



# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



## Third Sunday Of Advent

December 13, 2020

*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 readings for this weekend focus again on John the Baptist, with the first reading establishing and developing his vocation. At the same time, it is ambiguous enough to pertain to anybody, especially those of us who at our baptism were anointed as prophets. What is it that prophets like John do? Consider some of the words that are used in the reading: proclaim, announce, and rejoice. The last word occurs multiple throughout Mass and is main theme this weekend. John tells us that we are to rejoice because "there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." In that culture, such a task was so menial that it was not expected of even a slave. Yet, here is John the Baptist, who was described by Jesus as being the greatest born of women. Therefore, that Jesus is mysteriously born even greater than John is someone in whom to rejoice.

This is a reminder that as we are less than two weeks out from Christmas to plan your Mass attendance accordingly. Times are 5 PM at St. Mary and 7 PM at Holy Cross, both on the eve, and 9 AM at St. Mary on the day. The social hall will be set up for overflow, but like any other area, that space is also limited. In the past, the earlier Mass has had the highest turnout. If you plan to attend that Mass, your flexibility of attending on the day would be greatly appreciated should safe distancing become an issue. There is a sign-up at Holy Cross for the 7 PM Mass or you may call Stacey Rooney, 515-490-5034. ~ Fr. Andrew

## Parish Information

<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Parish General Email</b>	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Parish Fax</b>	515-367-7028
<b>Parish Web Site</b>	www.saintmaryhc.org
<b>Parish Facebook Site</b>	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper</b>	sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Nicole Cory - Confirmation</b>	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	afisher@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Barb Liske - Secretary</b>	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE</b>	gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE</b>	tmiller@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Sue Schmidt - Music</b>	sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org

<b>Mass Schedule</b>	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:** Saturdays 4:00-4:30pm in **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.

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

## Mass and Adoration

### Tuesday, December 15

6:00pm St. Mary †Mary Maxwell  
~ followed by Adoration and Reconciliation

### Wednesday, December 16

5:30pm Holy Cross †Jim & Margaret Shaw

### Thursday, December 17

8:00am St. Mary †Rosemary & Leo Overmohle

### Saturday, December 19

5:00pm St. Mary †Ralph & Neva Cory

### Sunday, December 20

8:00am Holy Cross †Stephen & Michael Carpenter  
10:00am St. Mary For the Parish

## Christmas Eve Masses

5:00pm, St. Mary  
7:00pm, Holy Cross

## Christmas Day Mass

9:00am, St. Mary



Join us to commemorate the birth  
of our Savior!

*Regular weekend Mass schedule on Dec. 26/27*

## 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!

## Masks Required at Mass

Bishop Joensen requires masks to be worn at Mass in every parish. This shows our love for others by protecting them. Our faith calls us to be Good Samaritans and to be mindful of the common good.

**For Diocesan updates, livestream Masses and resources, please go to <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>**

## Huxley Clothes Pantry

Could you help this month at this Clothes Pantry? It is open to the public Wednesday evenings, 4:00 to 6:00pm, Saturday, 10:00am to Noon and Sundays 1:00 to 3:00pm. If you would be willing to help during these hours, please call Delila Roberts, 515-597-2782. Thank you.

✠ For Pastoral assistance, please contact Fr. Andrew at 515-367-2685 or [Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org).

## Work of Our Hands Virtual Festival 2020



**The Christmas Tree Farm**, Sandra Hunter  
[treefarm@iowateleco.net](mailto:treefarm@iowateleco.net) / 515-387-8778

**The Pampered Chef**, Lisa Kautza  
[pclisa@gmail.com](mailto:pclisa@gmail.com) / 515-238-5557

**Journals & Art Books**, Kelly & Sophie Hoffmeier  
[sojosmom@gmail.com](mailto:sojosmom@gmail.com) / 515-975-7865

**Homemade Items**, Dona Cowman  
[racefans@iowatelecom.net](mailto:racefans@iowatelecom.net) / 515-383-4482

**Star Beauty Guide for Limelife by Alcone**, Jen Linderblood  
[LashofThisLashofThat.com](http://LashofThisLashofThat.com), [linderblood@gmail.com](mailto:linderblood@gmail.com)

Members of the parish who are service-providers, hobbyists, or willing to provide their services or goods for a fee are welcomed to join Work Of Our Hands (WOOH). Please contact Lisa Kautza at [kautza@netins.net](mailto:kautza@netins.net) or 515-964-7687 if interested in joining us or if you'd like additional information.

## Change of Information?

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

## Prayer in Troubled Times

Dear Lord,  
Help me to remember in these troubled times  
The cross you carried for my sake,  
So that I may better carry mine  
And to help others do the same.  
I offer up to you  
My trials and tribulations  
For the conversion of sinners,  
For the forgiveness of sins,  
In reparation for sins,  
And for the salvation of souls.  
Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.  
St. Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

Stewardship Committee  
Meeting, Monday, Dec. 14, 6:00pm, Social Hall  
Finance Council  
Meeting: No meeting in December  
Parish Council  
Meeting: No meeting in December

## We Want to Hear From Our Wise and Wonderful Members!

You should have received an email (or mailing if no email) asking you for your participation in sharing your Christmas memories with the parish. If you did not receive either, please contact Barb at the office.

## Food Pantry Collection

Next weekend we will have a donation basket out for our Food Pantry collection. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing with those who are having a rough time during this pandemic. Your donation this month will assist Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter.

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult (RCIA)

Are you yourself and/or do you know someone who would like to become Catholic or would like to know more about the faith? "By God's help they will be strengthened spiritually during their preparation and at the proper time will receive the sacraments fruitfully."

*For additional information please contact Fr. Andrew at [fr.andrew@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:fr.andrew@saintmaryhc.org) or 515-367-2685.*

## Religious Education

### Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, [gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org), 515-556-4150  
Tracy Miller, [tmiller@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org), 515-520-7981

All RE families were given an Advent Packet to help enrich their time at home. If you haven't picked up your packet from the social hall, there's still time! The materials in it can be used throughout the year and not just during Advent.

If you have a child interested in receiving First Communion, please attend a parent meeting Wednesday, January 6, 6:30pm in the Ed Center. This meeting is mandatory and we will discuss what First Communion will be like this year. If you are unable to attend, please contact Geneveve or Tracy to arrange an alternative time.

In-Person classes resume, at this time, on January 12/13.  
We look forward to seeing you again!

## S.T.O.R.M. Report

### Grades 7-12 Coordinators

Melissa Kahler, [mkahler@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org), 515-290-2830  
Andrea Fisher, [afisher@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org), 515-240-5059

### Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

Nicole Cory, [ncory@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org), 515-313-3014

Hello! If you are a high school student and would like a packet for Advent please let us know! If you are an EDGE teen and haven't received a packet let us know as well. Packets will be ready for pick up in the hall if you let us know!

We will host an online EDGE meeting on Wednesday, December 16. Please watch your remind, emails, or social media for further details.

The link below is an Advent Family Resource guide that the Diocese that we wanted to shared with you and your family:

<https://www.dmdiocese.org/ministries-and-faith-formation/adult-faith-formation/advent-2020-family-resources>

Thank you & God Bless! ~ Andrea & Melissa

### Purpose, Confirmation

**Virtual Meeting:** Sunday, December 13, 7:00pm

*Please sign your child up through the link you received in your email. A zoom link will be sent the day prior to the meeting.*

Please watch your mail for packets containing lessons.

## Last Chance to Donate a Coat!

Today, Sunday, is the last day for our coat drive. Help keep a child in the Collins-Maxwell School District warm this winter by donating a new or slightly used winter coat. If you are not able to drop off a coat at either Church, you can arrange a pick up by contacting Knights of Columbus members Jon Hand at 515-460-0050 or Cory Schoening at 515-360-4824.



## Retirement Fund for Religious

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Thank you for giving back. *Donation envelopes are by the tithe basket; please return your donation next weekend or mail it to the parish office.*

Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doug Jones, *Chair* - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Will Bates - [a\\_k\\_bates@live.com](mailto:a_k_bates@live.com)  
John Fisher - [Johnfisher@sienafastener.com](mailto:Johnfisher@sienafastener.com)  
Tim Loraditch - [Tloraditch@gmail.com](mailto:Tloraditch@gmail.com)  
John Roberts - [jroberts@huxcomm.net](mailto:jroberts@huxcomm.net)  
Stacey Rooney - [Rooneysl7@gmail.com](mailto:Rooneysl7@gmail.com)

## FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dave Pottebaum, *President* - [pottebaum5@msn.com](mailto:pottebaum5@msn.com)  
Heidi Ackerman - [heidimdittmer@gmail.com](mailto:heidimdittmer@gmail.com)  
Diane Gannon - [ddkgannon@gmail.com](mailto:ddkgannon@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Laurie Phelan - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Sue Tollefson - [suet@iowacubs.com](mailto:suet@iowacubs.com)

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - [arlene@4andersons.com](mailto:arlene@4andersons.com)  
Jacki Ausman - [jackiausman@gmail.com](mailto:jackiausman@gmail.com)  
Beth Hart - [mrsmatthart@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmatthart@gmail.com)  
Kelly Hoffmeier - [nkhoff@msn.com](mailto:nkhoff@msn.com)  
Tammi McClain - [tammimccclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimccclain71@gmail.com)  
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Sue White - [charylmyron@q.com](mailto:charylmyron@q.com)  
John Zidon - [jzidon@msn.com](mailto:jzidon@msn.com)

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Karen Bellis - [puzzlenuts@aol.com](mailto:puzzlenuts@aol.com)  
Pat Bishop - [pjbishop@midiaowa.net](mailto:pjbishop@midiaowa.net)  
Lowell Crouse - [l3jl@windstream.net](mailto:l3jl@windstream.net)  
John Freeman - [johnfmingo@hotmail.com](mailto:johnfmingo@hotmail.com)  
Tracy Irwin - [irwin@partnercom.net](mailto:irwin@partnercom.net)  
Lynn Schreurs - [lschreurs@msn.com](mailto:lschreurs@msn.com)  
Larry Shaw - [shawcattle13@gmail.com](mailto:shawcattle13@gmail.com)  
Mike and Mary Winders - [Mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:Mwinde59@yahoo.com)

## PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - [fogarty929@gmail.com](mailto:fogarty929@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)

## PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - [Mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:Mwinde59@yahoo.com)

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

December 6 Budget Week 23

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
	\$4,495	\$4,860

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$125,148	\$111,780	\$132,300

## 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	\$46,477	\$43,997	\$5,559

Considering switching over to automatic withdrawal from your bank account for your tithing? Please contact Sarah Baumberger, [sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org), for additional information or find the form in the vestibule or on our website's home page, <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/>.

## Christmas Flowers

Honor a loved one by making a donation toward flowers that will decorate St. Mary and Holy Cross this Christmas season. A memorial list will be included in next week's bulletin. *Flower donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes; additional envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please return your donation by December 17.*

### Enjoy the Sounds of the Season!

Performances will be broadcast on the Elkhart Christian Church's Facebook page this evening (Sunday) at 7:00pm.

Direct link if using a mobile device is

<https://m.facebook.com/elkhartchristianchurch>

Direct link if using a computer is

<https://www.facebook.com/elkhartchristianchurch>

Once there, a few minutes before 7:00pm, the facebook live will start and there should be a notice on the page that Elkhart Christian Church is live. Click that and the video should start. Something that facebook users can do in advance is to "like" the Elkhart Christian Church page. They will get a notification when the livestream starts if they have liked the page. You are also welcome to go to the Elkhart Christian Church for the "experience" broadcasted on their projector screen (no in person signing, need to wear a mask and social distance) or if you do not have access to internet.

### Silent Night Sing-a-long

Join the "Silent Night" Sing-a-long on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm. All you need to do is grab the family and--

- ~ Go outside on your porch, deck, balcony, or curb.
- ~ Shine a light (candle or cellphone) and sing along to *Silent Night* (2 verses) as we stand together with a wish for a peaceful end to this crazy year!
- ~ Take a moment to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

Pass this along to your neighbors and friends. Let's have all of Iowa raise their voices!



### 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](mailto: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.

### Winter Weather Cancellations

If North Polk School is in session and cancel, dismiss early, or cancel evening activities due to weather, events here at the parish are cancelled. In most instances, Masses - both daily and weekend - will not be cancelled, so please use your own judgment. If we need to cancel weekend activities it will be on the three major TV networks and WHO radio.

### The Gift of a Christmas Concert

In a Christmas season darkened by disease, division, and discouragement, Bishop William Joensen invites you to celebrate the joy and hope of the nativity by watching *The Lessons, Reflections, and Carols of Christmas*, a livestream Christmas concert/prayer service presented by Umeri, the Drake University alumni choir, and representatives of the Diocese of Des Moines. This event, which features music, Scriptures, and reflections written especially for this celebration, was filmed at St. Ambrose Cathedral and can be accessed anytime between Dec. 12 and Jan. 6 at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd1rPwPhXYIW0od6Ln6npWg>



In the U.S. alone, over 20 billion diapers are thrown out a year, accounting for over 3.5 million tons of waste.

### Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, First Century

Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of his son. By the simple act of saying "yes" to God's will, she became the greatest and first among all of our saints and a patron for all of us. Mary has been the intercessor for all people who call upon her and for many causes. Her appearance has been reported many times on earth--in the last few centuries at Lourdes, Fatima, La Salette, Guadalupe, and Medjagore.



As Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mary became a powerful intercessor for the indigenous people of Mexico at a time when the armies of Spain were conquering them. Her story is inextricably tied to the story of St. Juan Diego, to whom she appeared a number of times. Juan Diego, a poor peasant who was going to church to pray for the recovery of his uncle, received his first vision of her and was told that she had a special errand for him. He was to go to the bishop of Mexico City and tell him that she wanted a chapel built on Tepeyac Hill, a mount near Juan's village, where all who were troubled could seek her aid. Though Juan was not initially believed by the bishop, Our Lady provided him with "proof" of her visits to him in the form of the imprint of her image surrounded by roses on his cloak. It is from this original image that current pictures of Our Lady of Guadalupe have been created.

A chapel was eventually constructed on the site as Our Lady requested. Today, a great basilica stands there. Through Juan Diego, Our Lady achieved the conversion of hundreds of thousands of the Mexican indigenous people. Pope John Paul II proclaimed her the patron saint of the Americas. She is also the patron of the unborn and the elderly.

As the pre-eminent saint of our Church, there are many feast days in honor of Our Lady. We honor her as Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Under the title of the Immaculate Conception, Mary is also the patron of the U.S.

Mary's message today: Our greatest saint, Mary did one basic thing. She listened to God's will that she was to be the mother of Jesus and she accepted that will. "Let it be done to me as you say." (Lk 1:38)

*Have you accepted God's will in your life?*

*Pray for understanding of what God is calling you to do.*

### Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

#### Third Sunday of Advent, December 13

*Theme: God is doing great things for us.*

*Reading I:* Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 • God is the joy of my soul.

*Reading II:* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 • Do not stifle the spirit.

*Gospel:* John 1:6-8, 19-28 • Prepare the way of the Lord!

*For Children:* As we get closer to Christmas, name one thing you really want for your home or the world, such as peace, friendship, or food for the poor.

*For Youth:* John tried to help people prepare their lives for the coming of the Messiah. What do you need to change about your life to be ready for Jesus' coming?

*For Adults:* If you were to write three suggestions for those who follow Jesus, to keep them strong in their faith, what would you write?