



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2021



**The Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

December 26, 2021



The Epiphany of the Lord

January 2, 2022

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:

Merry Christmas to everyone. I pray that you all experience the peace that our Lord wants for us. St. Pope Leo the Great expounds:

"Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness."

Thus, it is noted that even at the beginning of his earthly life, the goal of it is to destroy death. How gracious and noble an objective for a small and innocent child!

~ Father 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
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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	5:30pm	Holy Cross
	Wednesday	5:30pm	St. Mary
	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
	4th Sunday	12:00pm	St. Mary

Reconciliation: St. Mary: Wednesdays 4:45 - 5:15pm; after 9:00am First Friday Mass and Saturdays 4:00 - 4:30pm; or by appointment.

Baptism: Contact Fr. Andrew

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

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration

Friday, December 24 Vigil, Nativity of the Lord

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Lee Hindman
7:00pm Mass, Holy Cross †Patrick Phelan Family

Saturday, December 25 Nativity of the Lord

9:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mark Schmidt
~ No 5:00pm Mass

Sunday, December 26

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Tom & Alice Tynan
10:00am Mass, St. Mary †For the Parish
~ No Noon Mass

Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Sunday obligation for the Feast of the Holy Family also remains in place.

Thus, we have two Mass obligations to fulfill between December 24 and 26; one for Christmas and one for Sunday.

Tuesday, December 28

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Reed Benenate

Wednesday, December 29

4:45 - 5:15pm Reconciliation, St. Mary
5:30pm Mass, St. Mary †Fr. Paul Koch
~ followed by Adoration

Thursday, December 30

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Myron White

Friday, December 31 Vigil, Solemnity of Mary, Holy Day

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Rita Smith & Mary Newell

Saturday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Holy Day

9:00am Mass, Holy Cross †For the Parish

Saturday, January 1

4:00 - 4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary
5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Susanne Campbell

Sunday, January 2

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Bill Jorgensen
10:00am Mass, St. Mary †For the Parish



May the joy of Jesus
fill your heart not only
this Christmas Season
but year round!

Christmas Prayer

*Lord, on this Christmas Day,
in the midst of the joy of our celebrations,
help us recall what is truly important about this day.*

*In the midst of opening presents,
help us remember the love that each gift represents.*

*In the midst of Christmas dinner,
help us remember that you are the source of all life.*

*In the midst of family gatherings,
help us remember that you are the fullness of all joy.*

*And in the midst of Christmas Mass,
help us remember the supreme act of love, sacrifice,
and humility that we celebrate on this Christmas Day
when your Son came as a helpless, unknown baby
and grew to be the life and light of the world.*

Amen.

The Parish Office is closed December 27, 28 & 29,
closes at Noon on December 31, and is closed January 3.
St. Mary's Church building open 10am to 8pm when office closed.

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!

Ministers for Our Masses

We are looking for additional lectors, ushers and Host distributors for our Masses. Training provided. If you have questions or interested in serving, please contact Fr. Andrew at Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org. Thanks for considering this!

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

Covid Reminders

The Diocese is recommending, not requiring, masks for all those over the age of five during all liturgies and events in church buildings. Masks are required for distribution of Communion for all clergy and Communion Ministers. We have masks and hand sanitizer available. If you wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please receive from Fr. Andrew (he sanitizes after each).

Go to <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus> for Diocesan updates.

Stewardship Committee
Meeting: January 10, 6:00pm, Social Hall
Knights of Columbus
Jan. 16: 6:40pm Rosary, Church, 7:00pm Meeting, Hall
Finance Council
Meeting: Jan. 18. 6:30pm, Social Hall
Parish Council
Meeting: Jan. 25, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Coming Events

- †**Sunday, January 2:** Coffee & donuts after 10am Mass
- †**Weekend of Jan. 8/9:** Diocesan Collection for Parish Solidarity Fund - see information on back page
- †**Weekend of Jan. 15/16:** Collection for Huxley Food Pantry
- †**Blood Drive:** Thursday, Jan. 27, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall

Equipment Provided - People Power Needed!



Could you help with snow removal of sidewalks, etc. at St. Mary? We have weekend and/or weekday time frames. Instructions/schedule of events provided. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-sidewalk>. Please contact Bill Schmitt with questions, 515-291-8005. Thank you for your consideration of this request!

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org, 515-556-4150

Tracy Miller, tmiller@saintmaryhc.org, 515-520-7981

We hope you all have a Merry Christmas! What a crazy year we had. We thank you all for your flexibility as we navigated Covid, weather, adapting end times, etc. It is such a pleasure to spend time with your children. We love this ministry and are very thankful for your families. We wish you all the best in the New Year! Hopefully it brings with it a little more normalcy!

If you have a child ready for First Communion, please attend the mandatory meeting on January 5, 6:30 in the Ed Center.

Our sessions resume on January 12/14 at their normal times!

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

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
to all our students and families!**

EDGE

Jan. 5, 12, 19 - Regular Sessions, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Purpose Confirmation Program

Sessions: 6:00-8:00pm in the Social Hall.

Wed. Jan. 26 Session — Saint Displays due for 10th graders

Wed. Feb. 23 Session

*Please be watching for a sign up for teen interviews
coming in January and February.*

Youth Group

Jan. 5, 12, 19 - Regular gatherings, 7:30-9:00pm, Social Hall

2021 Donations / End-of-Year Statements

If you wish to have any donation included on your 2021 contribution statement, it must reach the Parish Office no later than Noon on Thursday, December 30, through collections at Mass, mailed or personally delivered to the Parish Office. Checks received after this date, even if dated December 2021, will be credited as 2022 donations.

To receive your year end statement, please email Sarah, sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org or contact the office, 515-367-2685, with a request to email or mail your statement. We do not automatically mail out these statements to everyone. Thank you.

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit: Please consider using this type of tithing. You designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on the 15th or the 30th. If you have questions or would like to begin ACH, please contact Sarah at sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org or find the form on the table at church or on the home page of our website.

Online Giving: This is available through the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa with this secure link: <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. On the drop down choose *St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart* to make your tithe donation. No fees! The Foundation sends gift receipts.

Thank you for considering using one of these for your tithing.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
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Celia Shedd - hoyhill@partnercom.net

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heidi Ackerman, *Co-President* - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
Sue Tollefson, *Co-President* - suet@iowacubs.com
John Fisher - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
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Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
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CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
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Mary Winders - mefothergill@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

2022 Youth Tithes

You will find these envelopes in the vestibule. We had a number of packets left over from this year so we are using them for 2022 as well — no worries about the dates!

Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!

Weekly Collection Financial Update

December 19 Budget Week 25

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$12,401	\$5,642
Food Pantry:	\$619	

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$141,524	\$141,050	\$133,597

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Payments	Unpaid Pledges	Refund
\$51,038	\$55,925	\$1,405	\$4,887

Additional monies received from those paying on their pledges will also be refunded to the parish!



Our lovely Christmas flowers have been shared with us by

In Memory of

Sharon Adams

Karen Bellis

Larry and Mary Bishop

Mike and Rachelle Breen

Jeanne Carpenter

Margaret Cleverley and Randy Holdren

Ed and Kathy Claussen

Mary Ann Cory

Ron Cory

Diane Cronk

Lowell and Jackie Crouse

Rick & Kathy Daup

Bill Dunbar

Kelly Dunbar

Drew and Lorrie Hanlon

Matt and Beth Hart

Doug & Kim Heger

Paula Huett

Sandra Hunter

Mark and Sheryl Hurley

Hans Hohn & Gerald Adams Families

Bill & Eunice Morris, Tom Bellis, Bob Baker

Duane and Martha Untiedt

John & Ann Breen, Jim Wilgenbusch, Deanna Jones

Carpenter and Shaw Families

Herman & Anna Claussen, Clemens & Marie Maning

Ira Cory

Peterson & Cronk Families

Ron and Elaine Crouse and Marie Budden

Mary Crain, Pat Trempe, "Tootsie" and Denise Daup

Sharon Dunbar

My Mom

Lloyd and Florence Carver

Tom and Sylvia Hart, Scott Strong, Fr. Leon Hart,
Arran Anderson

Mary Iliff

Sam Applebaum, Jean Dunlay, Vincent Dunlay,
Bill Garoutte, Elizabeth Gulbransen,
George Gulbransen, Paul Lerner

Marilyn Limke

Eveland and Hurley Deceased Ancestors





In Memory of

Shirley Jorgensen

Bill Jorgensen, Jorgensen and Cain Families

Dave and Barb Liske

Family Members

Dave and Char McHone

Family and Friends

JoAnn Meusburger

Meusburger Family

Liz Mitchell

Ira Cory, Scott Mitchell

JoAnn Moody

Susanne Campbell

Tom and Sharon Morris

Bill and Eunice Morris, Tom Bellis, Bob Baker

Don Morton

Cecelia and Mike Morton

Patrick O'Connor

Jameson O'Connor

Debbie Odgaard

John and Ann Breen, Ron Odgaard

Raymond and Meri Parent

Victims of Catholic Clergy Sexual Abuse

Janet Phelan

Pat Phelan, Harold (Bud) Wilson, Mike Phelan

John and Delila Roberts

Violet Peterson

Larry and Shelly Schaffer

Ray and Jo Schaffer

Lisa Schmitz

Madella Noehl

Gary and Judy Sesker

Albert and Margaret Rasmussen,
Nelland and Inez Sesker

Celia Shedd

Clifford and Wilma Priebe

Dan Sickerson

Sickerson Family

Kirsten Smith

Audrey and Gail Smith

Ron and Karen Stafford

Family

Kevin and Lindsey Taber

Sarah Kelly, Paul Konst

John and Candy Zidon

Zidon and Judisch Families



THANK YOU!

Save Lives While Savoring Homemade Soup!!

Our blood drive is Thursday, January 27, 3:00 to 7:00p.m. 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. Appointments are required for added safety. To schedule your appointment sign up in the vestibule of St. Mary or use this link and choose your donation time:

https://donor.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/176658 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 January 28.

AND for this particular blood drive we're offering "a pint for a pint" so come donate a pint and enjoy homemade soups at the canteen! Contact Lisa or Tim Kautza (kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687) if you'd like to volunteer to help in the canteen or can provide cookies, bars or other snacks.

John, Apostle and Evangelist, First Century

John and his brother, James, were the sons of Zebedee. Like his father and brother, John was a fisherman on Lake Gennesaret until, with James, he was called by Jesus to follow him. John was the youngest of the apostles. He and James were called "sons of thunder" by Jesus because of their volatile temperaments.

Many events in all of the gospels attest to the fact that John was among those apostles closest to Jesus. Perhaps the best known incident is at the Crucifixion, where Jesus placed his mother, Mary, in the care of John. And he, representing all of us, was commended to Mary as her son.

St. Paul refers to John, along with Peter and James, as "these leaders, these pillars" of the Church in Jerusalem (Gal. 2:9). According to tradition, John went to Rome during one of the early persecutions under Emperor Domitian and miraculously escaped martyrdom by emerging from a cauldron of boiling oil unscathed. He was exiled to the island of Patmos where he began his writing with the Book of Revelation. Later, after the death of Domitian, John returned to Ephesus where he wrote the fourth gospel and three epistles. He died there in about 100, the last surviving apostle and the only apostle who did not suffer martyrdom.

The writings of John are unique among the Evangelists. In many of the events recorded by him, he writes as a playwright would; first setting the stage, then describing the characters, and, finally, presenting the dialog which took place. Three examples of this quality found in his gospel are Jn 4:5-42 (the woman at the well); Jn 9:1-41 (the man born blind), and Jn 11:1-45 (Lazarus raised from the dead).

St. John the Evangelist is often called St. John the Divine in England and in the Eastern Church. A Feast honors this saint on December 27.

John's message today: Imagine being one of Jesus' closest friends! Imagine living, working, and sharing your life with the Messiah, traveling where he traveled, witnessing his miracles, listening to his stories. Toward the end of his life, John recorded his experiences as a disciple of Jesus so that we can have an idea of what it was like to know Jesus.

Reading Scripture will help you develop a stronger relationship with Jesus. Start with John's first letter to get an idea of how much God loves you.



Electronic waste totals approximately 2% of the waste stream in the U.S.

Diocesan Collection for Parish Solidarity Fund

St. Mary Parish of Hamburg has tried to build a new religious education center several times and each time suffered a setback; a flood in 2019 and the pandemic in 2020. The faith community in the southwest corner of our Diocese needs our help. All parishes are asked to hold a special collection to help raise the needed funds to get this project off the ground. Our collection for this will be the weekend of January 8 & 9.

Winter Weather Cancellations

Whenever North Polk School is cancelled, dismissed early, or evening school activities are cancelled due to weather, classes, meetings and activities here at the Parish will be cancelled as well. In most instances, Masses - both daily and weekend - will not be cancelled, so please use your own judgment. If the need to cancel weekend activities arises, this information will be on the three major TV networks.

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.*

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Dec. 26

Theme: Jesus establishes his obedience to and relationship with, God the Father.

Reading I: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 • Show reverence for God by honoring your parents.

Reading II: Colossians 3:12-21 • Serve the Lord by loving one another.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52 • The boy Jesus stays behind in the Temple.

For Children: Jesus was obedient to his parents, even though he was the Son of God. Why is obedience so important? Is it something you struggle with?

For Youth: When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

For Adults: How are you, too, called to our Father's house?

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, January 2

Theme: The mystery of the incarnation - Jesus is a gift to all humanity.

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6 • Your light has come!

Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 • We all share the same promise!

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 • They opened their coffers and presented him with gifts.

For Children: Who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend?

For Youth: Life can sometimes be rough: losing your home, moving, feeling fear or danger. How do you experience God being and staying with you in such times?

For Adults: How this past week did you demonstrate God's love at home and at work?