



# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue, Elkhart Iowa 50073



## First Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2021

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*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.*

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Dear Friends in Christ,

In the first reading for this Sunday, God sets an example for us by repenting of the flood even though it was His divine prerogative. In the Gospel, Jesus commands us to "Repent, and believe in the gospel." In other words, we are to turn away from sin and have faith in his message of the Resurrection and eternal life. Both actions are intrinsically linked. We cannot expect to be unwilling to repent and get to heaven. Heeding St. Peter's words in the second reading, let us ask God for the grace to recall the purity we experienced because of Baptism, which conferred faith on us. And, if we repent, we may experience the kingdom of God in its fullness.

If you would like to participate in the Wednesday evening group that will review the Sunday readings with the online option, send me an e-mail for instructions and the link.

If you are interested in serving as a sponsor couple for those preparing for marriage, please contact me.

~ Fr. Andrew

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## Parish Information

<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Parish General Email</b>	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Parish Fax</b>	515-367-7028
<b>Parish Web Site</b>	www.saintmaryhc.org
<b>Parish Facebook Site</b>	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper</b>	sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Nicole Cory - Confirmation</b>	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	afisher@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Barb Liske - Secretary</b>	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE</b>	gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org
<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 11:00am - Noon & 4:00-4:30pm; Tuesdays 5:15 - 5:45pm, in the **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.

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## Mass and Lenten Offerings

### Tuesday, February 23

5:15 - 5:45pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

6:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Bill Ross

~ followed by Adoration

### Wednesday, February 24

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †John & Margaret (Ryan) Tynan

### Thursday, February 25

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Helen & Paul Koch

### Friday, February 26

6:00pm Stations of the Cross, St. Mary

### Saturday, February 27

11:00am - Noon Reconciliation, St. Mary

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Ralph & Neva Cory

### Sunday, February 28

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Stephen & Michael Carpenter

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Bernardine Gorman

## 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

**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, an additional Mass at Noon on Sundays is being 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.

## A Prayer for Lent



Protect me, God:  
for in you I take refuge.  
You are my portion and cup,  
my life is in your hands.  
I keep you ever before me,  
for you are my God.  
You stand at my right hand;  
I shall not waver.  
And so my heart is glad  
and my soul rejoices;  
my body also rests secure.  
For you do not leave  
my life among the dead,  
or let your servant  
go down into the pit.  
You will show me the path of life,  
fullness of joy in your presence,  
happiness forever at your right hand.

Amen.

~ Pope Francis

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

Finance Council

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

## Try Something New This Lent

We hope you will consider forming your personal faith by participating in our Lenten offerings...Scripture Study... Stations of the Cross...Reconciliation...Eucharistic Adoration ...attending weekday Mass...taking advantage of the reflection resources in the vestibule. All these offerings will help God's presence in you become more evident, more of a reality in your everyday life and, may help God's light shine through you to others in need



## Lenten Scripture Study

You are invited to gather with us to pray over and discuss the upcoming Sunday readings. We will meet Wednesdays during Lent in the office area at 6:30pm for about an hour. Please bring your Bible. *We will social distance and wear masks.* If you would like to participate in this with the online option, send an email to Fr. Andrew for instructions and the link.

## 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.*

## In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ethel Stillmunkes, mother of Greg Stillmunkes, who passed away on Valentine's Day. 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](mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org), 515-556-4150  
Tracy Miller, [tmiller@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org), 515-520-7981

At Home Families- your packets are available for pick up in the Ed Center, they will either be on the blue table or in the third grade classroom.

We resume classes this week. We hope your Lent has started off well.

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, we have a normal session concluding with an enrollment Mass for all of our First Communicants at 6:00pm. If you can't make it, your child will enroll during their next atrium class on Wednesday, Feb. 24: Session B enrollment begins at 6:00 and Session C enrollment begins at 6:50. If your child is enrolling, please RSVP to let us know which Enrollment your child will be attending.

February 23/24- Regular Sessions  
March 2/3- Regular Sessions  
March 9/10- Regular Sessions  
March 16/17- No Sessions- Happy Spring Break!

## 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

### EDGE: 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

February 24: No session  
March 3 and 10: Sessions  
March 17: No session (surrounding school's Spring Break)  
March 24: No session due to Confirmation Session  
April 7: Final EDGE session for 2020-2021

### YOUTH GROUP: 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area

March 3 and 10: Gatherings  
March 17 & 24: No gathering  
April 7: Gathering

### Purpose (Confirmation Program)

Please refer to the email sent out to families on February 16 for information regarding the remainder of our Confirmation year.

Wednesday, Feb. 24: 6:00-8:00pm: Confirmation Session, Social Hall

## Offering Envelopes for Children

These envelopes are available in the vestibule of St. Mary and in the entryway of Holy Cross. Children are encouraged to take a packet, and on the paper provided, write their name by the number of the packet they have taken. We thank our young people for their support of the parish!

**1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given**

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doug Jones, *Chair* - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
John Fisher - [Johnfisher@sienafastener.com](mailto:Johnfisher@sienafastener.com)  
Tim Loraditch - [Tloraditch@gmail.com](mailto:Tloraditch@gmail.com)  
John Roberts - [jroberts@huxcomm.net](mailto:jroberts@huxcomm.net)  
Stacey Rooney - [Rooneyslg17@gmail.com](mailto:Rooneyslg17@gmail.com)

## FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heidi Ackerman, *Co-President* - [heidimdittmer@gmail.com](mailto:heidimdittmer@gmail.com)  
Sue Tollefson, *Co-President* - [suet@iowacubs.com](mailto:suet@iowacubs.com)  
Larry Davis - [larryedavis57@gmail.com](mailto:larryedavis57@gmail.com)  
Diane Gannon - [ddkgannon@gmail.com](mailto:ddkgannon@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Laurie Phelan - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - [arlene@4andersons.com](mailto:arlene@4andersons.com)  
Jacki Ausman - [jackiausman@gmail.com](mailto:jackiausman@gmail.com)  
Beth Hart - [mrsmatthart@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmatthart@gmail.com)  
Kelly Hoffmeier - [nkhoff@msn.com](mailto:nkhoff@msn.com)  
Tammi McClain - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)  
Kathy Petersen - [katherine@huxcomm.net](mailto:katherine@huxcomm.net)  
Kris Sturtz - [klsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:klsturtz@gmail.com)  
Sue White - [charylmyron@q.com](mailto:charylmyron@q.com)  
John Zidon - [jzidon@msn.com](mailto:jzidon@msn.com)

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Karen Bellis - [puzzlenuts@aol.com](mailto:puzzlenuts@aol.com)  
Pat Bishop - [pjbishop@midiaowa.net](mailto:pjbishop@midiaowa.net)  
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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

February 14 Budget Week 33

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
	\$10,434	\$4,860

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$187,881	\$160,380	\$196,481

If you would like a year end statement, please email Sarah at [sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org](mailto: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](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/>.



## 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.**

## 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.

The Diocese is now allowing limited social activities in parishes during Covid. We will have a meatless meal following the Stations if volunteers are comfortable with preparing and hosting a meal on February 26 or March 26.

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



## Fish Fry Fridays!

Drive thru fish fries are March 5 & 19. Free will offering.



## 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.

## Radix Retreat For High School Seniors

Step out of the hectic nature of your last semester for a relaxing and prayerful experience that prepares you to be more fully rooted in Christ as you take the next step in your life journey. Focus on the foundations of our faith and ways to nourish those that lead to a deeper love with Jesus Christ, while destroying those that are not. This retreat is March 5 – 7 at St. Thomas More Center from Friday 5:30pm to Sunday 4:00pm. All necessary COVID protocol will be followed during this retreat. Go to [www.dmdiocese.org/Radix](http://www.dmdiocese.org/Radix) to register or for more information. Financial assistance available.

## Lenten Mission & Retreat

The Diocese of Des Moines has partnered with one of the nation's top spiritual facilitators to bring us this virtual event titled, *Jesus: A Companion in Our Suffering* on March 4 & 11 from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Live music at 6:30pm with the mission at 7:00pm. Register for this free event at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/2021LentenMission>. It will be via ZOOM and you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the retreat. For more information contact John Gaffney at [jgaffney@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jgaffney@dmdiocese.org).



8 million pieces of plastic find its way into our oceans daily. Plastic packaging is the biggest culprit, resulting in 80 million tons of waste yearly from the U.S. alone.

## Saint David, Bishop, c. 520-589

David was educated in a monastery in Cardigan and was an exceptional student. Fellow students told of seeing a "dove with a golden beak playing at his lips and teaching him to sing the praise of God." After ordination as a priest, David retired to an island to study under the Welsh saint, Paulinus. It is said that he founded twelve monasteries, the last of which, Mynyw (later called Menevia and now St. David's) in the far southwest corner of Wales. This became his home for most of the remainder of his life. The discipline of his community was extremely severe. Hard manual labor and bare subsistence were the norm. The monks drank only water. Silence was the rule unless absolutely necessary to speak and prayer was constant, even when laboring.

Sometime during the mid-500s, a synod was called in Cardigan to suppress the Pelagian heresy denying the concept of Original Sin, which was re-emerging in Britain at that time. David was invited but declined, then was persuaded to go. His eloquence and grace so overwhelmed the attendees that he was unanimously elected bishop of Cambria, replacing St. Dubricius who resigned in his favor. David accepted only on the condition that the episcopal seat be relocated to Mynyw. As bishop, David convened another council that drew up the regulations which became the governing documents for the Church in Wales.

Little else is known of St. David, it is said that he died in his monastery in Mynyw. Another Welsh saint, St. Kentigern, saw his soul being carried to heaven by angels.

St. David is depicted in art standing on a mound with a snow-white dove on his shoulder. This derives from the legend that when David spoke at the first synod in Cardigan, a dove came to rest on his shoulder. At the same time, the land on which he was standing rose up so that, towering above the assembly, all present could clearly hear his words. St. David, is the patron of Wales, and is honored there on March 1.

While little is known for certain about St. David's life, he lived wholly devoted to God and God's will for him.

*It isn't always easy to accept God's will in our lives,  
but with prayer we can accomplish anything.*

*Set aside some part of your day for prayer and reflection.*

*Ask God for help in speaking with conviction about your faith.*

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### First Sunday in Lent, February 21

*Theme: Reform your lives!*

*Reading I:* Genesis 9:8-15 • I am setting my covenant with you forever!

*Reading II:* 1 Peter 3:18-22 • You are saved by your baptisms!

*Gospel:* Mark 1:12-15 • Jesus was sent by the Spirit into the desert.

*For Children:* What will you do this Lent to become more like Jesus?

*For Youth:* Lent gives us a chance to do things differently – to "go to the desert." How can you make Lent a time for growing in faith?

*For Adults:* What is the one area of your life which you most want to "reform" as you get ready to embrace the Gospel?