



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Fourth Sunday Of Advent

December 19, 2021

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:

Thankfully there are many ways to pray in our Catholic tradition. So, anyone who struggles to do so has a plethora of options. One that has bore a great deal of fruit for me (your mileage may vary) is the rosary. It seems to facilitate insight into Jesus' life in no way I have experienced, other than probably Scripture and maybe the Eucharist. It is particularly helpful when a mystery of the rosary is the same as a passage of Scripture, such as that of the Gospel reading for this Sunday. The second joyful mystery is the visitation. It involves two delightful encounters: one of a pregnant Mary with her also pregnant cousin Elizabeth and one of Jesus in the womb with John the Baptist who is also in the womb. These encounters are like two-way streets in that no one imposes on someone else. In other words, everyone interacts in some way. It is a beautiful reading and mystery that prepares us for the encounter that is to come in several days.

~ 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
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

Mass Schedule	Tuesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
<i>See inside for Christmas Mass times.</i>	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

Tuesday, December 21

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Jerrica Hilleman-Ruden

Wednesday, December 22

5:45 - 5:15pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

5:30pm Mass, St. Mary †Isaac Beying

~ followed by Adoration

Thursday, December 23

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Overmohle & Koch
Family members

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.

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.

Christmas Flowers

Honor a loved one by making a donation toward flowers in their memory that will decorate St. Mary and Holy Cross this Christmas season. A memorial list will be included in the next bulletin. *Flower donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes; additional envelopes are available on the table. Please be sure to include your loved ones names on the envelope and return your donation by Monday, December 20.*

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.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Holy Day Masses

Friday, December 31: 5:00pm, St. Mary

Saturday, January 1: 9:00am, Holy Cross



Regular Mass Schedule for weekend of January 1/2

Advent Prayer

All-powerful God,
your eternal Word took flesh on our earth
when the Virgin Mary placed her life
at the service of your plan.
Lift our minds in watchful hope
to hear the voice
which announces his glory
and open our minds to receive the Spirit
who prepares us for his coming.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Parish & Finance Councils

No December meeting

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: January 10, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

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

**The Parish Office closes at Noon on December 24
and is closed December 27, 28 & 29.**

(Church building open 10:00am to 8:00pm on 27th, 28th & 29th)

Coming Events

† **Choir practice:** Sunday, Dec. 19 after 10am Mass and
Thursday, Dec. 23, 5:00pm

† **Blood Drive:** Thursday, Jan. 27, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall

Dedication of Memorial for Pat Phelan

Today (Sunday) following 8:00am Mass at Holy Cross, Polk County Conservation Director, Doug Scheele, will unveil a memorial marker (larger stone with a plaque on it) at the corner of the Holy Cross property and Polk County Conservation property. It is a tribute by Polk County to Pat's belief that conservation, farming, and faith are intertwined. Pat often hosted conservation groups and international visitors (part of the World Food Prize) at Holy Cross. He shared stories about the land, the people who settled here, and their unwavering faith. *All parishioners are invited to come to this dedication and be part of this tribute to Pat.*

Equipment Provided!

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

If your child is interested in receiving First Communion this spring, please attend a mandatory parent meeting Wed., January 5, 6:30pm in the Ed Center. We will discuss what First Communion will be like this year. If you are unable to attend, contact one of us to arrange an alternative time.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Upcoming Schedule

Dec. 22 & 29 - Christmas Break, no sessions

Jan. 5 - No class, Mandatory First Communion parent meeting

Jan. 12 & 14 - Regular Sessions

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

EDGE

Dec. 22 - Jan. 4: No Sessions. Have a blessed Advent, Christmas & New Year!

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

Dec. 22 - Jan. 4 : No gatherings. Have a blessed Advent, Christmas & New Year!

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

Retirement Fund for Religious

This collection provides support for tens of thousands of elderly religious who ministered for years for little to no pay. Your gift provides medications, nursing care and more. Thank you for giving back. *Donation envelopes are on the table; please return next weekend at Mass or mail to the office.*

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.

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!*

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net

Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com

Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com

Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com

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

Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com

Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com

Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com

Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net

Kris Sturtz - klsturtz@gmail.com

Sue White - charylmyron@q.com

John Zidon - jzidon@msn.com

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

John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com

Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net

Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

Larry Shaw - shawcattle77@gmail.com

Mike and 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

We now have a minimum order for these envelopes and we do not need that many. We do have a number of them left from last year, so to provide these envelopes to our youth and not waste our resources, we are just going to use the left over 2021 packets for 2022 — no worries about the dates! You will find these envelopes in the vestibule.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

December 12 Budget Week 24

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$2,372	\$5,642

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$129,123	\$135,408	\$124,933

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

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

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

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.*

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.

Blood Drive

Our next blood drive is Thursday, January 27 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/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 Lisa & Tim Kautza if you wish to help (kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687).

We're Hiring

Catholic Charities has job openings and signing bonuses. See all the opportunities where you can empower individuals and strengthen families. Go here to see the openings: <https://catholiccharitiesdm.bamboohr.com/jobs/>.

Save the Dates!

All young adults are invited to come to the next Young Catholic Network gathering January 25 in downtown Des Moines. You can look forward to networking, complimentary drinks and appetizers, and a guest speaker with tremendous insight into living our Catholic faith in the professional world. Learn more at dmdiocese.org/ycn.

High school seniors: As you enter the last semester of your high school years, pause and consider what it will mean to stay rooted in Christ after high school. Come to a Radix retreat and escape for a weekend of prayer and relaxation. Get more information at dmdiocese.org/radix.



Americans throw away enough trash in an average year to circle the earth 24 times.

What is *Mary's Helping Hands*?

We are a grass roots organization started at Sacred Heart Church in West Des Moines in 2021 to assist new parents and their families. Our goal is to collect clean and gently used clothing for babies, young children as well as maternity clothing. We sort these items, store and donate them to those women and families that chose life for their baby.

Our Mission Statement: We provide hope, love and support for expecting mothers who may need a helping hand with basic needs for their child's first years of life.

Why do we do this? Welcoming a new baby into your home is exciting, overwhelming and stressful. Those that are struggling to make ends meet can turn to *Mary's Helping Hands*. We want to assist these new parents with their journey knowing they are cared for and supported for choosing life! We reuse and repurpose gently used clothing from our generous donors and assist new families.

What do we accept? (All donations must be clean and gently used please) ~Diapers, wipes, diaper cream, lotion, baby shampoo ~Receiving Blankets, Crib Sheets & other bedding (No Bumpers) ~Children's Clothing (Newborn -2T) ~Maternity Clothes (all sizes) ~Nursing supplies (bra's, nursing tops, etc.) ~Baby towels and wash cloths ~Hats, socks and pacifiers ~Bibs and burp cloths ~Books (All Ages) ~Baby Safety Items (Outlet Plugs, Cupboard Locks, Baby Gates, etc.) ~Bouncy Seats/ Swings, bathtubs ~Reusable shopping bags ~Bottles and feeding supplies ~Bed sheets (of any size) these will be turned into baby crib sheets and blankets by a parishioner ~Toys for children up to age 2 ~Diaper bags ~Changing pads/mats

What don't we accept? Cribs, baby furniture, car seats, strollers, pillows and stuffed animals

What organizations do we partner with? We assemble clothing and supply packets for distribution at InnerVisions, Ruth Harbor Ministries, Alpha Women's Center, Agape Pregnancy Center, Every Step Maternal Home Health, Iowa Total Care, Start Smart Baby Program, Des Moines Refuge Program, etc.

Are you an individual in need of assistance or want to donate? Please email us directly at maryshelpinghandsSH@gmail.com.

Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19

Theme: Jesus is identified as Lord before he is born.

Reading I: Micah 5:1-4 • From you will come forth a savior.

Reading II: Hebrews 10:5-10 • One sacrifice instead of many.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 • Mary visits Elizabeth.

For Children: How does the Blessed Virgin Mary help you to follow Jesus?

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

For Adults: What role does Mary play in your own spirituality? If you were Elizabeth, how would you greet her at your doorway, if she were to arrive there?