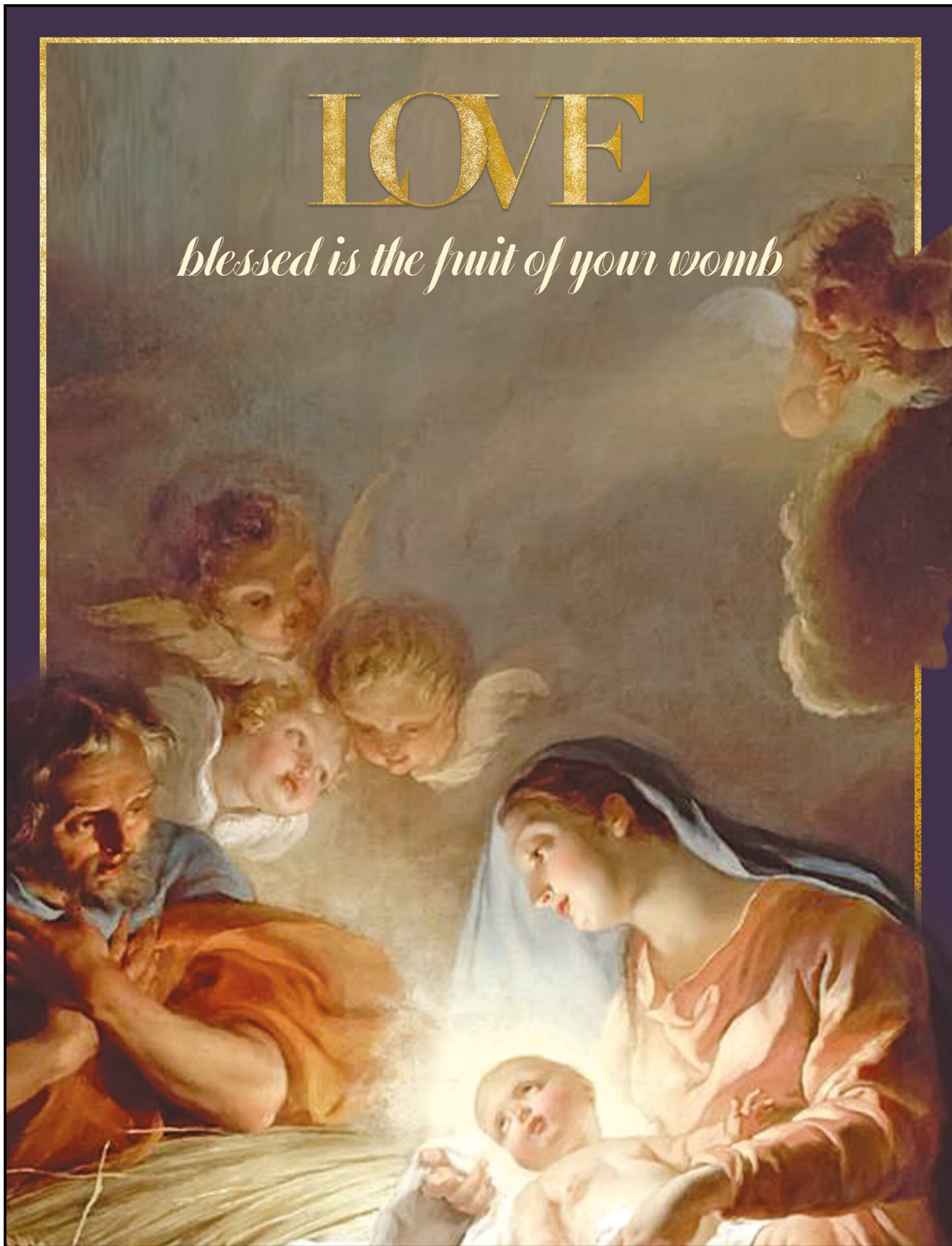


# LOVE

*blessed is the fruit of your womb*





**A PRAYER FOR THE  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

God of light and life, give us hope as we wait for your coming again.

When we are tempted to be grateful to have found you while others are lost, send us out into the darkness in search of those who need you most.

Amen.



**A PRAYER FOR THE  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Jesus you came among us with the irresistible power of a baby, requiring both our hands and captivating our whole hearts. Help us to cast aside the sin and brokenness that we cling to, so we might be ready to hold you when you come again.

Amen.



**A PRAYER FOR THE  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Joy-filled Giver of Life, let the anticipation of your birth fill us with overflowing joy. May our excitement and anticipation be a sign to the world that you are always near.

Amen.



**A PRAYER FOR THE  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Jesus, you are constantly coming to your people, even when we fail to see you. In each and every moment that we are blessed to recognize you here and now, give us the courage to leap with joy at your coming.

Amen.

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

*Glory to God in the Highest!*

My precious Lord Jesus, I adore You with profound love and rejoice in the celebration of Your birth. Your love for us is unfathomable. It is glorious, transforming, awe-inspiring and deeply personal. You chose to come and dwell among us, being born into poverty, rejection, and humility. Yet your mother knew who she bore, Her heart was filled with the tenderest love as she adored her Child and her God.

Help me dear Lord, To come to love You with the heart of Your mother. Invite me to adore You with St. Joseph and the poor shepherds. Reveal to me the glorious power of Your birth. And change my life on account of this perfect gift of Yourself. I love You dear Lord Jesus. Help me to love You with all my heart. Newborn Savior of the World, I trust in You. Mother Mary and St. Joseph, Pray for me and for all. Amen.



**PASTORAL STAFF SERVING HOLY CROSS**

*Fr. Joseph P. Donton, Pastor*  
*Fr. Remigius Bukuru, Parochial Vicar*  
*Deacon Ed Mohrbacher*  
*Deacon Michael Smith*

**TRUSTEES**

*Tom Murray John Powers*

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

*Gloria Fellers*

**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. Monday thru Friday

Holy Days: 7:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m.

**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**

Adoration is available on the patio in the courtyard anytime.

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturday: 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday thru Friday, 6:30-6:45 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 a baptismal preparation session, 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

## 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.

### A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE ROMANS 16:25-27:

Brothers and sisters: to him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen



### Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Monday, Dec. 21</b> 7:00 a.m.	Joe Doyle
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 22</b> 7:00 a.m.	Johnny Deponai
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 23</b> 7:00 a.m.	All Souls
<b>Thursday, Dec. 24</b> 4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>Christmas Eve Masses</b> Joe, Ruth, and Pat Doyle Johnny Calcagno
<b>Friday, Dec. 25</b> 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	<b>Christmas Day Masses</b> Nancy L. Reardon Joseph Kupsche
<b>Saturday, Dec. 26</b> 5:30 p.m.	Msgr. Albert Hallin
<b>Sunday, Dec. 27</b> 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Beverly Lynch Dorothy Hunter For the Parishioners

### MISSIONARY APPEAL

You can still help support Fr. Remi's diocese in Tanzania. Put your donation in the collection basket, drop it off at the Parish Office, or mail it to us. Make checks payable to Holy Cross. Your contributions are much appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!



**NEWEST MEMBER OF THE CHURCH**, and of Holy Cross, through the Sacrament of Baptism, is Pablo Cisneros Hurtado, son of Esteban Cisneros and Martha Hurtado. Let us support Pablo on his faith journey!



In consultation with the Parish Council and the Reopening our Church Committee, I am taking this opportunity to share with you our plan for celebrating Christmas at Holy Cross. Please note the time changes. Sorry, no Midnight Mass this year.

### MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

### RESERVED SEATING

Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate the in-person crowds we are accustomed to. Seating for the Christmas Masses will be by reservation only. Seating will be available in the church AND the parish hall. Doors will be open 30 minutes before Mass begins. All four Masses will be livestreamed on the parish Facebook page [www.facebook.com/holycrosscatholic](http://www.facebook.com/holycrosscatholic). You can make a reservation by calling the Parish Office (217) 352-8748 or emailing us at [office@holycrosscatholic.org](mailto:office@holycrosscatholic.org).

### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

#### **Thursday, Christmas Eve**

4:30 p.m. Anthony & Beth Frasca  
6:30 p.m. Peg Swanson, Jan Weber

#### **Friday, Christmas Day**

8:00 a.m. Sue Berndt, *(need 1 more)*  
10:00 a.m. *(need 2)*

#### **Saturday, December 26**

5:30 p.m. John Bingaman

#### **Sunday, December 27**

8:00 a.m. No ministers  
10:00 a.m. Bonita Higgerson, Dawn Friedman  
4:00 p.m. Ed & Juliann Seebauer, Elaine Hershberger

### **STEWARDSHIP**

*"Give to the Most High as He has given to you, generously, according to your means."* Sirach 35: 7-10

### **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED BUT MASS STILL TAKING PLACE**



The Parish Office is closed until further notice. We are still available by phone (217) 352-8748, and email: [office@holycrosscatholic.org](mailto:office@holycrosscatholic.org). You can also find information at [holycrosscatholic.org](http://holycrosscatholic.org) on our website.

The lobby of the Parish Center will be open for drop-off or pick-up of any necessary items or materials.

At this time, we are still having Mass. We will continue to practice the COVID safety guidelines. This includes social distancing, wearing a face mask over your mouth and nose, and sanitizing practices.

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Due to the Corona virus this year, there will not be the usual 4-evening Christmas penitential services with our other local Catholic churches. But of course here at Holy Cross we have confessions every weekday morning before the 7:00 a.m. Mass (6:30-6:45), as well as Saturday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

### **CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND**



Donations have been made in memory of the Hettinger, Painter & Wagner families; Rose Baum; Norma Wilson; James & Zachary McNabney; Finn W. Oliveira; Skip Hartman; Mel Meyer; John & Clara Rakers; Wayne & Delores Wade; Donna Menacher; the Murray & Huckaba families; Robert Lewis & Robert Plecki Sr., the Cochrane & Vedder families; Tom & Anne Corkery; John & Catherine Murray; Ethel Cox; Sr. Rita Corkery; Francine Cindy Gibas; Harold, Jo Ann & Charles Heidbreder; the Williams, Barham & Lykins families; Jim & Kathryn Bristow; the Calcagno and Christians families; and Chuck Schweighart.



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**  
**CHRISTMAS SUCCESS!**



Many thanks to all who helped make the Catholic Charities Giving Tree Project a great success! Because of your generosity, Holy Cross is able to contribute toward making Christmas brighter for families across the diocese! We were able to fulfill our part of the goal, plus a little more. Thank you again, Holy Cross Parishioners!



**Holy Cross School**  
**356-9521**  
[www.holycrosselem.org](http://www.holycrosselem.org)

### School Office Hours

Every day that school is in session, the school office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please call or email with any questions or concerns. We are here for you!

### Save the Date! Empower Illinois Scholarship Reservation Day

Reserve your spot to apply for an Empower Illinois Scholarship for the 2021-2022 school year on **Jan. 13th!** Reservations open at 6:30 p.m. in order to submit at 7:00 p.m.

### Need Financial Assistance for the 2021-2022 School Year? You Must:

1. Apply for an Empower Illinois Scholarship.
2. Submit and pay for (\$30) the FACTS Grant & Aid Application (usually opens in January each year).
3. Apply for the Diocesan Spalding Scholarship (more info to come after January 2021).
4. Request assistance from your home parish (Holy Cross, St. Patrick, or St. Mary's).

### BE SAFE, BE HEALTHY AND BE BLESSED

We look forward to our journey toward Christmas and our remembrance of Christ's humble entrance into our world.



**High School of St. Thomas More**  
**352-7210**  
[www.hs-stm.org](http://www.hs-stm.org)

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The High School of St. Thomas More is seeking applicants for a Spanish Teacher and a Biology Teacher for the 2021-2022 academic year. The Athletic Department is seeking applications for an Assistant Boys and Girls Tennis Coach. If interested email Sr. M. Bridget, [srmbridget@hs-stm.org](mailto:srmbridget@hs-stm.org).

### STM OFFICE HOURS

During this time of Virtual Learning and Holiday Season, STM will have limited school office hours. To contact the school during this time, view <https://www.hs-stm.org/o/hs-stm/staff> for faculty and staff emails, or leave a message at 217-352-7210.

### STM ADMISSIONS NEWS

Calling all 8th graders: You Belong Here! Become a St. Thomas More Saber. Applications for 2021-22 are officially open, and those who submit a completed application by February 1st will receive 2% off their tuition amount. Apply at <https://ecollect.accelaschool.com/stm>.

**FORMED**  
 PICK OF THE WEEK



### CHRISTMAS IN ROME: A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY

Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus in Bethlehem.



### THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS

The story of the birth of Jesus is often misunderstood. But this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity clears away widespread misunderstandings of Jesus' origin. Explore the true story of Mary and Joseph, Jesus's miraculous conception, the birth of John the Baptist, the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the Star of Bethlehem, and the birth of Jesus. Join top scholars, speakers, and authors as they explain the story behind the story of the birth of Jesus. The Story of the Nativity also includes works of art depicting the biblical story, from and footage from the Holy Land showing the places where the Christmas story actually took place.

**Our Parish has a FORMED subscription.**  
 To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.



## A WORD FROM JOY

We partner with various organizations, and are providing Christmas meals for three of our families, courtesy of St Vincent de Paul Society. Thank You Mark T. and his helpers at SVdP for your ongoing support of our families! This is a special partnership that I am so grateful for! Our families are happily relieved when they get Christmas help.

We are also partnering with St Matthew School and teachers and others for Christmas help for our families. We know that this year is a lean and strange one for everyone. I want to say from the bottom of my heart that we are so grateful for any and all the help we are getting!

Needs: Gift cards to Sam's Club, Walgreens, Target and Amazon for diapers/pullups and toiletries. Aldi gift cards to help with food security for our families.

Prayers— We appreciate it so much that people are praying for our ministry and for all the families we currently assist. Please keep everyone associated with this ministry in your prayers; we cannot do this work without God's grace, guidance, and YOU! Thank You! If you have any questions, please, contact me at: [joypace@msn.com](mailto:joypace@msn.com) or 217-359-8406 (home). Thank you and God bless you for your support.

## 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.

### Starcrest Cleaners



Dear Lord God,  
We pray that you will call many fine young men  
to the Priesthood.  
May they have the grace to hear your call  
and to respond wholeheartedly,  
giving of themselves generously  
in the service of your Church,  
that we may be greatly strengthened and may grow.  
May these fine priests have the grace  
of perseverance and not burn out.  
And may they be supported  
and encouraged and appreciated.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**THE 2021 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 complimentary calendars every year!

## HOLY CROSS FIRST FRIDAY MEMORIAL

Devall, Desmier, Jensen Families  
Menke & Leahy Families  
Jerry & Loretta M. Dano  
Paul, Joe, Edward, & Marie Knoke  
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  
Pellum & Gillis Families  
Thelma Sparks, Parents of Charles & Thelma Sparks  
Ed & Jean Bown  
Chuck, Chad, Meghan Schweighart  
Larry Hausmann, Bob Soucie  
Living & Dec. Mem. of Cler & Flavin Families  
Graham & Huguette 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  
Living & Dec. members of Baum & Decker Families  
Barham & Bosch Families  
Tangora & Kovera Families  
William McMahon, Linda & Mike Wesolowski  
McNamara & Mulcahey Family  
Living & Dec. Mem. of Giuffre & Cacioppo Families  
Boudreau & Arseneau Family  
Margaret Turkan  
Aloysius J. Winka  
Charlie & Evelyn Bell  
Zeilenga Family  
Rentfrow Family  
Ron Murphy  
Haggin Family  
Rakers-Wade Families  
Hershberger & 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  
Margaret Hettinger  
Raymond Timpone  
Maxine Timpone  
Living & Dec. Mem. of Schwenk Family  
Perrodin Family  
Living & Dec. Mem. of McNabney Family  
Liv. & Dec. Mem. of Eli & Hazel Kinser Family  
John Michael Cabutti  
Glen & Helen Jones  
Betty Madrey  
Christie & Hoss Families  
Menacher & Sizer Families  
Leonard & Loretto Doyle  
Alan & Patricia Berndt  
Thomas McCarthy  
Costello Family