



Holy Cross Parish Bulletin

Auburn • Divernon • Glenarm • Pawnee

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic adoration is held in Sacred Heart church in Virden after Mass each Wednesday morning and concludes with Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:00 a.m. each Thursday.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Fr. James will hear confessions in the reconciliation room in St. Benedict Church. Sunday 7:40-8:05 a.m. and Tuesday evening before Mass by appointment.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you or a loved one is in need of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for the healing of body and soul, please contact the Pastor.

BAPTISM

If you wish to have a child baptized, please contact the Pastor.

CONFIRMATION

If you have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation and wish to do so, please contact the Pastor. Confirmation is ordinarily received by students in the C.C.D. and P.S.R. programs.

MARRIAGE

If you wish to be married in one of the three Parishes, please contact the Pastor not less than six months prior to the desired wedding date and prior to reserving a reception hall.

HOLY ORDERS

If you think you or someone you know might be called to the Diaconate or to the Priesthood, please contact the Pastor.

Weekly Bulletin Deadline: Information to be published in the bulletin is due to the parish office by **Noon on Wednesday**. Any exception will be published the week before.



REV. JAMES PALAKUDY, *Pastor*

P. O. Box 168
126 East Washington Street
Auburn, Illinois 62615
(217) 438-6222 (office/hall)
(217) 438-6196 (rectory)

WEBSITE

holycrossauburn.com

FACEBOOK

Holy Cross Parish Auburn/Pawnee/Divernon/Glenarm
Illinois

ST. BENEDICT CHURCH

125 East Washington Street, P. O. Box 168
Auburn, Illinois

HOLY CROSS PARISH

(217) 438-6222 (office/hall)

Secretary Donna Kuentler E-mail: hcp@royell.org

Secretary Lola Caruthers E-mail: hcp.lc@royell.org

Fax: (217) 438-6222

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.— Noon Monday & Tuesday

9:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m. Wednesday

8:00 a.m.— Noon Thursday

8:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m. Friday

Third Sunday of Advent

Jesus, The Messiah

In today's gospel, John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Aren't you the Messiah?" Jesus' reply is not a simple "yes" or "no," yet his answer would be very clear to those who were familiar with the prophecies regarding the Messiah's coming.

Our Scriptures tell us and our faith affirms that Jesus is the Messiah. There will be no headlines, autographs or photos with Jesus, however. Unlike the glitzy "rich and famous," Our Messiah is eternal: Our relationship with Christ is lasting, sustaining.

The Advent season gives us a chance to deepen this relationship as we reflect on the Scriptures, listen to Jesus in our hearts and witness his actions in the gospel—and in our own lives.

J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



"*Breaking Bread*" books—We have extra copies in the entry of the Church. If anyone would like to take a copy home, please do not take them from the pews. You are welcome to take one from the entry of the church. Thank you!



To sign up for the new online giving platform (Push Pay), you may do so by scanning the QR Code at the left or by going to our parish website: holycrossauburn.com and clicking on the "Giving" button.

THANK YOU for your generosity in supporting our parish.

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

The Nativity of the Lord, Wednesday, December 24, 4:00 p.m. Mass at Auburn With Overflow at the Parish Center

Volunteers Still Needed:

Server(s): _____, _____

Lector: Cindy Smith

C. M. At Church _____; C. M. at Parish Hall: Jim & Sheryl Spears

Ushers at Church: Ron Waterkotte, _____; Usher at Parish Hall: Jeannette Forgas

COLLECTION DATA FOR DEC. 6/7, 2025

PARISH ENVELOPES (39 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 3,354.00
ONLINE DONATIONS (14 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 707.00
MAINTENANCE (11 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 376.00
ONLINE MAINTENANCE (1 CONTRIBUTOR)	\$ 50.00
TITHING (2 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 350.00
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (9 ENV. CONTR.)	\$ 196.00
ONLINE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (1 CONT.)	\$ 20.00
MILITARY (2 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 45.00
JUSTICE & HOPE (6 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 115.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS (16 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 258.00
ONLINE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS (1 CONT.)	\$ 50.00
ST. JOHN'S BREADLINE (2 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 30.00

Retirement Fund for Religious special collection is this weekend. For decades religious men & women have cared for others. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your donations help ensure the aging religious will receive the necessary support, housing & medical care they need.



"You, too, must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. James 5:8"

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear.

Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are better able to align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

WEEKLY PARISH ACTIVITIES

Dec. 13 Penance: 3:00-3:45p/Girard; 6:30-7:00 p.m./Auburn
Dec. 14 Penance: 7:30-8:10am/Auburn; 11:30a-12:15p/Virden
Dec. 16 Novena at Sacred Heart, Virden 6:00 p.m. prayer / 6:30p.m. Mass by candlelight - Fr. Zach Samples celebrant
Dec. 17-24 Novena at Sacred Heart, Virden 5:00 p.m. prayers each night

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Dec. 24 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Dec. 25/26 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Dec. 31 Solemnity of Mary Vigil 4:00 p.m. at Girard
Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary 8:00 a.m. at Auburn
Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary 9:30 a.m. at Virden
Jan. 5 K of C #10556 Meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Parish Center
Jan. 7 PSR Grades K-8 6:30 –7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14 PSR Grades K-8 6:30 –7:30 p.m.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Julie Atwell, Tom Baker, Barbara Conkrite, Gail Courtney, Lisa Davis, Nancy Davis, Chuck DuBois, Dale Fitzpatrick, Paula Gonzalez, JoAnn Hefer, Stephen Hubbard, Anna Jett, Vince & Barb Kelly, Mark Kirby, Ron Knapp, Mary Maley, Milla Manser, Elizabeth Miczulski, Linda Millburg, Mark Millburg, Ken S. Moorman, Linda Nagel, Rita Nardi, Rachel Baker Noble, Danny Pierson, Breanna Rabacchi, Erin Stiver, Steve Stuckey, Steve Underwood, Michael Verschelden, Pat Verschelden, Bonnie Wagner, Barb Zaccari.

Please call parish office w/additions to / removals from list. Please notify us of anyone who would welcome a hospital visit. Thanks.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit parish website at: holycrossauburn.com to see bulletins, liturgical lists, register your children for PSR, any change in office hours and scheduled events! If you choose to do online giving and don't want envelopes anymore, please contact the parish office so that they may be suspended, saving our parish the cost of unused envelopes. **Current Lit Lists** are also always available at entry of church.

Wednesday Office Hours will be 9 a.m.—4 p.m. starting December 10th. The hours on the other days will remain unchanged.

Reminder that inclement weather that causes unsafe driving conditions could change office hours without prior notice.

We continue to thank Royell Communications for their providing, free of charge, our fiber internet in the church which allows us to have our overflow seating in the parish center.

Special Collection on Christmas Day for the Catholic Children's Home in Alton. This continues the mission of meeting the emotional, social, academic and basic material needs of all children sent for residential care of special education services. They are some of the most vulnerable in our society.

We thank Father's Pallottine order and Pawnee Monument Co. for their generous donations of 2026 calendars. They are available for pick-up at the back of church.

WEEKEND LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Sat., Dec. 13, 5:30 p.m. **Sun., Dec. 14, 8:15 a.m.**

Servers:	Hannah Barth Grifyn Bailey	Abigail Seiz Briana Giron
Lector:	Cindy Smith	Rob Staudenmaier
C. Mins:	John Hemberger	Barb Farris
Ushers:	Jeannette Forgas William Bolletta, Jr.	David Dixon Ron Appelt

Sat., Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m. **Sun., Dec. 21, 8:15 a.m.**

Jacob Barth Cayden Bailey	Claire Millburg Benjamin Millburg
Todd Atwell	Tim Hemberger
Ron Waterkotte	Lance Millburg
Jeannette Forgas Ron Waterkotte	David Dixon Ron Appelt

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	4:00 p.m.	Dec. 13	Girard	Mass
	5:30 p.m.	Dec. 13	Auburn	Mass
Sun.	8:15 a.m.	Dec. 14	Auburn	Mass
	10:15 a.m.	Dec. 14	Virden	Mass
Mon.	.	Dec. 15		
Tues.	6:00 p.m.	Dec. 16	Auburn	Mass
Tues.	6:30 p.m.	Dec. 16	Virden	Mass
Wed.	7:30 a.m.	Dec. 17	Virden	Mass
Thurs.	7:30 a.m.	Dec. 18	Virden	Mass
Fri.	7:30 a.m.	Dec. 19	Auburn	Mass
Sat.	4:00 p.m.	Dec. 20	Girard	Mass
	5:30 p.m.	Dec. 20	Auburn	Mass
Sun.	8:15 a.m.	Dec. 21	Auburn	Mass
	10:15 a.m.	Dec. 21	Virden	Mass

Rosella Adams (Cathy Davis & Family)
† Clare Blase (Mom)
† Mary Ann Kuentler (Andy & Donna)
† Linda Hacker (Annette & Adam Edwards Family)
NO MASS
† Francesco DiCarlo (Mary Ann Vitale)
† Joseph T. Nolan (Vic & Sara Goeckner) (Fr. Zach Samples)
† Hilma Goeckner (Vic & Sara Goeckner) (Adoration)
† Carrie Eichen (Claire McGrath)
Pro Populo
Lawless & Prose Families (Lisa & Mark Prose)
† Drew Keown (Paw Paw & Grandma Maley)
† Sue Leahy (Family)
† Pauline Miller (Greg & Beth Smith)

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Dec. 21-23 Men's Discernment Retreat for Catholic men, ages 18-25 at Villa Maria Retreat Center, Springfield. It is free to attend and no commitment is implied by your presence. Go to dio.org/mdr.

Support Those Who Need Food That Catholic Charities Hunger Campaign helps fund the Catholic Charities Mobile Food Pantry Program, which reaches out to feed disadvantaged people facing poverty in rural communities across our 28-county diocese. The 7 Mobile Food Pantry trucks deliver meat, fresh produce, dairy and non-perishable food items all year long to those in need. They ask you to please consider a gift to help them continue to feed God's children through their mission. Every gift, no matter how small, makes a difference. You can donate at cc.dio.org.

Victim Assistance Contact To report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy, even if it is in the past, individuals are encouraged to call the Diocese Child Abuse Reporting & Investigation number (217)321-1155. Individuals may also contact the Ill. Dept. of Children & Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-ABUSE, or contact your local police.

Project Rachel Help for women and men to heal from the pain of abortion. For assistance, call 1-877-RACHEL-5.

World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea 2027 If interested, connect with the Diocesan Office. Fr. Zach Samples, St. Agnes Parish, is the lead organizer for the pilgrimage for those 16-35 years of age. Estimated cost is \$6,098. A \$500 deposit is due January 15, 2026 with a quarterly payment schedule. Price is estimated based on current market, currency exchange and travel conditions. For more information or to express your interest, contact Fr. Zach Samples, Pilgrimage Spiritual Director at 217-698-8500 or at wyd@dio.org.

Contact Gov. Pritzker asking him to VETO SB 1950

As you know, life is sacred from conception to natural death and assisted suicide violates that basic tenet of Church teaching, making it morally unacceptable. The Church also calls us to protect the sick, vulnerable and marginalized of our society. In states where this is legal, physician assisted suicide incentivizes insurance companies to deny lifesaving treatment while offering cheaper lethal drugs; marginalized communities fear coercion and abuse of such a system, and suicide promotion and contagion are real. Assisted suicide in practice is also at odds with the physician's responsibility to care for patients.

When you request a veto for this bill, morally acceptable suggestions include: encouraging & supporting more hospice and palliative care programs & providing education concerning advanced directives and end of life options. Your voice matters on this bipartisan issue! For more information, go to ilcatholic.org.

Phone # for Gov. Pritzker is 217-782-6830 or write: Office of the Governor, 401 S. Spring St., Springfield, IL 62704

*"May we go forth in peace, filled with the joy of the Resurrection and may our lives be a testament to Your glory.
As we leave this place, let us carry the message of Your love and grace into the world,
reflecting the light of Christ in all that we do."*



Live Your Faith—Join the Knights of Columbus!

Knights are Catholic men, 18 years of age and older, who are committed to making their community a better place, while supporting their Church.

Auburn Council # 10556

For information, Call 217-741-7333

HOLY FATHER'S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION



UNIVERSAL INTENTION: 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.

Welcome to any visitors we may have with us today! If you would like to register as a member of Holy Cross Parish, please contact the parish office at 217-438-6222 or you may fill out the information below, detach and drop it in the collection basket.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____