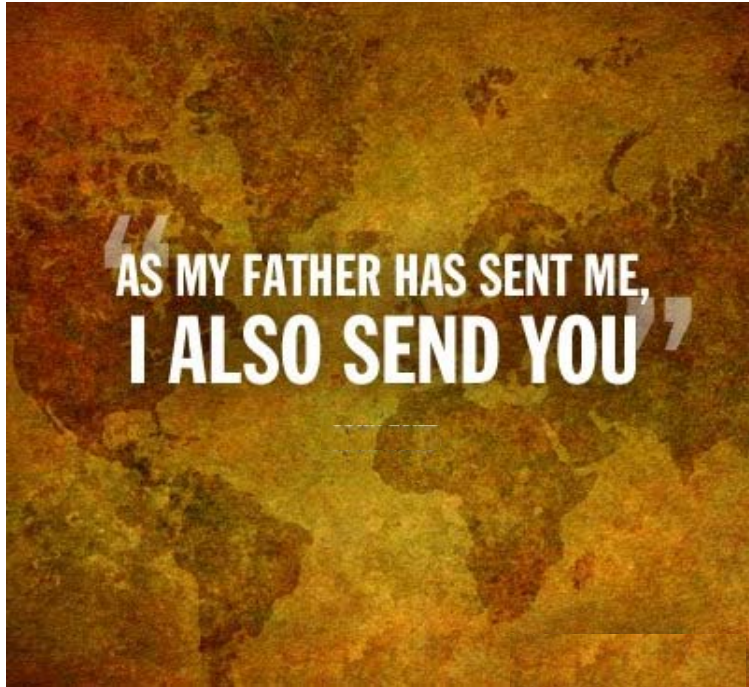




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

The second Sunday of Easter is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, which was instituted by St. Pope John Paul II in the year 2000. This solemnity emphasizes God's bounteous mercy for us, even though we are sinners. On the parish website you will find a document with resources to help you celebrate.

Bishop Joensen has granted faculties to pastors to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with those who have been preparing. When the restriction regarding gatherings is lifted, we will consider dates and seek input from those who are involved. At this time, the same goes for first Communion.

~ Fr. Andrew

Parish Information

Parish Phone	515-367-2685	Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	515-367-2685	Fax	515-367-7028
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org	Web Site	www.saintmaryhc.org
Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper	sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org	Facebook	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org	Reconciliation:	By appointment only with Fr. Andrew.
Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry	afisher@saintmaryhc.org	Baptism:	Contact Fr. Andrew for preparations.
Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org	Marriage:	Contact Fr. Andrew at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.
Barb Liske - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org	Priesthood and Religious Life:	See Diocesan website at http://www.vocationsonline.org .
Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE	gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org		
Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE	tmiller@saintmaryhc.org		
Sue Schmidt - Music	sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org		

Mass Intentions offered by Fr. Andrew

Tuesday, April 21	†Claudette Peterson
Wednesday, April 22	†Stephen Carpenter
Thursday, April 23	†Tom Bellis
Saturday, April 25	†George Meusburger
Sunday, April 26	For the Parish

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

We Are Here to Help!

If you are homebound, at high risk, caring for family, or know someone who is, and are in need of help with errands, picking up prescriptions or groceries, etc., please contact the parish office. Also, if you are willing to help in some way, please email Barb.

Changes in Parish Practice

Although we are not able to gather as a parish community, we will communicate through email, our website and facebook page. If you have not already, please provide your email to Barb (bliske@saintmaryhc.org) to receive updates from us as well as from Bishop Joensen.

If it is necessary for you to come to the parish office, please contact Fr. Andrew or staff ahead of time to be sure someone is here, or make an appointment. Phone messages and email will be checked frequently, even when staff is not in the office, and your messages will be returned.

See the diocesan website at

<https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>
for Livestream Masses, updates and resources.

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 form found in the vestibule of St. Mary and on our website. We are glad you are here!

Easter Resources

We have *The Little White Book* and *The Word Among Us* available in the vestibule of St. Mary for your use during this Easter Season. If you'd like one mailed to you, please contact the parish office.

A New Way to Tithe!

Our parish has been looking into offering online giving and we are currently able to offer this opportunity through the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa. They have provided all parishes with a secure link: <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. Using the drop down menu, you can choose our parish (St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart) and make your donation. Contributions made through this platform will be treated as tithes to our parish. There are no fees associated with this, so ALL of your donation goes to our parish. The Foundation will send all gift acknowledgement letters.

Church Sign

If you are going to waste, let God recycle you!

In Sympathy and Compassion

Pray for the repose of the soul of Claudette Peterson, mother of Kirk Peterson and sister-in-law of Delila Roberts and Diane Cronk, who passed away Easter Sunday. May she be at peace with our Risen Lord and her family know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

✠ Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, ✠
and let perpetual light shine upon her.

A Prayer Amid an Epidemic

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness."

At your command, the sick were made well.

Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us. Amen.

*Prayer written by Kerry Weber
Executive editor of America Magazine*

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th grade Coordinators

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

As the quarantine continues, we hope that you and your family are doing well adjusting to this strange new normal. As the Governor has recommended the closure of schools through April 30th, it is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge that this definitely delays our plans for First Communion. We will be contacting families with an updated Sacramental Prep program as more and more information comes to light and we are able to move forward with new plans. In the meantime, be assured of our prayers for you and your children as you deal with this difficult situation. It is our hope and prayer that the desire to receive Jesus in the Sacrament will grow and grow and this longing will bring you and your family even closer to Christ during this time.

We would like to encourage all families to pray the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be each day as a way to be united to each other and our parish family during this time. We pray these prayers before dinner each night for the sick and suffering as well as the next person who will die from our parish. This is one of the things we first loved about St. Mary Holy Cross when we came to this parish a few years ago and it has been a beautiful addition to our family dinners as we remain connected to the Body of Christ through prayer.

May the Peace of Christ remain with you!

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

Happy Divine Mercy Sunday to our S.T.O.R.M. friends! We are praying for each and every one of you. We wanted to share some prayers, apps, and other ways we feel can enhance your prayer life during our time of isolation. Now that we pray a "virtual" Mass and experience this unfortunate fast from the Eucharist due to coronavirus covid-19 virus, you could consider making an Act of Spiritual Communion. Below you will find the prayer as well a link provided so you can read more about the "Act of Spiritual Communion" and how it can assist your spiritual walk:

<https://osvnews.com/2020/03/14/the-why-and-how-of-making-a-spiritual-communion/>

*My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though You have already come, I embrace You
and unite myself entirely to You;
never permit me to be separated from You.*

A interesting and sometimes entertaining podcast is Fr. Mike Schimitz Catholic Podcast and Magnificat is an app that offers prayers throughout the day, Mass, a Mediation of the Day and much more and it's FREE!

We will continue to gather virtually on Wednesday evenings please contact one of us if you are interested in participating.

Please reach out to us if we can assist you in anyway!

May God Bless always! ~ Andrea, Nicole and Melissa

Confirmation: Watch for updates through email.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

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PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

Weekly Collection Financial Update

April 12 Budget Week 40

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
	\$4,570	\$5,730

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$240,970	\$234,930	\$237,144

2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Information and a pledge card have been mailed to each household. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give and mail your pledge to the parish or donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving/annual-diocesan-appeal-giving>, being sure to designate our parish for proper credit. Each gift is vital to reaching our assessment. Thank you.

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Amt. Due
\$49,556	\$20,200	\$15,105	\$34,451

Considering switching over to automatic withdrawal from your bank account for your tithing? Please contact Sarah Baumberger, sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org, for additional information or find the form on the home page of our website in the lower right hand corner.

Bishop Joensen Addresses How to Be Reconciled to God During This Time



I especially want you to believe that though you may not have been able to go to confession, be anointed or receive Eucharist, God's compassion and saving love seek you out wherever you are: at home, in hospitals or nursing homes, in places of shelter or outdoors.

In these extraordinary days, there has been frequent mention of opportunities for what is called a "plenary indulgence" for ourselves and those for whom we pray. A plenary indulgence removes all the temporal punishment due to sin (Catechism of the Catholic Church n. 1471). It is an act of trust that, thanks to the merits of Christ's cross, the Church, through the power of the keys entrusted to Peter and his successor Pope Francis, can provide a healing remedy for us poor sinners and channel grace to all who are hurting or sick, before and after death.

During this time of pandemic, a plenary indulgence is available not only to the sick or to health care workers, but for all the Catholic faithful. We should express our spirit of detachment from any sin, (e.g., by saying, "I hate sin"), have the intention to go to Confession and receive Holy Communion when it is eventually possible again, and right now, pray for the Pope's intentions in one of various ways: make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, read Scripture for at least 30 minutes, pray the Rosary, make the Way of the Cross, recite the Divine Mercy chaplet or the Litany of the Sacred Heart for the following intentions: an end to the pandemic, relief for those afflicted, and eternal salvation for those who have died.

April 19 is Divine Mercy Sunday



We have several opportunities to unite in prayer for this weekend's Divine Mercy Sunday. See <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus> for a letter from Bishop Joensen and the schedule of events and resources, including a sign up for praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in the Diocese for a continuous 24 hours. We invite you to pray at home and to watch the worship services that will be broadcast of Facebook and YouTube.

Earth Day, April 22

We tend to think of environmentalism as a modern concept, but the saints were already practicing it long ago.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680) Kateri was raised in the Iroquois nation, who environmental scientist Bill Jacobs says, "carefully managed the fields, forests, and wildlife of their homeland. They understood the rhythms of nature...Kateri herself would have intimately known the plants and animals around her, in a way that any botanist or biologist today would envy." For this reason, she is referred to as a, "child of nature," who often went into the woods to make crosses out of sticks and to talk to God. It was in the silence of creation, far from the noise of the village, that she was able to commune with her Creator. Her experience is probably familiar to a lot of us and goes to show how precious the environment around us is and how important it is to protect it. If we lose these quiet places where we can get lost in nature, we will lose a vital avenue of spirituality.



To find out about other saints that inspire us to take care of our planet, go to <https://aleteia.org/2017/06/18/5-saints-to-inspire-us-to-take-care-of-our-planet/>.

SAYWHAT? Eight million pieces of plastic finds its way into our oceans daily.

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 at 515-367-2685 / bliske@saintmaryhc.org. *If the request is not for you, please ask permission of the one it is for to be on our prayer chain.*

Thank You

Thank you for your words of sympathy, your voice of concern, your gesture of caring and the love you offer and thank you for the beautiful plant and the help and support for mom's funeral.

~ The Family of Veda Marie Dyer

Pro Life Quote

Abortion is inherently different from other medical procedures because no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a life." - Potter Stewart

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Second Sunday of Easter, April 19

Theme: Jesus gives us the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reading I: Acts 2:42-47 • They devoted themselves to a communal life.

Reading II: 1 Peter 1:3-9 • There is cause for rejoicing here.

Gospel: John 20:19-31 • Peace be with you, he said.

Question for Children: Even though you can't see him with your eyes, how do you "see" Jesus in others?

Question for Youth: Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit and gave us the power to forgive sins. How do you offer forgiveness to your friends and family? How do you seek forgiveness for yourself?

Question for Adults: When and how do you experience the "new birth" which we are given in Christ? When someone has forgiven you? When you have forgiven others? When you celebration reconciliation? At other times?