



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 17/18, 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/digterry@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 and Reconciliation

Sunday, December 18

2:00pm Advent Reconciliation Service, St. Mary

Wednesday, December 21

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Jim & Margaret Shaw

Thursday, December 22

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Isaac Beying

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Mark Schmidt

7:00pm Mass, Holy Cross †Phelan Family Members

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day

9:00am Mass, St. Mary People of the Parish

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.

Advent Reconciliation Service

You are invited to celebrate God's love and forgiveness and be filled with His grace at our Advent Reconciliation Service today (Sunday), **2:00pm at St. Mary**. We will have additional priests here to assist with individual confession.

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 included in the next bulletin. *Flower envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes; additional envelopes are on the table. Please return your donation by Monday, December 19.*

Future Altar Servers!

If your child attended the training in November and wishes to be included on the serving schedule, please fill out the permission form they received at the training and return by December 22 to the parish office, in the collection basket or email it bliske@saintmaryhc.org. This form is also available on the home page of our website or at church. *Your children are the future of the Church!!*

Liturgical Ministers Needed!!

Please contact the office or sign up in the vestibule to volunteer for our Masses now through January 1. Thank you!

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 Prayer

*Lord, our God,
Grant that we may be ready
to receive Christ when he comes in glory
and to share in the banquet of heaven,
where He lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
We reflect today on a promise of a day
full of hope, love, joy, and peace.
We ask for the grace to be open,
to respond to whatever the Lord is offering us
in these precious days of preparation
and anticipation. Amen.*

Parish Council

Meeting: Jan. 24, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting, Jan. 17, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

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

Knights of Columbus

Mon. Jan. 16, Rosary, 6:40 SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations:

Team 4 from Bondurant and Altoona

*Parish office: Dec. 23 closes at Noon, Dec. 26 closed,
Dec. 27 open 9:00am to Noon, Dec. 28 & 29 closed
Dec. 30 open 9:00am to Noon, Jan. 2 closed*

Coming Events

- †**This Weekend:** Food Pantry Collection for Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter
- †**Sunday, Dec. 18:** Advent Reconciliation Service, 2:00pm, St. Mary — Social Hall in use 4:30-7:00pm
- †**Christmas Eve Mass Choir practice:** Thursday, Dec. 22, 6:30pm, Choir Loft
- †**Sunday, Jan. 1:** Coffee and donuts after 8:00am & 10:00am Masses
- †**Weekend of January 7/8:** Buildings and Grounds Collection
- †**Saturday, January 7:** Wine & cheese after 5pm Mass

Ignite! Update

Much to be grateful for: During Advent, we reflect on God's blessings and celebrate Christ's arrival into the world. At this time of year, we also get increasingly busy with many events, gatherings and celebrations that bring so much joy to our lives. In the midst of your busy schedules, a brief reminder to return your Ignite! pledge card. We are beyond thankful for our parish's response thus far - we are helping advance the mission of the Church!

You can mail your pledge to the parish office or pledge online at: dmdiocese.org/giving/ignite/give-now. Thank you!

Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

Jesus was born over 2000 years ago, yet every year we prepare and act as if he is being born anew each year. Why? Because in very real and tangible ways he can be "born into our hearts" each Christmas. We ask for him to be born and to accomplish that which he set out to do; to save his people from their sins. But we are also asking for him to come again and fulfill his complete mission; to bring about the Parousia. Parousia is the time when God will be all in all, when death will be conquered forever, and his kingdom will be forever peaceful. So as we prepare the way of the Lord this Advent, let us all look deeply and ask ourselves if we are ready for everything Jesus promises us when he comes as a baby! Let us proclaim *Come Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus, Come!!*

Dec. 21/23, 28/30, Jan. 4/6: No Sessions, Merry Christmas!!

Jan. 4: First Communion Parent Meeting 6:30pm,
Ed Center

Jan. 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)

No Sessions: Dec. 21 or 28; Christmas Break

Sessions: Jan. 4, 11 & 18, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

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

No Gatherings: Dec. 21 or 28; 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

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 from 9:00am to Noon to drop off those much appreciated last minute donations.** Thank you.

2023 Youth Tithes

Children are encouraged to take a tithe packet located in the vestibule, and on the paper provided, write their name by the number of the packet they have taken.

Packets are a little different this year. Since we have a minimum order that is still too many, we have these dated by first Sunday of January, 2nd Sunday of January and so forth. If there is a 5th Sunday of the month, an envelope for that is in the back of the packet.

Church Sign

**Feeling gratitude and not expressing it
is like wrapping a present and not giving it.**

Weekly Collection Financial Update

December 11 Budget Week 24

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$5,493	\$5,944

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$121,833	\$142,659	\$128,776

Ignite! Campaign

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Collected</u>
\$360,000	\$204,845	\$68,668

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 - thamm@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
Kris Sturtz - klsturtz@gmail.com
Jen Linderblood - jlinderb@yahoo.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
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
Karen Bellis - puzzlenuts@aol.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiaowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
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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

Heed the old saying “less is more” by avoiding needless consumption. Reduce, reuse, recycle — preserve resources whenever possible, use them more efficiently and limit the use of non-renewable resources.

See *On Care for Our Common Home* at:

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



Snow Removal

Can you help with weekend and/or week day snow removal of sidewalks, etc., at St. Mary? We have the equipment, but need the people power. Thank you in advance for helping your parish! Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-snow1>.

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.

Liturgical Ministers for December 24/25 & December 31/January 1 are by sign up.

Christmas Eve, Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Needed: 1 Host Distributor, 3 Altar Servers, 4 ushers

Lector	Susan Selby
Host Distributor	Deacon Terry, Joe Rumbaugh, Drew Hanlon
Usher	Joe Rumbaugh, Drew Hanlon, Gregg Richwine
Music	Choir, Mary Ortmann

Christmas Eve, Saturday, 7:00pm Mass, Holy Cross

Needed: Lector, Usher

Altar Servers	Claire & Oliver Hand
Music	Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

Christmas Day, Sunday, 9:00am Mass, St. Mary

Needed: 3 Altar Servers, 4 Ushers

Lector	Tim Kautza
Host Distributor	Deacon Terry
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Saturday, Dec. 31, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Needed: Lector, Host Distributor, Altar Servers, Ushers

Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon
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Sunday, Jan. 1, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Needed: Lector, Usher

Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Music	Jen Linderblood, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, Jan. 1, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Needed: Lector, Host Distributor, 3 Altar Servers, 4 Ushers

Music	Sue Schmidt
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Money Counters

December 19: Kathy Daup, Sue White

December 27: Dona Cowman, Sue White



Recycling old aluminum uses only 5% of the energy used to make new aluminum.

Blood Drive



Our next blood drive is Thursday, January 26 from 3:00 to 7:00p.m. in the social hall. **It is not too early to sign up!!!** Did you know each blood donation saves up to three lives and more than 100,000 units of blood are needed yearly. **May we count on you to donate blood?** Please schedule an appointment (required, no walk-ins yet) by signing up on the bulletin board in the vestibule at St. Mary or visiting www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/. If you have difficulties or questions, please call LifeServe Blood Center, 800-287-4903, and tell them you wish to sign up to donate at the Elkhart Community Blood Drive. Volunteers and treats for the canteen are also needed. Please contact Larry Sauer if you wish to help. sauerld@outlook.com / 515-710-2421.

Save the Date!

Please join us for “An Evening of Peacemaking and Reconciliation.” The session is open to everyone and will include prayer, discussion, and a look at what helps individuals, families, and parishioners move toward peace together. We will learn practices we can apply immediately in our minds, hearts, speech, and relationships.

The session is intended to help us grow and move forward as a more compassionate, merciful, and unified parish community during the Christmas season and New Year to more fully live out the teaching of the Prince of Peace.

Date: Thursday, January 12

Time: 6:30 – 8:00pm

Location: St. Mary in Elkhart Social Hall

Facilitated by Tom Green, a spiritual director, conflict mediator, and peacemaking professional

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.*

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.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 17/18

Theme: Jesus is God made flesh.

Reading I: Isaiah 7:10-14 • She shall name him Emmanuel.

Reading II: Romans 1:1-7 • In him we have been given the gift of being apostles.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24 • God is with us.

Question for Children: When you pray, how do you hear God's voice in response?

Question for Youth: What is your experience of hearing God speak to you in your intuitions and imagination? What is God asking of you?

Question for Adults: What experiences do you have of God “speaking to you” and directing your life and work? How does God speak to you in prayer?