bread. You should constantly seek to develop a deeper love for the Eucharist, which should include frequent attendance at daily Mass and participation in weekly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Wednesday, December 25 –

“And they shall call Him Emmanuel” (which means God is with us).

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

Merry Christmas!



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
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.

Fourth 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. 28 Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Elizabeth Kelley John Bingaman, Patty Bingaman, John Kelley John Haggin, Joey Haggin
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Dec. 29 Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Barry Dickerson Lynette Barham, Ray Tucker Trevor Tucker, McKenna Tucker
10:00 a.m.	Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Joe Murphy Margie Hoss, Dawn Freidman, Bonita Higgerson, Terry Sturdyvin Brooke McMahon, Ursula Tembo
4:00 p.m.	Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Ed Seebauer Juliann Seebauer Matthew Woodward, Sam Easton



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 23

7:00 a.m. Julia Cleta Glennon

Tuesday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Ricardo Galvan
12:00 Midnight Joseph Kupsche

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Rosemary Coffey

Thursday, December 26

7:00 a.m. Aloysius Winka

Friday, December 27

8:15 a.m. Sophia Beatriz Ondevilla

Saturday, December 28

5:30 p.m. Delores, Michael & Ed Shelby

Sunday, December 29

8:00 a.m. Bailey Jordan Beyers
10:00 a.m. For the Parishioners
4:00 p.m. Innocencia Emiliano

DON'T HAVE PLANS FOR NEW YEAR'S?



Here's an idea... how about spending it with Jesus! I'll be hosting a period of silent Eucharistic Adoration December

31 from 9pm to 12am, the final three hours of the calendar year 2024 followed by Mass at midnight to usher in the first hour of the New Year 2025! This is an opportunity to spend all or part of the final hours of 2024 with Jesus, thanking Him for the blessings of the past year. I have done this for several years now, and I think it is so fitting that as the clock strikes midnight, champagne corks will be popped, dancing and partying will occur throughout the world, but at Holy Cross, Mass will be offered as we pray for a healthy, happy, and holy 2025. If you're planning to be awake for New Year's and have no other plans, can you think of a better way to start the New Year? OF COURSE, we'll have a gathering in the Great Hall after Mass where we'll have treats, champagne, and nonalcoholic drinks to celebrate the New Year! And finally, if you're wondering, YES, this will be a Mass that counts for the Holy Day of Obligation in honor of Mary, the Mother of God on January 1, so there's no need to attend another Mass that day. Blessings and Prayers, **Fr. Joe**



HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m.

Midnight Mass - 12:00 a.m.

Music at 11:15 p.m.

Christmas Day

9:00 a.m.

Christmas Smoke Forecast: In order to welcome those with incense allergies, we will try to provide smoke free options for Mass rotating every year. This year, Midnight Mass is guaranteed to be smoke free! We will make up for it with extra incense at Midnight Mass next year.

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!

SOLEMNITY OF MARY / NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES (Holy Day of Obligation)

December 31st - 5:30 p.m. / Midnight (Adoration from 9:00 p.m. - Midnight) **January 1st** - 9:00 a.m.



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, Monday	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



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.

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 **NOT** 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.



ATTENTION! CURSILLO IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN!

Men, feel like you would like to increase your faith life, find a way to become a better Christian and grow as a man of God. There will be a Men's Cursillo coming to St. Patrick's in Urbana, IL on the weekend of Feb. 14-16, 2025. Register now for 3 days of talks, laughter, fun, music, mass, and discussion and a great time with other guys seeking the same thing. For more information. Contact Dick Baxley @ 217-377-0318 or go to champaigncursillo.com

CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND



December is here and it's the month we 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; William and Beverly Lynch; Jim and Kathryn Bristow; Gene, Elaine, and Ross Mayor; Walker and Espeseth Families; Bingaman and Cosgrove Families; and Tom and Anne Corkery, John and Catherine Murray; Ethel G. Cox, Eve and Elmer Corkery; Rein and Cobb Families; and Ed and Jean Bown; and Janet Compton.

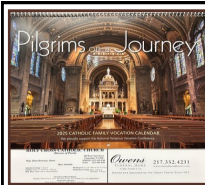
Thank you in advance for your generosity



MASS OF REMEMBRANCE CANDLES

The Parish Office still has many Candles with the names of loved ones who have passed and were honored during the Mass of Remembrance on All Souls Day.

Please come by the parish office (8:30- 4:00, Mon- Fri) to pick up the candle of your loved one. If you know of anyone that might have a candle, please let them know that we still have them. If someone cannot make it during the office hours, please call the Parish Office at (217) 352-8748 and we can arrange for you to pick it up over the weekend.



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!

Collection

Offering for December 14th/15th.....\$11,215.00

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 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. 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 and click the "Visit" button on the menu on the homepage. Questions? Email Rachael McMillan at 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, 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

Did you Know?

**YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND A CATHOLIC SCHOOL
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE**

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2025-2026 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed.

Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria or on the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under Catholic Schools and then under John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist at the bottom of the webpage for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award.

Parents must apply online at: online.factsmgt.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2025-2026 school year must reapply.

Deadline date for the completed application is April 25, 2025. Notification of grant awards will be made in June of 2025.

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)



**The 2024-25 High School of St. Thomas More
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 High School of St. Thomas More Annual Spring Gala at Pear Tree Estate on Saturday, February 8th, 2025. Nominations are being accepted through Monday, January 13th, 2025. 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.



Paideia award nomination form:
<https://forms.gle/zqs7Pw3damGzqFic9>



Distinguished Alumni award nomination form:
<https://forms.gle/uneNQdPQrNoUAutp7>



THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS

The story of the birth of Jesus is often misunderstood. But this fast-paced, thought provoking look at the true story of the Nativity clears away widespread misunderstandings of Jesus' origin. Join top scholars, inspirational speakers, and popular authors as they explain the story behind the story of the birth of Jesus. The Story of the Nativity also includes stunning works of art depicting the biblical story, from Fra Angelico to Rembrandt, and footage from the Holy Land showing the places where the Christmas story actually took place. Explore the true story of Mary and Joseph, Jesus's miraculous conception, the birth of John the Baptist, the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the Star of Bethlehem, and the birth of Jesus. This is an invaluable tool for believer and unbeliever alike to learn more about Jesus of Nazareth and about the truth of Christmas.



FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Explore the seasons of Advent and Christmas with other great videos, audiobooks, and talks by visiting our Advent & Christmas collection



CHRISTMAS AS "CHRIST'S MASS" THE MANGER AND THE EUCHARIST BY DR. MICHAEL BARBER

Christmas as "Christ's Mass": The Manger and the Eucharist by Dr. Michael Barber



O HOLY NIGHT - CHRISTMAS WITH THE ANNIE MOSES BAND

Experience the beauty of the Christmas season with the Annie Moses Band as the acclaimed classical crossover ensemble performs stunning arrangements of holiday favorites .

Our Parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup to sign up.

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 Crawmer

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.



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.

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.

Starcrest Cleaners