

December 28, 2025

Feast of the
Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



Let the heart of
our families, be
like that of Jesus,
and together
with Mary and
Joseph may we
ask ourselves
what God wants
of us and joyfully
do it.

Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Heavenly Father,

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the blessings of the past and hope for the future. We lift our voices in prayer, seeking Your divine presence and guidance in the days that lie ahead.

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the gift of life and the countless blessings You have bestowed upon us. As we enter into this new year, we humbly ask for Your abundant grace to be upon us. Grant us the wisdom to make righteous choices, the strength to face challenges, and the courage to follow Your path.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the precious gift of peace in our lives and in the world around us. May Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Let Your calming presence be felt in our homes, communities, and nations. Bring reconciliation where there is discord, understanding where there is confusion, and unity where there is division.

Lord, we also lift up our physical and mental well-being to You. In the name of Jesus, we ask for Your healing touch to rest upon those who are facing illnesses or challenges to their health. Strengthen their bodies, comfort their spirits, and grant them the assurance of Your love and care. May the year ahead be marked by a renewed sense of vitality and health.

We entrust our plans, dreams, and aspirations for the coming year into Your hands, O Lord. May everything we do be guided by Your will and directed towards Your glory. Help us to be a source of love, compassion, and encouragement to those around us.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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 January, 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

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. 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.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

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.	Jan. 3 Lector: EMHC:	Tim Spila John Kelley, Peg Swanson, Terry Sturdyvin
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Jan. 4 Lector: EMHC:	John Karduck Sue Berndt, Ray Tucker
10:00 a.m.	Lector: EMHC:	Joe Murphy Margie Hoss, Dawn Friedman
4:00 p.m.	Lector: EMHC:	Rob Shanahan Katrina Covello



Mass Times

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

January 1st

Wednesday, December 31st

6:00 p.m. / Midnight

Thursday, January 1st

9:00 a.m.

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
you were chosen by the Father,
blessed among all women,
and honored to bear His Son, Jesus.

Wrap us in your loving care.

Guide us with your gentle hand.

Protect our families, strengthen our faith,
and lead us always to your son.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 29

7:00 a.m. Carl Camastro

Tuesday, December 30

7:00 a.m. Carlos Galvan

Wednesday, December 31

6:00 p.m. Bernie Hammel
Midnight (12:00am)

Thursday, January 1

9:00 a.m. Anna Mussari

Friday, January 2

8:15 a.m. First Friday Memorial

Saturday, January 3

5:30 p.m. Patrick and Violet Cosgrove Family

Sunday, January 4

8:00 a.m. Karen Santarelli
10:00 a.m. For the Parishioners
4:00 p.m. Michael Cornyn

FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR FR. LEO



We will be having a reception after the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 18, 2026 for Fr. Leo Mushobozi. Join us after Mass, or come around 11:00 a.m. to the Parish Center.

Fr. Leo will be returning home to Tanzania to stay and serve in his home Diocese of Rulenge-Ngara, Tanzania.

Thank you Fr. Leo for your guidance, love, and the time you have given us. You are truly a special priest and a kind and wonderful person! We wish you the best and will be praying for you. Many blessings as you journey back home!

God is Good, All the Time!

The Parish Office will be closed from

Wednesday, December 31st through Friday, January 2nd. The office will reopen Monday, January 5th.

Wishing all a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Collections - Offering for December 20th/21st will be in next week's bulletin due to the Christmas and New Year's printing schedule. Thank You Very Much!

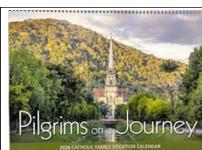
Yeehaw! Mark your calendars to attend the Trivia Night & Silent Auction on Saturday February 28, 2026!! The theme for this year's Trivia Night will be "Wild West Showdown!"

Saddle up because it's our biggest PTC fundraiser and a night you won't want to miss! Hot & cold appetizers are served, along with beer and wine.



There will be NO BINGO in January.

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



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.

APOSTLESHP OF PRAYER

DECEMBER 2025

FOR CHRISTIANS IN AREAS OF CONFLICT

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

www.apostleshipofprayer.org

CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

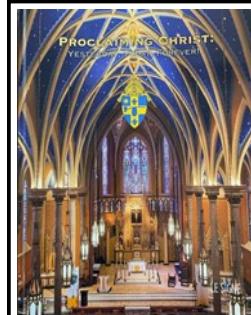
 December is fast approaching, and it's not too early to contribute to the flower fund to pay for this year's poinsettia order for the church's Christmas decorations. You may drop your donation in the collection basket in an envelope marked "flower fund" or bring it to the office.

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, Ethel Cox; John and Joyce Hipskind; and Robert and Verna Kerber..



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.



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



COFFEE AND DONUTS - Come over to the Parish Center after the Sunday morning Masses and enjoy a cup of coffee and a delicious donut. It's been a Holy Cross tradition for over 50 years. Join us for stimulating conversation.



High School of St. Thomas More
217-352-7210
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 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.

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.

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



Holy Cross School
217-356-9521
www.holycrosselem.org

From the Desk of Principal Greg Koerner -

Thank You from the School as We Enter 2026

As we step into the year 2026, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our students, parents, staff, and community members. Your dedication, support, and enthusiasm continue to inspire us every day. Together, we are building a brighter future, full of promise and opportunity.

In the New Year, the school will be creating a state-of-the-art 3D lab. We're excited for the innovative learning opportunities ahead for our students.

Again, thank you for your continued support and here's to a successful and exciting year ahead.

WE ARE HOLY CROSS!

Job Opportunities:

Holy Cross School is looking for aftercare workers. The position entails supervising, and planning activities from 3:00-5:30pm Monday-Friday fulltime or part-time. Please call the school office if interested. (217) 356-9521.



"Untilled ground, however rich, will bring forth thistles and thorns; so also the mind of man."

— St. Teresa of Avila



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.

1ST ANNUAL HOLY CROSS TROOP 9 SPAGHETTI DINNER

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ONGOING NEEDS OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST, 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



THE BIBLE AND THE VIRGIN MARY

The Bible and the Virgin Mary is based on the work of Dr. Scott Hahn. Dr. Hahn, an exceptionally popular speaker and teacher, has delivered hundreds of talks nationally and internationally on a wide variety of topics related to Scripture and the Catholic faith and is the bestselling author of numerous books. He is a professor of Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville and the founder and president of the Saint Paul Center.

Matthew Leonard, the presenter, is an internationally known speaker, and author. A convert to Catholicism and former missionary to Latin America, he is a frequent guest on radio and television programs, and hosts a podcast on iTunes titled The Art of Catholic. Matthew holds a Masters in Theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville.



THE HOLY FAMILY (YEAR A)

The first two readings today focus on the relationships with our family. We are told that honoring and respecting our father is of the highest importance and, if we are faithful to this call, we will be blessed by God. When we read the Gospel, the theme changes from focusing on our earthly family to being faithful to God, our Heavenly Father. If we ought to respect our earthly father and spend so much time and energy making our earthly home virtuous and holy, how much more ought we work to have a relationship with our Heavenly Father? How often do we take the time to talk with God, or honor him by serving him or making sacrifices for him? Let us remember the words of Sirach and St. Paul this week, not just in relation to how we treat our earthly fathers, but, most importantly, in how we relate to God the Father.

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.

Baytowne Apts



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!

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

Deval, Desmier, Jensen Families

Menke & Leahy Families

James, Marie, Paul, Joe, & Edward, Knoke

Living & Dec. Mem. of Donato, Pace, Folis Families

Dec. Mem. of Mueller, Neunhoffer, Willard Families

Robert F. Reiser Family

Dec. Mem. of Corkery, Cox, Murray Families

Nichols, Oetzel, Parod, Foltzler & 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

Hershbarger & 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

Perrodin 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