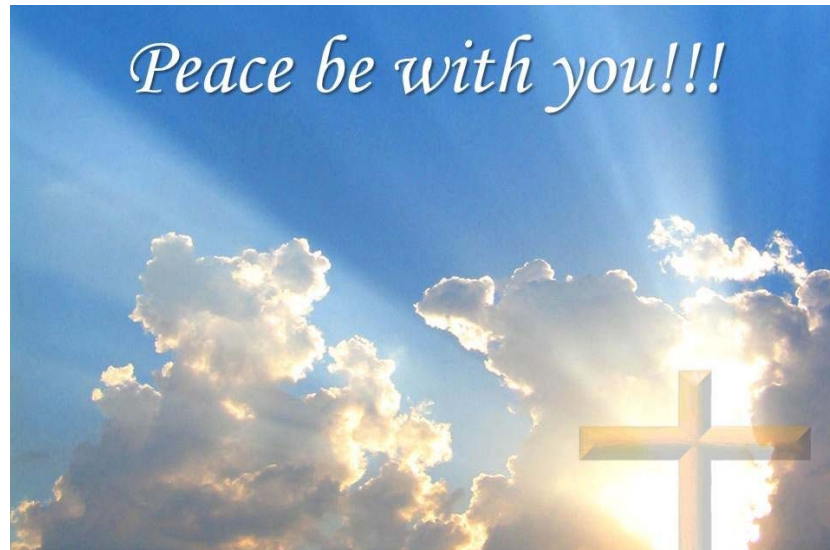




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

It is customary at St. Mary-Holy Cross after the final song, the assembly kneels and silently prays the "Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be" for the next person of our Parish who dies. Parishioners near death have expressed the comfort they experience knowing the Parish Community is praying for them. Please join us in this sacred prayer.

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is the third Sunday of Easter and the Gospel portrays the disciples as being troubled. Perhaps it is because Jesus' resurrected body still has the wounds that he incurred during his passion. While we can and rightly see them as a reminder of the consequences of such torture, they also indicate the cost of the Resurrection. Even though we are the sinners, God so loves us that He was willing to spend Himself for our salvation.

If you are interested in serving as a sponsor couple for those preparing for marriage, please contact me.

~ Fr. Andrew

Parish Information

Parish Phone	515-367-2685
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	515-367-2685
Parish General Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
Parish Fax	515-367-7028
Parish Web Site	www.saintmaryhc.org
Parish Facebook Site	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org
Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper	sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry	afisher@saintmaryhc.org
Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
Barb Liske - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE	gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org
Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE	tmiller@saintmaryhc.org
Sue Schmidt - Music	sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org

Mass Schedule	Tuesday	6:00pm	St. Mary
	Wednesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
	Thursday	8:00am	St. Mary
	First Friday	9:00am	St. Mary
	Saturday	5:00pm	St. Mary
	Sunday	8:00am	Holy Cross

Reconciliation: Tuesdays 5:15 - 5:45pm; Saturdays 4:00-4:30pm and after 9:00am First Friday Mass, in the **Cry Room**, or by appointment with Fr. Andrew.

Baptism: Contact Fr. Andrew for a preparation program

Marriage: Contact Fr. Andrew at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Mass, Reconciliation & Adoration

Tuesday, April 20

5:15 - 5:45pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

6:00pm Mass, St. Mary Andrew Ward
~ followed by Adoration

Wednesday, April 21

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Rick McQuiston

Thursday, April 22

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Sharon Dunbar

Saturday, April 24

4:00 - 4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †George Meusburger

Sunday, April 25

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Denise Daup

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Bernardine Gorman

Are You New To Our Parish?



We welcome you to our family of St. Mary-Holy Cross and invite you to become a member of our parish! Please fill out a registration card found in the vestibule of St. Mary or Holy Cross or on our website. We are glad you are here!

† For Pastoral assistance, please contact Fr. Andrew at 515-367-2685 or Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org.

Masks Required in Parish Buildings

Bishop Joensen has extended the mask requirement at all public Masses, sacramental celebrations, and other events in Church buildings. This decision corresponds to the recommendations of public health experts within the local medical community.

For Diocesan updates, resources and livestream Masses, please go to <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>.

SMHC Temporary Solution Regarding Masks

In consultation with the diocese, an additional Mass at Noon on Sundays is being offered for those individuals to whom an exemption applies (see the excerpt from the bishop below). This does NOT mean that the mask mandate is currently rescinded. It also does not mean that anyone with an exemption is necessarily barred from attending a different Mass time. It is certainly not an attempt to "exile" anyone. Rather, it is an attempt to facilitate respect for those who are anxious about others not wearing masks around them (and perhaps vice versa).

Excerpt from the bishop's statement:

This diocesan requirement applies to all those over the age of five, who do not have a medical or psychological condition prohibiting mask use. A personal preference opposed to mask use, or the belief that masks are not effective, does not qualify as a condition exempting one from mask use. If parishioners are unsure whether an exemption applies to them, they should consult with their pastor who can assist in discernment.

Church Sign

Do not ask GOD what He can do for you,
but ask GOD what you can do for Him.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sharon Dunbar, lifelong member of our parish. Sharon, wife of Bill, mother of Kathy, Kris, Kenny and Kelly, and sister of Pat Cory, passed away April 9th. She is now resting in peace with our Risen Lord. May her family find strength and comfort as they mourn her passing.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mike Phelan who passed away last Wednesday. He is now in eternal peace with our Lord and Savior. Pray for his family that they know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

All services are at Colfax Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. A rosary will be prayed at 3:30pm today (Sunday); visitation follows from 4:00-7:00pm with a Wake Service at 7:00pm. The funeral Mass is Monday, April 19 at 3:00pm followed by burial at Holy Cross.

† Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, †
and let perpetual light shine upon them. †

Knights of Columbus

April 18: 6:40pm Rosary, Church
7:00pm Meeting, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: April 20, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Parish Council

Meeting: April 27, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: May 10, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Upcoming Parish Council Opening

St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish Council was established just over a year and a half ago in an attempt to help Father Andrew guide and make decisions for our Parish family. This Council was established with six parishioners with representatives from both St. Mary's and Holy Cross. Our aim is to have each new member serve a three year term with two members rotating off each year. Now that the Council is established, we are looking for up to two new members to join. This June the Parish will hold a vote (if necessary) for new members who are interested. If you are interested, or anyone you know who might be, please feel free to reach out to any of the current Parish Council members for more information.

Music Notes

Sue Schmidt, Coordinator

515-689-9949 / sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org

We have added all Mass parts, opening, communion and closing hymns vocally to Masses at St. Mary. The cantor and accompanist will continue to sing and play from the choir loft. The lector will read the Responsorial Psalm. Due to closer contact to the congregation at Holy Cross, additional music will be added at the accompanist's and cantor's discretion.

We continue to monitor the virus and Diocesan direction and will make changes to the level of vocal music as needed. Wearing a mask, join us to give praise in song during Mass.

On The Radio

Tune in to Iowa Catholic Radio (1150 AM, 88.5 FM or 94.5 FM) most Fridays around 7:15pm to hear Fr. Andrew discuss that coming Sunday's Gospel. At 9:00am every Friday tune in for the Bishop's weekly radio show, "Making it Personal With Bishop Joensen".

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org, 515-556-4150
Tracy Miller, tmiller@saintmaryhc.org, 515-520-7981

A BIG THANK YOU to all the Catechists who served the children this year. We could not have done it without you and your dedication to the children is so beautiful. Thank you for making a difference in the next generation's lives.

Registration information will be out midsummer; be on the lookout for that.

We look forward to celebrating First Reconciliation and First Communion with the children in the coming weeks. We have 29 children who will receive their sacraments this year.

April 18- First Communion special session #3, 1:00pm
April 22 & 23- optional First Communion Retreat
April 24- Required First Communion Retreat
April 25- First Communion 12:00pm & 2:00pm

S.T.O.R.M. Report

Grades 7-12 Coordinators

Melissa Kahler, mkahler@saintmaryhc.org, 515-290-2830
Andrea Fisher, afisher@saintmaryhc.org, 515-240-5059

Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

Nicole Cory, ncory@saintmaryhc.org, 515-313-3014

Thank you to all who showed interest and signed up for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) 2021. We have 23 teens and 7 adults who have committed to attending the pilgrimage to Indianapolis this coming fall. Our next step is to pray, wait, and see if the diocese is able to secure enough tickets to the event for all 30 of our youth and leaders from SMHC to attend. The way we obtain tickets for NCYC this year is a bit different. The overall number of participants on a national level was cut from 20,000+ down to 10,000 for covid safety precautions. Please continue to pray for our youth of St. Mary-Holy Cross and watch the bulletin and email for future FUNdraisers to help support the teens as they embark on this faith filled adventure.

April 21 & 28th: All 8th-12th graders are welcome to join us at 5:30pm for Mass at Holy Cross. If you are unable to make it to Mass, please plan to join us in the youth area for a meal and youth gathering at 6:15pm until 8:30pm. We hope to see you. Feel free to bring a friend! Contact Melissa or Andrea with questions.

Purpose (Confirmation Program)

The end of the year is upon us. I would like to thank all of the families involved in Confirmation Prep this year. It's been a crazy year at best and I appreciate the patience and understanding you all have shown as we navigated unknown pandemic territory together.

A good program doesn't move forward without volunteers. I have some of the best! Thank you so much for all of your support, I couldn't have done it without you: Andrea Fisher, Melissa Kahler, Grace Fisher, Kelly Hoffmeier, Sophie Hoffmeier, Megan Theulen, Melanie Stoner, Bridget Smith and Jamie Warg.

10th Grade Only:

Friday May 7, 6:00pm at St. Mary: Confirmation Liturgy Rehearsal Dinner

Saturday May 8, 10:30am at St. Mary: Confirmation Liturgy.

Please watch your email for important details surrounding this Liturgy.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doug Jones, *Chair* - djones@bossard.com
John Fisher - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Stacey Rooney - Rooneysl17@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heidi Ackerman, *Co-President* - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
Sue Tollefson, *Co-President* - suet@iowacubs.com
Larry Davis - larryedavis57@gmail.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Jacki Ausman - jackiausman@gmail.com
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Kris Sturtz - klsturtz@gmail.com
Sue White - charylmyron@q.com
John Zidon - jzidon@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Karen Bellis - puzzlenuts@aol.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiaowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com
Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - shawcattle13@gmail.com
Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - fogarty929@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

Weekly Collection Financial Update

April 11 Budget Week 41

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$1,094	\$4,860

Year to Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$223,540	\$199,260	\$234,845

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Unpaid Pledges</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$51,038	\$28,882	\$5,783	\$22,156

Thank you to those who have been so generous to this year's Appeal. If you have not made a pledge, please consider how you are able to help support the work of the Diocese and return your pledge card from Bishop Joensen to the parish office or drop it in the collection basket at Church. If donating by check, please make it out to the Diocese of Des Moines. You can also donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; then choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Thank you.

Prayer Chain

If illness or a crisis strikes your family or friends, please don't hesitate to contact us so members of our Parish may offer prayers for those in need. For requests or to participate in our Prayer Chain, please contact Barb, bliske@saintmaryhc.org / 515-367-2685. *If the request is not for you, please ask permission of the one it is for to be on our prayer chain.*

Purchase a Flag for Holy Cross Cemetery

We will be installing new flags to add to the already 135 American flags that we display four times per year in Holy Cross Cemetery. Memorialize your special someone with a flag that will be flown on Memorial weekend, Fourth of July, Labor Day weekend and Veteran's Day. Your flag pole will be marked with a laser engraved tag that identifies the honoree and the donor. Price is \$175 which includes the flag and pole, identifying label, base installation, raising and lowering the flag and flag storage. Contact Barb at the parish office with your request by **Sunday, May 2nd** and provide her with identification label information and payment (checks made payable to Lynn Schreurs). Contact Lynn (515-577-8147) if you have any questions. Reminder---we only install new flags once a year prior to Memorial weekend.

Graduating Seniors!

Our parish is pleased to announce a scholarship to be granted to a high school senior pursuing higher education! Money used to fund the scholarship was donated by a generous anonymous parishioner. If you are interested in applying, please go to <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/2021%20St.%20Mary-Holy%20Cross%20Scholarship%20Application.docx.pdf> or contact the parish office. The scholarship application is due by May 1, 2021.

If you are interested in donating money for future scholarship opportunities, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.

Blood Drive

Our blood drive is Thursday, May 27, 3:00 to 7:00pm in the Social Hall. What safer and easier way to serve others than to donate your life-supporting blood that will help save or sustain the life of three others. LifeServe Blood Center provides a disinfected and sanitized environment. Blood is always in short supply and especially now. The whole process (registration, confidential health history interview, donation, and post-donation rest in our canteen) will take less than an hour with the actual donation taking only about 10 minutes. LifeServe personnel and donors are required to wear a mask. Appointments are required for added safety. To schedule your appointment sign up in the vestibule of St. Mary or use this link https://donor.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/169798 to choose your donation time and then log in or create an account. If you have difficulties or questions, please call LifeServe Blood Center at 800-287-4903 and mention you would like to sign up for the Elkhart Community Blood Drive on May 27.

Contact Lisa or Tim Kautza (kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687) if you would like to volunteer to help in the canteen or can provide cookies, bars or other snacks.

Get Your Copy of The Catholic Mirror Online

Email communications@dmdiocese.org with your name and parish/town for a digital version. We are committed that every registered Catholic household gets *The Catholic Mirror* every month either online or in the mail!



2.5 million plastic bottles are thrown away every hour in America.

Auto Debit for Tithing

Please consider using this type of tithing if you currently do not. You designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on a pre-determined date. If you have questions or would like to begin ACH, please contact Sarah at sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org or find the form in the vestibule or on the home page of our website, <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/>. Thank you to those who currently use ACH for your tithing.

The Third Option

A free marriage enrichment ministry for couples, is still up and running in the Diocese! This program is for all couples whether they are facing obstacles in their marriage or just trying to make a good thing better!

Couples will walk through 14 skills-based workshops, listen to a couple who has overcome comparable frustrations, and provides support group discussions on suggested exercises/tools.

The Third Option will meet every 2nd and 4th Monday "IN PERSON" at All Saints Catholic Church on 650 NE 52nd Avenue in Des Moines. The workshop is held from 7:00-9:00pm and participants are welcome to join anytime.

If you have questions, or would like to register contact Adam Storey at astorey@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5056. You can also contact Barb Berenguel at barbberenguel@yahoo.com or 515-229-0535.

Catholic Youth Camp Registration

Campers will see new cabins, a renovated Dingman Lodge and increased number of staff. We're planning for the most amazing summer ever! Camp is open to 3rd-12th graders. For more information/to register, please go to stmcenter.com.

Our Parish will contribute \$100 of the fee to CYC for each child of our Parish who attends.

Please notify Barb in the office by April 30 if your child is registered for camp.

St. Joseph Catholic School

Check out our school with a tour! Call or email today to schedule! Contact Jodi Halligan for more information, jhalligan@stjosephcatholicdsm.org, 515-266-3433 or www.stjosephcatholicdsm.org.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday of Easter, April 18

Theme: Being able to see the Risen Christ.

Reading I: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 • God raised Christ from the dead.

Reading II: 1 John 2:1-5 • Whoever keeps God's word has love made perfect.

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48 • He stood in their midst.

For Children: Name some times when you know Jesus is with you.

For Youth: What are some ways that you know that God is with you? Who are the people, where are the place, and what are the occasions when you feel closest to God?

For Adults: When have you had an "Aha" moment, when you suddenly realized that God was with you?