



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073
Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Third Sunday of Advent

December 10/11, 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.

Parish Information

Parish Phone 515-367-2685
Parish General Email smhc@saintmaryhc.org
Fr. Michael Amadeo, Admin. 515-249-5015 / frmichael@olih.org
Deacon Terry Schleisman 515-669-6158/digiterry@netscape.net
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
Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org
Parish Web Site www.saintmaryhc.org
Parish Facebook Site St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
Parish Fax 515-367-7028

Mass Schedule

See inside for varied Mass schedule.

Wednesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
Thursday	8:00am	St. Mary
Saturday	5:00pm	St. Mary
Sunday	8:00am	Holy Cross
	10:00am	St. Mary

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

Baptism: Please contact the office.

Rite of Christian Initiation: Please contact the office.

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

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Mass, Reconciliation and Rosary

Monday, December 12

5:30am Mass, St. Mary †Deceased Women of the Parish

Wednesday, December 14

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Stephen & Michael Carpenter
-Rosary prayed at 6:00pm, St. Mary

Thursday, December 15

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Celeste Fidelis-Marie Manley

Saturday, December 17

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Ardy McDermott

Sunday, December 18

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Craig Hand

10:00am Mass, St. Mary People of the Parish

2:00pm Advent Reconciliation Service, St. Mary

Advent Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us,
a great sign of your love.
Guide us as we strive to walk in that love
together as a family this Advent.
As we prepare our hearts for Christmas,
bring us closer to each other and to your son.
Give us the grace and strength we need every day.
Help us to always trust in you.
Come, Lord Jesus,
lead all people closer to you.
Come and dispel the darkness of our world
with the light of your love. 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!

† Pastoral Assistance

Emergency contacts: Fr. Michael Amadeo, 515-249-5015, or Deacon Terry Schleisman, 515-669-6158. If a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit, please contact Deacon Terry.

Distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass

Our parish is in need of additional Ministers of the Eucharist for our Masses to be able to distribute the Precious Blood again. Students who have been confirmed are invited to become a minister. Training provided. Our greatest need is for 10:00am Mass. Once we have enough ministers for all Masses, we will resume offering the Cup. If you are interested, please contact the office. Thank you.

Advent Resources

December is a busy time! It can also be a meaningful, joyful and even a peaceful time if we live Advent as a season of preparing our hearts and homes for Jesus' coming. Go to dmdiocese.org/advent2022 to find simple ideas to provide meaning for family traditions, prayers and acts of kindness. There are discussion topics to spark conversations, and more. — We also have a few booklets left on the table to help you along your Advent journey.

Liturgical Ministers

Please contact the office to volunteer for our upcoming Masses December 17 through January 1. Thank you!

Receiving Parish Emails

If you currently do not receive parish emails, but your spouse does, and you would like to receive them, please call the office and we will add your name to the distribution list.

Have you moved? Dropped your landline? Have a new email? Had a baby? Please email the parish office with any changes/additions so our records can be as accurate as possible. Thank you!

Join us to commemorate our Savior's birth!

Christmas Eve Masses

5:00pm, St. Mary

7:00pm, Holy Cross

Christmas Day Mass

9:00am, St. Mary



Regular Weekend Mass Schedule for Dec. 31 / Jan. 1

Parish Council

Meeting: Feb. 13, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

No meeting in December

Stewardship

Meeting: Jan. 9, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Monday, Dec. 12, 7:00pm, Ed Center

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations:

Team 4 from Bondurant and Altoona

Coming Events

- †**Monday, Dec. 12:** Ladies Christmas party, 5:30pm, St. Mary
- †**Thursday, Dec. 15:** Crafts, Games & Conversation, 9:00am, Social Hall
- †**Christmas Eve Mass Choir practices:** Thursdays, Dec. 15 & 22, 6:30pm, Choir Loft
- †**Weekend of Dec. 17/18:** Food Pantry collection for Catholics Charities Emergency Family Shelter
- †**Sunday, Dec. 18:** Advent Reconciliation Service, 2:00pm, St. Mary



Ladies Christmas Party

Join us for this special evening of Mass, fellowship, fun and food this Monday, December 12 at 5:30pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We are also collecting socks to deliver to a local shelter. See you there!

Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

We are still preparing for Christmas in the atrium. This week we continue with prophecies and infancy narratives. Thank you for bringing your children week after week. This allows the message of preparation to get a stronghold in the children's minds. This is especially important in this world that tells us to celebrate a secular Christmas before Christmas and moves on to Valentine's Day shortly thereafter. When we come back from Christmas break we will be celebrating Christmas in the atrium, changing the prayer cloth from purple to white and delving further into the infancy of Jesus.

December 14/16 - Final Session of December
December 21/23 & 28/30 - No Sessions- Merry Christmas
January 4- First Communion Parent Meeting 6:30pm.
Ed Center
January 11/13 - Sessions Resume

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

EDGE Dates (7th & 8th Graders)

Session: Dec. 14, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall
No Sessions: Dec. 21 or 28 for Christmas Break
Sessions: Jan. 4, 11 & 18, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group (9th - 12th Graders)

Gathering: Dec. 14, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area
No Gatherings: Dec. 21 or 28 for Christmas Break
Gatherings: January 4, 11 & 18, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area

Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

Wednesday, Dec. 21: 6:00-8:00pm, Session, Social Hall

Pray the Rosary on Wednesday

Lisa Schoening and family will pray the Rosary at 6:00pm on Wednesdays when Religious Education is in session. You are invited and encouraged to join them. The intention of the Rosary will be for our parish.



Crafts, Games & Conversation!!

Join us this Thursday at 9:00am in the Social Hall. This gathering time includes board games and cards by those who are not so crafty! There's good conversation, fellowship, laughter, and sharing of stories, which all bring about community building.

Advent Reconciliation Service

You are invited to celebrate God's love and forgiveness and be filled with His grace at our Advent Reconciliation Service next **Sunday, December 18, 2:00pm at St. Mary**. We will have additional priests here to assist with individual confession. — *Can't attend our Service? Here are services at other parishes:*

Sunday, Dec. 11	3:00pm	St. Mary of Nazareth, DSM
Monday, Dec. 12	7:00pm	St. Theresa, DSM
Tuesday, Dec. 13	7:00pm	St. Pius X, Urbandale
Thursday, Dec. 15	7:00pm	Ss. John and Paul, Altoona
Saturday, Dec. 17	10:00am	OLIH, Ankeny

Weekly Collection Financial Update

December 4 Budget Week 23

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$9,471	\$5,944	
<i>Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund</i>			
	Received	Budget	Last Year
	\$116,340	\$136,715	\$124,251

Ignite! Campaign

Goal	Pledged	Collected
\$360,000	\$201,545	\$65,168

If you prefer to speak with one of our committee members instead of email, please contact the parish office for their phone number.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Celia Shedd, *Chair* - hoyhill@partnercom.net
Terri Hamm - thammm@mercydesmoines.org
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com
Lisa Schoening - lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com

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
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
Mike Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@commonspirit.org
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
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Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Sue White - charylmyron@q.com

BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com
Bill Schmitt - isucui@isualum.com
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Scott Turczynski - ScottT@hrtlnd.us

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
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Larry Shaw - shawcattle77@gmail.com
Mary Winders - mefothergill@yahoo.com

PARISH TRUSTEES

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

PARISH HISTORIAN

Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com - 515-710-2421

PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Garrett McClain - gjmccclain69@gmail.com

Laudato Si

Whether alone or with family or friends, take some time for a leisurely walk in a park or along a waterfront and appreciate the great beauty God has given us in all aspects of creation.

See *On Care for Our Common Home* at:

<https://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>



Christmas Memorials

We offer you the opportunity to commemorate a loved one by donating towards the flowers that will decorate St. Mary and Holy Cross this Christmas season. A memorial list will be printed in a future bulletin. *Flower donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes; additional envelopes are on the table. Please return your donation by December 18.*

Retirement Fund for Religious

This collection provides support for thousands of elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked for years with little or no stipend. Your gift offers them vital support for necessities such as medications and nursing care. Thank you for giving back. *Donation envelopes are on the table; please return your donation in the next few weeks.*

The Ignite! Campaign

How will the Ignite! Campaign be an investment in our parish? Our parishes are the cornerstones of our faith communities. Part of the funds raised through the campaign will be returned to parishes so they can further advance their missions and make capital improvements. Bishop Joensen is calling on all of us to make a gift to the Ignite! Campaign. Your support to this campaign will positively impact the future of our parish and by extension, the Church in Southwest Iowa. 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.*

Liturgical Ministers for December 17/18 are by sign up

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Volunteers needed: Lector, 1 Usher

Host Distributor Joe Rumbaugh
Usher Joe Rumbaugh
Music Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Volunteers needed: Lector, Usher

Altar Servers Claire & Oliver Hand
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Volunteers needed: Lector, Host Distributor, 2 Ushers

Music Christine Muehlenthaler, Karon Lacey, Celeste Muehlenthaler

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Money Counters

December 11: Dona Cowman, Sharon Morris

December 19: Cathy Daup, Sue White



Every ton of recycled steel saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,000 of coal, and 40 pounds of limestone.



Snow Removal

We are asking for volunteers for weekend and/or week day time frames to help with snow removal of sidewalks, etc., at St. Mary. We have a snow blower. Here's the link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-snow1>. Thank you in advance for helping our parish!

Many thanks to all who helped last year and a grateful thank you to Nick and Todd Volz for removing the snow from the parking lot at St. Mary every year, and to Laurie Phelan for taking care of snow removal at Holy Cross each year. We appreciate you!!



Food Pantry Collection

Our collection next week is for Catholic Charities Family Emergency Shelter. Your monetary donation will help them purchase the needed supplies for those staying there. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing with those who are having a difficult time.

Donations for 2022

If you wish to have any donation included on your 2022 contribution statement, it must reach the Parish Office no later than **Noon on Friday, December 30**, through collections at Mass, mailed or personally delivered to the Parish Office. Monies received after this date, even if dated December 2022, will be credited as 2023 donations. **The office will only be open Tuesday, December 27 and Friday the 30th that week from 9:00am to Noon to drop off those much appreciated last minute donations.** Thank you.

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 and WHO radio.

Church Sign: Come as you are; you can change inside.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 10/11

Theme: God's kingdom is close - it is Jesus.

Reading I: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 • The desert will rejoice and bloom!

Reading II: James 5:7-10 • Be patient.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 • The blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, and deaf hear.

Question for Children: Why is Christmas such a time of happiness for people?

Question for Youth: God speaks to you every day: Isaiah tells us our ears and eyes will be opened in Christ to hear God's voice. What do you hear God saying to you?

Question for Adults: How have you seen the promise of the Prophet Isaiah fulfilled in Christ?