

# Christ is Born

December 24, 2023



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*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



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

**December 24**

#### **Self-Emptying Love**

The exposed Blessed Sacrament is not an object but a person who is infinitely self-emptying love, giving himself, pouring himself out right before our eyes and right into us.

To adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament requires falling to my knees, realizing how small I am. Even more, it requires going out in faith and in smallness, offering myself to him who offers himself to me. The Incarnation is sometimes defined as a marvelous exchange whereby God shares in our humanity in order to give us a share in his divinity. The Eucharist allows us to embody this marvelous exchange.

As we assimilate what all this means, how could our disposition be any other than adoration? This is interpersonal communication of the most intimate kind, offered by God and received by us in total powerlessness.

One day near the end of Pope John Paul II's life, one of his aides found him sitting in his altar chair in his private chapel. He had his arms around the tabernacle and was singing in Polish. The aide left the chapel but later asked the pope what he had been doing. Pope John Paul responded that he had been singing a song his mother used to sing to him as a boy when he was sad. He had been comforting our Lord.

This marvelous exchange that the Lord initiates flows both ways if we are small enough to allow this intimacy and not be afraid of its passion. Let us take opportunities to contemplate this in the fullest sense, participating in the very life of him whom we have received. - Fr. Thomas Acklin, O.S.B.

**A Thought for reflection:** O holy night! Tonight our Dear Savior is born! With shepherds and angels, we go to Bethlehem to worship the newborn king. Our God is with us. Heaven and earth sing for joy, and our hearts join in the chorus.

**Oh Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament,** the heavens ring out with shouts of joy as the angels announce your coming. I join my song to that of the angels and proclaim the miracle of your birth. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased! Alleluia!

#### **Join us for our Monthly Encounter Nights**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday** - after 6:00 p.m. Mass --> in the Parish Center  
Come and learn more about our faith!

**4<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Fourth Sunday of Advent / Nativity of our Lord

## 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. 30</b> Lector: Dave Kristovich EMHC: John Bingham Servers: John Haggin, Joey Haggin
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 31</b> Lector: Sue Berndt EMHC: No Ministers Servers: Avery Natschke, Emma Lwao
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Lector: Joe Mefford EMHC: Jessica McMahon, Terry Sturdyvin Servers: Jack McMahon, Brooke McMahon, Lincoln Wood
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Lector: Elizabeth Kelley EMHC: Anthony Frasca Servers: Lucy Rank, Sophie Rank



### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Carol Bergeson

#### Tuesday, December 26

7:00 a.m. Taylor Pleasure

#### Wednesday, December 27

6:00 p.m. Sophia Beatriz Ondevilla

#### Thursday, December 28

7:00 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of Catholic Daughters Court #1070

#### Friday, December 29

8:15 a.m. Theresa Brya

#### Saturday, December 30

5:30 p.m. Liz Hennessey

#### Sunday, December 31

8:00 a.m. Rita Swiewert  
10:00 a.m. For the Parishioners  
4:00 p.m. Max Hershberger



### Eucharistic Revival



#### December 25 The Birth of Christ

The star over the stable was the first sanctuary lamp. By its light, angels, shepherds and kings were drawn to Bethlehem, the 'House of Bread,' to adore God with us. In the presence of a baby, even the most hardhearted person changes and becomes tender and caring. But there is an even greater exceptionality about this newborn "For in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth...In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" (Colossians 1:16, 19). In the presence of the infant Jesus, we recognize what corresponds exactly to the deepest longings of our hearts. Everything that we have been looking for has become flesh and is now lying in this manger. We were made for this presence. All my life "I" has been waiting to adore this "you." To Christ we say: The fullness of my being is you, my meaning is you. Every time I adore the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus attracts my heart anew.  
- Fr. Peter John Cameron, O.P.

**A Thought for reflection:** Take a few minutes to reflect on the reason for our celebration and joy today and to thank Jesus for coming to us. It will make all the other celebrations that much more joyful.

**Oh Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament,** How humbly you have come, yet how great is your coming! My Lord and my God, I adore you!



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



### 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.

**Note:** The 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday does not fulfill the weekend Mass obligation.

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!**



**FAITHFUL DEPARTED** - Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Frank Cardaronella, father of Marc Cardaronella. May his soul and those of all the Faithful Departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.





### 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](mailto:gkoerner@ymail.com) or Cathy Koerner [cathkern007@gmail.com](mailto:cathkern007@gmail.com) for information.

### 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](mailto:hcmomsgroup@gmail.com)



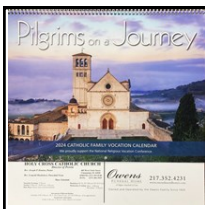
Childcare allows the moms to concentrate on faith and fellowship without interruption, and receive a much needed break from their little ones!

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



**CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND** 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; Bingaman and Cosgrove Families; Dick and Peggy Valentine, Dick and Lucille York; Barbara Leathers; Elisha Mary Robert and Catherine Swanson; Elmer and Sylvia Nicklas; Tony Rein; Gene, Elaine and Ross Mayor; Cacioppo, Giuffre and Schwenk Families; Jim and Kathryn Bristow; Regina Robinson; Ed and Jean Bown; and Donna Menacher.



### 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!

### Collection

Offering for Dec.16/17. ....\$12,677.00

Thank you very much!



### Bingo in January!

Join us for BINGO and fun at Holy Cross Parish Center on **Friday, January 5**. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Bingo cards and Daubers will be available to purchase at that time. Concessions open at 5:30 as well. Bingo will begin at 6:30 p.m. Join us for 15 games! \$20 for 9 cards per game. Or \$10 for 3 cards per game. Cash prizes will be \$25, \$50, & \$100. (based on a minimum number of 25 people.) Daubers are \$1 or bring your own!

Dinner and Dessert: Homemade Chili: Beef, Chicken and Vegetarian are the options. Cornbread, tortilla chips. Sour cream and cheese toppings available as well. Variety of desserts (homemade brownies, etc.). Can of Soda for \$1. Coffee, tea, and water are no charge.

Questions? Call the Parish Office at 217-352-8748.

**Proceeds go to Holy Cross School.**

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](http://firefoundation.org) 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.



Thank you for participating in the Catholic Daughters of America Box of Joy charity. We shipped 53 full boxes to children in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras and Malawi. We also raised \$195 to support the shipping cost.

Thank you for your generosity!



## High School of St. Thomas More

217-352-7210

[www.hs-stm.org](http://www.hs-stm.org)

**Christmas Break.** We are 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://hs-stm.org) and click the "Visit" button in the menu on the homepage. Questions? Email Rachael McMillan at [admissions@hs-stm.org](mailto:admissions@hs-stm.org).

**Job Opportunities:** STM is seeking applications for a Bus Driver. If interested, email Sr. M. Bridget at [stmbridget@hs-stm.org](mailto:stmbridget@hs-stm.org), Mr. Corapi at [acorapi@hs-stm.org](mailto:acorapi@hs-stm.org), and Jon Marston, Athletic Director, at [jmarston@hs-stm.org](mailto:jmarston@hs-stm.org).



## Holy Cross School

217-356-9521

[www.holycrosselem.org](http://www.holycrosselem.org)

From the Desk of Principal Koerner:

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners and snow in the yard?

The true meaning of Christmas is love. John 3:16-17 says, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love.

With this in mind, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Sure, enjoy the season but remember to rejoice as well! After all, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of God's ultimate gift: the birth of Jesus.

Merry Christmas from the staff of Holy Cross School.

WE ARE HOLY CROSS

**Merry Christmas!**



*Silent Night, Holy Night*



### **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.





## CHRISTMAS IN ROME: A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY

The birth of Jesus changed the course of human history. Christmas marks one of the greatest days on the Christian calendar, and nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like the Holy City of Rome. Christmas in Rome follows the celebration of the Nativity throughout history, from a tiny grotto in Bethlehem to the biggest Nativity scene in Saint Peter's Square, and from small groups of early Christians to the enormous multitude of believers at Christmas Masses in St. Peter's Basilica.

See how one of the greatest events in human history is celebrated today...right from the heart of the Church.



## THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

**BY FULTON SHEEN:** Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's books, tapes, homilies, retreats, and television series have inspired countless souls all over the world. This digitally-mastered presentation combines classic recordings of his reflections on the meaning of the Incarnation of Jesus, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!



## FRANCIS: THE PEOPLE'S POPE

On March 13, 2013, cardinals stunned the world when they elected Pope Francis, the first Latin American Pope. But what did they see in the 76-year-old Jesuit? Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?

ROME REPORTS travels to Argentina to investigate and discover more about what shaped Pope Francis. From his only living sister, Maria Elena, to his successor as superior-general of the Jesuits in Argentina, we hear unedited testimonies from those who knew Bergoglio best. Hear from a priest who worked with Bergoglio in the country's slums, and the corner vendor who sold Bergoglio the daily newspaper every day for years. Meet the young man who overcame his addictions with support from the man that the world now calls the Pope.

The documentary begins with the moment that the young Jorge Mario discovers his priestly vocation.



## A PRAYER FOR LIFE

Father and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness. Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

## Save the Date:

### The Ecumenical Memorial Pro-Life Prayer Vigil,

January 22, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Windsor Road Christian Church,  
2501 West Windsor Rd, Champaign, IL 61822



**Theme:** "The Power of an Open Heart"

**Speaker:** Joy Pace, Holy Cross Pro-Life Committee

Join us for this Free event!

Reception and fellowship follows.

**For more information:**

[Facebook.com/prolifeprayervigilofcentralillinois](https://www.facebook.com/prolifeprayervigilofcentralillinois)

[Or email ProLifePrayerVigil@gmail.com](mailto:ProLifePrayerVigil@gmail.com)

## 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

## 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  
Townner 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.