



Holy Cross Parish Bulletin

Auburn • Divernon • Glenarm • Pawnee

First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026

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.

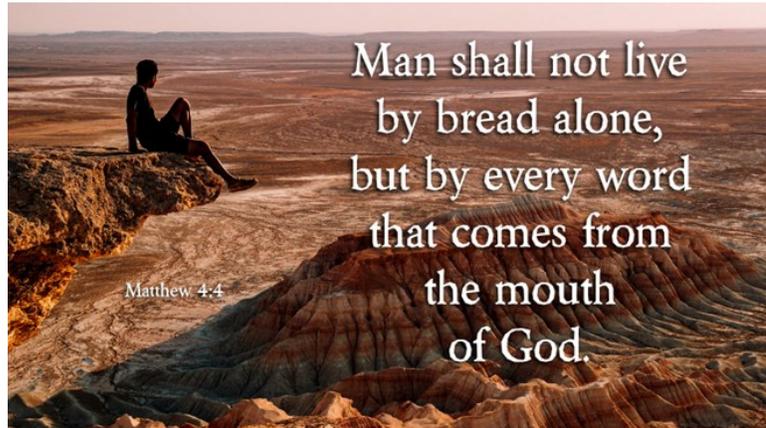
MARRIAGE

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*

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WEBSITE

holycrossauburn.com

FACEBOOK

Holy Cross Parish Auburn/Pawnee/Divernon/Glenarm
Illinois

ST. BENEDICT CHURCH

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Auburn, Illinois

HOLY CROSS PARISH

(217) 438-6222 (office/hall)

Secretary Donna Kuenstler E-mail:

d.kuenstler@holycrossauburn.com

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

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

First Sunday of Lent

The Desert

For some people the image of a desert is a negative one: barren, dry, lonely, dangerous. The Lenten invitation to enter the desert may not be a very appealing one.

There is another point of view regarding deserts, however. The desert offers silence, beauty and tenacious (however sparse) life.

Why did the Spirit lead Jesus into the desert? Perhaps because it was a place away from everyday living, a space free of the comings and goings of daily life. The desert provided the perfect arena for Jesus' face-to-face confrontation of temptation, and the unbroken isolation in which to meditate upon his life and mission.

We are invited to come to the desert this Lent, not to wander aimlessly but to enter intentionally. We may then return to the city, as Christ did, with renewed determination to fulfill the mission to which God has called us.

J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



To sign up for the 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.



"Ladies' Night of Death"

Comedy Murder Mystery Dinner
The world's greatest female detectives are attending the annual ladies night dinner at the Mystery Detectives Social Club when a mystery killer is targeting men.

Who will solve the mystery? Jessica Fletcher, Mrs. Matlock, Velma from Scooby Doo, Kelly from Charlie's Angels or you?

Comedy Murder Mystery Dinner hosted by K of C #10556 will be on Sat., Mar. 7 at Holy Cross Parish Center. Suggested arrival 6-7p.m. There will be a delicious catered meal and amusing entertainment. BYOB to enjoy at your table. It is encouraged to dress as a mystery solver (e.g. Scooby Doo, Charlie's Angels, Columbo, Inspector Clouseau, Jessica Fletcher, Mrs. Matlock) for this "Ladies' Night of Death". Paid reservations of \$55 per person may be sent to St. Benedict's KC, P.O. Box 266, Auburn, 62615, and will be taken until March 2 or until sold out. You may purchase as many seats as you would

like. No refunds after reservations have been confirmed. No walk-ins. Questions? Call 217-741-7333.

COLLECTION DATA FOR FEBRUARY 14/15, 2026

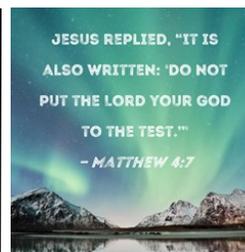
PARISH ENVELOPES (34 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 2,138.00
ONLINE DONATIONS (12 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 702.00
MAINTENANCE (12 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 880.00
TITHING (2 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 45.00
CATHOLIC TIMES (1 CONTRIBUTOR)	\$ 15.00
CENTRAL/EASTERN EUROPE (1 CONTRIBUTOR)	\$ 10.00
EASTER FLOWERS (2 CONTRIBUTORS)	\$ 50.00
RICE BOWL (1 CONTRIBUTOR)	\$ 1.00

Special collection for Catholic Charities

provides services to people in need.

Every day in every corner of the U.S. & its territories, Catholic Charities agencies provide comfort, hope & relief to vulnerable people and those living in poverty, regardless of their faith or background.

Catholic Charities' work upholds the dignity of all persons. Over 15 million at-risk were helped last year.



"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" Matthew 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to his Father.

If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives.

Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things. Lent is the time to repent and let go of the other "gods" we have put before God.

WEEKLY PARISH ACTIVITIES

Feb. 23-Feb. 27 Parish Office Closed for regular hours
 Feb. 25 Stations of the Cross, 9:00 a.m. at the Church
 Feb. 25 PSR Grades K-8 6:30 –7:30 p.m.
 Feb. 27 K of C Fish Fry 5-7 pm at Parish Center

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Mar. 2 K of C #10556 Meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Parish Center
 Mar. 4 Stations of the Cross, 9:00 a.m. at the Church
 Mar. 4 PSR Grades K-8 6:30 –7:30 p.m.
 Mar. 6 K of C Fish Fry 5-7 pm at Parish Center
 Mar. 7 Comedy Murder Mystery Dinner at Parish Center
 Mar. 10 Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m. at the Church
 Mar. 11 PSR Grades K-8 6:30 –7:30 p.m.
 Mar. 13 K of C Fish Fry 5-7 pm at Parish Center
 Mar. 17 Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m. at the Church
 Mar. 18 PSR Grades K-8 6:30 –7:30 p.m.
 Mar. 20 Tri-Parish Penance Service 6:30 p.m., Virden

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Julie Atwell, Tom Baker, Josephine Catteau, Barbara Conkrite, Gail Courtney, Lisa Davis, Nancy Davis, Chuck DuBois, Dale Fitzpatrick, Paula Gonzalez, JoAnn Hefer, Stephen Hubbard, Anna Jett, Vince & Barb Kelly, Ron Knapp, Mary Maley, Mil-la Manser, Elizabeth Miczulski, Linda Millburg, Mark Millburg, Ken S. Moorman, Dolores Lopez, Linda Nagel, Rita Nardi, Rachel Baker Noble, 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, 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.

K of C #10556 Fish Fries will begin Friday, February 27, 5-7 p.m. Menu consists of Fried Fish, Baked Fish, Popcorn Shrimp, French Fries, Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, Green Beans, Dessert & Drink. Adults / Carryouts/\$15.00. Ages 5-12/\$6.00.

K of C #10556 Comedy Murder Mystery Dinner, Saturday, March 7, at the Parish Center. Reservations required. See details on page 2 of this bulletin.

Please keep our Confirmation/First Communion Candidates in your prayers. They will be receiving their sacraments on Tuesday, March 24 at the Cathedral. They are: Clara Cowan, Maya Gonzalez Nunez & Hank Miller



MAY YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY BE SPIRITUALLY REFRESHING AND DEEPLY MEANINGFUL!

REQUIESCANT IN PACE ... May they rest in peace

Connie Rose Schneider

WEEKEND LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Sat., Feb. 21, 5:30 p.m. Sun., Feb. 22, 8:15 a.m.

Servers:	Grifyn Bailey Hannah Barth	Abigail Seiz Briana Giron
Lector:	Cindy Smith	Amy Phalen
C. Mins:	Shiela Hemberger	Barb Farris
Ushers:	Ron Waterkotte Jim Verschelden	David Dixon Ron Appelt

Sat., Feb. 28, 5:30 p.m. Sun., March 1, 8:15 a.m.

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

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 4:00 p.m.	Feb. 21	Girard	Mass	Lawless & Prose Family (Lisa & Mark Prose)
5:30 p.m.	Feb. 21	Auburn	Mass	† Velma Millburg (Kelli Marchizza & Family)
Sun. 8:15 a.m.	Feb. 22	Auburn	Mass	† Bill & Mary Garner (David & Susan Dixon)
10:15 a.m.	Feb. 22	Virden	Mass	Alyse Engel (Susan Mathias)
Mon.	Feb. 23			NO MASS
Tues. 6:00 p.m.	Feb. 24	Auburn	Mass	† Francesco DiCarlo (Mary Ann Vitale)
Wed. 7:30 a.m.	Feb. 25	Virden	Mass	† Scott Crye (Vicky Crye)
Wed. 10:00 a.m.	Feb. 25	Eastland	Mass	All Souls
Thurs. 7:30 a.m.	Feb. 26	Virden	Mass	Judy Hartley (Vic & Sara Goeckner)
Fri. 7:30 a.m.	Feb. 27	Auburn	Mass	Pro Populo
Sat. 4:00 p.m.	Feb. 28	Girard	Mass	Carolyn Bettis (Diana Rogers)
5:30 p.m.	Feb. 28	Auburn	Mass	† Austin DuBois (Ceasar & Judy Gianasi & Family)
Sun. 8:15 a.m.	Mar. 1	Auburn	Mass	† Margaret "Margo" Kaufman (Family)
10:15 a.m.	Mar. 1	Virden	Mass	† Fr. Daren Zehnle (Jeff & Becca Yemm)

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Lenten Journey: Stations of the Cross with EWTN's Mother Angelica DVD Series began at St. Patrick Church Hall but with succeeding sessions being held at Sacred Heart Church, Virden each Sunday beginning Feb. 22 at approximately 11:30 a.m. The Stations of the Cross is a devotion and reflection in which we walk alongside Jesus on His way to Calvary. Her talks will take us into the depths of Christ's agony, and back out again into the joy of what His sacrifice means for us. No reservations required.

Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27 Stations of the Cross At Sacred Heart Church, Virden, at 6:00 p.m.

March 2, 3, 4 Lenten Mission at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Taylorville, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Please bring your bibles. All are welcome!

March 19 Illinois Pro-Life Mass & Attend Illinois Pro-Life March afterward Join thousands of pro-life advocates being a joyful witness to life and raising your voice for the voiceless. Mass at 10 a.m. at the Exposition Bldg on the grounds of Illinois State Fairgrounds celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki and concelebrated by bishops & priests across the state. **You must register for the Mass by going to dio.org.** After the Mass, there is a rally at the capitol at 1p.m. with guest speakers and a march around the capitol at 2. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also be going on at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from noon -5p.m. Confessions at the Cathedral will be available from 1:30-5:00 p.m.

March 22 Lenten Day of Recollection in Springfield at the Villa Maria Retreat Center. Arrival time 2p.m. and concluding at 7p.m. The day includes conferences, adoration, time for prayer, the Rosary, confession & dinner. Cost is \$25. **Register by March 15** at dio.org/events.

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.

Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) Scholarships \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to four 2026 High School Girl graduates who exemplify the SDCCW Catholic values of Leadership, Faith and Service. Application documents must be received by April 15, 2026. More information can be obtained at parish office.

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.

*"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.*

Auburn American Legion has a Pancake/Sausage Brunch on Sunday, March 1, serving 8a.m.-noon.



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 FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION



UNIVERSAL INTENTION: FOR CHILDREN WITH INCURABLE DISEASES Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength 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: _____