



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



And the angel said to her in reply,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High
will overshadow you.

Therefore the child to be born
will be called holy, the Son of God."

Luke 1:35

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

December 20, 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 first reading and the Gospel for this last Sunday of Advent are two stories of particularly important people abandoning themselves to the will of God. First, David insists that the ark of God has what David considers a more fitting house in which to reside. God insists otherwise and David obeys. In the Gospel, Mary, after being told that she would bear Jesus, famously proclaims, "May it be done to me according to your word." Both David and Mary show us that we cannot be loyal to God without doing his will. What follows is the "Prayer of Abandonment" by Blessed Charles de Foucauld.

*Father,
I abandon myself into your hands.
Do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you;
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your Will be done in me,
and in all your creatures.*

*I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul.
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself
to surrender myself into your hands
without reserve and with boundless confidence
For you are my Father. Amen.*

Of course, Jesus is and always will be the best example we have for abandoning ourselves to the will of God by becoming one of us, which we will celebrate in several more days.

This is the final reminder to plan your Mass attendance for Christmas 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

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	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 22

6:00pm St. Mary †Cecilia Morton & Son, Mike
~ followed by Adoration and Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 23

5:30pm Holy Cross †Will & Mikey Carpenter

Thursday, December 24

8:00am St. Mary †Fran Cory

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00pm St. Mary †Colleen Hindman and Son, Lee

7:00pm Holy Cross †Lorraine Daup

Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

9:00am St. Mary †For the Parish

Saturday, December 26

5:00pm St. Mary †Gerald Adams

Sunday, December 27

8:00am Holy Cross *The Patrick Phelan Family*

10:00am St. Mary *For the Parish*



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

A Christmas Prayer

The joy of discovery that moment when
hope and expectation were gloriously met
by the illumination of one bright star.

We cannot imagine what words were spoken
by visitors or if first impressions
left them somewhat confused.

Messiah, Savior, a King born
in the barest of palaces. Yet they saw
and fell down on their knees in adoration.

Lord, they saw you and knew
whom they had met. As we meet
around crib, candle or advent wreath
draw us into that stable in our imagination.

In the quiet moments of prayer this Christmas,
that brief oasis from the bustle of the world,
bring alive to us the smell of the hay,
the sound of the animals, the cry of a baby.

Draw us close to our Savior, Messiah and King
as we bring not Gold, Myrrh or Frankincense,
but the gift of our lives,
the only offering we can bring. *Amen.*

Contemporary and traditional prayers for Christmas

New Birth by Water and the Holy Spirit



Celebrate with us in welcoming into our Faith

Blaise Rene

Son of Tim and Geneveve Loraditch

who was baptized at our 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!

Masks Required at Mass

Bishop Joensen requires masks to be worn by everyone at all Masses 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>

Snow Removal Assistance Needed!

First, a huge thank you Nick and Todd Volz for doing the snow removal of the parking lot every year at St. Mary and to Laurie Phelan for taking care of snow removal at Holy Cross. We appreciate you!! We need help though, with snow removal of sidewalks, etc. at St. Mary. We are asking for volunteers for weekend and/or week time frames. You will get an email with instructions and the current schedule of Parish events for the time(s) you sign up.

Please help out by signing up for a time slot(s) at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094ea4a722a2fb6-snow>; or contact Bill Schmitt with questions, 515-291-8005.

For Our Wise & Wonderful Members!

Please share your Christmas memories with us. We request your submission by January 1st to be entered in a drawing for prizes! If you did not receive an email or letter with details, please contact Barb at the office.

The Parish Office closes at Noon on December 24 and is closed December 25 and 28.

(Church building open 10:00am to 8:00pm on the 28th.)

Stewardship Committee
Meeting: January 11, 6:00pm, Social Hall
Finance Council
Meeting: January 19, 6:30pm, Social Hall
Parish Council
Meeting: January 26, 6:30pm, Social Hall

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

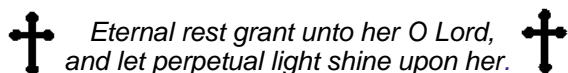
Huxley Clothes Pantry

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.

Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Elaine Barnwell who passed away Thursday, and for Jerry and their family as they mourn her passing.



Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

Wednesday, December 23 is the last day to pick up your packet in the social hall. These materials can serve your family throughout the year. If you are unable to pick it up, please let Tracy know and she will work on getting it to you.

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 one of us 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, 515-290-2830
Andrea Fisher, afisher@saintmaryhc.org, 515-240-5059

Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

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

Hello! We hope you have had a fruitful Advent. We will continue to pray for you as you go into the last week of your Advent journey and enter into the Christmas season. Please let us know if there is any way we can help. We wish you all a joyous and peace filled Christmas.

God Bless! ~ Andrea, Melissa & Nicole

Work of Our Hands Virtual Festival 2020

Journals & Art Books, Kelly & Sophie Hoffmeier
sojosmom@gmail.com / 515-975-7865

Homemade Items, Dona Cowman
racefans@iowatelecom.net / 515-383-4482

Star Beauty Guide for Limelife by Alcone, Jen Linderblood
LashofThisLashofThat.com, linderblood@gmail.com

The Pampered Chef, Lisa Kautza
pclisa@gmail.com / 515-238-5557

Donations for 2020 / End-of-Year Statements

If you wish to have any donation included on your 2020 contribution statement, it must reach the Parish Office no later than Noon on Wednesday, December 30, through collections at Mass, mailed or personally delivered to the Parish Office. Checks received after this date, even if dated December 2020, will be credited as 2021 donations.

In order to save on postage, paper and printing expense, we will not be mailing year end donation statements to everyone. If you would like a statement, please email Sarah at sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org or contact the office, 515-367-2685 with a request to print and mail (or email) a statement to you. Thank you.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doug Jones, *Chair* - djones@bossard.com
Will Bates - a_k_bates@live.com
John Fisher - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Stacey Rooney - Rooneyslg17@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
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Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
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 - shawcattle13@gmail.com
Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@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

Weekly Collection Financial Update

December 13 Budget Week 24

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
	\$1,264	\$4,860

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$126,512	\$116,640	\$137,552

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	\$45,497	\$4,059

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



Our lovely Christmas flowers have been shared with us by

In Memory of

Sharon Adams

Gerald Adams Family and Hohn Families

Sarah Baumberger

Adam Baumberger

Larry and Mary Bishop

Duane and Martha Untiedt

Charles and Mary Campbell

Earl and Connie Sholey, Robert and Annette Schmitz

Margaret Cleverley & Randy Holdren

Ed and Kathy Claussen

Herman and Anna Claussen, Clemens and Marie Manning

Lowell and Jackie Crouse

Marie Budden, Ron and Elaine Crouse

Rick and Kathy Daup

Mary Crain, Pat Trempe, Lorraine and Dick Daup

Bill and Sharon Dunbar

Ralph and Neva Cory, Bill and Wanda Dunbar and Sandy

Kelly Dunbar

Grandpa and Grandma

Matt and Beth Hart

Bill Garoutte

Drew and Lorrie Hanlon

John Ayers, Bill Roberts

Mark and Sheryl Hurley

Eveland and Hurley Family Members

Dave and Barb Liske

Family Members

JoAnn Meusburger

Catherine Fanion Richardson

Liz Mitchell

Ira Cory, Scott Mitchell

Tom and Sharon Morris

Clell Carpenter Family, Bill and Eunice Morris,
Tom Bellis, John Sample Family

Trish Morris

Tracy Holder

Delila Roberts and Diane Cronk

Clifford, Violet, LeRoy and Claudette Peterson

Pat and Janet Phelan

Mary Phelan, Irene Wilson





In Memory of

Tom and Stacey Rooney

Kay Ross

Jack and Terry Sabol

Lynn and Chris Schreurs

Gary and Judy Sesker

Celia Shedd

Dan Sickerson

Norm, Suzie, Kellie, Ben, & Jon Wong

Jim and Rita Rooney, Aldean Grimsrud

Bill Ross, Joe Ross, Leo and Bertha Flannery

Johnston and Sabol Families

Bill and Betty Cook, Ray and Muriel Schreurs

Albert and Margaret Rasmussen, Nelland and Inez Sesker

Clifford and Wilma Priebe, Members of Kurt Family,
Members of Priebe Family

Leo, Emma and Mike Sickerson

Michael Wong

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.



Recycling one ton of paper saves 682.5 gallons of oil, 7,000 gallons of water and 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.

Check out Diocesan events by visiting www.dmdiocese.org.
For opportunities sponsored by
St. Joseph Educational Center visit www.sjeciowa.org

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 contact Fr. Andrew at fr.andrew@saintmaryhc.org or 515-367-2685.

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!*

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.

CYC Registration Open



Catholic Youth Camp is going to be exciting this year! Campers will see new cabins, a renovated Dingman Lodge and increased number of staff for enhanced safety precautions. We're planning for the most amazing summer ever! Camp is open to 3rd-12th graders. For more information and to register, please go to stmcenter.com. *Our Parish will contribute \$100 of the fee to CYC for each child of our Parish who attends. Please notify Barb in the office when you have registered your child.*

Radix

This is a three-day weekend retreat for high school seniors to step out of the hectic nature of their last semester for a relaxing and prayerful experience that prepares them to be more fully rooted in Christ as they go forth from the lives they've come to know so well. "Radix" is Latin for "root". It is important for us to pay special attention to the foundations, or roots, of our faith. Seniors will be given the chance to focus on these roots and ways to nourish those that are leading them deeper in love with Jesus Christ, while pruning away those that are not.

Registration is now available for this March 5 – 7 retreat at St. Thomas More Center. It begins at 5:30pm on Friday and ends at 4:00pm on Sunday. All necessary COVID protocol will be followed during this retreat. Go to www.dmdiocese.org/Radix to register or for more information. Financial assistance is available.

Catholic Charities In Need of Help

Catholic Charities food pantry in Des Moines needs volunteers on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Personal protective equipment and safe working conditions are in place. If you are able to help, please email Holly at hackermann@catholiccharitiesdm.org.

Saint Emily, Virgin, c. 550

St. Emily, known in her time as Emiliana, came from a family which included two popes and several saints. Pope St. Felix II was her grandfather (his wife died before he became a priest). His daughter, St. Silvia, was the mother of Emily and her older sister, St. Tharsilla, and the grandmother of Pope St. Gregory the Great through her son, Gordianus, a Roman senator.

Emily, together with her sister, Tharsilla, was able to live a monastic life without ever leaving the house of her brother. Encouraging each other by prayer and discussion, the two were joined for a time by a third sister, Gordiana. This sister found the austere life too rigid and left to marry her guardian. But Emily and Tharsilla found great peace and love in their lives and kept their self-imposed vows throughout their lives. While little is known of their day-to-day lives beyond their holiness, the manner of their deaths is remarkable. Tharsilla experienced a vision of their grandfather, Pope St. Felix II, who told her of a place in heaven prepared for her and invited her to come to him. Soon after, she became ill and passed away on Christmas Eve.

Within a few days, Tharsilla appeared to Emily and called her to celebrate Epiphany in heaven. Emily then suffered a short, sudden illness and joined her sister in heaven on January 5, the eve of Epiphany.

Emily is the patron saint of single, laywomen. Emily, and her sister, are honored in their country, Italy, on December 24.

Emily's message today: Few of us can follow the example of Emily and her older sister. In our world today, a life of constant prayer and reflection is difficult amid all of the distractions that we live with. Perhaps, like Gordiana, we can spend some time on retreat where we can thank God for all of his gifts to us and take a little time each day to reflect on what God is calling to do.

Do you try to take time for reflection each day? Have you considered joining your parish members in a retreat?

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20

Theme: God's Spirit comes to us in ways we least expect.

Reading I: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 • The Lord is with you.

Reading II: Romans 16:25-27 • The Gospel reveals a mystery hidden for many ages.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 • Blessed are you among women!

For Children: If you were to tell someone one thing about Jesus' mother, Mary, what would you say?

For Youth: Gabriel's greeting to Mary was, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." This is God's greeting to each of us – he loves us just as we are. What are some of your personal strengths that God rejoices in?

For Adults: Name one area of your life where God has surprised you with love, abilities, or even a pregnancy. How is God's Spirit upon you in this dimension of life?