

December 7, 2025

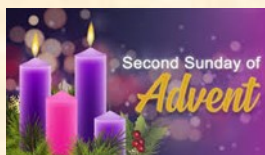
Peace

**"A voice of one crying out in the desert,
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"**

~ Matthew 3:3



Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT

Sunday, December 7 – Have you worked toward accomplishing your spiritual goal for Advent? Is there anything else you can be doing on a spiritual level to prepare for the coming of Christ? Take the time now to write down what else you should be doing to prepare for the coming of our Lord.

Monday, December 8 – “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” Zachary doubted and was struck dumb. How often do we doubt the word of God? How often do we question our faith? Let us pray for trust and faith this Christmas season so that we are not blinded by doubt but instead enlightened by the grace of God to accept His will at all times.

Tuesday, December 9 – “How have I deserved that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” Elizabeth knew, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, that Mary was the mother of God. She realized that God came to her through Mary. Do you realize that God comes to you through other people? Holy people? Do you realize that you have the opportunity to bring God to other people by your loving example and assistance?

Wednesday, December 10 – “He who is mighty has done great things for me.” How often do we “take credit” for something that we do? Always? We think we are great because of our abilities and achievements. When someone compliments us on something we have done, we should take the time to pray silently, He who is mighty has done great things for me. Give credit where credit is due and you will be one step closer to the true meaning of Christmas.

Thursday, December 11 – “The babe in my womb leapt for joy.” How was it that Elizabeth’s son, John the Baptist, leapt in his mother’s womb at the approach of the Christ child? Was Elizabeth’s unborn son worthy of life? Yes, he was a precious new life who was an intricate part of God’s grand design, just as every unborn life is an intricate part of God’s grand design. Are you willing to remember all the unborn children in your daily prayers during Advent? The Christ child would expect you to.

Friday, December 12 – “Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months.” All Mary needed to know was that her elderly cousin was in need of assistance and she was there to help. Are you willing to make a special effort this Christmas season to show love for an elderly person? During Advent, make an effort to visit an elderly relative or a “stranger” at a nursing home. You may see Christ in the person whom you visit.

Saturday, December 13 – “There was no room.” Now what? No room in the inn? Why is it that we always seem to have these monumental problems? Was that Mary and Joseph’s reaction? Were they faced with a “problem” or an “act of Providence”? They were faced with an act of Providence — a situation that God allowed them to go through in order to bring them closer to Him. Isn’t that what our problems are, acts of Providence that are intended by God to bring us closer to Him? Next time you have a problem, take advantage of the problem and use it as an opportunity to grow closer to God.

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

PASTORAL STAFF SERVING HOLY CROSS

Msgr. Brian Brownsey
Father Joseph Baker
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DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elizabeth Kelley

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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.

Second 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. 13 Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Dave Kristovich Peg Swanson, Sharon Kristovich, Joslyn Unger Nick, Zora, Samantha Unger
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Dec. 14 Lector: EMHC: Servers:	John or Justine Karduck Barry Dickerson, Ray Tucker Henry Karduck, Wil Karduck
10:00 a.m.	Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Andrew Zasada John Dixon, Pat Dixon, Bonita Higgerson Emma Lwao, Camille Christhlf
4:00 p.m.	Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Mary Linnenburger Jim Linnenburger James Linnenburger, Sam Easton



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December

7:00 a.m. Patricia Engels
8:15 a.m. Dean Schwenk

Tuesday, December 9

7:00 a.m. Karen Santarelli

Wednesday, December 10

6:00 p.m. Bernie Hammel

Thursday, December 11

9:00 a.m. Joseph Buyno, Sr.

Friday, December 12

8:15 a.m. Tammi Lynn Kelly Baughman

Saturday, December 13

5:30 p.m. Byron de Haven

Sunday, December 14

8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners
10:00 a.m. Charles Leahy
4:00 p.m. Mary Elizabeth Warner



FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of David Kelton. May his soul and those of all the Faithful Departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



NEWEST MEMBER OF THE CHURCH,

and of Holy Cross, through the Sacrament of Baptism, is Charlie Ralph Bodine, son of William and Hadley Bodine.

Let us support Charlie on his faith journey!



Senior Luncheon - If you are 55 or older,

Join us at the Senior Luncheon Thursday, **December 11th at noon**, and every second Thursday of the month. Come and enjoy old friends, and make some new ones, sharing good food and good stories! We look forward to seeing you there. Don't forget to bring a side dish to share!)



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.

Collections

Offering for November 22nd/23rd.....\$9,250.30

Offering for November 29th/30th.....\$8,012.00

Thank You Very Much!



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

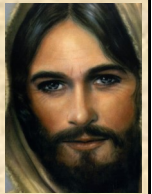
Catholic Daughters & Children of Hope and Faith will send handmade crafts.



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.

Hello Holy Cross Parishioners,

I recently spoke at mass requesting donations for my Eagle Scout project to redo the Wall of Stars at Holy Cross School. I am so thankful for your generosity and support for our Holy Cross Veterans. My goal was to raise \$2,000 to \$3,000 and I now have over \$5,000. This has exceeded expectations which means the plaques will be higher quality and funds will be available to continue adding veterans for years to come. I thank you all again for showing you care.

Sincerely,
James Linnenburger



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

Thank You!!

To all who participated in this year's
Catholic Charities Giving Tree
and/or the Swann Special Care Center
Christmas Wish List.

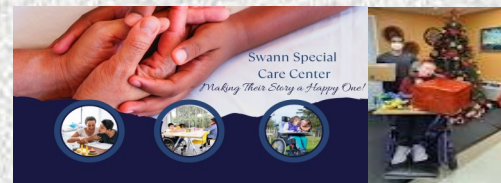
You have truly made a difference in the
lives of others this Christmas Season!



THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES GIVING TREE PROJECT



Catholic Charities
DIOCESE OF PEORIA
PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE.



Special Care Center Gifts

HOLY CROSS STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - September 30, 2025

	<u>YTD ACTUAL</u>	<u>YTD BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL ACTUAL LAST YEAR</u>
INCOME			
Parish Ordinary Revenue Totals:	179,446.08	169,839.16	714,876.07
Parish Extraordinary Revenue Totals:	9,038.37	6,080.15	99,729.67
Tuition and Fees Totals:	310,782.98	359,511.84	1,606,933.70
Contributions and Development Totals:	3,111.22	2,096.96	81,567.86
Investment Income Totals:	1,494.93	0.00	30,280.93
Other Income Totals	8,394.84	31,722.26	166,113.02
Income Totals:	<u>512,268.42</u>	<u>569,250.37</u>	<u>2,699,501.25</u>
EXPENSE			
Salaries and Wages Total:	440,439.34	349,689.96	1,594,855.62
Taxes and Benefits Totals:	139,828.81	100,973.74	478,043.37
Repairs and Maintenance Totals:	25,271.80	30,215.76	35,139.76
Other Expenses Totals	69,144.11	35,622.84	134,376.47
Materials and Supplies Totals:	48,486.93	47,311.40	189,979.10
Insurance Totals:	24,302.75	21,076.35	84,305.40
Utilities Totals:	32,191.59	43,547.51	69,611.62
Instructional Expenses & Student Totals:	36,166.40	33,722.12	26,395.26
Education and Other Assessments Totals:	33,722.12	13,058.83	102,567.62
Investment Gains & Losses Totals:	(3,179.82)	0.00	(99,488.55)
Capital Expenditures Totals:	9,640.42	1,967.28	42,491.11
Expense Totals:	<u>858,294.34</u>	<u>690,296.86</u>	<u>2,810,496.89</u>
INCOME - EXPENSE	<u>(346,025.92)</u>	<u>(121,046.49)</u>	<u>(110,995.64)</u>



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.



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)



We are parishioners within the Catholic Diocese of Peoria and recently published a children's book titled *Milo and the Storm Inside*.

This story was written from the heart—with the hope of helping children understand and manage their emotions while learning to trust that God is always with them, even in the midst of life's storms.

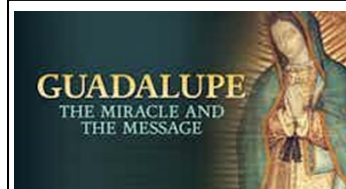
Our inspiration came from our son, and we've seen how this story has helped him find peace and reassurance through faith. We pray it can do the same for other children and families.



MARY: THE MOTHER OF GOD

Footprints of God with Stephen Ray

She was a humble girl from an ordinary Jewish family. Yet Mary said a simple "yes" and came to be exalted as the Daughter of Zion, the Mother of God, and the Queen of Heaven. Filmed on location in Turkey, Israel, and Greece with popular Catholic author and speaker Stephen Ray, this study allows us to follow the dusty paths that took Mary to the heart of the salvation story. By discovering the Mary of the Bible, you'll know and love her Son even more. And you'll discover the truth behind Mary's Immaculate Conception, Assumption into Heaven, and role as intercessor.



GUADALUPE: THE MIRACLE AND THE MESSAGE

The most important event in the evangelization of the New World occurred in December,

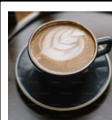
1531. Over the course of four days, the Virgin Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, appeared to an indigenous convert named Juan Diego. As a result of this encounter, and the image miraculously imprinted on Juan Diego's tilma (cloak), nine million Native Americans embraced the Catholic faith, and the Americas began its transformation into the Catholic hemisphere. Our Lady of Guadalupe's message of love had replaced the institutionalized violence of the Aztec culture and built a bridge between two worlds.

Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message traces the history of this transformative event from the 16th century to the present. Featuring interviews with leading theologians, historians, and experts on the scientific inquiries into the miraculous image, this gripping film explores both the inexplicable mysteries behind the image, and the continued relevance of the Guadalupe apparition to the modern world.

Narrated by Jim Caviezel.



Pro-Life News



Pro-Life Discussion Group for October

Special drop-in time at Panera's on Kirby
11am-12:30 pm December 15th.

Come and grab a cup of coffee, snack or lunch, and join in a drop-in discussion!

Last meeting we had participants from Holy Cross, St. Matthew, St. Patrick Urbana, St. Patrick Tolono and Our Lady of the Lake, Mahomet!

This is an Ecumenical Group - and we discuss Pro-Life items - from current items in the news, to specific topics and we answer questions and discuss.

Join us for any amount of time for friendship and fellowship!

For more information, contact Joy Pace 217 840-0322



FAMILIES IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE

If anyone wants to help families who need assistance, please consider making a donation to the Holy Cross Pro-Life committee.

You can donate by:

- on-line giving (see special 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!

Please keep everyone 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.

Jiffylube

Our Parish has a FORMED subscription. To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

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
Haggin 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