



“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”  
which means “God is with us.”

Matthew 1:23

December 21, 2025

# Christ is Born

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*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests.  
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,  
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:5

**Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**



### MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT

**Sunday, December 21** – “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.

#### **Monday, December 22** –

How are you going to carry the Christmas spirit into the new year? Write down one spiritual resolution for the new year. Are you willing to attend Mass more than once a week? Are you willing to pray a daily Rosary? Are you willing to make spiritual reading a part of your daily routine? Make the commitment right now by writing it down.

#### **Tuesday, December 23** –

“Love one another as I have loved you.” How much did Jesus Christ love you? Enough to be born in a cave. Enough to die on the cross in order to win salvation for you. Would you give up all your possessions for the one you love? Would you voluntarily submit to being nailed to a wooden cross for the one you love? “Love one another as I have loved you.”

#### **Wednesday, December 24** –

“She laid Him in a Manger.” Do you know what the definition of a “manger” is? A manger is “an eating trough” — something that animals eat out of. Do you know what “Bethlehem” means? It means “house of bread.” The Bread of Life was placed in an eating trough after being born in the house of bread. You should constantly seek to develop a deeper love for the Eucharist, which should include frequent attendance at daily Mass and participation in weekly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

#### **Thursday, December 25** –

“And they shall call Him Emmanuel” (which means God is with us).

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

**Merry Christmas!**



### 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

*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](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.



# 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.

### LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday</b> 5:30 p.m.	<b>Dec. 27</b> Lector: EMHC: Servers:	David Kristovich Sharon Kristovich, Peg Swanson, Terry Sturdyvin John Haggin, Joey Haggin
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 28</b> Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Duncan Oliveira Sue Berndt, Lynette Barham Trevor Tucker, McKenna Tucker
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Joe Mefford John Dixon, Pat Dixon, Dawn Friedman Ben Summers, Lincoln Wood
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Lector: EMHC: Servers:	Rob Shanahan Katrina Covello Ithuriel Randall, (need 1 more)



### Simbang Gabi Novena Mass Schedule

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



**NEWEST MEMBER OF THE CHURCH,**  
and of Holy Cross, through the Sacrament of Baptism, is Izzabella Kelley Briann Robinson, daughter of Brice Robinson and Adeline Cobb. Let us support Izzabella on her faith journey!



### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### Monday, December 22

7:00 a.m.

For the Deceased Members of Catholic Daughters of Illinois

#### Tuesday, December 23

7:00 a.m.

Aileesha Potter

#### Wednesday, December 24

4:00 p.m.

Ricardo Galvan

Midnight Mass (1200am)

Joseph Kupsche

#### Thursday, December 25

7:00 a.m.

Joe, Ruth, and Pat Doyle

#### Friday, December 26

8:15 a.m.

Bernie Hammel

#### Saturday, December 27

5:30 p.m.

Karen Santarelli

#### Sunday, December 28

8:00 a.m.

Lester and Charlotte Joop

10:00 a.m.

David Atchley

4:00 p.m.

For the Parishioners

### 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.



#### 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.

### Collections

Offering for December 13th/14th.....\$11,583.10  
Development .....\$126.00

Thank You Very Much!

The Parish Office will be closed from noon on Tuesday, December 23rd through Friday, December 26th. The office will reopen Monday, December 29th.

**Blessings to all during this Christmas Season!**



**St. Patrick's Food Pantry**  
**Located at St. Patrick Parish Center**  
**304 East Vine Street, Tolono, IL**

**Open Weekly**  
 Mondays, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
 Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**"You Pick"** ... Choose the food you need with no restrictions related to residency, income, age, race, religion or frequency.

Jan Blaney, Coordinator, 217/621-5694



## 150th Anniversary Book Orders

If you would like to be added to the list to purchase one of these books with photos of all the churches in the Diocese of Peoria, reply to this email or call the parish office. Books will arrive around Easter time. Books will be shipped directly to Holy Cross. Only a limited supply is available.



**Catholic Charities**  
 DIOCESE OF PEORIA  
 PROVIDING HELP, GIVING HOPE

## A Grateful Thank You to our Parish Communities

Catholic Charities expresses sincere gratitude to all the parishes within our diocese for their generous support of this year's Christmas Program. Due to your compassion, generosity, and commitment to service, we were able to assist 3,530 individuals during this sacred season.



Your readiness to contribute, through donations, time, prayers, and compassionate outreach, has had a significant impact on the lives of families, seniors, and individuals in need of hope and joy during the Christmas season. You have exemplified the hands and heart of Christ to those we serve.

We extend our heartfelt thanks for your partnership in our mission and for being a living testament to God's love within our communities. May the Lord richly bless you for your contributions and dedication to this important work.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year,

Sr. M. Clare Key, DSF – Christmas Program Coordinator



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

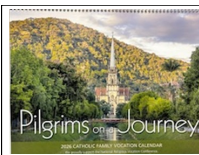
December is fast approaching, and it's not too early to contribute to the flower fund to pay for this year's poinsettia order for the church's Christmas decorations. You may drop your donation in the collection basket in an envelope marked "flower fund" or bring it to the office.

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; Kevin Hodge; Finn Whelan Oliveira; Jean and Ed Bown; Frank Hartman and Bernie Hammel; Jim and Kathryn Bristow; Bingaman and Cosgrove Families; Karen Santarelli; Owen Families; Donna Menacher; Tom and Anne Corkery, John and C. Joan Murray, and Ethel Cox.



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.

## HOLY CROSS EMAIL LIST

Do you receive our Sunday morning emails? Each week we send out an email about parish & school happenings, links to Mass, readings, reflections, and so much more! Email [stephanie@holycrosscatholic.org](mailto:stephanie@holycrosscatholic.org) to be added to our email list!



**JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST**



There will be NO BINGO in January.

The next Bingo will be on Friday, February 6, 2026





**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 **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. 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).

**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 Full-Time English Teacher, a Part-Time Spanish Teacher, a Girls Track Coach and an Athletic Bus Driver. **If interested email:**

**Sr. M. Bridget** at [srmbridget@hs-stm.org](mailto:srmbridget@hs-stm.org) and **John Delaney**, Athletic Director at [jdelaney@hs-stm.org](mailto:jdelaney@hs-stm.org).



**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)

### **1ST ANNUAL HOLY CROSS TROOP 9 SPAGHETTI DINNER**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ONGOING NEEDS OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2026**

**AFTER 5:30 MASS  
 HOLY CROSS PARISH HALL**



- ALL YOU CAN EAT SALAD, BREAD, SPAGHETTI, MARINARA, AND MEATBALLS.
- TROOP 9 SCOUTS AND STM STUDENTS WILL BE YOUR SERVERS FOR THE EVENING.
- BRING YOUR OWN WINE FOR THE EVENING.
- DESERT WILL BE PROVIDED
- FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED.

Interested in take out? Complete this form:



## **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)

### **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!





## 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. Join top scholars, inspirational speakers, and popular authors as they explain the story behind the story of the birth of Jesus. The Story of the Nativity also includes stunning works of art depicting the biblical story, from Fra Angelico to Rembrandt, and footage from the Holy Land showing the places where the Christmas story actually took place. 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. This is an invaluable tool for believer and unbeliever alike to learn more about Jesus of Nazareth and about the truth of Christmas.



## O HOLY NIGHT, THE KING IS BORN: WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.



## CHRISTMAS | AUDIO

Collection of audio content centered on the season of Christmas.

## 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.

**Kitchen Bath and Cabinet Co**



## Pro-Life News



### ~~~~~ New News ~~~~~

Our babies are doing fine, including the early-birth baby!

We have some assistance for two families via Thrivent Corporation! We are getting details together now!

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### November recap!

We distributed over 1,948 diapers to 17 children in 10 families.

We have two new babies! Please keep both of these families in your prayers!

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, and a microwave.

## 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

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