



*greg taylor*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# Holy Cross Confirmation December 6, 2025



**Advent**  
THIRD WEEK

**Church of the Exaltation  
of the Holy Cross**  
December 14, 2025





### MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT



**Sunday, December 14** – Set aside the anxieties, worries, and tensions that come along with the materialistic views of Christmas. Write down what you can do to serve the spiritual needs of your family during the next ten days.

**Monday, December 15** – “She brought forth her firstborn son.” Mary and Joseph were patient and understanding with their son, Jesus. How can you be more patient, understanding, and loving with your own children during this Christmas season?

**Tuesday, December 16** – “She wrapped him in swaddling clothes.” He renounced all earthly possessions from the day He was born. He could have chosen to be born in a palace with fine clothing and other earthly possessions. Instead, He came to this Earth in humility and left the Earth in humility. Would you be willing to give up your earthly possessions to follow in Christ’s footsteps? Give up one thing today that you desire to have and offer your sacrifice up as a prayer.

**Wednesday, December 17** – “She laid him in a manger.” Why would God preordain that His son be laid in a manger? Is there a message for us in this simple act of humility? “Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.” Are you meek? Are you humble of heart? Learn from the Christ child, who was willing to be placed in a manger.

**Thursday, December 18** – “She laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” God can be loved anywhere — in a cave, a car, an office — anywhere. Try to make an act of love in a different place every day — in your car, in your office, in your kitchen, in the bathroom of your house. Make room for the Christ child in your heart.

**Friday, December 19** – “I bring you good news! ... an infant ... lying in a manger.” Can you “tell a book by its cover?” What would you think if you saw a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, in a cave, surrounded by animals? Are you willing to look for Jesus in everyone you meet? Are you willing to look beyond the “cover” and accept people as they are?

**Saturday, December 20** – “We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” The three kings had everything money could buy. But they were not content. Something was missing — the Christ child. Is there something missing in your life? If so, seek out the Christ child and you will find true happiness.

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



### 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

*Mgr. 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](mailto:office@holycrosscatholic.org)  
website: [www.holycrosscatholic.org](http://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.

# Third 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

<b>Saturday</b> 5:30 p.m.	<b>Dec. 20</b> Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Tim Spila John Kelley, Peg Swanson Ethan Weldy, Oliver Weldy
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 21</b> Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Judi Sherman Sue Berndt, Lynette Barham Violet Grace, Landen Douglas
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Michael Roedelbronn Margie Hoss, Dawn Friedman, Bonita Higgerson Emma Lwao, Lincoln Wood
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Ed Seebauer Juliann Seebauer Lucy Rank, Sophie Rank



### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### Monday, December 15

7:00 a.m. Deacon Ed Ulbrich

#### Tuesday, December 16

7:00 a.m. Jennifer Deponai

#### Wednesday, December 17

6:00 p.m. Karen Santarelli

#### Thursday, December 18

7:00 a.m. Leo Dhom

#### Friday, December 19

8:15 a.m. Karen Santarelli

#### Saturday, December 20

5:30 p.m. In honor of  
Esme and Rubi Gonzalez

#### Sunday, December 21

8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners

10:00 a.m. David Atchley

4:00 p.m. Stephen Primmer

### HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



#### Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.

**Midnight Mass - 12:00 a.m.**

(Incense will be used during the Midnight Mass)

**Music at 11:30 p.m.**

#### Christmas Day

9:00 a.m.

#### AREA WIDE ADVENT Penance Service:

To prepare for Christmas, there will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of a parish Penitential Service. Several priests will gather to celebrate the Lord's forgiveness.

Monday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. at  
St. Matthew Church 1303 Lincolnshire Dr - Champaign



#### MUSIC BEFORE MIDNIGHT MASS (11:30 P.M.)

Note from the Music Director - The Holy Cross choir and guest musicians are pleased to present special music before Midnight Mass again this year. Please join us at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve to enjoy seasonal music and carols by Bach, Buxtehude, Praetorius, and other German composers--including the original version of Silent Night (*Stille Nacht*)! The program will be followed by Midnight Mass with music accompanied by string quartet.



### Simbang Gabi Novena Mass Schedule

Dec. 15, Monday	6:00 p.m.	Holy Cross
Dec. 16, Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Holy Cross
Dec. 17, Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Holy Cross (Community Mass)
Dec. 18, Thursday	6:00 p.m.	St. Patrick
Dec. 19, Friday	6:00 p.m.	Our Lady of the Lake
Dec. 20, Saturday	4:30 p.m.	St. Matthew (Community Mass)
Dec. 21, Sunday	5:30 p.m.	St. Matthew (Community Mass)
Dec. 22, Monday	6:00 p.m.	St. Patrick
Dec. 23, Tuesday	6:00 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



### FAITHFUL DEPARTED - Your prayers are

requested for the repose of the soul of Mary Jane Kelley. May her soul and those of all the Faithful Departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.





## 2025 CONFIRMANDI

Congratulations to those who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, December 6th.  
May God's grace fill their lives!

Brendan Byard	Avery Natschke
Landen Douglas	Jehun Park
Lydia Durdan	Max Petersen
Alex Enriquez	Braden Ritter
Jackson Gibas	Harper Scott
Michael Hartnett	Petra Scott
Owen Marinunga	Colton Stonecipher
Teagan Merz	Alice Withers-Sickles
Nathan Mokos	Charlie Young



A note to Holy Cross office after picking up all of the wonderful gifts that you, the parishioners of Holy Cross, gifted to the residents of SWANN Special Care center.

(From the Activity and Social Services Director at SWANN Center.)

*From Beverlyn,*

*I am just at awe from all of the gifts that they had given to all of our residents. We are so blessed with all of the love. Our residents saw the gifts as we take it inside the building and their eyes just glowed of excitement!  
Thank you very much!*



## 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!

Donations have been made in the memory of:  
John and Clara Rakers, and Wayne and Dolores Wade.



**Most Reverend Louis Tylka**  
Diocese of Peoria  
Office of the Bishop

December 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon, our parishes will participate in the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. This important annual appeal benefits more than 20,500 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives in service to the Church.

These faithful servants have long been a source of inspiration and support in our communities. I am personally grateful for the religious who helped shape my own faith journey. Perhaps you, too, have known an elderly sister, brother, or religious order priest whose quiet dedication, prayerful presence, or selfless acts left a lasting impression on your life.

Today, the challenges many of these senior religious and their communities face in meeting their retirement needs are greater than ever. Most received little to no pay for their service, and their communities struggle to cover rising health care expenses and the increasing cost of day-to-day eldercare. The financial burdens continue to grow, and the need is urgent.

Gifts to the Retirement Fund for Religious make a real, tangible difference to these many women and men religious. Contributions directly support their ongoing care today and help ensure that their communities can plan wisely for their future.

I know you are asked to support many worthy causes, and I thank you for the many ways you give. Please consider making a gift to this year's collection if you are able—and continue to pray for all our elderly religious. They also remember us daily in their prayers.

May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly with peace and health.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Most Reverend Louis Tylka  
Bishop of Peoria

## Retirement Fund for Religious ~ December 13/14, 2025 ~

A second collection will be taken on the weekend of December 13/14 for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This national collection helps support many elderly religious whose communities lack the resources to meet the retirement and health-care needs of their aging members.



## CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE



## Christmas Cookie & Craft Sale

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

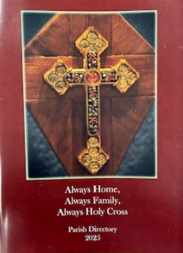
**Sun. Dec 14, 8:00-1:00**

**Cookies are \$7.00 a plate.**

**Holy Cross Parish Hall**

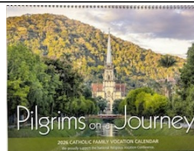
Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
All proceeds go to charity

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



## HOLY CROSS PARISH DIRECTORIES

The Parish Directories are here. If you had your picture taken for the directory, and haven't picked one up yet, please come the Parish Office, to pick up your directory. (Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm)



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.

## Collections

Offering for December 6th/7th.....\$24,811.39

Tuition Assistance .....\$610.00

Thank You Very Much!



**High School of St. Thomas More**  
**217-352-7210**  
**[www.hs-stm.org](http://www.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](http://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](mailto: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 **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. Purchase tickets and explore sponsorship opportunities at <https://hs-stm.org/page/gala>.

### **2025-2026 Paideia Award and Distinguished Alumni Award**

will be presented at the Gala on February 21st. Please help us recognize those who are champions of our mission by submitting your nominations for this year's honorees *no later than January 16th*. Additional details and nomination forms can be found at <https://www.hs-stm.org/page/gala>. Questions? Email us at [give@hs-stm.org](mailto:give@hs-stm.org).

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

**If interested email:**

**Sr. M. Bridget** at [srbridget@hs-stm.org](mailto:srbridget@hs-stm.org) and

**John Delaney, Athletic Director** at [jdelaney@hs-stm.org](mailto: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](http://www.holycrosselem.org)**

From the Desk of Principal Greg Koerner -

As the Christmas season approaches, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support and dedication. This special time of year reminds us of the importance of community, kindness, and shared joy.

Together, we have created a nurturing environment where our children can grow, learn, and thrive. Your involvement and encouragement are the greatest gifts we can receive, and they inspire us to continue working toward a brighter future for all.

During this festive season, let us embrace the spirit of giving, compassion, and unity. Whether through acts of kindness, volunteering, or simply sharing a warm smile, each of us has the power to make a positive difference.

We wish you and your families a joyful, peaceful, and safe Christmas filled with love and happiness. May this season bring you closer to those you cherish and inspire us all to carry the spirit of generosity into the new year.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community. We look forward to continued collaboration and success in the year ahead.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

**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)

**STM EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

SIGN UP FOR A 30-MINUTE TIME SLOT TODAY!

 **THURSDAYS**  
**10:30AM-3:15PM**



[tinyurl.com/STM-Adoration](https://tinyurl.com/STM-Adoration)



INTRODUCING  
**MILO AND THE STORM INSIDE**

When little Milo feels a storm of big emotions—anger, sadness, and fear—he learns that even in the middle of the storm, God is always with him. This heartwarming picture book helps children recognize their feelings and find peace through faith.

Available now on Amazon!  
Search "Milo and the Storm Inside" or scan the QR code below to order your copy.



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.





Greetings;

The winter weather is upon us, but that hasn't slowed the Knights down.

- The Champaign council gifted each of our three vicariate seminarians with \$500.
- The Monticello council has named an exemplary "Star Council". The council will be holding a free throw tournament next month to raise money for charity.
- Our Philo council placed the annual Christmas tree in that city's square and held a lighting ceremony just prior to Thanksgiving. They are also considering holding a "polar plunge", by taking part you could "chill out" and raise money for charity at the same time.
- Our Urbana members recently held a "Ladies night out" and are planning a Super Bowl event in early February.
- Our assemblies' Honor Guard was present when Bishop Tyka celebrated a Mass at St Mary's in Pesotum commemorating the parish's 150-year anniversary.
- The honor guard was also present at St Michael's parish in Bement as the church celebrated its last Mass before the doors closed forever.

As you can see, we keep going and going. We invite you to come along as we try to make our corner of this earth a better place. To join us visit "koec.org/join", You'll be glad you did.

Stay warm, stay safe and pray for our community. Until next time...

In service to one, in service to all.

## 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 Apartments

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



## 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



## SAVE THE DATE(S):

Save January 21 and January 22 - two Pro-Life events:

Micaella Clay, an Abortion Survivor, Speaker and Adoption Advocate, will be here in Champaign-Urbana area for a talk at St. John's Catholic Newman Center, on January 21, 6:00pm(ish), and the Ecumenical Memorial Pro-Life Prayer Vigil, on January 22 at 7:00 pm, at the Savoy United Methodist Church.

Stay tuned for more info!



## 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!

## HOLY CROSS FIRST FRIDAY MEMORIAL