



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April 5, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

According to an update from the bishop that was sent on Wednesday, there will be no public liturgies during Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday and includes and ends with Easter Sunday. Even though we have been without public celebrations of the Mass for the last couple weeks, this may still come as a shock because only on rare occasions - if ever, for some - have we not celebrated the most important day of the Christian year. I will continue, as is my obligation, to celebrate the liturgies for the intentions and for the entire parish on Easter Sunday. It is also my intention to put together some kind of resource to help you enter spiritually into this sacred time even though it is hard to do so physically.

Palms will be blessed on Sunday and made available in the church at St. Mary for anyone who would like to stop in to get one and I encourage you to take at least a little time to pray as well. Please respect the distancing guidelines.

Church hours will vary on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday so that the liturgies are celebrated without interruption and to be in accord with diocesan guidelines. The exact timing has yet to be determined. For now, I estimate it will be closed around four on Thursday, two on Friday, and seven on Saturday. Regular hours should resume on Sunday. If you can, check the parish website to be sure before you come.

Lastly, not many people have taken advantage of FORMED, which is free to us for about another thirty days. I especially urge those parents who have a child preparing to receive a sacrament to sign up and watch the appropriate content since religious education is not currently meeting. It is very easy to sign up.

1. Go to <https://signup.formed.org/>.
2. Enter the parish zip code of 50073.
3. Enter your name and e-mail address.
4. Check your e-mail account for a link to begin using FORMED.

~ Fr. Andrew

Parish Information

Parish Phone 515-367-2685
Fr. Andrew Windschitl 515-367-2685
Fr. Andrew Windschitl Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org
Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org
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Barb Liske - Secretary bliske@saintmaryhc.org
Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org
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Email smhc@saintmaryhc.org
Fax 515-367-7028
Web Site www.saintmaryhc.org
Facebook [St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart](#)

Reconciliation: By appointment only with Fr. Andrew.

Baptism: Contact Fr. Andrew for preparations.

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

Priesthood and Religious Life: See Diocesan website at <http://www.vocationsonline.org>.

Mass Intentions offered by Fr. Andrew

Tuesday, April 7	†Larry Ackerman
Wednesday, April 8	†Fr. Gene Koch
Holy Thursday, April 9	†Albert & Helen Schmidt
<u>Easter Vigil</u>	
Saturday, April 11	†Jerrica Hilleman-Ruden
<u>Easter Sunday</u>	
Sunday, April 12	For the Parish

We Are Here to Help!

If you are, or someone you know, is in need of assistance due to restrictions from the coronavirus pandemic, please contact the parish office. We will do our best to match your needs to our resources. 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 our 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 updates and numerous resources including the following:

MASS: The list of parishes that are streaming Masses online is growing! Check out our list.

Sunday Mass is carried at 8 :00am in the Des Moines area on KCWI, Channel 23.

FAMILY RESOURCES: We have podcasts, articles, and prayer resources to foster our faith during this time.

PRAYER RESOURCES: Use this time to grow closer to the Lord. There are many resources to feed our spirituality. Take a look at the prayers and multitude of websites that offer prayer, tips and guidance.

The best math equation: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

† Pastoral Assistance

Please contact Fr. Andrew, 515-367-2685, for pastoral assistance. Care facilities and hospitals have restricted pastoral visits at this time.

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 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.*

KofC / Confirmation Community Work Day
scheduled for April 18 is cancelled.

Coronavirus Prayer

Most merciful and Triune God,
We come to you in our weakness.
We come to you in our fear.
We come to you with trust.
For you alone are our hope.
We place before you the disease present
in our world.
We turn to you in our time of need.
Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.
Welcome those who have died into your
eternal home.
Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in your care. 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 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 the Easter Season.

Thank You!

Many thanks and much appreciation to those who use ACH for their tithing and to those who have been mailing in their envelopes.

Interested in Joining a Virtual Prayer Meeting?!?

We will be setting up meetings for small groups to reconnect and share our faith during this trying time and holy season. We could have a Palm Sunday meeting and Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil meetings, and beyond. All it would require is to obtain a Zoom app and set up a time that would be good for everyone. Some have more free time now, so it might be just the thing to do! Ideas and suggestions are more than welcome! Contact Barb at the office, bliske@saintmaryhc.org / 515-367-2685, with what you would be interested in doing and a couple of days/times that would work for you. It would be nice to 'see' you all online!

Change of Information?

Had a baby? Moved? Dropped your landline? New email? Please email the parish office with any changes so our records can be as accurate as possible. *Thank you!*

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th grade Coordinators

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

During these unknown times it is hard to know what to do. We as parents want to encourage faith and learning but we are overwhelmed by everything being thrown at us. What can we do to balance everything? We worry we aren't doing enough and we stress out about everything that is now put in front of us. It's all just hard and there is no end in sight. It is okay to take a step back. It is okay to go to your room and just be. It is okay to just have a bad day and not put pressure on yourself. Through all that you are doing God is there. He is there when we just want to cry, he is there in our child's sweet voice, he is there when we just want the day to be over. He's got you and he's got this. One thing that is helping me is prayer. It is about the only thing I know what to do right now. At our family prayer table we pray the Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Glory Be daily for those who are sick, suffering, and dying. Just like when we leave Mass, I feel that it connects our children to church and we are doing what we can for those who are struggling. I invite you to join us in taking a minute out of your day to take a deep breath and pray. Please know you are all in our prayers and if you need anything please let us know. We are here to support you and your family in any way we can.

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

A Prayer to share:

Short Litany to Our Blessed Mother

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.
Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted, pray for us.
Our Lady, Help of Christians, pray for us.
Our Lady, Health of the Sick, pray for us.
Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.
Our Lady, Queen of Heaven and Earth, pray for us.
Amen.

Hello S.T.O.R.M. people,

Please know you are in our prayers and on our minds during this difficult time. We are missing you all! We have put into works a virtual youth group "gathering" in a google hangout app. This will begin next Wednesday evening, April 8. Please text or email Andrea, Nicole or Melissa if you are interested in joining us and if you would like more details.

We also want to share with you some prayer opportunities for you and your family during this time of social distancing.

1. **Laudate** is a free app that helps you enhance your Catholic faith and our favorite feature of this app is the interactive Rosary. 2. The two podcasts we enjoy are "**Do Something Beautiful with Leah Darrow** and **Sunday, Sunday, Sunday with Mark Hart**. 3. A great opportunity for prayer is to join **Steve Angrisano** on Facebook praying together the Chaplet of Divine Mercy everyday at 2pm.

We will continue to keep you in our prayers. Please feel free to reach out to us if you need our support for anything! Stay healthy and safe! God Bless, *Andrea, Nicole and Melissa*

Confirmation: Watch for updates from Nicole through email.

Church Sign

Life is fragile; handle with prayer.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Will Bates - a_k_bates@live.com
John Fisher - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
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FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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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

March 29 Budget Week 39

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
	\$4,782	\$5,730

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$232,535	\$223,470	\$231,530

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	\$12,015	\$8,120	\$41,436

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.

Cards for Home-Bound and in Care Facilities

John Cory is now out of the hospital and is residing in a care facility through April. Here's his address If you would like to send him a card: The Village at Legacy Pointe
1645 SE Holiday Crest Circle
Waukee, IA 50263

Mike Phelan is also home from the hospital and is thankful for all your love and support. He would love to talk to you, give him a call at 641-363-4584.

If you know someone who might like to receive cards from parishioners, ask them if we may put their information in the bulletin so cards can be sent.

Please contact the Parish Office with their address.

"Keep the Faith" Car Cruise

A big shout out to those who joined the caravan last Sunday and drove through Elkhart, Holy Cross Cemetery, Farrar, Maxwell, Cambridge, Slater, Sheldahl and Polk City, or came along for part of the drive. Fr. Andrew gave a blessing and the lead car was driven by Lynn and Chris Schreurs, a yellow 1937 yellow Chevy with "Keep the Faith" on the door and US flags waving. We were joined by a few parishioners along the way, having the largest number of cars at 18. We were met by numerous parishioners at Holy Cross Cemetery and a few others along the route waved as we drove by! It was so good to see some of our parishioners! And it was a lovely day to cruise the countryside! From Elkhart start to finish we cruised for just under an hour and a half! We send out a super thank you to Lynn and Chris Schreurs for putting this together and lifting our spirits!

What are other ideas for social distancing gatherings you might have for our parish?

SAYWHAT? One in three fish caught for human consumption contains plastic.

Graduating High School Seniors!

The Stewardship Committee is granting a scholarship to a high school senior pursuing higher education! If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please pick up an application in the vestibule or find the application on the home page of the parish website. *If you are interested in donating money for future scholarship opportunities, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.*

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

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

Theme: Holy Week — the mystery of our faith.

Reading I: Isaiah 50:4-7 • The Lord God is my help.

Reading II: Philippians 2:6-11 • Your attitude must be Christ's.

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66 • The passion of our Lord.

Question for Children: Share how you sometimes make sacrifices for the good of others.

Question for Youth: Take time to really reflect on Jesus life, death and resurrection. How might you be changed?

Question for Adults: Name one specific way that you live your baptismal call to enter into the death of the Lord by forgiveness, generosity, hospitality, or other ways.

Hello from Me & My House! It's been a while, not only since you heard from me but also since we've all been able to gather together.

I've tried to come up with a word or two that can describe how I'm feeling. Overwhelmed and unsettled are the best ones I can think of and even then, I still can't give you a great explanation behind it. What's happening is *a lot for all of us. But I do have some reflections that have helped me, and I wanted to share them with all of you.*

Grace. It has been on my heart so many times lately. Give some grace to our leaders making big decisions that affect so many people. Give some grace to everyone even if they are acting in ways that are hard for you to handle. This is a new territory for everyone and each of us will react in different ways. We will go through stages and have a different reaction today than we had yesterday. And leave a little grace for yourself. Be patient and remember that all the things you're feeling are okay and you are not alone.

In the words of Governor Reynolds, "This is a marathon, not a sprint." We are literally at a standstill and cannot make plans past the next 2 weeks, so what better time than now to slow down and take things in strides. Humans can be overwhelmingly wasteful, selfish, distracted and sinful. It's time to slow down and get yourself back to the basics. Pray, as much and as often as you can. Pull out your bible and start that study you've been wanting to do. Prioritize laughter and connections. Take the opportunities you are given to connect with people through technology. Sit down and write a letter. Let people know you are thinking about them. Check on your loved ones and your neighbors and help others in any way that you are able.

"So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love." Corinthians 13:13

Stay inside, keep washing your hands and pray for us all. *Together is the best way to overcome anything.*

Please share your ideas by sending an email to joshua2415smhc@gmail.com.

