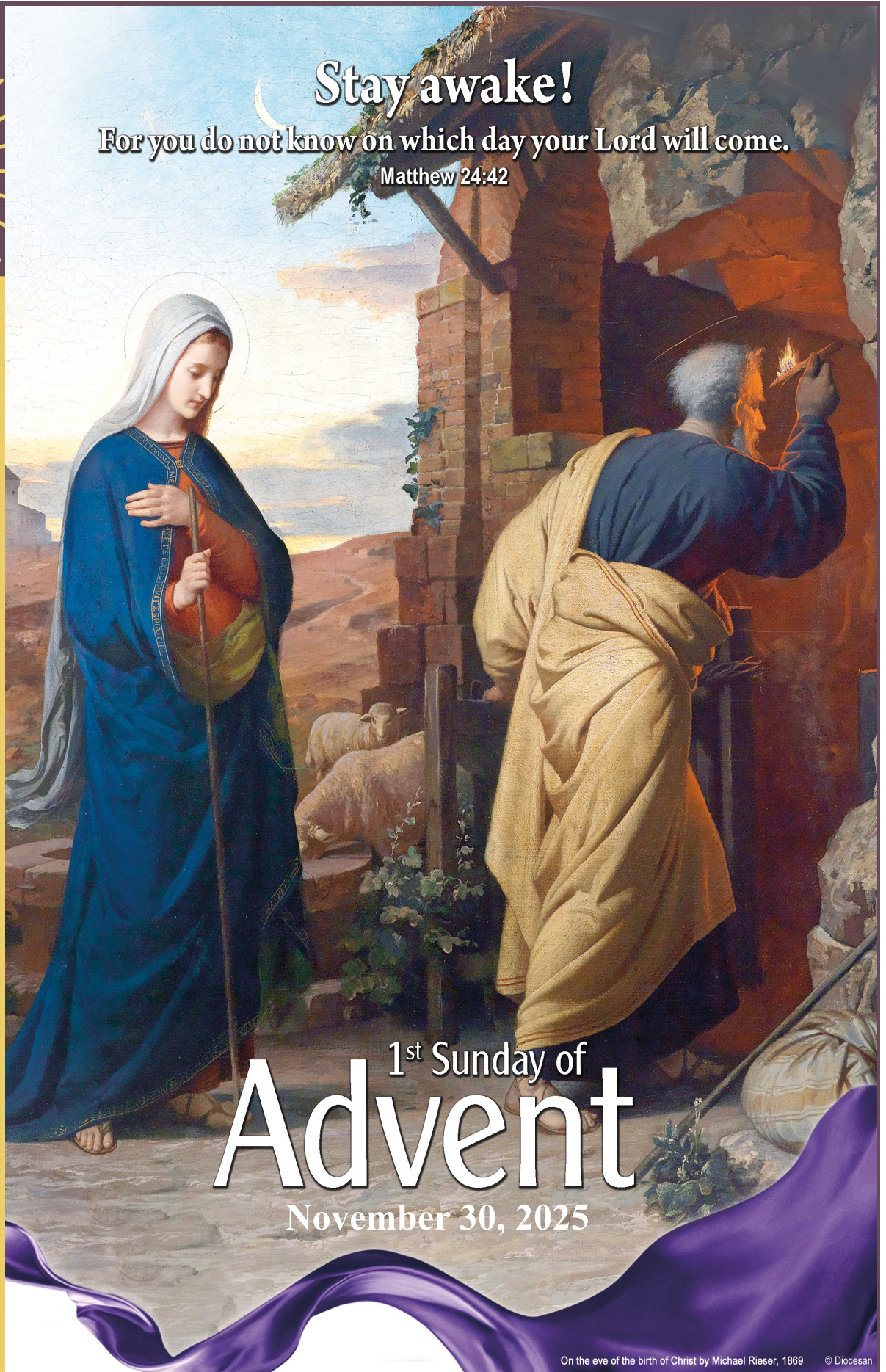
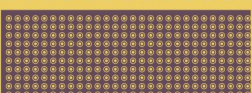


H
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Stay awake!

For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Matthew 24:42

1st Sunday of
Advent

November 30, 2025

On the eve of the birth of Christ by Michael Rieser, 1869

© Diocesan

Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT

Sunday, November 30 – Have you set any spiritual goals for Advent? You say you don't have time? Then how do you find the time to set and accomplish your material goals, such as buying gifts, decorating your home, planning parties, and baking treats? Take the time now to write down one spiritual goal for Advent (e.g., an extra daily prayer, a daily sacrifice, daily spiritual reading, etc.). Then make a commitment to God to accomplish your goal.

Monday, December 1 – “Thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, Jesus.” He was there, hidden in Mary's womb. He is here, hidden in the tabernacle of our church. Will Jesus be lonely this Christmas season? Are you willing to visit Him regularly during Advent so you can better understand the true meaning of Christmas? He is waiting. He is always there.

Tuesday, December 2 – “The angel Gabriel was sent from God, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph.” When we were conceived in our mother's womb, God gave each of us a companion, a guardian angel, to assist us throughout our lifetime. Ask your guardian angel every day to help you understand what God's will is for you.

Wednesday, December 3 – “I am the handmaid of the Lord.” A handmaid was a servant who was at all times subject to the master. Are you willing to be a servant to the Christ child? If you are, you must humble yourself and seek to constantly serve Him. What is the easiest way to serve God? By serving others. Will you choose to serve others this Christmas season?

Thursday, December 4 – “Be it done unto me according to thy word.” Mary was ready on a moment's notice to do God's will. Are you ready on a moment's notice to do God's will? Or are you too busy doing your own will — shopping, working, socializing, partying? Are you willing to do one thing for God each day during Advent?

Friday, December 5 – “She was found to be with child.” But what about Joseph? He was troubled and confused until an angel confirmed that the Christ child was “begotten of the Holy Spirit.” Like all of us, Joseph had his own cross to carry. When you are faced with trials and tribulations, are you willing to be patient and trust in God as Joseph did?

Saturday, December 6 – “Behold, Elizabeth thy kinswoman also has conceived a son. ... Mary arose and went with haste, and saluted Elizabeth.” Mary could have stayed home. She was, after all, the mother of God; however, instead of staying home, she “went with haste” to someone who needed her help. Are you too busy this Christmas season to go with haste to someone in need? Try to help one person who is in need during this Christmas season. “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me.”

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

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

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, 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.

First 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. 6 Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Tim Spila John Kelley, Terry Sturdyvin, Kathy Murray Tom Murray, Brody Oliveira
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Dec. 7 Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Jay Geistlinger Sue Berndt, Barry Dickerson Violet Grace, Landen Douglas
10:00 a.m.	Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Joe Murphy Margie Hoss, Dawn Friedman Ben Summers, Lincoln Wood
4:00 p.m.	Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Rob Shanahan Jan Weber Ithuriel Randall



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 1 7:00 am	Moureen Oyemhen Eigbike
Tuesday, December 2 7:00 a.m.	Pera Family
Wednesday, December 3 6:00 p.m.	Lorena Arseneau
Thursday, December 4 9:00 a.m.	Cusano Family
Friday, December 5 8:15 a.m.	First Friday Memorial
Saturday, December 6 5:30 p.m.	Charles Leahy
Sunday, December 7 8:00 a.m.	For the Parishioners
10:00 a.m.	Deacon Bob Ulbrich
4:00 p.m.	Thomas J. Graham



HOW TO ADVENT



Advent sometimes just feels like that time that is sandwiched between Thanksgiving and Christmas – life is hectic with Christmas shopping, parties, the school year ending, and so much more. But as Catholics – we really ought to enter into this season of joyful anticipation with purpose and intention! In How to Advent, we will discover the rich traditions that mark this season and how they aid us in preparing our hearts for the birth of the child Jesus at Christmas. Guided by priests, religious, professors, and a charismatic host, you will gain practical tips and spiritual reflection on the practices of the Advent calendar, Advent wreath, Jesse tree, and nativity scene. There are four episodes in this show that are between 12 and 15 minutes.



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!



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.



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE



Christmas Cookie & Craft Sale

Sat. Dec 13, 6:30-7:30

Sun. Dec 14, 8:00-1:00

Cookies are \$7.00 a plate.
Holy Cross Parish Hall

Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas
All proceeds go to charity

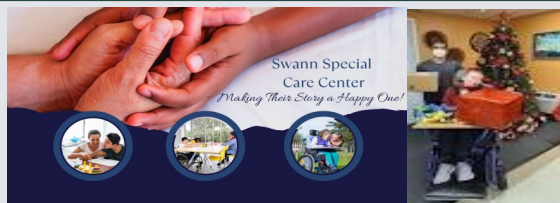
Catholic Daughters & Children of Hope and Faith will send handmade crafts.

Collections - Offering for November 22nd/23rd will be in next week's bulletin due to the Thanksgiving Holiday and printing schedule. Thank You Very Much!



COFFEE AND DONUTS - There's a nip in the air. Enjoy a cup of hot coffee or tea, a glass of milk or orange juice, and a delicious donut after the Sunday morning Masses. Join friends or meet new ones at the parish center.

Tis the Season to Give, and Bring the Joy of Christmas to Those in Need



~Swann Special Care Center Gifts

This year we will again participate in the Christmas Wish List providing Christmas gifts for the residents of Swann. With each name is a wish list. Help bring the joy of Christmas to these residents. If you'd like to provide a gift for a resident, call the Parish Office at (217) 352-8748 for the list of names and ages. Or pick a name from the "tree" at the back of the church. Gifts must be in the office by **Wednesday, December 3rd**.

If you take a name strip from the "Tree" at the back of the church, please sign your name and phone number on the sheet provided next to the resident's name.



THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES GIVING TREE PROJECT

We will once again be collecting toys and gift items for those in need in the Peoria Diocese, to make their Christmas a little brighter.

We will have a "Giving Tree" set up in the vestibule of the church with ornaments that have an age range, and type of gift requested, printed on it. Please take one or more of these ornaments from the Catholic Charities Giving Tree located at the back of the church and purchase the gift(s).

You should drop the items off at the back of the church, or in the parish office, **by Wednesday, December 3rd**, so we can get the gifts to Catholic Charities, and they will pass them along to the families.

Everything we collect here at Holy Cross will be given to families in the local Champaign County area.

If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 217-352-8748.

Thank you so much for your support!



Please drop your gifts for the SWANN Center and Catholic Charities off this week by Wednesday Dec 3rd. This will ensure that they will have them in time for their SWANN Christmas Party / Catholic Charities Give away. Thank you so much to those who participated! Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will definitely make a difference!



The ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY FOOD PANTRY is in need of donations.

Thank you to all who have responded to the call for help thus far. The number of people in need, including families with children, increases often. Any non-perishable food item is appreciated. Gifts can be dropped off at the back of the church or at the Parish Office. **Monetary gifts are also welcome.**

Please make checks out to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.



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.

Thank you in advance for your generosity



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 2026. All donations are appreciated and no donation is too small!

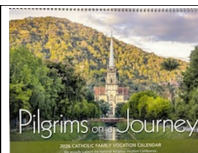
Please send your donation to:

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.

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.



The 2026 Calendars are here. Thank you to Owens Funeral Home for providing these calendars to Holy Cross! You can pick one up in the Parish Office or at one of the church doors.



High School of St. Thomas More

217-352-7210

www.hs-stm.org

STM Madrigal Dinner



Join the lords and ladies of STM for a night of medieval revelry celebrating the birth of Christ. A dessert only performance will be December 4th at 7 PM, purchase tickets at the door. The Dinner feasts will be on December 5th and 6th. To purchase tickets for the dinner performances visit <https://www.hs-stm.org/page/madrigals>.

STM Winter Concert

Join us for an evening of festive music and seasonal cheer on Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm in the high school cafeteria. Our talented students will perform a variety of classical, contemporary, and holiday favorites to celebrate the season. Admission is free! Come support our students and enjoy the holiday spirit!

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. Please note that if you submit your completed application, including all forms, before December 1, 2025, you will be eligible for a 5% discount on your child's tuition. 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!

Advent Family Festival at STM

Calling all families to a fun afternoon of games, crafts, a Christmas Cookie Walk, face painting, refreshments and photos with St. Nick on Sat., Dec. 13 from 3:30-5:30 pm at the High School of St. Thomas More, 3901 N. Mattis Ave. in Champaign. There is no cost, but free-will donations are appreciated. Ornaments will be available for purchase. Register online with this QR code or at <https://rb.gy/z8a4et>. Hosted by the STM Parent Association. For more information contact pa@hs-stm.org. See you there!



2026 STM Gala: Rooted in More

Saturday, February 21, 2026 • Pear Tree Estate

Join *The High School of Saint Thomas More* for our **Rooted in More Gala**! This special evening celebrates the mission and impact of Catholic secondary education in Central Illinois. Your support helps us form students morally, intellectually, physically, and spiritually as lifelong disciples of Christ. Proceeds will benefit academic and classroom enhancements, facility upgrades, and enrollment growth initiatives. Purchase tickets or sponsorships at <https://hs-stm.org/page/gala>. At the gala, the **Paideia and Distinguished Alumni awards** will be presented. If you would like to make nominations please visit <https://www.hs-stm.org/page/gala> and complete the forms by January 16th.

STM Job Opportunities: STM is currently seeking applications for a Part-Time Spanish Teacher, an English Teacher, a Cross Country Coach, a Girls Track Coach and an Athletic Bus Driver. **If interested email:**

Sr. M. Bridget at srbridget@hs-stm.org and

John Delaney, Athletic Director at jdelaney@hs-stm.org.

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>



Holy Cross School

217-356-9521

www.holycrosselem.org

Kris Kringle Shoppe coming soon!

Hello Holy Cross School Families!

The Annual Kris Kringle Shoppe will be Tuesday, December 9th & Wednesday, December 10th! This tradition has been a Holy Cross School favorite for over forty years! Modeled after the famous markets in Germany, our annual Kris Kringle Shoppe at Holy Cross is put on by our PTC in the Parish Center. It offers handmade crafts and lots of other special items for students to be able to purchase Christmas gifts for their family members.

All gifts are \$4.00 or less. All K - 8 students will be shopping with their class. Preschool parents are welcome to bring their students over anytime on the 9th or before 1pm on the 10th.



A message from our amazing Sydney McMahon, Holy Cross Alumni, checking in from her mission trip in Ecuador. Please continue to pray for her!

Life on mission in Ecuador these first three months has been wonderful! In the mornings I work with the toddlers at the orphanage and in the afternoons/evenings I am with the 6-13 year old girls. I help with homework, the children to their extracurriculars, help with bedtime routines, and everything else in between. I continue to be filled and stretched beyond myself every day, and every moment holds an opportunity to know God more and love more deeply. Please keep me in your prayers; I will be praying for our parish family as well! 🙏



WE ARE HOLY CROSS!



Welcome back,

Since our last article, the Knights have donated in excess of \$500 to the Crisis Nursery's Coats for Kids program. We significantly cleaned up and groomed St. Mary's cemetery in preparation for the winter. We treated our priests and deacons to a catered dinner. We held our annual "spooky raffle", and congratulations to our four winners who collectively won over \$1,000.00. We provided an honor guard for Bishop Tylka as he celebrated Mass at St. Mary's in Pesotum for the church's 150th anniversary.

We will hold an honor guard for Holy Cross' Confirmation, also celebrated by the Bishop. Finally, the doors of St. Michael's in Bement will be closing for good after the last mass on December 28th at 2:00PM. The Knights will be there providing an honor guard.

As you can see, we are involved in all sorts of projects. Consider joining us and help make our communities a better place. You'll feel proud and feel good about your accomplishments. You can also enjoy some camaraderie and make new friends along the way. Go to "kofc.org/join" or scan the QR code below.

Thanks, have a good week, and keep us in your prayers.

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



~~~~~New News~~~~~

November recap!

- We distributed over 1948 diapers to 17 children in 10 families.
- We had a donation of a dining table and chairs and we matched that with a local family. Thank you to the donating family and our movers! ~~ We have some furniture to match with our families – a bureau and mirror and a twin bed.
- We have two new babies! Please keep both of these families in your prayers!
- One little one was born very small – 4 lbs, 10 oz. She is home with her mom and two siblings. Prayers needed here, since this mom is developmentally challenged. Please pray for the mom and her whole family.
- The second baby was normal weight, born into an intact family with a mom and dad and 3 other siblings. (picture)
- With SNAP (food) benefits going away with the Federal shutdown, many families are struggling to get food for their families. We added 3 families for the November SVdP food pickup. One family has 2 adults and 6 children, another family has 2 adults and 4 children, and the third family has 2 adults and 3 children. Thank you so much to the fine folks at SVdP and Holy Cross for meeting this need.



Thanks so much to St. Vincent de Paul and Holy Cross for their service to the poor.

DONATIONS FOR PRO-LIFE

If you would like to help families in need, consider making a donation to the Holy Cross Pro-Life committee.

You can donate by:

- on-line giving (see area for Pro-Life with TJ's picture),
- in the collection basket (*please put you're your name and contact info, and that the \$ is for Pro-Life, or
- check (** please be sure to put Pro-Life in the memo line **)

For more info – please call Joy at 217 840-0322.

Thank you and God bless you!

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