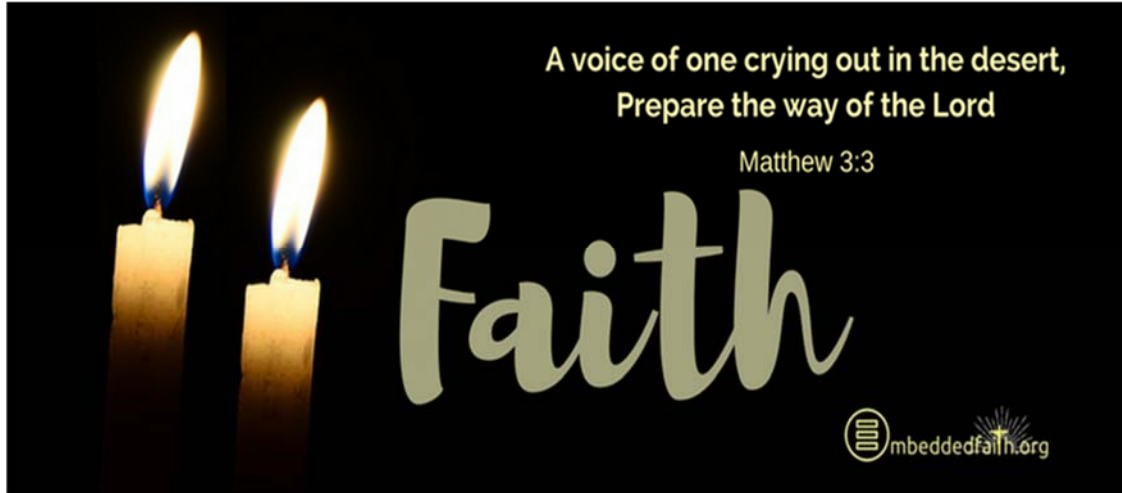




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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



Second Sunday of Advent

December 3/4, 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

<i>See inside for varied schedule this week.</i>	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

Wednesday, December 7 Holy Day Vigil

6:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Lawrence Hanlon

Thursday, December 8 Holy Day

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

9:00am Mass, St. Mary †Leo & Rosemary Overmohle

6:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Jean Hurd

Saturday, December 10

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †John & Eleanor Sabol

Sunday, December 11

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Harry & Mary Fisher

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

Monday, December 12

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

Welcome To Our New Members!



We welcome the following folks who have joined our Parish:

Randy Breaman who lives in Polk City

*Randy and Kathryn Kunert who live in Ankeny
and returning member*

Katie Fredericks who lives in Ankeny

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 contact: Fr. Michael Amadeo, 515-249-5015.

Advent Reflection Resources



We have booklets available on the table to help you along your Advent journey. This is a time of looking forward and waiting, both for celebrating Christ's birth and for the time when He comes again.



Holy Day: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please join us to celebrate Mary, Mother of God and her important role in our Faith! Mass times are this Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6:00pm Vigil at St. Mary and Thursday, Dec. 8, 9:00am at St. Mary and 6:30pm at Holy Cross.

Christmas Eve Choir

Please help us to bring the joy of music to our Christmas Eve Mass. We practice in the choir loft on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 11:00am and Thursdays, Dec. 15 & 22 at 6:30pm. For more details contact Sue Schmidt, sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org.

St. Mary's Church Accessibility

The church will generally be locked during the week around 4:00pm; there will be exceptions, so please call the office to be sure someone is here before stopping by. On weekends it will be open prior to Mass, then locked after Mass unless we have an event. If you need in the church at other times, please contact the office so arrangements can be made.

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit
upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of your Kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people,
waiting in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
Amen.

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: Dec. 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

- †**Christmas Eve Mass Choir practices:** Sunday, Dec. 4, 11:00am and Thursdays, Dec. 15 & 22, 6:30pm, Choir Loft
- †**Weekend of Dec. 3 & 4:** Blessings of Mothers-to-be at all Masses — Buildings & Ground Collection — Work of Our Hands Festival, Saturday 3:00-4:45 & after Mass until 7pm & Sunday 11:00am to 12:30pm, Social Hall — Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass, Coffee & donuts after 8:00am & 10:00am Masses
- †**Sunday, Dec. 10:** Social Hall in use 11:00am to 3:00pm
- †**Monday, Dec. 12:** Ladies Christmas party, 5:30pm, St. Mary
- †**Thursday, Dec. 15:** Crafts, Games & Conversation, 9:00am, Social Hall
- †**Weekend of Dec. 17/18:** Food Pantry collection for Catholics Charities Emergency Family Shelter
- †**Sunday, Dec. 18:** Advent Reconciliation Service, 2:00pm, St. Mary

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

Advent time in the atrium begins with a celebration, with singing and processing and then changing of our prayer table cloth color to purple. We light the advent candles as we proclaim the words we hear from the prophets speaking about the time when Jesus will come. Next we hear how some of these prophecies come to fruition by reading from scripture many infancy narratives that tell of the Incarnation of our Lord. It's a very beautiful time in the atrium, one where all the work the children have done up to this point has prepared them to receive this message. If you are interested in observing in the atrium, please let us know and we'll be happy to have you join us!

Be sure to note the change in schedule for December 7 sessions. We will be having Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Session A 4:45-5:50 Mass 6:00-6:45 Session B 6:50- 7:45

There will be a First Communion parent meeting Wednesday, January 4 at 6:30pm for any parent who has a child interested in receiving their First Communion this school year. Please plan to attend. There will not be regular sessions that evening.

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)

Sessions: Dec. 7 & 14, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

No Sessions: Dec. 21 or 28 for Christmas Break

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

Gatherings: Dec. 7 & 14, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area

No Gatherings: Dec. 21 or 28 for Christmas Break

Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

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

Distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass

Bishop Joensen has stated that parishes are permitted to resume distributing the Precious Blood to the faithful, this is not a mandate; each parish can decide on their own when to resume this. Our parish will need two extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist for each Mass at St. Mary; and one additional minister at Holy Cross. Our Administrator, Fr. Amadeo, has directed that once we have enough ministers for this, we may resume distribution of the Precious Blood. If you are interested in being a minister of the Eucharist please contact the office and when there are enough volunteers for all Masses, we will resume the distribution of the Precious Blood.

The Ignite! Campaign

What happens if our parish doesn't reach the goal? Our parish will not be assessed if we do not reach our fundraising goal. Our goal is simply to invite all registered families to participate. Participation can include volunteering, praying for the effort, making a gift, or all of the above!

Nov. 18 Update

Goal	Pledged	Collected
\$360,000	\$185,425	\$56,114

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	\$10,091	\$5,944	Nov. 20
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$ 1,263	\$5,944	Nov. 27

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$106,869	\$130,771	\$110,415

We received a one time donation of \$8,600 from a parishioner for the Building Fund.

Church Sign: Tears are prayers that lips can't speak.

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 - Johntfisher@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@midiowa.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
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

Save water by taking shorter showers and not letting the water run continuously while brushing teeth or shaving. In this way we can help bring a future in which impoverished populations around the world will have affordable access to a clean source of this God-given necessity of life.

See *On Care for Our Common Home* at:

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



Ladies of the Parish!

Join us for this special evening of Mass, fellowship, fun and food on 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!

Advent Reconciliation Service



You are invited to celebrate God's love and forgiveness at our Advent Reconciliation Service on Sunday, December 18 2:00pm at St. Mary. We will have additional priests here to assist with individual confession.



Christmas Memorials

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

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.*

Where Is That Dish?

Thank you to those who donated food for the funeral luncheons; it was very much appreciated by the families. If you have not picked up your dish, it is in the kitchen.

Liturgical Ministers December 10/11

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Bill Sexton
Host Distributor Kris Sexton
Ushers Glenn Hobin, Jim Hudson
Music Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Sheri Fogarty
Usher Sandra Hunter
Music Jen Linderblood, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector **Volunteer Needed**
Host Distributor Mike Nehring
Ushers Gregg Richwine, Andrew Cory
Music Maggie Bruce, Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

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Money Counters

December 5: Dona Cowman, Brenda Nehring

December 11: Dona Cowman, Sharon Morris



In one year in the United States, the recycling of steel saves enough energy to heat and light 18,000,000 homes!

Thank You's

Thank you to those who are generously donating their time to help at the Huxley Clothes Pantry this month!

St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish,

In this season of gratitude, we give thanks for you and your generosity to the families who need essential services. Thank you for your partnership in serving the community. Your support means so much!

~ Anne Bacon of Impact Community Action Partnership

On behalf of the Huxley Food Pantry, I want to thank you for your donation of \$531.33. You may have thought I had forgotten to thank you, but we have been especially busy since spring. The people of Central Iowa are so very generous, but it still warms my heart to know that so many people care about others. Your donation makes it easier to meet the need of our clients. Thank you for thinking of us.

~ Jackie Rasmussen, Huxley Food Pantry Director

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.*



Snow Removal

We are asking for volunteers for weekend and/or week day time frames to help with sidewalk, etc., snow removal at St. Mary. We have a snow blower. A sign up will be available soon. Thank you in advance for helping our 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 and WHO radio.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3/4

Theme: God's kingdom is at hand - it is here.

Reading I: Isaiah 11:1-10 • The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb.

Reading II: Romans 15:4-9 • Accept one another, as Christ accepted you.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12 • Reform your lives!

Question for Children: Beyond toys and other things, what do you hope will happen in your family this Christmas?

Question for Youth: What are your greatest challenges in allowing Christ to be your teacher and following him?

Question for Adults: Name the one thing in your life you must "move out of the way" in order to make more room for Christ - a grudge, a possession, a memory, a hurt.