

# Holy Cross Parish Bulletin

Auburn • Divernon • Glenarm • Pawnee

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 21, 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.

### ANOIDTING 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](http://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](mailto:hcp@royell.org)

Secretary Lola Caruthers E-mail: [hcp.lc@royell.org](mailto: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

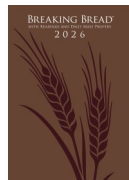
## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Joseph

Joseph's understanding of God's will for him is clear and unadorned. His quiet acceptance is almost palpable as we stand on the brink of our own Christmas celebration and try to sort out what matters and what doesn't. The Isaian prophecy settles in Joseph's house and is welcome there. Joseph seeks no shortcuts. He knows what God is asking him to do and he follows his call.

The name of this child is given to him as it was given to Mary: "... you are to name him Jesus ..." The name Jesus is rooted in the Hebrew word that means "the Lord is salvation." In Joseph's acceptance, salvation settled over his roof when the sun rose the next day. This faith-filled, just man and quiet protector of Mary ushers us into our celebration of Christmas, God with us.

*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](http://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

Server(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Lector: Cindy Smith

C. M. At Church: Cindy Smith; C. M. at Parish Hall: Jim & Sheryl Spears  
Ushers at Church: Ron Waterkotte, \_\_\_\_\_; Usher at Parish Hall: Jeannette Forgas

*Merry Christmas!!*

### COLLECTION DATA FOR DEC. 13/14, 2025

PARISH ENVELOPES (29 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 5,890.79
ONLINE DONATIONS (12 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 637.00
MAINTENANCE (5 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 1,191.50
TITHING (1 CONTRIBUTOR)	\$ 1,500.00
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (5 ENV. CONTR.)	\$ 65.00
FLOWERS (5 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 100.00
CHRISTMAS (1 CONTRIBUTOR)	\$ 50.00
CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S HOME (1 CONT.)	\$ 5.00
RETIRED RELIGIOUS (9 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 160.00
ONLINE RETIRED RELIGIOUS (1 CONT.)	\$ 20.00
CATHOLIC TIMES (1 CONTRIBUTOR)	\$ 15.00
FIRST OFFERING (1 CONTRIBUTOR)	\$ 3.00

*The only ones you should try to get even with  
are those who have helped you.*



*"When Joseph awoke, he did as he  
angel of the Lord had commanded  
him and took his wife into his home."  
Matthew 1:24*

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith.

As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

## WEEKLY PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Dec. 21-24 Novena at Sacred Heart, Virden** 5:00 p.m. prayers each night

**Dec. 23 Bulletin Deadline 11:00 a.m.**

**Dec. 24/31 NO PSR** - Christmas Break

**Dec. 24/25/26 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

**Dec. 31 Solemnity of Mary Vigil** 4:00 p.m. at Girard

**Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary** 8:00 a.m. at Auburn

Volunteers Needed: Server/Lector/Comm. Min./Usher

**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.

**Jan. 21 PSR Grades K-8** 6:30 –7:30 p.m.

**Jan. 28 PSR Grades K-8** 6:30 –7:30 p.m.

**Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday Mass** at Auburn at 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](http://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. 20, 5:30 p.m. Sun., Dec. 21, 8:15 a.m.**

<b>Servers:</b>	Jacob Barth Cayden Bailey	Claire Millburg Benjamin Millburg
<b>Lector:</b>	Todd Atwell	Tim Hemberger
<b>C. Mins:</b>	Ron Waterkotte	Lance Millburg
<b>Ushers:</b>	Jeannette Forgas Ron Waterkotte	David Dixon Ron Appelt

**Sat., Dec. 27, 5:30 p.m. Sun., Dec. 28, 8:15 a.m.**

Grifyn Bailey Hannah Barth	Xavier Seiz Lucas Seiz
Cindy Smith	Amy Phalen
Shiela Hemberger	Jeanne Harvill
Jeannette Forgas Ron Waterkotte	David Dixon Ron Appelt

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

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
Mon.		Dec. 22		
Tues.	6:00 p.m.	Dec. 23	Auburn	Mass
Wed.	4:00 p.m.	Dec. 24	Auburn	Mass
Wed.	6:00 p.m.	Dec. 24	Virden	Mass
Thurs.	9:00 a.m.	Dec. 25	Girard	Mass
Fri.		Dec. 26	Auburn	
Sat.	4:00 p.m.	Dec. 27	Girard	Mass
	5:30 p.m.	Dec. 27	Auburn	Mass
Sun.	8:15 a.m.	Dec. 28	Auburn	Mass
	10:15 a.m.	Dec. 28	Virden	Mass

Lawless & Prose Families (Lisa & Mark Prose)  
† Drew Keown (Paw Paw & Grandma Maley)  
† Sue Leahy (Family)  
† Pauline Miller (Greg & Beth Smith)  
**NO MASS**  
Pro Populo  
† Abby Neisler (Jerry, Dayna, Noah Neisler) (with overflow at PC)  
† Scott Crye (Vicky Crye) (NO ADORATION)  
Rosella Adams (Cathy Davis & Family)  
**NO MASS**  
Lynn Weddle (Farley & Annette Cole)  
† Mary Louise Catteau (Mr/Mrs Rob Kashmer)  
† David King (Bob & Mary Helen Crowe)  
† Shaun Snodgrass (Dave & Gail O'Brien)

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

**Jan. 20 Feast of St. Sebastian: Men's faith, Beer & Bourbon Night, 5:30-9p.m.** Men are invited to an evening of fraternity at the Villa Maria Conference Center on Lake Springfield. Join Fr. Herman Joseph O. Praem as the night begins with Mass at 6p.m. followed by drinks and a discussion on the joys and challenges faced by men striving to follow Christ within the Catholic Church. Cost is \$10 with registration deadline of January 16. Contact: [events@dio.org](mailto:events@dio.org) and register at [dio.org/events](http://dio.org/events).

**Jan. 26/Feb. 2/Feb. 9/Feb 16 Interior Freedom Book Study Series** (by Fr. Jacques Philippe) each night 6:15p.m.-7:45p.m. at Villa Maria Conference Center on Lake Springfield with Fr. Herman Joseph O. Praem. Copies of the book may be ordered online. Contact [events@dio.org](mailto:events@dio.org) and register at [dio.org/events](http://dio.org/events).

**Feb. 8 World Marriage Day** at 12:00 noon at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. Fr. Chris Martin will celebrate Mass. A reception, sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, will follow in Boland Hall. All married couples are invited to attend and celebrate the gift of marriage.

**April 6-14 Pilgrimage to Poland with Bishop Thomas John Paprocki & Fr. Jerome Koutnik** a 9-day pilgrimage "In the Footsteps of St. John Paul II. Cost \$4250 per person from Chicago. For details or to register, visit [pilgrimtravel.info](http://pilgrimtravel.info).

**Catholic Times is going monthly in 2026** Beginning in 2026, *Catholic Times* will transition from a biweekly publication to a monthly magazine. This change will allow for expanded coverage and more in-depth storytelling across the diocese. The new monthly format will bring improved paper quality, more consistent production schedule and an enhanced reading experience that better reflects the life and vitality of our Catholic community.

**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: \$6,098, with a \$500 deposit due January 15, 2026 with a quarterly payment schedule. For more information or to express your interest, contact Fr. Zach Samples, Pilgrimage Spiritual Director at 217-698-8500 or at [wyd@dio.org](mailto:wyd@dio.org).

**MassTimes.org** for Mass times when you travel or get the app on your iPhone by searching "Mass Times for Travel".

*"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: \_\_\_\_\_