



CHURCH OF THE
HOLY

EXALTATION OF THE
CROSS

DIOCESE OF PEORIA



Our Legacy
2026-2027

Parish 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.

Our Legacy

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

Hello Friends,

The word “legacy” in modern usage usually means “that which has been handed to us: an inheritance.” However, by choosing that word for the title of our service booklet, we must also discern the deeper meaning of the word. The word has its English origins as referring to a legal deputy put in charge of some inheritance: a steward. The steward has the responsibility of guaranteeing that the resources to which he has been entrusted will be put to the use for which they have been given. Therefore, our legacy involves not only what we have been handed by our predecessors, but it requires us to take seriously what we will be handing to our successors.

St. Paul addresses this responsibility very clearly in 1 Cor. Chapter 4. He begins the chapter with, “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” For background, the Church in Corinth is facing division from outsiders who are trying to use the Church for their own purposes. As is usual with our human condition, the infiltrators try to discredit Paul by accusing him of the very thing that they are doing. Paul tells us he will continue to as that servant and steward regardless of whether the judgement in the case comes from the Church, from a human court, or even from his own human judgement. He has been appointed by God and therefore his mission can only be stopped by God. He encourages his followers to take the same mindset regarding their mission as servants and stewards. He motivates them to press on by asking them to consider the following question: “What do you have that you have not received?”

Indeed, we the people of Holy Cross have a lot: our beautiful church, two amazing schools: our wonderful grade school and incredible high school, a community life that is the envy of the town, and

wonderful facilities to sustain that community life. Our predecessors have given us these gifts because of the greater gifts that were given to them. Indeed, it is an entire treasure trove of gifts: the Gospel of Jesus Christ packed with such gifts as redemption, sacraments, the revelation of the Father, freedom, healing, incarnation, communion, and eternal life. Also included among the gifts in that treasure is the mission to make disciples. The gifts we receive today come as a result of our predecessors' response to that mission. What, indeed, do we have that we have not received?

Acceptance of the legacy we have been given necessarily requires acceptance of and a response to the mission. In our Legacy booklet you will find many ways that our community carries out the mission. I encourage you to browse the booklet and discern how you might put what you have received at the service of the mission. Perhaps it will be through participation in one or more of the items included in the booklet or it may be that the Lord has given you gifts to share in some other apostolate.

Rev. Msgr. Brian Brownsey

Pastor

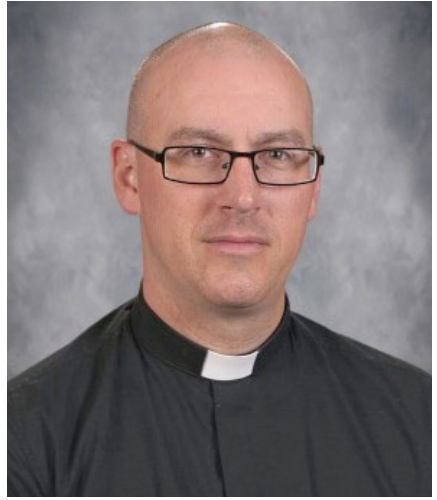
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Parish Staff



Msgr. Brian Brownsey
Pastor



Father Joseph Baker
Parochial Vicar



Ed Mohrbacher
Deacon



Michael Smith
Deacon



Elizabeth Kelley
Director of Religious
Education



Jonathan Young
Director of Music



Donna McFarland
Parish Secretary



Stephanie Rank
Development Director



Bill Graham
Maintenance



Charlie Lowary
Maintenance

Finance Council

Tom Franey, Msgr. Brian Brownsey, John Powers,
John Kelley, Kathy Plecki



Parish Council

Top (L-R) Rob Shanahan, Steve Hammel, Jim Linnenburger,
Mark Oliveira, Angela Douglas, Msgr Brian Brownsey,
Bottom (L-R) John Karduck, Barry Dickerson, Juliann Seebauer, Hallie Sharp
(not pictured) Barb Garvey, Rich McMahon, Brian Weldy



Devotional Opportunities

Eucharistic Adoration

Parishioners have the opportunity for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday when school is in session from 9:00 a.m. until Benediction at 2:30 p.m.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

The Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is located at St. Matthew Parish. It is open 24 hours a day. A keycard is needed to enter. Please contact the St. Matthew Parish Office (217-359-4224) to obtain your keycard.

Rosary

Join fellow parishioners after 7:00 a.m. Mass on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings to pray the rosary. On some Fridays during the school year, join Holy Cross students to pray the Rosary after the 8:15 a.m. Mass.

Wednesday Night Devotion

Join our parish family on Wednesday evenings for various prayer & devotions at 5:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m.
This schedule is changed during Lent.

Formed On Demand

Discover your faith with the best Catholic media at home and on the go. Formed.org offers a wide variety of Catholic content, including audio talks, movies, e-books, and video based studies. Through our parish subscription, Formed is available to all of Holy Cross Parish! To watch and listen from your mobile device, check your app store for the Formed mobile app!
Listen - Watch - Study - Read

Men's Brotherhood of Prayer

Our society is becoming increasingly more materialistic and less spiritual. We cannot solve these overarching societal problems on our own. We need God's Grace. Christ told us to ask for what we need. Prayer is the first step in solving any problem. Families are the building blocks of culture. For strong families, men and women must be strong in their Faith. This initiative addresses the issue of strong men.

The goal of this group is To increase men's holiness and thereby to increase the holiness of our parish. This endeavor is hard and demands serious commitment. With God's Grace, more men will participate.

Members, to the best of each's ability, do the following:

- * Say the morning, evening, and night Liturgy of the Hours daily.
- * Attend Mass once a week with the other members of the prayer group and, after Mass that day, together recite the Morning Liturgy of the Hours and listen to a short meditation.
- * Currently, we do this at/after the 7 a.m. Mass on Monday.
- * Before Mass, the men assemble in two groups, A and B, and, immediately after Mass, recite the morning liturgy of the hours, alternating verses back and forth. This takes about 10 minutes. We use the "IBreviary" on-line.
- * A meditation of about 5 minutes from the series "In Conversation with God" follows.
- * To close, the men join in a short aspirational prayer and the sign of the cross and depart to continue their day.

Parish Life Opportunities

Catholic Schools

Cub Scout Pack 9

Cub Scout Pack 9 is a program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and is chartered by Holy Cross Church. Cub Scouts do fun things with other kids! Some of the best things about Cub Scouting are the activities: camping, hiking, racing model cars, going on field trips, and doing projects that help Champaign and the people who live here. The children have fun and find adventure in a program that builds character, instills values and promotes personal fitness. The Cub Scout advancement plan recognizes a child's individual efforts and achievements, teaches them to do their best, and strengthens family ties as leaders and family members work with them on requirements. The scouts enjoy receiving badges for their achievements, but the real benefit comes from the skills, knowledge, and self-esteem they develop along the way. Cub Scouting means "doing".

Holy Cross Troop 9 Scouts BSA

The mission of the Scouts BSA is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. As the only Catholic Troop in Prairielands Council, Troop 9 at Holy Cross strives to prepare every one of our scouts to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader.

Friends of St George

We provide children (and adults) provide children (and adults) fun and easy ways to learn more about their Catholic faith and the saints. All activities are provided by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, and are taught by a local adult.

Holy Cross Parent Teacher Club

The Parent Teacher Club is a social and fundraising organization for our school community, with the goal of providing additional resources and experiences to Holy Cross School students and faculty. PTC is fueled by family volunteers who plan and participate in these activities. We welcome any parent, guardian, or grandparent of a Holy Cross student to join us and get involved.

Holy Cross School

Holy Cross School is a faith-centered community fostering lives of service, integrity, and life-long learning. We are committed to Catholic education founded on Gospel-centered values and the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. Opportunities to volunteer at the school include helping in the cafeteria, as recess monitor, with athletics concessions and scorekeeping, with the theater production, and other activities. Safe Environment training and a background check are required before volunteering with any school activities.

The High School of St. Thomas More

The High School of Saint Thomas More is the only private, Roman Catholic comprehensive, co-educational high school in Champaign, Illinois. We opened our doors for the first time in fall of 2000, with an enrollment of eighteen students; current enrollment is 194 students. We are a rigorous high school with a college prep emphasis, one of only two high schools in Champaign County that has earned the college prep accreditation.

STM offers 16 AP classes, 9 honors level courses, as well as 3 Dual Credit Classes with Parkland. In the 2024-2025 school year, 76 of 100 Juniors and Seniors took Advanced Placement (AP) exams. 174 total AP tests were taken by STM students in 14 different classes. 83% received a score of 3 or above, with the average score being a 3.7. 10 classes had a 100% pass rate with students receiving a score of 3, 4, or 5.

STM has a 100% graduation rate. 99% of all past STM graduates have attended a post-secondary college or university. The remaining one percent enlisted in military services. The 2025 graduates received over \$8.6 million dollars in merit and/or athletic scholarships. 83% of them are attending a 4 year university, with 17% attending a 2 year college or other post-graduation plan.

Our IHSA sports and activities are highly competitive, and each year approximately 10% of our senior athletes sign to play their sport at the collegiate level. We also offer a wide variety of other clubs and activities so that all students can pursue their interests, develop their talents, and foster friendships. In addition, our Living the Faith program ensures that, before graduating, all students complete a minimum of 120 combined hours of spiritual enrichment and service to the community. So far our current seniors have provided labor valued at over \$246,000 to area churches and other nonprofit organizations.

The High School of Saint Thomas More exists to assist parents in forming students spiritually, morally, intellectually, and physically in a Christ-centered atmosphere of love, respect, and reverence consistent with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, sending them forth to fulfill their baptismal call as His disciples in the world.

We realize that when a family chooses Catholic education for their children they are making a financial sacrifice. Individual financial means vary and we strive to provide financial aid to those who are most in need. We are blessed to have several methods to obtain tuition assistance toward attending The High School of Saint Thomas More, including parish assistance and many scholarship opportunities. Please do not let financial hardship be a deterrent to coming to STM!

Evangelization and Catechesis

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Formed in 1903 the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) is one of the oldest and largest organizations of Catholic women in the Americas. We are a national organization, with 63,000 dues-paying members in 1,150 courts (local chapters) in 45 states across the country and in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

We provide spiritual, educational and service activities under the support of a vibrant national organization. Members donate to charities, administer scholarship programs and strive “to be helping hands where there is pain, poverty, sorrow or sickness.” We embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

Membership is open to all Catholic women 18 years and older who wish to work for God by helping others. Meetings are held the second Thursday of month, September through June, except for January and July. Meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. in the Holy Cross Parish Center.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

This is a special Liturgy of the Word during the 10:00 AM Mass designed for our younger Catholics, age 3 through 1st grade. The children are dismissed from Mass with their Catechist after the Opening Prayer. The children process to the Parish Center to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word at their level. The Catechist brings the children back to the church for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. If interested in becoming a Catechist for this ministry, please contact the Director of Religious Education at the parish office.

Cursillo

The Cursillo in Christianity is primarily a lay movement. Cursillo is an instrument of renewal by which Christianity can permeate, live and grow in today’s world. It proposes no new type of spirituality but a method through which one’s spirituality can be strengthened, lived and shared in all areas of one’s environment.

Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy

EADM is one of the Mercy Apostolates through the Marians of the Immaculate Conception. It is a guided study program which supports works of mercy in which we endeavor to make 'Divine Mercy our way of life'. We meet to study, promote, and practice Divine Mercy in our lives. There are several meeting time options. Materials needed are the Bible, the Catechism, St. Faustina's Diary, a copy of the EADM Manual/study guide and a Rosary. Meetings last approximately 60 to 90 minutes.

You can visit their website at <http://thedivinemercy.org/eadm/cenacle/>

Family Formation

This ministry provides religious education, including sacramental preparation, for families with children in grades K - 8. All families are welcome to participate, but in particular, those with children who attend public schools or who are homeschooled. Meeting once a month, the program is designed to support parents as the primary educators of the faith with their children. Please contact the Director of Religious Education at the parish office if interested.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a lay Catholic fraternal service organization. It is open to all Catholic men at least 18 years of age who are in communion with the Holy See. The four Principals of the Order are charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. A primary mission is to support local charities, one of them being Special Olympics.

Moms Group

The Holy Cross Moms' Group is designed to support women in the many roles we have as mothers and wives and is a wonderful place to make friends. Moms of all ages and stages are welcome to participate in meetings and/or nights out.

During the school year, we have meetings in the Holy Cross Parish Center a couple of times a month. During meetings, we enjoy coffee and snacks, take time to socialize, pray, learn more about our faith, and so much more. Something different is planned for each meeting to keep things exciting!

In addition to meetings, we schedule a moms' night out at least once a month. Getting out and being social with friends is important, even for us busy moms! It's also a great chance for moms that work full-time to join us at evening events. During the summer, we meet at different parks for some

fun play time and socializing. You can visit their website at - facebook.com/groups/holycrossmoms/ or email hcmomsgroup@gmail.com

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), is the process by which adult members enter into the Catholic Church. As personal, interior conversion of heart does not necessarily follow a schedule, OCIA is a process not a program. Participants may ask questions and learn more about the Catholic Faith. If you want to know more about our faith, this is for you. There is also an opportunity for Catholics to join the leadership team to help guide members through the process. This group meets every Wednesday evening September through May.

Seven Sisters Apostolate

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop—a “holy wasting” (cf. Mt. 26:10) or lavishing of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ. Each member commits to a Holy Hour on a distinct day of the week, thus covering a complete week. The commitment is to that day; the Seven Sister may pray at any time on that day. The Holy Hour is ideally prayed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament – either in an Adoration Chapel or in front of a Tabernacle. One may also sign up to be a substitute adorer. This Apostolate is open to all women of the parish.

Planning and Administration

Coffee Shop Hosts

Each Sunday, after the morning Masses, Holy Cross has a Coffee Shop in the parish center. Coffee, tea, milk and orange juice are served, as well as donuts. It's an opportunity to visit with friends and a chance to meet new parishioners. Free will donations are accepted. Volunteers are needed to host coffee shop. Duties include setting up, serving, and cleaning up. This ministry takes about an hour and volunteers can choose to set up and serve after the 8 o'clock or after the 10 o'clock Mass.

Feast Week

Every year Holy Cross has a weeklong celebration centered around the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross which is September 14. A committee works closely with the Church and School to plan and coordinate all festivities during this annual event. Watch the bulletin for opportunities to help with various events or contact the parish office.

Fish Fry

The Holy Cross Lenten fish fry has been a popular parish event for decades. It is an opportunity to have a delicious fish dinner and a place to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Families, students, singles and/or senior volunteers are needed. Duties include clearing tables, pouring drinks, general clean-up, helping people to their tables, emptying trash, etc. Hours vary depending on job. No regular meetings. This opportunity is available during Lent.

Food Donations

Holy Cross has a time honored tradition, as most Catholic parishes, of providing grieving families with a nice meal after the funeral of their loved one. A nice meal waiting for them is one of the best ways to show our support for them during this difficult time. We ask volunteers to provide desserts and salads for this meal. Funeral dinners usually only have a couple of days notice. You can be notified by phone or email what and when food is needed. Homemade is great but store bought food is fine also. Dishes prepared should serve 10 – 12 people. Items are dropped off at the Parish Center the day before or morning of the funeral.

In addition, Holy Cross has various special events throughout the year which require volunteers to provide food. From providing refreshments for weekly OCIA meetings to providing desserts for Bingo night, there are a variety of opportunities to help out. Volunteers can be notified by phone or email what and when food is needed. Items are dropped off at the Parish Center prior to the event.

Funeral Luncheon Worker

Volunteers are needed to help with Funeral Dinners. Work includes setting up of parish hall, preparing hot food, putting desserts on plates, serving and cleaning up. Volunteer for any or all of these. Time commitment can vary as needed.

Heavenly Dusters

Volunteers are needed to dust, sweep, and change the holy water in the fonts at each entrance to the church. Volunteers are needed once a week for one month. The time commitment at most is 2 hours per week at a time convenient for the volunteer. No meetings.

Parish Library

Our parish library contains books on various topics for all age groups. Located in the lounge in the Parish Center, it is open most Sunday mornings during Coffee Shop and during regular parish office hours.

Parish Nurse Program

Parish Nurses are available for home visits, health and wellness education, advocacy, or dealing with questions or concerns parishioners may have about their health.

Sacramental Life

Adult Funeral Servers

Adult male parishioners are needed to serve at the funerals at Holy Cross Church.

Altar Servers

Children 4th grade and beyond are needed to assist at daily and Sunday Masses.

Baptismal Preparation

Younger parents have the opportunity to assist with preparing and supporting couples for the baptism of their first child. Please contact the parish office if you are interested in participating in this ministry.

Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement committee contacts parishioners who have lost a loved one. We offer a listening ear at our support group meeting each month. It is usually the first Sunday of the month. On All Souls Day, we have a Mass of Remembrance for the family and friends of all the deceased of the previous year.

Decorating Team

The Decorating Team is responsible for creating and maintaining the church floral arrangements throughout the year, and the spectacular Christmas and Easter season decorations Holy Cross is known for. Time commitment varies throughout the year with the most work occurring during Advent, Christmas and Easter.

Eucharistic Outreach

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are available to visit the homebound and nursing home residents of our parish. To request to be added to the list or to volunteer to be an Outreach Minister contact the parish office.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

This is an opportunity to assist the priest and deacons with the distribution of Holy Communion at weekend Masses. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are also needed for Eucharistic Outreach.

Lectors

This is an opportunity to proclaim the Old and New Testament Readings at Mass.

Marriage Tribunal

The Peoria Tribunal has Notary-Auditors in all the Vicariates. Notary-Auditors are laymen, women, and Deacons who have been trained by the Tribunal to help people initiate a case. While not every failed marriage can be proven invalid according to Canon Law, the officers of the Tribunal see their mission as doing all within their power to help Petitioners win their cases. This process begins with a local Notary-Auditor.

Music Ministry

Music ministry encourages participation in our parish choirs, traditional (rehearsals Thursday at 7:00 p.m.) and contemporary (rehearsals Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.). No experience is necessary. We warmly welcome vocalists and instrumentalists who would like to share their gifts at Mass.

Ushers

Duties of the Usher is to assist parishioners at Mass with finding seats, when necessary, find gift bearers, take up the collection(s) and to guide parishioners at Communion, handout bulletins at the end of Mass and check the Church for any items left in the pews. The Usher also assists anyone in need of medical assistance and handling security. Ushers also serve at the various Masses during Holy Week, Christmas, and special Masses such as Confirmation and First Communion.

Stewardship and Justice

Children of Hope and Faith

Children of Hope and Faith provide sponsorship of orphans and children from poor families to attend Catholic schools in Tanzania, Africa. Angel Home Orphanage is supported to provide a home for up to 60 children. Holy Cross sponsored Lydia Patrick from Angel Home Orphanage from first grade at St. Peter Claver School through Muyenzi Secondary School (upper level high school). Thank you for giving her the lasting gift of an excellent education. Your new sponsored student is Amelia Gotifrid who attends St. Augustine Secondary School. She is the sister of Fr. Arsenius Gotifrid who was sponsored by a Holy Cross parishioner and is our first sponsored student to be ordained to the Priesthood. Projects are funded to give hope to communities and schools including clean water, solar energy and healthcare. Sponsors are needed as well as volunteers for fundraisers or other projects. If interested visit their website at childrenofhopeandfaith.org

Circle of Prayer

Would you like to make a difference in the lives of many and be able to do it at your own convenience? Join the Holy Cross Circle of Prayer in praying for the needs of others. Prayer requests are passed along via email or phone whichever you prefer. There is no set prayer, time of day or length of time. It is up to the individual as to how they wish to pray for the needs commended to us.

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is an entirely volunteer-run organization. The requirements for volunteers are:

- be at least 16 years old to volunteer alone;
14 years old if accompanied by a parent or other adult
- be able to stand for a minimum of 2 hours
- no prior or current guest of the Daily Bread may be a volunteer

DBSK serves a hot lunch to an average of 300 guests from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. daily. A different volunteer crew works each day of the week. To volunteer for our lunch service, go to **dailybreadsoupkitchen.com** and click on volunteers and follow the prompt for volunteering.

Ecumenical Memorial Pro-Life Prayer Vigil (EMPPV)

The ecumenical Memorial Pro-Life Prayer Vigil was started by Lu Pillar from St. Patrick Catholic Church in Urbana over 30 years ago. This was a Ecumenical effort, bringing Catholic, Protestant and Greek Orthodox Churches in the East Central Illinois area together in prayer, word, song and petition, to help bring about a collaborative effort to end abortion, pray for all victims of abortion - including babies, men and women and families. There is a guest speaker at every vigil, and a reception follows. Every vigil also has a rose and candlelight procession. Held on every anniversary of Roe vs Wade (the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in all 50 States in America, January 22, 1973).

40 Days for Life

This is an international peaceful prayer collaboration to pray for help and healing for all affected by abortion. People pray for 40 day time periods each fall and spring, outside abortion clinics all over the world. In our area, we pray outside Planned Parenthood, located at 302 East Stoughton Street in Champaign, and also outside the newest abortion facility in our area. Sadly, this 2nd abortuary opened in early 2023. It is called Equity Clinic and is located at 2111 West Park Court in Champaign. Prayers are welcome anytime during the 40 days, but especially when the abortion facilities are open during normal business hours. Individual churches are encouraged to choose a day and time to come and pray; pro-life signs are available for people to hold; and various resources with information about help are also available. We also try to organize group prayer times to pray the Rosary together, as long as we can find priests and deacons to lead the Rosary. We typically organize a Jericho March, which mimics the Battle of Jericho from the Bible, at least once per year. We are grateful for Roe v. Wade having been overturned, but there is still much need for prayer for help and healing for everyone related to abortion.

WEB SITE: **<https://40daysforlife.com/champaign>**

Life Chain

The Life Chain is an hour of peaceful prayer as a public witness to pray for our nation and for an end to abortion; it takes place on a Sunday afternoon in early October, usually the first Sunday in October, in communities all over North America. In our area, we pray on the public sidewalk along the south side of Hessel Park in Champaign. A variety of pro-life signs are available for people to hold while they pray. WEB SITE: <https://lifechain.org/>

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is a service provided Family Service Senior Resource Center. This service delivers meals to people living in Champaign, Urbana, or Savoy of any age who are having difficulty preparing nutritious meals for themselves. Volunteers will deliver meals to recipients Monday through Friday except for holidays observed by Family Service. Two volunteers are needed for each route. One person drives and one person takes the meals to the door. Holy Cross Parish is assigned two weeks a year – during February and August - to provide volunteers to deliver the meals.

Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling

This annual event consists of singing traditional carols focused on the true meaning of Christmas outside an abortion clinic, followed by hot chocolate and Christmas cookies at a local church and time to get to know each other; this event takes place on a Saturday in late December in locations across the country. WEB SITE: <https://prolifeaction.org/event/>

Pro-Life Billboard Project

The Pro-Life Billboard Project consists of installing pro-life signs on private property (i.e, farmland, outside a church or business) across greater, central Illinois. These signs are 4 feet tall x 8 feet wide and can be placed alongside highways, on state roads, and on county roads, as well as on a building or already existing sign post. The signs help to foster a stronger Culture of Life and for women and men facing an unplanned pregnancy to know where to find help at free, faith-based pregnancy centers. Different designs and both one-sided and double-sided Pro-Life Billboards are available. Volunteer laborers from area churches do all the work! Donations of any amount are much appreciated to help cover the materials cost.

Pro-life Committee

The Pro-life Committee is devoted to 3 things while defending the dignity of the human person in all stages of life and all situations:

1. Devoted to prayer - personal and communal
2. Committed to personal and communal education regarding Catholic Teaching and challenges in the modern world
3. Action and Service – bringing our resources of time, talent, treasure and education to others in our church, community and families

We are active in living an authentic Catholic Christian life. We provide Sidewalk Counseling and help to families in crisis. We help families who struggle with the aftermaths of abortion. We make goods and services available to the most disadvantaged in our midst and provide referrals, companionship and good tidings. We support local Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Pro-Life education, partner with local agencies and provide speakers and special activities to heighten awareness of Pro-Life items.

We provide diapers, wipes, clothing, gently used furniture and food for those in need. When we are able, we pay rent, security deposits, utility and other bills. We've made payments to repair cars, and we make bus transportation available. We have gone to Doctor's appointments, attended a birth and paid for funeral expenses. We have even overseen a reversal of an RU-486 abortion. We partner with other groups and agencies to provide help to families in need. We also support NaProTechnology. We have partnered with St. Matthew to have St. Matthew Parishioner, Jen Mokos, to be trained in NaPro-Technology and her expertise is to serve women and couples in the Champaign-Urbana area.

We meet monthly to discuss various Pro-Life topics including: abortion, euthanasia, human trafficking, disability rights and end of life care, vaccines, medical ethics and current affairs in legislation, policy and more. This Ecumenical Group meets every 3rd Monday at 11-12:30 pm at Panera's on Kirby in Champaign for a drop-in meeting. Feel free to join us!

We are grateful for your prayers, support and joining with us to make the world a more friendly place for everyone! People can join for specific projects or just join us in general!

Pro-Life Discussion Group

The Pro-Life Discussion Group is an Ecumenical Group meeting monthly to discuss Pro-Life topics (see above). Every 3rd Monday of the Month, 11-12:30 pm at Panera's on Kirby in Champaign.

Senior Luncheons

Monthly potlucks for seniors are held at noon in the parish center on the second Thursday of every month.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP)

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads men & women to join together to grow spiritually as "Vincentians", by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul. Our SVDP Conference, (including Holy Cross & St. Matthews), is dedicated to providing food, clothing and support to individuals and families in our community who have nowhere else to turn for help. Food distribution is the Saturday after the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Contact List for 2026-2027

(always feel free to contact the Parish Office with any questions)

Adult Funeral Servers

Parish Office, 217-352-8748

Altar Servers

Parish Office, 217-352-8748

Baptismal Preparation

Elizabeth Kelley, elizabethkelley@holycrosscatholic.org, 217-352-8748

Bereavement Committee

Deacon Ed & Laura Mohrbacher, laurajean8@juno.com, 217- 649-5083

Boy Scouts, Troop 9

Jim Linniberger, scoutmastert9@gmail.com

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Catherine Barbercheck, cbarbercheck@barberchecklaw.com, 217-377-2967

Children of Hope and Faith

Jane Walsh, childrenofhopeandfaith@gmail.com, 217-352-6673

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Elizabeth Kelley, elizabethkelley@holycrosscatholic.org, 217-352-8748

Circle of Prayer

Tricia Baughman, takking50@gmail.com,

Coffee Shop Hosts

Harry & Cheri Rakers, crackers@comcast.net, 217-352-4918

Cub Scout Pack 9

Nick Haggin, , pack9cubmaster@gmail.com, 217-722-2840

Cursillo

Deacon Tony Nickrent , tony@cbi-gc.com, 217-202-2202

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

dbskvolunteering@gmail.com

Decorating Team

Sharon Kristovich, kristomail@comcast.net, 217-840-0226

Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy

Kathy Murray, 217-390-7856

Eucharistic Outreach

Parish Office, 217-352-8748

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Parish Office, 217-352-8748

Family Formation

Elizabeth Kelley, elizabethkelley@holycrosscatholic.org, 217-352-8748

Feast Week

Parish Office, 217-352-8748

Fish Fry

Nicolette Burton & Brooke McMahon,

Food Donations

volunteer needed, Parish Office, 217-352-8748

40 Days for Life

Renée Mullen, reneemullen1@comcast.net, 217-607-0811 (landline, no texting)

Friends of St. George

Karen Easton, kareneaston1@yahoo.com

Funeral Luncheon Worker

Sharon Kristovich, kristomail@comcast.net, 217-840-0226

Heavenly Dusters

Tricia Baughman, Parish Office, 217-352-8748

The High School of St. Thomas More

School Office, info@hs-stm.org, 217-352-7210

Holy Cross Men's Prayer Group

John Deponai, jmd3@hotmail.com

Holy Cross Parent Teacher Club

Meg Dickinson, hcsptc@gmail.com, phone 217-493-6590

Holy Cross School

School Office, hcs@holycrosselem.org, 217-356-9521

Knights of Columbus

Denny Santarelli, dennysantarelli2@gmail.com. 217-778-0575

Lectors

Parish Office, 217-352-8748

Life Chain

Renée Mullen, reneemullen1@comcast.net, 217-607-0811 (landline, no texting)

Marriage Tribunal

Deacon Ed Mohrbacher, laurajean8@juno.com, 217- 649-5083

Meals on Wheels

Parish Office, 217-352-8748

Moms Group

vacant

Music Ministry

Director of Music

Jonathan Young, jonathanyoung455@gmail.com, 217-819-0424

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Elizabeth Kelley, elizabethkelley@holycrosscatholic.org, 217-352-8748

Parish Library

Parish Office, 217-352-8748

Parish Nurse Program

vacant

Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling

Renée Mullen, reneemullen1@comcast.net, 217-607-0811 (landline, no texting)

Pro-life Billboard Project

Renée Mullen, reneemullen1@comcast.net, 217-607-0811 (landline, no texting)

Pro-life Committee

Joy Pace, joypace@msn.com, 217-840-0322

Senior Luncheons

Parish Office, 217-352-8748

Seven Sisters Apostolate

Susan Burton, sburton93@att.net, 217-398-6560

Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP)

Julie Franklin, Julie.Franklin@carle.com, 309-826-5370

Ushers

Parish Office, 217-352-8748

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Greg Koerner, Principal

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*Continuing the Legacy of
Holy Cross Catholic Church and School
Always Home, Always Family*