



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Baptism of the Lord

January 9, 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:

The Christmas season draws to a close this Sunday with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. During the flurry of activity with the holidays over the last two weeks, I realized that the Church is not privileged to experience the same kind of slowdown as do others. While some people take time off work and kids are out of school, we get busier. This year was especially busy with both weekends having two holy days within close proximity of each other. Then I remembered something about prayer that seems counterintuitive, but it is true, even though it is hard to put into practice. A priest once said that fitting in prayer is easy when we are not busy, but hard as it is to fit it in when we are busy, that is when we need it more.

~ 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
Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper	sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org
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

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, Reconciliation and Adoration

Tuesday, January 11

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Jack Housby

Wednesday, January 12

4:45 - 5:15pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

5:30pm Mass, St. Mary †Isaac Beying

~ followed by Adoration

Thursday, January 13

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Leo & Rosemary Overmohle

Saturday, January 15

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Jerry Hohn

Sunday, January 16

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Mary Beth Bump

10:00am Mass, St. Mary For the Parish



Welcome To Our New Members!

We welcome the following folks who have joined our Parish:

Susie and Andy Sheldahl and their children Lillian & William, who live near Madrid

Elizabeth Godwin, who lives in Ankeny

Jerry and Deborah Zenkner, who live in Bondurant

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!

Ministers for Our Masses

We are looking for additional lectors, ushers and Host distributors for our Masses. Training provided. If you have questions or interested in serving, please contact Fr. Andrew at Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org. Thanks for considering this!

The Bishop Wants To Hear From Us

Bishop William Joensen invites us to take part in a brief survey that will assist our visioning process for the Diocese of Des Moines. We want to hear of your joys and disappointments, your hopes and priorities for our diocesan future. Please go to <https://forms.gle/1mp721t5b8TFcAid8> to complete the survey or click on this QR code. The Bishop also invites us to pray that God will grace us with clear vision of His will for the way forward.



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.

Go to <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus> for Diocesan updates.

The Work of Christmas Begins

*When the carols have been stilled,
When the star-topped tree is taken down,
When family and friends are gone home,
When we are back to our schedules*

The work of Christmas begins:

*To welcome the refugee,
To heal a broken planet,
To feed the hungry,
To build bridges of trust,
To share our gifts,
To seek justice and peace for all people,
To bring Christ's light to the world.*

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: January 10, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Jan. 16: 6:40pm Rosary, Church, 7:00pm Meeting, Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: January 18, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Parish Council

Meeting: January 25, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Coming Events

† **Weekend of Jan. 8/9:** Diocesan Parish Solidarity Fund 2nd Collection: to assist St. Mary's Church in Hamburg

† **Weekend of Jan. 15/16:** Collection for Huxley Food Pantry

† **Blood Drive:** Thursday, Jan. 27, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall

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

Equipment Provided - People Power Needed!

Could you help with snow removal of sidewalks, etc. at St. Mary? We have weekend and/or weekday time frames. Instructions/schedule of events provided. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-sidewalk>.

Please contact Bill Schmitt with questions, 515-291-8005. Thank you for your consideration of this request! Thank you also to those who have recently signed up to help!



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 in sharing with those needing a little extra help. Your donation this month will assist the Huxley Food Pantry.

Thank You!

Saint Mary-Holy Cross,

Words cannot express our sincerest appreciation for the cash donation. Thank you for being such a bright light in the community. This will be used to purchase soup, pasta, cereal and meat for the upcoming months ahead.

Sincerely, *The Blessing Box*

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Marion Nehring, husband of Mary Jane and father of Mike, who passed away last Sunday. Please pray for his 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

We hope you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Classes resume this week! We've missed you all and can't wait to continue sharing the faith with your families.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Jan. 12 & 14 - Regular Sessions

Jan. 19 & 21 - Regular Sessions

Jan. 26 & 28 - 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

EDGE

Jan. 12 & 19 - Regular Sessions, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Purpose Confirmation Program

Sessions: 6:00-8:00pm in the Social Hall.

Wed. Jan. 26 Session — Saint Displays due for 10th graders

Wed. Feb. 23 Session

Please be watching for a sign up for teen interviews coming in January and February.

Youth Group

Jan. 12 & 19 - Regular gatherings, 7:30-9:00pm, Social Hall

Youth Tithes

You will find these envelopes in the vestibule. We had a number of packets left over from last year so we are using them for this year — no worries about the dates!

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit: Please consider using this type of tithing. 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 Sarah at sbaumberger@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 tithing donation. No fees! The Foundation sends gift receipts.

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

Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net

Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com

Tammi McClain - tammimccclair71@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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com

Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com

Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com

Tammi McClain - tammimccclair71@gmail.com

Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net

Kris Sturtz - klsturtz@gmail.com

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

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 AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

End-of-Year Statements

To receive your year end statement, please email Sarah, sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org or contact the office, 515-367-2685, with a request to email or mail your statement. **We do not automatically mail out these statements to everyone.** Thank you.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	\$11,020	\$5,642	December 26
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$4,704	\$5,642	January 2

Christmas Collection: \$3,827

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$ 161,100	\$ 152,334	\$ 146,295

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Payments	Unpaid Pledges	Refund
\$51,038	\$55,925	\$1,405	\$4,887

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

A Pint for a Pint



Our blood drive is Thursday, January 27, 3:00 to 7:00pm in the Social Hall, which is disinfected and sanitized. This is a safe and easy way to serve others with your life-supporting blood that helps save or sustain the life of three others. Blood is always in short supply and especially now. The entire process (registration, confidential health history interview, donation, and post-donation rest in our canteen) takes less than an hour with the actual donation taking only about 10 minutes. Appointments are required for added safety. Schedule your appointment by signing up in the vestibule of St. Mary or go to https://donor.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/176658 and choose your donation time, then log in/create an account; if have difficulties/questions, please call LifeServe Blood Center, 800-287-4903, and mention you would like to sign up for the Elkhart Community Blood Drive on January 28. **AND** for this blood drive, come donate a pint and enjoy homemade soups! Contact Lisa or Tim Kautza (kautza@netins.net / 515-964-7687) if you'd like to volunteer to help in the canteen or provide cookies or other snacks.

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.*

Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee

The Knights of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish are excited to host this local Spelling Bee contest! This is a great opportunity for kids (grades 4th – 7th) to display their talent of spelling and enjoy a fun competition with other children in the community. The event is Sunday, January 23, 1:00pm at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic school. This is the first round of a statewide competition, in which the top two winners from each age group will advance to a Regional competition, followed by those winners competing at the final statewide event. The link for sign up form is: https://docs.google.com/document/1btunghvXMR7OyDOQEV_0tyLkeuV5r1Pv/edit. Please return it to Tony McKillip, tmckillip@openlending.com; and call him, 319-269-0721, with any questions. A link to the competition rules and word lists is included in the entry form.

Catholic Youth Camp

Back to summers unplugged and running around outside. Days spent splashing in the pool. Growing in faith and courageous discipleship. Making and strengthening friendships. Evenings filled with games, face paint, snowcones, and s'mores. Experience all of this and more during a week of summer camp. To find out more or to register, go to <https://stmcenter.com/>. *Added bonus:* our parish pays \$100 of the camp fee for children of the parish.

Save the Dates!

Young Adults are invited to the Young Catholic Network gathering January 25 in downtown Des Moines. There will be networking, complimentary drinks and appetizers, and a speaker with tremendous insight into living our Catholic faith in the professional world. Learn more at dmdiocese.org/ycn.

High School Seniors: In your last semester, pause to consider what it means to stay rooted in Christ after high school. Come to a Radix retreat and escape for a weekend of prayer and relaxation. More info at dmdiocese.org/radix.



Americans use 85 million tons of paper per year which is about 680 pounds per person.

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.

Consider Teams of Our Lady for a Better Marriage

If you are interested in enriching your marriage, come and meet couples that are already involved with doing just that! TEAMS is a group of 5-7 couples that meet monthly to share a potluck meal, prayer, and discuss topics reflecting on faith and marriage. There are couples of all ages in Teams, with and without children. Join us Monday, January 17, 7:00pm at St. John's Basilica (1915 University Ave, Des Moines) to learn more. Childcare provided. Please email Maria & Mark Campbell at maria.campbell@msn.com or Ann & Brian Moylan at ammoyot@yahoo.com with questions and childcare needs.

Healing Service

All are invited to attend a healing service at St. Ambrose Cathedral on the third Wednesday of each month (January 19) at 7:00pm. *"Come to me, all you are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

Save the Date!

Doug Brummel's *"Lighten Up!"... A Celebration of Faith and Family* is coming to Holy Trinity Parish. Nationally-known, Catholic Inspirational comedian, singer, storyteller, teacher, and author Doug Brummel and his 'cast of characters' will lead us on a unique faith journey on January 23 & 24 with a start time of 6:47pm (Yes, you read it right... 6:47). Please invite anyone you know who has been away from the Church to join us in this unique opportunity. We look forward to seeing everyone at *Lighten Up!* Check out our speaker at www.dougbrummel.com. Contact John Mertes at 515-255-3162, ext. 224 for more information.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

The Baptism of the Lord, January 9

Theme: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Reading I: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 • God upholds his servant, a light for all nations.

Reading II: Acts 10:34-38 • Jesus is the savior of all nations.

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 • Jesus is baptized.

For Children: What are some things you can do to please God?

For Youth: "With you I am well pleased." What are you doing right now that is pleasing to God? How does it feel to live that way?

For Adults: Name a time when you felt your actions were pleasing to God.