



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 27, 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.

Dear Friends in Christ:

As we head into Lent this week, the readings for this Sunday seem to offer something that we can take on as a practice during the penitential season. It is not unlike the examination of conscience that we do in preparing for confession. It involves asking the question, "What kind of fruit am I bearing?" As Jesus notes in the Gospel, it can be good, or it can be rotten. Rather than the distorted love of the world, let us experience and allow our hearts to be filled with his pure love so that we produce good fruit.

- Father 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
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry	afisher@saintmaryhc.org
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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
Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org

Mass Schedule	Tuesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
	Wednesday	5:30pm	St. Mary
	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
	4th Sunday	12:00pm	St. Mary

Reconciliation: St. Mary: Wednesdays 4:45 - 5:15pm; after 9:00am First Friday Mass and Saturdays 4:00 - 4:30pm; or by appointment.

Baptism: Contact Fr. Andrew

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

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Mass and Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, March 1

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Denise Daup

Wednesday, March 2 Ash Wednesday

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Charles and Helen Liske

5:00 - 5:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

6:30pm Mass, St. Mary †Helen & Dick Opperman

~ No Adoration today

Thursday, March 3

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Bill Ross

First Friday, March 4

9:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mary Maxwell

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

Saturday, March 5

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Bill Devereux

Sunday, March 6

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

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Myron White

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Gracious God,
today begins a period
of inner reflection and examination.
The days stretch before me
and invite me inward to that silent,
holy space that holds your Spirit.
This special time beckons me
to see my life through Christ's eyes
and the truth and reality
of your love incarnate.
Give me the grace
to enter the space of these days
with anticipation of our meeting.
And, when I open my soul to your presence,
let your loving kindness flow over me
and seep into my heart.
I ask this for the sake of your love. 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!

Ash Wednesday

We begin our Lenten journey this Wednesday. Our Masses are 8:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary.

Fasting & Abstaining From Meat

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.

Try Something New

We hope you will consider forming your personal faith by participating in our Lenten offerings...Stations of the Cross... Reconciliation... Eucharistic Adoration... attending weekday Mass...using the reflection resources in the vestibule. Welcome Jesus more fully into your life and let him be the anchor of your soul.

Covid Reminders

The Diocese continues to strongly encourage masks at all indoor liturgies and other events, especially for those who are unvaccinated and without natural immunity, as a small sacrifice that can assist our health care professionals and help all members of our community feel comfortable worshipping together. Masks are required for all clergy and ministers distributing Communion. **If you wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please receive from Fr. Andrew (he sanitizes after each).** We have masks and hand sanitizer available. For Diocesan updates please go to <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>.

Parish Council

Meeting: March 22, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: March 15, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting, March 14, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Mar. 20: 6:40pm Rosary, Church, 7:00pm Meeting, Hall

Coming Events

- †**Weekend of Feb. 26/27:** Religious Ed Bible Fundraiser after Masses
- †**Stations of the Cross:** Fridays during Lent 6:00pm, St. Mary. Lenten meal on March 11, 25 & April 8. Fish fry on March 4, 18 & April 1
- †**Weekend of March 5/6:** Buildings & Grounds collection — Wine and cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass
- †**Choir practice:** Sundays, March 6 - April 10



Stations of the Cross

These Stations began with 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 our current fourteen Stations.

Come pray these powerful Stations every Friday of Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary, and follow Jesus on his way to Calvary. *Following the Stations we will have a meal and fellowship.*

Old Palms

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

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

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

One of the best ways to encourage our children in their faith is to participate and be active in it. The church teaches us 3 particular ways to participate during Lent - prayer, fasting and almsgiving (money or time). While sometimes it's hard to know how to choose, we have some opportunities here at the parish to help us and our children grow closer to Christ during this time.

Save the date for VBS this summer June 21-23, 5:00-7:30pm. More details to come.

March 2 - Ash Wednesday- no session, attend Mass
March 4 - regular session
March 9/11 - regular sessions
March 16/18 - Spring Break - no 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

EDGE

Sessions: March 9 & 23, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

No Sessions: March 2 (Ash Wednesday), March 16 (Spring Break) and March 30 (Confirmation class)

Purpose Confirmation Program

Wednesday, March 30: Session, 6:00-8:00pm, Social Hall

Friday, April 15: 7:00pm, Reading of the Passion at Good Friday Service, St Mary. **Looking for volunteers.**

Saturday, April 9, 9:00-11:00am, Session for 10th graders and their sponsors only, AND Rite of Enrollment for the Sacrament of Confirmation at 10:30am (parents welcome for the Enrollment ceremony).

Youth Group

Gatherings: March 9 & 23, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area

No Gatherings: March 2, 16 & 30

Looking To Do Something Different This Lent?

How about leading the Stations of the Cross one Friday? We have a choice of booklets from which to read. For more information, please call the office. To volunteer please sign up in the vestibule at St. Mary, or call the office. Thank you!!

Lenten Resources

Please take advantage of these booklets 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.

Easter Music News

Planning has begun for St. Mary's Easter Vigil choir. You are cordially invited to join us. Practices are Sundays, **March 13** through **April 10** immediately after 10:00am Mass at St. Mary's Church and last one hour. The choir will sing at the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, **April 16**. All ages welcome! If you like to sing and want to be part of this choir, come check us out. For more information, contact Sue Schmidt, Music Coordinator, at sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org or 515-689-9949.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com
Celia Shedd - hoyhill@partnercom.net

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heidi Ackerman, *Co-President* - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
Sue Tollefson, *Co-President* - suet@iowacubs.com
John Fisher - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
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Sue White - charylmyron@q.com
John Zidon - jzidon@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Karen Bellis - puzzlenuts@aol.com
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Mary Winders - mefothergill@yahoo.com

PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - fogarty929@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

End-of-Year Statements

To minimize costs (and thus maximize your contributions), we do not automatically mail out these statements to everyone. To receive your statement, please email Candy, bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org or contact the office, 515-367-2685, with a request to email/mail your statement. Thanks.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 20

Budget Week 34

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$10,014	\$5,642

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$205,855	\$191,828	\$186,149

Food Pantry Collection: \$518

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Payments	Unpaid Pledges	Refund
\$51,038	\$56,665	\$775	\$5,617

Additional monies received from those paying on their pledges will also be refunded to the parish!

Lenten Reconciliation Service

You are encouraged to attend this Service on Sunday, March 20, 1:00pm at St. Mary. Additional priests will be here to assist with individual confessions.



Come experience the healing power of Christ!

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: You designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on the 15th or the 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: This is available through 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 tithe donation. No fees! The Foundation sends gift receipts.

Thank you for considering using one of these for your tithing.

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.



One ton of recycled cardboard saves 9 cubic yards of landfill space.

Tasting the Outrageous Mercy of God

Emmaus House is very excited and blessed to welcome back Fr. Bob Dufford, SJ, this Lenten season to offer a virtual retreat entitled *Tasting the Outrageous Mercy of God*. Join us for this retreat on Zoom, as Fr. Dufford invites us to encounter God's "Outrageous Mercy."

- Session #1: Monday, March 7 - 7:00 to 8:30pm
- Session #2: Tuesday, March 8 - 7:00 to 8:30pm
- Session #3: Thursday, March 10 - 7:00 to 8:30pm
- Session #4: Saturday, March 12 - 9:00 to 11:00am

To learn more or to register please go to www.theemmaushouse.org/upcoming-events.

If you are unable to attend all four sessions at the scheduled times, we hope that you will still join us for this retreat! All sessions will be held live via Zoom, recorded, and then available online for those registered.

Free COVID-19 PCR Testing

The JoinCareTeam presents "Spring Health Fair" powered by CErteintell Telehealth. Free COVID-19 testing will be available at the Catholic Pastoral Center (Sixth & Grand, Des Moines) on Sunday, March 20 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. In addition to testing, free health screenings and vaccine education information will be available. Medical interpreters for 200+ languages will be present. All are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity.

Catholic School Enrollment 2022-2023

St. Joseph School: To schedule a tour email Principal Jodi Halligan, jhalligan@stjosephcatholicdsm.org or call 515-266-3433. Come see the difference at St. Joseph!

St. Luke the Evangelist School: Kindergarten openings available. We offer -Small class sizes
-School boundaries remain constant
-Teacher aides in the classroom
-Religion incorporated into daily curriculum
-Technology in the classroom
Call 515-985-7074 for information and a tour!

Germany and Austria

Visit CollinsTravel.biz and click on "Pilgrimages"

or contact Jason at Jason@CollinsTravel.biz or call 309-781-5757

Space limited to 20 people



Cost: \$4,699 includes airfare, hotels, Passion Play tickets, all travel in Europe, entrance fees, breakfast, supper and tips

Hosted by Father Andrew Windschitl pastor of St. Mary / Holy Cross Parish, Elkhart
Celebrant of trip's daily Mass

Jason Collins, Founder of Collins Travel and Pilgrimages and member of St. Francis Parish, WDSM
Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus

Join us for this Incredible Journey of Faith and Adventure to Germany and Austria July 15-25, 2022!

Things we'll see in Germany:

- World-renowned "Passion Play" - held every 10 years
- Historic Munich city center named after the Blessed Mother
- Beautiful, ornate Catholic Churches, many of which survived WWII
- Dachau Concentration Camp and Hitler's Eagle's Nest
- Neuschwanstein Castle

Things we'll see in Austria:

- Eucharistic Miracle location, Seefeld
- Salzburg Cathedral, survived bombing during WWII, and other churches
- Ancient salt mine on tour
- Spots of filming and inspiration on "Sound of Music" Tour
- Take tram ride into Austrian Alps
- ... and much more!

Faith Sharing

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Feb. 27

Theme: Our words reveal what is in our hearts.

Reading I: Sirach 27:4-7 • Praise no one before he speaks.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 • God gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45 • From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.

Children: Jesus teaches us to do good. What did you do this past week that was really good, kind or loving?

Youth: How do your words and actions reveal what is truly in your heart?

Adults: We humans are vulnerable to sin. But we see the sins of others more easily than we recognize our own sins. Why does Jesus warn us not to judge others?