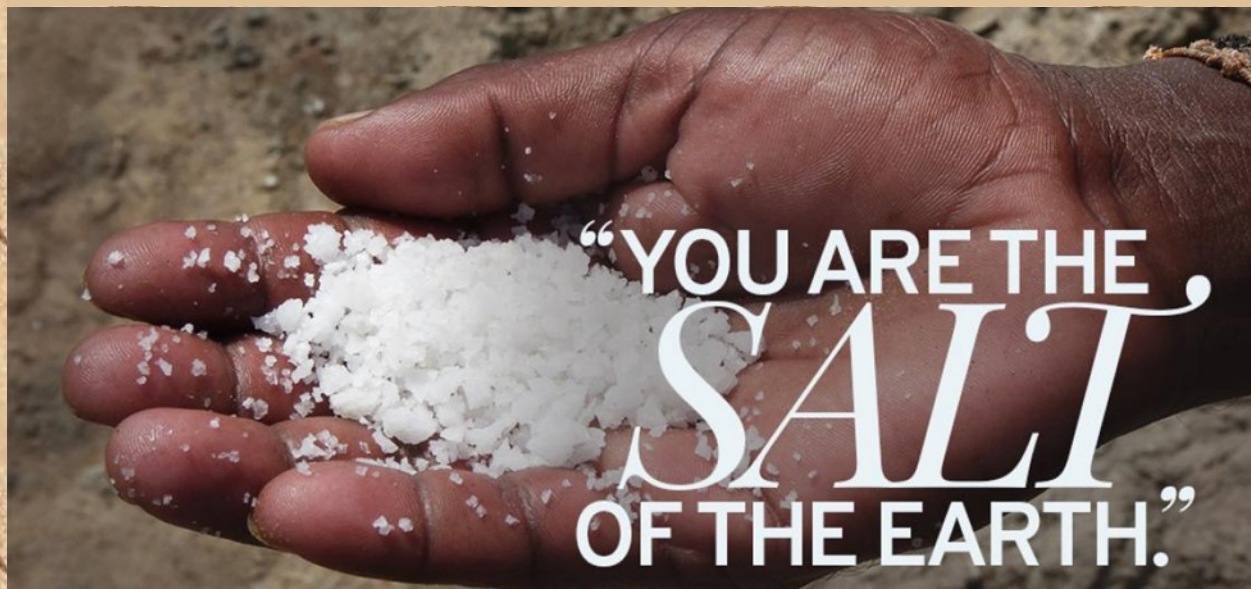


Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 8, 2026



"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

~ Matthew 5:13-16

Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Consecration to St. Joseph



From Msgr. Brownsey...

When I was confirmed in 1976, the latest "Church Fad" was not to confuse children by asking them to take a confirmation name. Some of you remember the days when we were de-emphasizing the importance of canonized saints: we removed or whitewashed the statues. We ignored, diluted, or secularized the devotions, litanies, and chaplets. And so I did not choose a patron saint for my confirmation and, in fact, had no patron saint at all until I was 26 years old when it was explained to me the importance of having a patron saint. Not growing up knowing any saints, the only ones I knew were St. Anthony, St. Francis, and St. Joseph. St. Anthony and St. Francis had been presented to me as drippy, sappy and I didn't see what they could possibly offer, so I chose St. Joseph by default. I didn't really have much devotion to him other than admiring him at Christmas time. About 30 years later I would look back and see just how often and how boldly St. Joseph was trying to establish a friendship with me.

In 1993 he introduced me to St. Andre Bessette at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal and in the coming years, St. Andre would constantly send me to St. Joseph. When the Bradley Newman center was threatened with closure because of financial difficulties, St. Andre reminded me that St. Joseph was the patron of our Newman Center and that if he wanted it to succeed it would. He reminded me that Joseph is the baptismal patron of Pope Benedict who was trying to raise an army of witnesses to hope. I commissioned my students to go to their parishes and give witness to the hope that is in them and we raised \$60,000, just enough to pay our bills for one year.

Later, when trying to lead my parish through the scandals of the Church, St. Joseph reminded me that he is the patron of the Universal Church and as a father, he had much experience in giving comfort and protection to his children. For the last five years I was at St. Mark's we prayed the Litany of St. Joseph after the dismissal of every single mass for the protection of the Church. Parishioners began real friendships with St. Joseph and began reporting how he was assisting them. One asked whether she could lead a parish wide consecration to St. Joseph. About a dozen parishioners went through the daily prayers at home and the weekly gatherings in church to prepare themselves for consecration. Some asked whether they could invite more friends to do it. Pretty soon, it happened about four times a year that groups of parishioners were consecrating themselves to St. Joseph and inviting others to get closer to Jesus by meeting his foster father and they even began taking an annual trip to the National Shrine of St. Joseph in DePere, Wisconsin.

I'd like to invite you to join us in our first offering of a parish-wide consecration to St. Joseph. John Karduck has shown interest in leading the weekly gatherings. The preparation for the consecration begins on February 15 and we will make public acts of consecration on March 19 followed by a huge parish wide celebration of St. Joseph complete with St. Joseph Table and everything. To find out more about what all this means and other details, stick around after each of the masses for a very short informational gathering all weekend February 6-7. If you are considering joining in on these prayers, it would be very helpful if between now and then you obtain a copy of "Consecration to St. Joseph" by Donald Calloway. We have very few of them on hand for those who are unable to get it on their own.

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, Thurs 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.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.	Feb. 14 Lector: EMHC:	Tim Spila John Kelley, Peg Swanson
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Feb. 15 Lector: EMHC:	Judi Sherman Ana Rodas (need 1 more)
10:00 a.m.	Lector: EMHC:	Joe Mefford Dawn Friedman (need 1 more)
4:00 p.m.	Lector: EMHC:	Rob Shanahan Jan Weber



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, February 9

7:00 a.m. Kevin Hodge

Tuesday, February 10

7:00 a.m. Herman Nichols

Wednesday, February 11

6:00 p.m. Bonnie O'Neill

Thursday, February 12

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

Friday, February 13

8:15 a.m. Camille Arseneau

Saturday, February 14

5:30 p.m. Karen Santarelli

Sunday, February 15

8:00 a.m. David Ehlman
10:00 a.m. Deacon Bob Ulbrich
4:00 p.m. For the Parishioners



HOLY CROSS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Holy Cross has an immediate opening for a full-time Business/Office Manager. This position assists the Msgr. in the stewardship of the parish and school's financial, capital, and human resources.

The Business/Office Manager ensures the effectiveness of operations by informing and advising the Msgr. and various parish councils as needed. The incumbent is a member of the core management team that supports the Msgr. and ensures that the administrative needs of the parish are met. A business and/or accounting background is required.

Qualified applicants should send their résumé to office@holycrosscatholic.org or contact the parish office at (217) 352-8748.



FAITHFUL DEPARTED



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



You may have heard Msgr. mention our upcoming Consecration to St. Joseph. We have decided to push back our start date to February 15th with a Consecration day of March 19th. We will have some books available for those interested or you can purchase your own copy of Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father by Donald Calloway at various locations online, including a Kindle and Audio book version on Amazon.

<https://consecrationtostjoseph.org/introduction.html>

Collections

Offering for Jan. 31st / Feb. 1st.....\$8,130.25

Thank You Very Much!



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 February, we are praying the Litany to Our Lady of Lourdes.



ADORATION ON FRIDAYS

Please consider signing up for a half-hour or more to visit Our Lord on Fridays beginning after the 8:15 a.m. Mass and ending with Benediction at 2:30 p.m. Jesus would so love your company!



Special Collection on February 14/15



February 2026

Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Diocese of Peoria
Office of the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

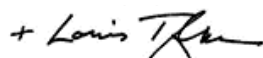
Years of war in Ukraine have profoundly affected both Ukrainian society and the Church in Ukraine. From the beginning, the laity have played a significant role in responding to the needs of displaced families, orphaned children, and other victims of the conflict. In the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church's Exarchate of Lutsk, laypeople such as catechists, parish pastoral and economic council members, and priests' wives have been called upon to provide faith formation, carefully manage parish resources, and provide emotional and spiritual support to members of the local parish communities.

These laypeople have heeded their call to holiness by bringing their talents and abilities to serve God and their neighbors. The exarchate, with crucial funds received through the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, has answered the call of Pope Leo to empower and form the laity to help bring the Gospel to the world. The exarchate is hosting formation seminars and trainings for priests' wives, parish pastoral and financial advisers, and catechists so that they might foster spiritual healing and economic recovery amid the devastation of war.

By donating to this special collection when it is taken up in our diocese, you help the Church in Ukraine and more than 25 other countries in Central and Eastern Europe to witness to Christ's mercy, even in the midst of terrible hardship.

For more information about the collection and who it supports, visit www.usccb.org/ccee. Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


✦ Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Bishop of Peoria

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas



Court Champaign County #1070 will be meeting on Thursday, February 12th at 5:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Parish Center – 405 West Clark Street, Champaign. All Catholic women 18 and older are invited to join us. The Court has been active in helping Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Craft Sale for the Children of Hope and Faith, 40 Days for Life, Catholic Education scholarships, and many other worthy causes.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheri Rakers, Regent at 217/417-6041 or crakers@comcast.net.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Please join in an evening of fellowship on Thursday, February 19 at 7pm in the Great Hall. It will be a time to meet with brothers in Christ on this life journey.

If interested in attending, please reach out to:

John Kelley at jekeak1@yahoo.com or Mark Shelden at markshelden@gmail.com so that we have an idea of numbers for planning purposes. Feel free to invite to this casual gathering friends and those asking questions about the Church or exploring faith and God.



PILGRIMAGE TO
ITALY

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

Fr. Lampitt wants you to join him on his next pilgrimage to Italy!

Together, you will visit many wonderful sites including the tombs of St. Mark (**Venice**) and Blessed Fra Angelico (**Rome**) and

also see many of the latter's works in **Florence**. The pilgrimage is May 29th to June 8th and will include most meals, daily Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, and of course a chance to see Pope Leo XIV. Those who attend will have an incredibly enjoyable and memorable time. The group will be intentionally small (< 20 pilgrims) to facilitate a more personal experience. The cost per person for double occupancy is \$5,500.

The deadline to register is February 21st.

Find out more here: <https://tinyurl.com/FrLampitt2026> or contact father: frlampitt@saint-mark.net



INCOME TAX STATEMENTS

If you would like to receive a statement of your contributions made in 2025 for tax planning purposes, please fill out this

form, cut it out, and drop it in the collection basket at Mass.

Or you can also email your request to:

office@holycrosscatholic.org.

Or call the Parish Office at 352-8748.

NAME: _____

Phone Number (optional): _____

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

FEBRUARY 2026

FOR CHILDREN WITH INCURABLE DISEASES

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

www.apostleshipofprayer.org



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

The Daddy Daughter Dance sponsored by The High School of St. Thomas More's Parent Association will be held on Friday, February 13 at 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM.

Cost is \$30 per dad. Complete the google form to register. bit.ly/4jvyCaF. Please let Mrs Becky Leibach know if you have any questions at.

Musical Instruments Needed

The STM Music program is in need of instruments to continue supporting our students in musical growth. If your family has any musical instruments that have been sitting unused in your garage or storage for several years, we would be grateful if you would consider donating them. Particularly we are looking for band instruments including guitars, but open to accept any. We are not needing pianos and organs at this time.. Your generosity will help bless our students and our school community. Please bring any donated instruments to the school office. Questions, contact Dr. Lee at cleee@hs-stm.org.

Admissions Application Open for 2026-27

STM is accepting admissions applications for the 2026-2027 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.

If you submit a completed application by February 1, 2026, you will be eligible to receive a 2% discount. We hope and pray to welcome you and your child to the Saber family!

2026 STM Gala: Rooted in More

Saturday, February 21, 2026 • Pear Tree Estate

Join *The High School of Saint Thomas More* for our **2026 Rooted in More Gala!** This special evening celebrates the mission and impact of Catholic secondary education in Central Illinois. Proceeds will benefit academic and classroom enhancements, facility upgrades, and enrollment growth initiatives. The **2025-2026 Paideia Award and Distinguished Alumni Award** will be presented at the Gala. Purchase tickets and explore sponsorship opportunities at <https://hs-stm.org/page/gala>.

Shadow Visit - Come spend a day at STM with a Saber! Shadow visits are not mandatory but a great way for a 7th or 8th grader to see The High School of St. Thomas More. Please sign up with this form: <https://forms.gle/4j4KVFc3m5ypBX4d8>

STM Job Opportunities: STM is currently seeking applications for a Part-Time Custodian, Part-Time Spanish Teacher, an Assistant Baseball Coach and Athletic Bus Driver.

If interested email:

Sr. M. Bridget at srmbridget@hs-stm.org and
John Delaney, Athletic Director at jdelaney@hs-stm.org.

*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)



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

From the Desk of Principal Greg Koerner:

As we approach the season of Lent, this is the time of reflection, penance, and spiritual growth.

We can prepare for Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season by examining our stewardship commitments of time, talent, and treasure.

This period is not just about giving up certain luxuries in life, but also about deepening our faith, renewing our commitment to God, and serving others with a generous heart.

We hope and pray that this Lenten season be a time of spiritual growth and transformation for you and your families.

WE ARE HOLY CROSS!

Job Opportunities:

Holy Cross School is looking for aftercare workers. The position entails supervising, and planning activities from 3:00-5:30pm Monday-Friday fulltime or part-time. Please call the school office if interested. (217) 356-9521.

Holy Cross PTC Presents
WILD WEST SHOWDOWN
 14th Annual Trivia Night & Silent Auction
Help us support our school, staff, and students!
FEBRUARY 28, 2026
 Holy Cross School Gymnasium
 Appetizers and Bar open at 5:00 pm.
 Silent Auction, Raffle, & Games through the night!
 Trivia contest begins at 7:00 pm.
 Prize to best dressed table!
The Silent Auction runs online February 21st - 28th.
 \$50/person - \$400 table of 8
 Purchase tickets or donate at hctrivianight26.givesmart.com
 Registration closes February 23rd.



Word from Joy - Pro Life News and Good Catholic Happenings!



**Pro-Life Discussion Group for February -
Panera's on Kirby 11am-12:30 pm February 16th.**
Come and grab a cup of coffee, snack or lunch,
and join in a drop-in discussion! Join us for any
amount of time for friendship and fellowship!

This is an Ecumenical Group - and we discuss Pro-Life items - from
current items in the news, to specific topics with Questions & Discussion
For more information, contact Joy Pace 217 840-0322

~~~~Thank You Notes ~~~~

Here is a note from one of our Moms who receives diapers
via Holy Cross and just received the assistance from
Trivent Corporation and cash assistance vis St. Matthew
Grade School Students:



Mrs. Joy is a HUGE BLESSING TO MY
FAMILY, over the past few months Mrs.
Pace have been providing peaceful prayers
over my life and pampers for my children,
with the support from the CHURCH I was
able to pay a bill, buy groceries and toiletries even Christ-
mas presents for my children!!

THANK YOU to all that support this for my family during
this difficult time in my life right now. The love from you all
is truly appreciated and I wanted to say THANK YOU!!

Happy Holidays - Takita Fenn

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.

Culver's

~~~~ News ~~~~~

Many Thanks!! We received 2 donations from Thrivent Corp,
with \$250 each going to two of our Families and \$ 840 in
donations from the St. Matthew Grade School Children!

God is so good!!! Thank you again to everyone who sup-
ports us with donations, prayers and presence - we so ap-
preciate you! ... you are giving hope to many local families!
God bless you all!

We are putting those donations toward:

A single mom with 5 children with 3 at home / A couple with
4 children, one is a newborn baby / A year-long bus pass
for young man with a new job and needed transportation /
A single mom with one child at home who also helps out
her grandmother / A single mom with 4 boys at home /
A single mom with 4 children

~~~~Thank You Notes ~~~~

From a young man who we bought a year bus pass for:

I would like to thank the children for their kindness. Be-
cause of the contributions they made, I was able to avoid a
very difficult situation [and be able to get to work easier!].
May God bless each and every one of you, and may that
blessing extend to your friends and family in the spirit of
generosity and charity.

From a Mom of several children:

To the Students and Faculty at St. Matthew School: I would
like to thank you for helping my family with some of the fi-
nancial needs during the Christmas Holidays. We so appre-
ciate being remembered by you.

Your generosity helps us to know we are loved and valued.
We really appreciate the help we received and it really
made a difference. Thank you again!

From another Mom of several children:

Thank you so much for the gift at Christmas. We appreciate
it so much and really helped a lot. Thank you for helping
our family during this difficult time!

From a Mom of a high schooler:

Thank you so much for your prayers and assistance. Life
has been overwhelming and your kindness is much appre-
ciated and needed! Thank you!

From a Mom of 4 boys:

Thank you so much for your Christmas gift. I really appreci-
ated it - it helped made the holiday special! God bless.

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
Ed & Jean Bown
Chuck, Chad, Meghan Schweighart
Larry Hausmann, Bob Soucie
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
Hagglin Family
Rakers-Wade Families
Hershberger & Kick Families
Dec. Mem. of Cochrane-O'Brien families
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
Perodin Family
Menacher & Sizer Families
Leonard & Loretto Doyle
Alan & Patricia Berndt
Thomas McCarthy
Costello Family
Ron Murphy
Dec. Mem. of Murphy & Sullivan Families
Living & Dec. Mem. of Williams, Lykins, Barham Fam.
Dan Crawmer