



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

I AM the Good Shepherd....

John 10:11



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 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,

The Gospel this Sunday is part of a discussion that Jesus is having with some Pharisees who believe that the man he cured of blindness was that way because of sin. Jesus basically criticizes them for not being the religious leaders they are meant to be. Not only do they falsely believe and teach, they strive to serve only themselves. Jesus on the other hand, obeys the Father and serves humanity, ultimately by sacrificing himself for us. There may be other shepherds, but as he says, "I am the good shepherd." We might put emphasis on 'the' to imply that there is only one good shepherd, so any others are to be patterned after him.

Please pray for the 29 children who have celebrated first Reconciliation this weekend and will receive Communion for the first time over the next few days. Their eagerness to receive our Lord in the Eucharist is beautiful.

~ 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
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Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
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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
		10:00am	St. Mary

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 27

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

6:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Albert & Helen Schmidt
~ followed by Adoration

Wednesday, April 28

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Mike Phelan

Thursday, April 29

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †John & Ann Breen

Saturday, May 1

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Bill Devereux

Sunday, May 2

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Al Claussen

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Henry Volz

Prayer at Planting Time

Adapted from the Rural Life Committee, Diocese of Sioux Falls

Thank you, God of generosity, Creator of all things,
for everything that grows on the earth.

Thank you for the people who tend the land
and who make it fruitful.

In our age we may forget our dependence
on wind and weather, on sun and rain,
without which nothing would grow.

In this seedtime of the year,
make bright in us an appreciation for farmers
and all who help bring forth the fruits of the earth.
Keep us always in mind of the things that matter most.
Help us to bring rural America together,
and to fulfill our responsibilities in glorifying your earth,
that this world may fulfill your will
for the land to sustain your creation until the end of time.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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

Jesus has prepared a place for you;
are you prepared for your place?

Parish Council

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

Stewardship Committee

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

Knights of Columbus

May 16: 6:40pm Rosary, Church

7:00pm Meeting, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: May 18, 6:30pm, Social Hall

High School Senior Recognition ✠

During Masses next weekend, we will recognize and have a blessing for our students who are graduating from High School. —Seniors, please contact the Parish Office by this Wednesday to let us know which Mass you will be attending.

Graduating Seniors!

Our parish is offering a scholarship to be granted to a high school senior pursuing higher education! 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 application is due by Saturday, May 1.**

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

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 2**, 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.

**Congratulations
to these students who
will receive Holy Eucharist
for the first time.
GOD BLESS YOU!**

Vincent B.	Imogene L.
Landon B.	Mercedes L.
Carter C.	Esther M.
Rose C.	Leo M.
Eliza C.	Gabriel M.
Adeline E.	Brenton M.
Blake E.	Drew R.
Nyah E.	Meridith S.
Beckett F.	Callen S.
Carver F.	Abby S.
William H.	Emma S.
Emma H.	Broxton W.
Pyper K.	Tyler W.
Lillian K.	Bentley W.
Marie L.	

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

It was a busy week for our First Communicants. We couldn't have done it without the help of the Catechists and parents. Thank you for making this event so special for the children. We look forward to continuing to witness these children grow in their faith and enjoy the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist each week at Mass.

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

April 28: All 8th-12th graders are welcome to join us for 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)

Friday May 7, 6:00pm at St. Mary: Confirmation Liturgy Rehearsal Dinner for teens and sponsors only.

Saturday May 8, 10:30am at St. Mary: Confirmation Liturgy. Teens, please arrive by 9:30am.

Please watch your email for important details surrounding this Liturgy.

Our Spring Community Service day was a success! Thank you to everyone who came to help.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doug Jones, *Chair* - djones@bossard.com
John Fisher - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Stacey Rooney - Rooneyslg17@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
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John Zidon - jjidon@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
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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 18 Budget Week 42

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$9,699	\$4,860

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$233,239	\$204,120	274,175

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.

And Now We Pray and Wait...

We have 23 teens and 7 adults from our parish 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 us 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 and watch the bulletin and email for future FUNdraisers to help support the teens as they embark on this faith filled adventure.

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.*

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.

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.

Auto Debit for Tithing

Please consider using this type of tithing where you designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on a pre-determined date. For questions or to begin ACH, please contact Sarah, 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.



Recycling plastic takes 88% less energy than making it from raw materials.

Catholic Youth Camp

Please notify the office by this Friday, April 30 if your child is attending so the parish can contribute \$100 towards their fee. 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.

Date Night

Fr. Kyle Dingman will present "*The truth, beauty and goodness of the Sacrament of Marriage*". All adults are invited to join us Saturday, May 1 from 7:00 - 8:00pm at St. Cecilia Church in Ames or live streamed at <https://youtu.be/0eAKyrkqs28>. For more information or questions, please email DateNight@StCeciliaParish.org or contact Deacon Ron at 515-441-0480.

St. Louis de Montfort, Priest

Born in France, this saint was the oldest surviving child of a large family. Even as a young child, Louis exhibited a remarkable spiritual maturity. At the age of twelve, he was sent to the Jesuit College of St. Thomas Becket in Rennes where he developed a strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Awareness of the needs of the poor and the sick also developed during his years at St. Thomas. Together with some of his classmates, Louis spent some holidays tending to the needs of the poor and nursing the sick in hospitals. At some point during his college days, Louis became conscious of a calling to the priesthood. Upon completing his studies, a benefactor provided an opportunity for him to study at the Seminary of Saint-Sulpice in Paris. In 1693, at the age of twenty, Louis set out on foot for Paris. Along the way, he gave away all of his money to the poor that he met and even traded his finer clothing for the rags and tatters that they were wearing. This was to become his life-style for the remainder of his life. Ordained to the priesthood in 1700, Louis spent a few years as a chaplain in a hospital, however, in 1705, he recognized that his true calling was as a preacher. During the remainder of his life, Louis preached in many towns and villages. Fr. Louis de Montfort died on April 28, 1716. He is the patron saint of preachers. An optional memorial on April 28 honors him. *His message today:* All of us meet obstacles in life's journey, overcome them by frequent prayer and devotion to Mary.

*What is your reaction to the difficulties that occur in your life?
Try asking Mary and the saints for their intercession.*

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25

Theme: Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Reading I: Acts 4:8-12 • Jesus has become our cornerstone!

Reading II: 1 John 3:1-2 • We shall be like him: light!

Gospel: John 10:11-18 • Jesus is our good shepherd.

For Children: Jesus tells us he is the Good Shepherd, but how do you experience God guiding and protecting you?

For Youth: How do you feel about Jesus' being your shepherd? What does it mean to you that he lays down his life for you?

For Adults: What qualities of God does the image of the Good Shepherd suggest? How do you experience God in this way?