



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 11/12, 2023

Dear Good People,

I hope this message finds you well. I am so excited to be with all of you here at St. Mary/Holy Cross. This is where my mother's side of the family is from (Bondurant) and my grandmother at almost 91 is a parishioner here along with my Uncle Jack Newell. Just a little background on me. I am from Indianola and I was ordained in 2013. My first assignment was teaching 9th grade at St. Albert Catholic School while serving as the associate pastor of Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Council Bluffs. I was then named Pastor of St. Joseph on the east side of Des Moines. In 2017 I was named Vocation Director as well as Chaplain of the St. Thomas More Center and the Vicar of the Permanent Diaconate. I will continue as Vocation Director while serving here. During the last few years, I have served as Canonical Administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Carlisle, and just recently back at Corpus Christi Parish. I love being a priest and I would say I especially love celebrating the sacraments along with teaching and giving talks to young people. I appreciate your patience as I try to juggle vocation work along with parish responsibilities, but I am sure we will work through any of those issues. For now I plan on being at my office in Des Moines on Tuesday and Friday. The number for me there is 515-237-5050.

In terms of communication email usually works best. You can sure call or text me on my cell phone. The problem with that is that I keep a hard calendar and an email helps me to keep track of things better. You can call me either Fr. Ross or Fr. Parker I have no preference on that. Some of my interests outside of ministry are exercise (you may see me out walking or running), reading, cooking, watching the Chiefs/Hawkeyes, and hanging out with my family. Again, I am so honored to be with you. It feels good to have some stability in my life. I look forward to growing in virtue and holiness with all of you!

A.M.D.G. ~ Fr. Ross Parker

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 Phone 515-367-2685
Parish General Email smhc@saintmaryhc.org
Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor 515-367-2685/rparker@dmdiocese.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

Tuesday	8:00am	St. Mary
Wednesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
Thursday	8:00am	St. Mary
Friday	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 or by appointment with Fr. Parker

Baptism: Please contact the office.

Rite of Christian Initiation: Please contact Fr. Parker

Marriage: Contact the office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Mass, Rosary and Reconciliation

Tuesday, February 14

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mary Maxwell

Wednesday, February 15

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Pat Phelan
-Rosary prayed at 6:00pm, St. Mary

Thursday, February 16

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mary Newell

Friday, February 17

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †John & Ann Breen

Saturday, February 18

4:00-4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Mark Schmidt

Sunday, February 19

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †People of the Parish

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Ed & Lorraine Polansky

Prayer to St. Valentine

O glorious advocate and protector,
St. Valentine,
Look with pity upon our wants,
hear our prayers,
relieve by your intercession the miseries
under which we labor,
and obtain for us the divine blessing,
that we may be found worthy
to join you in praising
the Almighty for all eternity:
through the merits
of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Welcome To Our New Members!



We welcome to our Parish family
Bradley and Emily Streit and their daughter Piper,
who live in Ankeny.

† Pastoral Assistance

In case of emergency contact Fr. Ross Parker at 515-720-3434. If a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit please contact Fr. Parker at rparker@dmdioocese.org or 515-367-2685.

🏈 Game Time Snacks!

Thank you to those who pre-ordered our Youth's snack packs. Please pick them up after Mass this weekend. We will also have "cash & carry" snack packs available. Thank you for supporting our youth!

This Thursday! 🎨

You are invited to join us for conversation, fellowship, working on your crafts or to play games. We gather in the Social Hall at 9:30am.

🍷 Food Pantry Collection

Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass next weekend; we will also take up a monetary collection. Thank you for your continued generosity for those in need. Your donation will assist Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

Help Us Put the *Word of God* in Our First Communicants' Hands



Cost is \$30 to sponsor one Bible and we need 19 sponsored. If you wish to sponsor a child please mail or drop off a check with "Bible" written in the memo to St. Mary's or Geneveve and Tracy will be available after Masses next weekend with envelopes for those who wish to contribute in person. Thank you for prayerfully considering this lifelong gift to the children.

✝️ Ash Wednesday

Join us as we begin our Lenten journey next Wednesday, February 22, with Masses at 7:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary.

Parish Council
Meeting: Feb. 21, 6:30pm, Social Hall
Finance Council
Meeting: Feb. 28, 6:30pm, Social Hall
Stewardship
Meeting: Feb. 13, 6:00pm, Ed Center
Knights of Columbus
Mon. Feb. 20, Rosary, 6:40 SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall
Funeral Luncheon Food Donations:
Team 5 from Elkhart and Cambridge

Coming Events

- ✝️ **This weekend:** Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8:00am & 10:00am Masses — Snack Pack pick up; cash & carry packs also available
- ✝️ **Monday, February 13:** Hall in use 6:30pm
- ✝️ **Thursday, February 16:** Crafts, Games & Conversation, 9:00am in the Social Hall
- ✝️ **Weekend of February 18 & 19:** Collection for Catholic Charities Food Pantry — First Communion Bible Fundraiser after Masses
- ✝️ **Fridays during Lent:** Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary. Lenten meal on March 3, 17 & 31. Fish Fry on February 24, March 10 & 24

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!

Liturgical Ministers Needed

If you are able to help out with our Ash Wednesday Masses, 7:00am & 6:30pm at St. Mary, please sign up in the vestibule or contact the office to volunteer. Thank you.

✝️ Seeking Volunteers for Friday's During Lent

Would you like to lead the Stations of the Cross one Friday of Lent and/or host a Lenten meal on Friday, March 3, 17, or 31? Please consider getting involved in your parish in this way. Sign up at St. Mary or email the office, to volunteer or if you have questions.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Tom Morris who passed away Sunday; he is now in eternal peace with our Lord. Please pray for Sharon and family that they know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

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

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

This week is the Enrollment for our First Communion children. This is a special opportunity for the children wishing to prepare for their First Reconciliation and First Communion to officially enroll in the preparation program! Enrollment for Session A will be Wednesday, February 15 at 4:45pm in the church and Enrollment for Session B will be at 6:30pm, also in the church. Enrollment for Session C will be Friday, February 17, time yet to be determined.

Please continue to pray for the children discerning to receive their First Holy Communion! We look forward to sharing this special meal with them!

Upcoming Sessions

February 15/17 Regular Sessions (Enrollment)
No Class on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, please attend Mass
February 24 Regular Session
February 29/March 1- 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
Nicole Cory, ncory@saintmaryhc.org, 515-313-3014

EDGE Dates (7th & 8th Graders)

Sessions: March 1, 8 & 22, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

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

Gatherings: March 1, 8 & 22, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area

Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

Session: Wednesday, Feb. 15: 6:00-8:00pm, Social Hall

Saint Displays due for 10th graders at this session

Saturday, March 4: 9:30am, 9th Grade Teen/Parent Workshop, St Mary Social Hall

Fish Frys

The Knights of Columbus are looking forward to serving their Lenten Fish Frys again this year. Please join them to eat or help on Fridays, February 24, March 10, and March 24. We are serving from 5:00 to 7:00. Please contact Jon Hand if you want to help, 515-291-8815 or jon79hand@gmail.com.

Blood Drive Update

Thanks to all those who donated blood on January 26.

- ~ 31 people on the schedule going into the drive.
- ~ 29 registered to donate; 26 were able to donate.
- ~ 30 units of blood collected!!!
- ~ Up to 90 lives saved or sustained!!!!

Thanks to Sue White, Katherine Petersen, Dona Cowman, JoAnn Meusburger and Lisa Leonard for helping at the drive and/or providing food.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 5 Budget Week 32

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$3,575	\$5,944

<u>Year-to-Date Received</u>	<u>Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$165,927	\$190,212	\$180,730

Buildings & Grounds Collection: \$2,022

We received a one-time gift of \$10,000 to the Buildings and Grounds Fund

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, - *President* - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
John Fisher - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.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, Co-Chair - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Scott Turczynski, Co Chair - ScottT@hrtind.us
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com
Tim Miller - millertimothyg@gmail.com
Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Bill Schmitt - isucui@isualum.com
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@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
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 - gjmclain69@gmail.com

Lenten Resources

A brief description of Lenten reflection booklets are below; they will be available next weekend.

Little Black Book

Find six minutes of quiet time every day for the next 50 days to walk through this book a page at a time. Six minutes. That's within reach. And it pays big returns. Starting with Ash Wednesday, it walks through the passion narrative of Matthew, a few versus at a time, with explanations and reflections along the way. The other page has a variety of quotes, information, timely thoughts.

Simply let God speak to you through the words, guiding you to reflections that can change your day...change your life.

This book begins Sunday before Ash Wednesday to give you three days to get ready for Lent.



Not by Bread Alone

Prayerfully journey through Lent with fresh and meaningful reflections on the daily Mass readings. In just a few minutes each day, the insightful meditations can deepen your experience of this solemn season of prayer and penance.

Lent in Real Life

*For Families
Daily Reflections, Prayers
and Activities*

Help your family see Lent in a new way—as an opportunity to break away from routine and enter deeper into the real life of joy, love, and peace that God wants for all of us.

On each page you will find a quick reflection for parents on one of the day's Mass readings, a short prayer for your family to say, and a suggested activity to try together. All of it is meant to help you find your real life of joy and peace with God.

A Season of Deep and Everlasting Healing

Lent is a great time to experience and grow in God's friendship. We take part in reflection and self-denial to enable us to experience his incredible generosity. In these reflections we will journey with Jesus and prayerfully your life will be transformed just as surely as was Jesus, Moses and Elijah on the holy mountain. Let Jesus connect with you; he can bring you a deep and everlasting cure for all that ails you.

Thank You for Your Love, Jesus

*Daily Thoughts, Activities
and Prayers for Children*

Bible stories, prayers, plus engaging puzzles and activities that can help your children grow closer to Christ this Lent as they think about their blessings and prepare for Easter.

Help your child live Lent and learn about Jesus' life and his teachings by using this booklet.

The Word Among Us

Praying with Jesus This Lent

Daily meditations and inspirational features to help you learn to pray with Jesus. For the 40 days of Lent sit at Jesus' feet and listen to him as he teaches us how to pray to our Father in a way that is both personal and reverent. Witness how close his relationship with his Father is as we hear him praying during the Last Supper, in the Garden of Gethsemane and as he struggles to embrace his Father's call to the cross. This is possible because the Holy Spirit is living in your heart. As you witness Jesus' passion on Good Friday, be right there next to him, praying with him every step of the way.

Parish Lenten Opportunities

Mass: Tuesdays, 8:00am, St. Mary, Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Holy Cross; Thursdays and Fridays, 8:00am, St. Mary
Stations of the Cross: This is a devotional prayer practice that reflects on the Passion and Death of Jesus using artistic representations, accompanied by prayerful reflections. The tradition as it is today began with St. Francis of Assisi. We pray these Stations on Fridays, 6:00pm at St. Mary. *We will have a meal after the Stations on March 3, 17 & 31 if volunteers come forward to host.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation: St. Mary: Saturdays, 4:00-4:30pm, or by appointment with Fr. Parker. Additional Reconciliation times at St. Mary are Tuesday, March 28, 5:30-6:30pm, Wednesday, March 29, 6:30-7:30pm and Thursday, March 30, 5:30-6:30pm.

Diocesan Resources: For amazing Lenten opportunities and resources for families, teens and adults of all ages, visit <https://www.dmdiocese.org/ministries-and-faith-formation/religious-education/parent-tools/family-faith-resources/living-lent-2023>

Laudato Si

Look for way to recycle protective materials from packages you receive. Some local package-shipping offices will accept materials such as plastic peanuts and bubble wrap. Bubble wrap also can be packaged in a plastic grocery bag and placed in your recycle cart. Find out where to recycle in your area at www.earth911.com. See more at: <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>

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: Designate a monthly amount for withdrawal from your account on the 15th or 30th. If you have questions or would like to begin ACH, please contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org or find the form on the table at church or on the home page of our website.

Online Giving: Offered by 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 donation. No fees! The Foundation sends gift receipt.

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 arises to cancel weekend activities, it will be on TV channels 5, 8 and 17.**

Liturgical Ministers February 18/19

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary
Lector Kris Sexton
Host Bill Sexton
Cup Bearers Susan Stillmunkes, Linda Froehlich
Ushers Bill Schmidt, Jim Hudson
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross
Lector Heidi Ackerman
Cup Bearer Dawn Beukema
Altar Servers Natalie & Nick Shedd
Usher Todd & Jill Beukema
Music Jen Linderblood, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary
Lector Kris LeRoy
Host Distributor Jill Swanson
Cup Bearers Tracy Miller, Tim Loraditch
Ushers Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music Christine Muehlenthaler, Karon Lacey, Celeste Muehlenthaler

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Money Counters

February 12: Sue White, Kathy Daup
February 19: Brenda Nehring, Dona Cowman

SAYWHAT? Because so many aluminum cans are recycled, they account for less than 1% of the total U.S. waste stream, according to EPA estimates.

Four Months Still Available for Meals for Homeless Families

Volunteers to prepare and deliver a meal to Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter (about 10 families up to 34 people) are still needed for April, August, September, and December this year. One or more families or groups can volunteer. Covid precautions are taken and up to 3 people can now prepare the meal on-site. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt that can be used for a tax deduction.

To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza at kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687. Our parish has been preparing a meal for the families at the on the second Sunday of each month for more than 20 years. They count on us. Please help if you can.

Can You Help Out?

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! Currently we have no volunteers. Thank you for considering helping your parish in this way! Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094ea4a722a2fb6-snow1#/> to sign up or contact Bill Schmitt with questions, 515-291-8005.

End of Year Statements

To receive your year end statement, please email Candy, bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org or contact the office, 515-367-2685, with a request to email or print/mail your statement. In an effort to save money, we do not automatically mail out these statements to everyone.

Men's CEW

Register now to attend the Men's Christian Experience Weekend retreat at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny on February 17-19. The retreat, which begins Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon, is a great chance to grow in faith, meet new friends, take a break from busy schedules...and EAT! For more information or to register, please visit www.olih.org/cew-retreats.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 11/12

Theme: God's Commandments are a way of life.

Reading I: Sirach 15:15-20 • Human beings have free will. The Law is a gift from God.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 • Happy are they that follow the Law of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37 • The Law is God's gift of life. The holiness of Jesus' followers is a choice of life.

Question for Children: Which rules cause you the most difficulty? Why?

Question for Youth: In your own words, describe what the spirit of God's law is.

Question for Adults: Have you considered that laws are made with love? Do you accept God's love through his laws?