



# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



## Second Sunday Of Advent December 6, 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,

As Advent continues, we learn what must be done to be prepared to receive Jesus. Before we get to that, it is important to recall John the Baptist's recognition that he is "not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his [Jesus'] sandals." This means that none of us *by ourselves* can do anything to be properly prepared. It is only because God allows us and with the grace that He offers us that we can do anything good. According to the Gospel this Sunday, one thing we can and must do is repent and seek forgiveness of sins. Of course, Jesus wants to be with us, but he also does not want to be in the presence of sin. Therefore, we cannot legitimately expect to have the best relationship possible with him if we are not willing to repent and beg for his forgiveness, especially through the sacrament of Reconciliation that he gave us.

Even though it is a few weeks out from Christmas, 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 will be a sign-up at Holy Cross beginning this weekend for the 7 PM Mass.

- Fr. Andrew

### Parish Information

<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	515-367-2685
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<b>Parish Web Site</b>	www.saintmaryhc.org
<b>Parish Facebook Site</b>	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
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<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 8 Holy Day Mass**  
6:00pm St. Mary †Rosemary & Leo Overmohle  
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Wednesday, December 9**  
5:30pm Holy Cross †Catherine McMahon

**Thursday, December 10**  
8:00am St. Mary †Thomas Thielen

**Saturday, December 12**  
5:00pm St. Mary †Rita Smith

**Sunday, December 13**  
8:00am Holy Cross †William & Kathryn Shaw  
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>

## Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Please join us to celebrate Mary and her important role in the celebration of our Faith! Mass for this Holy Day is Tuesday, December 8, 6:00pm at St. Mary.

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

## Advent Reflection Resources



These are available in the vestibule for your use during Advent; a time of looking forward and waiting for something greater; both for the annual celebration of the event of Christ's birth, and Christ's second coming.

## Huxley Clothes Pantry

During December St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish members help 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 at the Pantry during these hours, please call Delila Roberts, 515-597-2782. Thank you.

## Retirement Fund for Religious

This collection provides support for tens of thousands of elderly sisters, brother and religious order priests who 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. 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.*

## A Daily Advent Prayer from Pope Francis

Let us open our hearts to receive the grace of this Advent season, which is Christ himself, whom God our Father has revealed to the entire world. Where God is born, hope is born. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war. God alone can save us and free us from the many forms of evil and selfishness in our midst. Let us welcome into our lives God's mercy, which Jesus Christ has bestowed on us, so that we in turn can show mercy to our brothers and sisters. In this way, we will make peace grow!

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

## Work of Our Hands Virtual Festival 2020



**The Christmas Tree Farm**, Sandra Hunter  
treefarm@iowateleco.net / 515-387-8778

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

**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

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

Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!

## In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Lorraine "Tootsie" Daup, Mother of Rick Daup, who passed away November 22. May she be at peace with our Lord and her family find comfort and strength in Christ's presence.

✠ *Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon her.* ✠

## 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 this Advent. These can be found in the Social Hall. Please pick yours up as soon as possible.

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 once again!

I hope you all are off to a great Advent! This is a wonderful time to be still, pray and prepare a way for Christ Jesus. The S.T.O.R.M. team has sent out packets that we hope will help you along your Advent Journey. We pray that you will find your Advent Packet helpful.

The link below is an Advent 2020 Family Resource guide that the Diocese has shared with us and we wanted to pass the information on to you and your family:

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

Let us know if there is anything we can do to accompany you along this Advent season.

Prayers for good health and the best Advent EVER!

~Melissa, Andrea & Nicole

### Purpose, Confirmation

Virtual Meetings: Monday, December 7, 7:00pm

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 for November and December.

## Coats For Kids

Help keep a child warm this winter by donating a new or slightly used winter coat to benefit children within the Collins-Maxwell School District. Donate through December 13. If you are not able to drop off a coat at Church, a pick up can be arranged. For more information or to arrange a pick up for your donation, please contact Knight of Columbus members Jon Hand at 515-460-0050 or Cory Schoening at 515-360-4824.



## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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John Roberts - [jroberts@huxcomm.net](mailto:jroberts@huxcomm.net)  
Stacey Rooney - [Rooneyslg17@gmail.com](mailto:Rooneyslg17@gmail.com)

## FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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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

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	\$2,400	\$4,860	Nov. 22
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$11,082	\$4,860	Nov. 29

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$120,648	\$106,920	\$128,609

## 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	\$45,477	\$42,997	\$6,559

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 an upcoming bulletin. *Flower donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes; additional envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please return your donation by December 20.*

## Enjoy the Sounds of the Season!



Performances will be broadcast on the Elkhart Christian Church's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/elkhartchristianchurch>, via a live watch party next Sunday, December 13.

## Parish Volunteers Needed

Our parish has been preparing a meal for the families at the shelter on the second Sunday of each month for a couple of decades. We need volunteers in 2021 for June, July, November and December. One or more families can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal. Covid precautions are taken as meal providers will not need to enter the shelter and masks are to be worn. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt that you can use for a tax deduction. Please share your love with some families who are experiencing unexpected and dire changes to their lives. To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza at [kautza@netins.net](mailto:kautza@netins.net) or 515-964-7687.



## 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.*

## The Third Option

Meet some great people while spending some time with your spouse at The Third Option. This is a program for couples that are hurting and for couples that want to make a good thing better! We go through 14 skill-based workshops that help couples develop better understanding, sensitivity and trust. We meet each second and fourth Monday of the month, from 7:00-9:00pm at All Saints Church in Des Moines, 650 NE 52nd Ave.

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Second Sunday of Advent, December 6

*Theme: Preparing a pathway in our lives.*

*Reading I:* Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 • Prepare the way of the Lord!

*Reading II:* 2 Peter 3:8-14 • Be holy in your conduct and devotion.

*Gospel:* Mark 1:1-8 • I send my messenger before you.

*For Children:* How do you experience God taking care of you, even in times of trouble?

*For Youth:* John went out to announce the good news of the Messiah's coming. How can you be good news to your friends and family this week?

*For Adults:* When you hear Isaiah comfort the people by promising that God is like a shepherd who gathers the lambs into his arms, what is your response?



Americans dispose of enough steel each year to build all the new cars made in America.

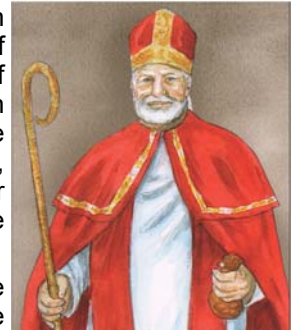
## Winter Weather Cancellations



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.

## Nicholas, Bishop, Fourth Century

A few things are known for certain about Nicholas: he was born of wealthy parents; named bishop of Myra, a city on the Mediterranean coast of present-day Turkey; became known for his holiness, zeal, charity, and miracles; and was imprisoned for his faith during the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian.



To those few facts are added the colorful legends which have made him a favorite of young and old for centuries. Among the stories most often told about Nicholas is the account of the three sisters whose family had lost its wealth. To keep the girls from having to turn to prostitution, Nicholas, on three separate occasions, tossed a bag of gold through a window. This money became a dowry for each of the girls, and saved the family from ruin.

Miracles have also been attributed to Nicholas. He is said to have saved three innocent men from death by bravely defending them. Three imperial officials who witnessed this courageous act were later falsely accused of another crime and sentenced to death. In answer to their prayers, St. Nicholas appeared in a dream to the Emperor Constantine and to the officials' accuser, whereupon the three were freed.

After his death, St. Nicholas' popularity spread across Europe and the eastern Mediterranean in the Middle Ages, but his greatest popularity was in Russia. Before the Russian revolution at the turn of the twentieth century, that country supported a church, hospital, and hospice in Bari, Italy where St. Nicholas' relics are maintained. Together with St. Andrew the Apostle, he is the patron of Russia.

The custom of giving gifts to children in St. Nicholas' name originated in Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. Dutch Protestants who settled in New Amsterdam brought the tradition of St. Nicholas to America, though by this time he had been converted from a popular saint into a Nordic magician (Saint Nicholas became Sint Klaes, then Santa Claus).

As a result of his wide popularity around the world, St. Nicholas has been named patron of many countries and classes of people, including sailors in the East ("May St. Nicholas hold the tiller" was the way sailors wished each other a good voyage). In the United States (and many other countries), St. Nicholas is the patron of children, brides, bakers, brewers, coopers, and prisoners. An optional memorial may honor this saint on December 7.

Nicholas' message today: This saint was known for his charity, which is the key characteristic in the many legends which exist about him. These stories tell us not only to be charitable, but to seek justice for those who would otherwise become victims.

*What can you do to help someone who is a victim of injustice?*