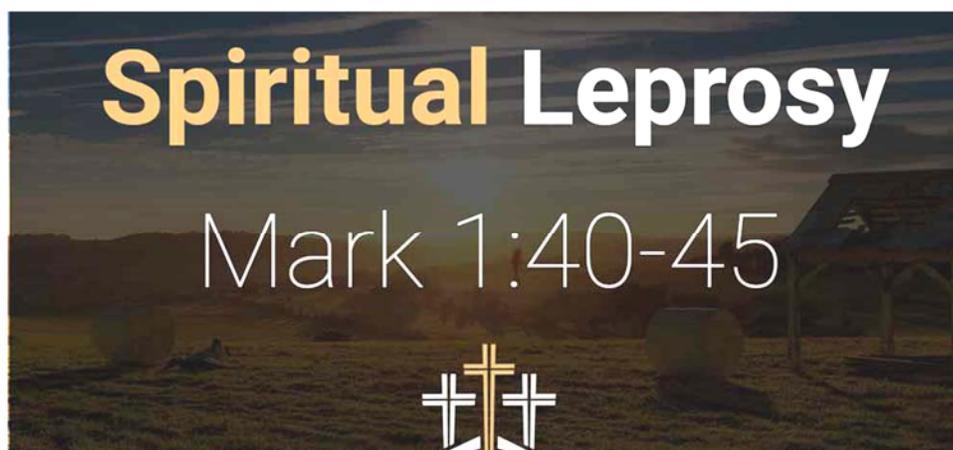




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 14, 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,

Yet again Jesus heals someone in the Gospel this Sunday, this time a leper. Not only does anyone with leprosy suffer physically, they may also suffer mentally, emotionally, and spiritually because of being separated from others during the quarantine. The leper's faith must be strong to approach Jesus as he does. Setting another good example, the leper prefaces his plea with "If you wish," not taking for granted that he will get what he wants and instead seeks Jesus' will.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday this week. This is a penitential season that aims at the purification of both our body and our soul. Part of that process involves us giving up those things or practices that distract us from God and taking on things or practices that keep us in union with Him. Of course, that union comes about with the Resurrection that we celebrate at Easter.

Because we will not have a communal Reconciliation service during Lent, additional times for confession will be offered. Details are inside the bulletin.

Sponsor couple training will be offered on February 20 at St. Pius X in Urbandale and online. Please contact me if you are interested in serving as a sponsor couple for those preparing for marriage and would like more information about the training. ~ 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
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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

See inside for special schedule this week.

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, Adoration and Stations of the Cross

Tuesday, February 16

6:00pm St. Mary †Mary Jones
~ followed by Adoration

Ash Wednesday, February 17

8:00am St. Mary †Henry Volz
6:30pm St. Mary †Mildred McClavy

Thursday, February 18

5:30pm Holy Cross †Will & Mikey Carpenter

Friday, February 19 Stations of the Cross

6:00pm St. Mary

Saturday, February 20

5:00pm St. Mary †Donnie & Rita Smith

Sunday, February 21

8:00am Holy Cross The Patrick Phelan Family
10:00am St. Mary †Sam Applebaum



Today is World Marriage Day.
Celebrate your love!



A Prayer for Comfort

O God,
You comfort us
in times of trouble,
You strengthen us
in moments of weakness,
You encourage us
in times of loss...
if only we turn to You.
Amen.

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 in Parish Buildings

Although Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds rescinded the mask requirement, Bishop Joensen has extended the mask requirement at all public Masses, sacramental celebrations, and other events in Church buildings through Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11, at which time it will again be reconsidered. This decision corresponds to the recommendations of public health experts within the local medical community.

For Diocesan updates, resources and livestream Masses, please go to <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>.

Temporary Solution Regarding Mask Wearing at St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

In consultation with the diocese, the following temporary solution regarding mask wearing for St. Mary/Holy Cross parish has been reached. An additional Mass at noon on Sundays will be offered for those individuals to whom an exemption applies (see the excerpt from the bishop below). This does NOT mean that the mask mandate is currently rescinded. It also does not mean that anyone with an exemption is necessarily barred from attending a different Mass time. It is certainly not an attempt to "exile" anyone. Rather, it is an attempt to facilitate respect for those who are anxious about others not wearing masks around them (and perhaps vice versa).

Excerpt from the bishop's statement: *This diocesan requirement applies to all those over the age of five, who do not have a medical or psychological condition prohibiting mask use. A personal preference opposed to mask use, or the belief that masks are not effective, does not qualify as a condition exempting one from mask use. If parishioners are unsure whether an exemption applies to them, they should consult with their pastor who can assist in discernment.*

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

Finance Council

Meeting: February 16, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Virtual Meeting: February 21, 7:00pm

Parish Council

Meeting: February 23, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: March 8, 6:00pm, Ed Center

Blessing and Distributing Ashes For This Year

Father Andrew will bless the ashes with the formula from the Missal. He then sprinkles the ashes with holy water and then says once for all, the formula of imposition: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel", or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." He will then sanitizes his hands, put a mask on and distribute the ashes. The congregation stays in their place and Father will come around to them in the same manner as for Communion. He will not say anything further while distributing ashes. The ashes are sprinkled on the top of the head, "left to fall" or "scattered" as the original text says; they are not imposed on the forehead with the thumb.

Fasting & Abstaining

Everyone 14 years and older are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.

Everyone 18 years old and under 59 years old are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

On these days, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals together should not equal a full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juice are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, this does not apply.



Stations of the Cross

These began as the practice of pilgrims to Jerusalem who would retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary. Later, for those who wanted to pass along the same route, but couldn't make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed that eventually took the form of the fourteen stations currently found in almost every Catholic church.

We invite you to join us for these powerful Stations each Friday of Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary.

Come follow Jesus on his way to Calvary.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mildred McClavy, aunt of Dennis Schmidt and Deb Stokka, who passed away February 6. May she be at peace with our Lord and her family find comfort and strength and know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

✠ *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, 515-556-4150
Tracy Miller, tmiller@saintmaryhc.org, 515-520-7981

Families who are participating in our At Home Program will have another packet ready for pick up on Ash Wednesday.

Children will be enrolling for First Communion next week, either at Mass on the 23rd or during their session on the 24th. Please let us know what day your child plans to be there! Families are welcome to attend the Enrollment!

No sessions this week; please attend Ash Wednesday Mass.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Upcoming Session Dates

February 23/24: Regular Sessions and
First Communion Enrollment
March 2/3 and 9/10: 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

Hello EDGE families!

We wanted to touch base and let you know that we will NOT be holding the mandatory 8th grade retreat this year in person. Due to various restrictions and the unpredictability of the covid pandemic we feel this will be the best practice for our parish. In place of this retreat, we will set aside a weekend where the 8th graders will come on their own time and work with a prayer partner through a "mini-retreat style" prayer workshop/stations. The prayer partner should be a parent or a guardian or someone confirmed and living in the same household.

The EDGE team is currently planning and working on preparing this mini-retreat. We will be sending out more information, dates and details soon! Let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation!

God Bless and stay healthy. - Andrea, Nicole and Melissa

Feb. 17 EDGE, attend Ash Wednesday Mass with family.
No EDGE Feb. 24

Youth Group: No gathering Feb. 17, attend Ash Wednesday Mass with family.
No gathering Feb. 24

Purpose (Confirmation Program)

Wednesday, February 24, 6:00 - 8:00pm: Confirmation Session, Social Hall at St Mary

If your 10th grader has not turned in their Saint Display yet, please have them bring it to our February session.

Family learning packets went home at our January session and are due back on February 24. Please watch your emails for makeup information and digital copies.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Stacey Rooney - Rooneysl17@gmail.com

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Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 7 Budget Week 32

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
	\$3,620	\$4,860

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$177,447	\$155,520	\$193,764

If you would like a year end statement, please email Sarah at sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org or contact the office, 515-367-2685 with a request to print and mail (or email) statement to you.

2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Payments	Outstanding Pledges	Refund
\$47,078*	\$47,502	\$450	\$424

* Adjusted goal due to 5% reduction by Diocese.

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/>.

Lenten Resources

Please take advantage of the Lenten reflection resources that are available in the vestibule. They will help God's presence in you become more evident, more of a reality in your everyday life, and they may help God's light shine through you to others in need of love.

Lenten Scripture Study

You are invited to gather with us to pray over and discuss the upcoming Sunday readings. We will meet on Wednesdays during Lent (except Ash Wednesday) in the office area, at 6:30pm for about an hour. Please bring your Bible. *We will social distance and wear your mask.* This might be offered online; we are currently checking in to that.

Lenten Reconciliation

Father Andrew has additional times available for reconciliation at St. Mary since we are not having a parish reconciliation service this Lent:



Tuesdays, 5:15-5:45pm

Saturdays, 11:00am-Noon & 4:00-4:30pm

After 9:00am First Friday Mass on March 5
or by appointment with Fr. Andrew

Leaders for Stations and Meal Hosts

Would you like to lead us in the Stations of the Cross? We have various books for you to choose from for mediation on each Station.

We will have a meatless meal following the Stations if volunteers are comfortable with preparing and hosting a meal on February 26, March 12 and 26.

A sign up is in the vestibule at St. Mary or contact the Parish Office to volunteer. Thank you for your consideration in becoming involved in this way at our parish.

Fish Fry Friday!

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join them for their first ever drive-thru Fish Fry this coming Friday, February 19. Cost is a free will offering. Additional Fish Fry dates are March 5 & 19.

Menu: Choice between: Fried Tilapia -or- Baked Cod and each meal includes Baked Potato, Sweet Corn, Coleslaw, Macaroni and Cheese and Dinner Roll

Provide your own: beverages, table service, napkins, and sweet treats.

If you are going to the Stations of the Cross first, please skip the line and park in front of the church.

For more information see [Parish Events under the Get Involved](#) tab on our website.



Food Pantry Collection

Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass next weekend; we will also have a basket available on the table by the tithe basket for monetary donations. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing with those in need. Your donation this month will assist Catholic Charities Food Pantry in Des Moines.

Old Palms

There is a container in the vestibule if you would like us to dispose of your blessed palms from last year.



There is now a monstrous 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic debris in our ocean & 46,000 pieces in every square mile of ocean.



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.*

Snow Removal at St. Mary

Thank you to everyone who has pitched in and helped! Could you help out on the weekend and/or during the week? See <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094ea4a722a2fb6-snow> to sign up. Thank you! Please contact Bill Schmitt, 515-291-8005, for more information.

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.

Holy Hour

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, while much of the world was shut down, Pope Francis gave a transformative witness to the power of prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction in an extraordinary blessing televised across the world. The strength of that call to have faith in the time of crisis was a sign of what a Eucharist-centered Church can offer the world. Bishop William Joensen is encouraging us to renew our focus on the Eucharist. He will host a Holy Hour at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines on Mondays from 5:00 to 6:00pm. You can watch it at [Facebook.com/dmdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/dmdiocese).

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Our monthly source of trustworthy news about the Catholic Church and our local faith communities is now available online. To get the new digital version of *The Catholic Mirror*, email communications@dmdiocese.org with your name and parish/town, or go to www.dmdiocese.org/catholic-mirror/digital-version. We're committed to ensuring that every registered Catholic household gets *The Catholic Mirror* every month. Now you can choose how to receive it!

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 14

Theme: Jesus wants to make us whole.

Reading I: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 • Those who are sick shall live outside the camp.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 • Imitate me as I do Christ.

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45 • If you will do so, you can cure me.

For Children: What do you want to ask Jesus to do for you?

For Youth: How has Jesus touched your life? How are you changed because of that touch?

For Adults: Name a time when you experienced Jesus' healing touch.