



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ

June 14, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Sunday is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, also known by its Latin name *Corpus Christi*. It is a holy day that honors the Eucharist and traces its origin back to the thirteenth century. In the Gospel, Jesus is quite explicit about this reality that Catholicism holds dear: "For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink" (John 6:55). There is no qualification, no wavering in this statement. Furthermore, he connects reception of his flesh and blood to eternal life: "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day" (John 6:53-54). If surveys are to be believed, many Catholics do not believe that the Eucharist is really the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ. What is holding us back? If Jesus himself said so, then why do we not trust him? Perhaps even some who believe waver in their belief. Wherever you find yourself in this, I encourage you to ask God for more faith, one of the three theological virtues. It is a gift from Him that as the author to the letter to the Hebrews wrote, helps us with "the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Sure, that host may not look like nor taste like flesh, but with the faith that God gives us, we will be able see it and experience it for what it really is. According to Jesus, eternal life depends on it.

On a related note, please pray for those children who are finalizing their preparation for first Communion. The group has been broken into two smaller groups and will celebrate the sacrament on June 20 and 27. ~Fr. Andrew

Parish Information

Parish Phone	515-367-2685
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Facebook	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart

Reconciliation: By appointment only with Fr. Andrew.

Baptism: Contact Fr. Andrew for preparations.

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 and Adoration

Tuesday, June 16

6:00pm St. Mary †Charlie Brendeland
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, June 17

5:30pm Holy Cross †Fr. Gene Koch

Thursday, June 18

8:00am St. Mary †Albert & Helen Schmidt

Saturday, June 20 *First Eucharist Mass*

10:00am St. Mary

†For our Students receiving First Eucharist

Sunday, June 21 *For the Parish*

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

We Are Here to Help!

If you are homebound, at high risk, caring for family, or know someone who is, and are in need of help with errands, picking up prescriptions or groceries, etc., please contact Fr. Andrew or the parish office. Also, if you are willing to help in some way, please email Barb.

Private Prayer in Church

St. Mary's Church is open for private prayer from 8:00am to 8:00pm Monday through Friday and from 10:00am to 8:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. **Exceptions: This Friday private prayer time will end at 5:30pm due to First Reconciliation and on Saturday, the church will be open Noon to 8:00pm due to First Eucharist Mass in the morning.**

Change in Parish Practice

If necessary for you to come to the parish office, please contact Fr. Andrew or staff ahead of time to be sure someone is here, or make an appointment. Phone messages and email are checked frequently.

See the diocesan website at

<https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>
for livestream Masses, updates and resources.

Bring Your Mask!

If you're coming to Mass, please bring your mask. While you may not fear getting sick, it's an act of charity and love to do what we can to prevent others from getting sick. Thank you for doing all you can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

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 form found in the vestibule of St. Mary and on our website. We are glad you are here!

Support Our Parish

From now celebrating daily Mass to calling parishioners, arranging for outreach and more, our parish continues its mission of helping people know and love God. Please continue your prayerful and financial support so that we can continue our mission during these challenging times. Thank you very much to those who have done so.

A Prayer in Time of Illness and Trial Throughout the World

Compassionate and Loving Father,
In the face of confusion and concern
impart to us the calm of Your presence.
In You allow us to find hope and healing.
Be with those who serve the sick
and give them Your caring hand.
Be with those who lead
and give them Your spirit of wisdom.
Be with those who have fallen ill
and give them Your comforting heart.
Wrap Your arms around our world
and hold us in Your love.
Allow us at this time of trial to then serve
as instruments of that love to all we meet.

We ask this in Your name. Amen

Regathering for Mass

The decision to proceed with liturgical celebrations (presuming that the faithful socially distance from one another, wear masks, and that parishes can observe cleaning guidelines) rests with the local pastors.

Our Parish (along with all parishes in Polk, Dallas and Warren Counties) is now in Phase 1 with having weekday Masses. Given the larger number of parishes, the greater population density, and the prospect of a resurgence as businesses and other venues open and people congregate with less caution, we are asked to await for the "green light" from Bishop Joensen to enter Phase 2 which is celebrating weekend Masses. Barring any contraindications, parishes in these three counties can expect to resume Phase 2 weekend liturgies on June 27-28th.

There is no present determination of when we enter Phase 3 which includes social gatherings of 50 or less, but according to the Bishop it will almost certainly not be until July.

It needs be said again that the Sunday Mass obligation remains suspended, and that vulnerable persons and those who interact with them do well to stay home, even as this poses a continued sacrifice on their part.

Please do not travel to other parishes that begin weekend Liturgies before we do. During Phase 1 and 2, an occasional presence at Mass, and not at every daily Mass makes it possible for more of our parishioners to attend Mass in safe fashion. Practicing these self-disciplines is a grace-filled act of charity for others, who equally hunger for our Eucharistic Lord. Be honest with yourself about your health status and your need to be charitable toward others.

Bishop Joensen states: "Let us go rejoicing—with continued vigilance and care for each other—to the House of the Lord!"

On The Radio

Tune in to Iowa Catholic Radio (1150 AM, 88.5 FM or 94.5 FM) most Fridays around 7:15pm to hear Fr. Andrew discuss that coming Sunday's Gospel. At 9:00am every Friday tune in for the Bishop's weekly radio show, "Making it Personal With Bishop Joensen"

**Congratulations to these students
who in the next few weeks will
receive Holy Eucharist for the first time.
Please keep them in your prayers.**

Kayden Babbitt	Brenna Liske
Kaylee Cornelius	Grace Malanaphy
Landon Cornelius	Drew Mueggenberg
Mackenzie Cornelius	Finley Muth
Michael Evans	Will Renoe
Ayla Farmer	Scottie Schierbrock
Ava Guerdet	Dawson Shipley
Luke Hergenreter	Evelyn Smith
Colin Humphreys	Charlie Sullivan
Claire Kucera	Aliya Van Pelt
Marcus Larsen	

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

It is with great excitement that we have two days set for our First Eucharist Liturgies; Saturdays June 20 and 27, 10:00am at St. Mary. The children have been longing for this day for many years and we ask you to keep them in your prayers as they approach their final weeks of preparation.

Our last Meditation for First Eucharist and Sacramental Prep is Wednesday, June 17 from 6:00-7:15pm.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

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

Confirmation 10th Grade Parents: Please respond to my emails regarding Liturgy info needed for our Sacramental records. Many thanks to those who have replied. Please watch your email for updates on our Confirmation Liturgy.

Hello S.T.O.R.M. family!

We continue to share Catholic apps, websites or blogs once a month. You are encouraged to check out the app Reimagining The Examen-Loyola Press, which offers an unique prayer experience tailored to your needs and mood. We hope this app helps you to continue to grow in your faith.

Please join us to pray the following at least once a day for the unity and healing for all during this tumultuous time.

Please let us know if there is any way we can assist you!

God Bless, *Nicole, Andrea and Melissa*

Heavenly Father,

we praise you for sending your Son to be one of us and to save us. Look upon your people with mercy, for we are divided in so many ways, and give us the Spirit of Jesus to make us one in love. We ask this gift, loving Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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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

June 7	Budget Week 49	
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$3,435	\$5,730
<i>Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund</i>		
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	<u>Last Year</u>	
	\$285,196	\$280,770
		\$286,156

2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Information and a pledge card have been mailed to each household. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give and mail your pledge to the parish or donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving/annual-diocesan-appeal-giving>, being sure to designate our parish for proper credit. Each gift is vital to reaching our assessment. Thank you.

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$49,556	\$35,422	\$31,262	\$18,294

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 home page in the lower right hand corner.

Online Giving

Thank you to those who have used this type of tithing!

We currently offer online giving through the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa by using this secure link: <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. Use the drop down menu and choose *St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart* to make your donation which will be credited as tithes, and will appear on your year end statement. No fees! The Foundation will send all gift acknowledgement letters. Thank you for considering using this for your tithing.



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 at 515-367-2685 or bliske@saintmaryhc.org.

If the request is not for you, please ask permission of the one it is for to be on our prayer chain.

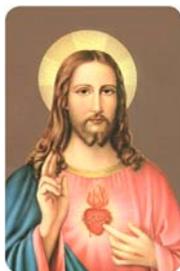
Thank You!



A special thank you to all who came to donate at our May 28 blood drive especially in the face of the Corona virus. The turnout was less than usual; 33 units of blood collected from 31 registrants with an estimated 100 lives saved or sustained! Again, thank you Suzette Bartleson, Rebecca Bates, Kathy Daup, Bill Dunbar, Craig Ellyson, Andrea Fisher, Tara Goering, Jon Hand, Beth Hart, Doug Heger, Barbara Hokel, Doug Jones, Lisa Kautza, Tim Kautza, Jack McDermott, Garrett McClain, Ron McWilliams, Jean Miller, Larry Mitchell, Kelly Muth, Mitch Muth, Denise Northrop, Kathy Petersen, Susan Pratt, Shawn Pruisman, Tom Rooney, Joe Rumbaugh, Gary Sesker, Judy Sesker, Bridget Smith, Natalie Smith, Karen Stafford, and Jill Swanson.

Our next drive is August 27. Hope to see you there. Watch for sign-up sheets in the vestibule at St. Mary Church or visit <https://donor.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/geo>. In the meantime, consider donating platelets at the LifeServe donation center in Des Moines or Ames. Platelets are needed by patients after major surgery or serious injury being necessary for normal blood clotting and they also give strength to patients with blood disorders, those with transplants, and cancer patients. Platelets can be donated every two weeks.

This Friday we celebrate the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Please join us in praying:



O most holy heart of Jesus,
fountain of every blessing, I adore you,
I love you, and with lively sorrow for my sins
I offer you this poor heart of mine.
Make me humble, patient, pure
and wholly obedient to your will.
Grant, Good Jesus, that I may live in you
and for you.
Protect me in the midst of danger.
Comfort me in my afflictions.
Give me health of body,
assistance in my temporal needs,
your blessing on all that I do,
and the grace of a holy death. Amen.



This Saturday, we celebrate the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please join us in praying:

Remember, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
the great things the Lord has done for you;
He chose you for His mother,
He wanted you close to His cross.
He gives you a share in His glory. He listens to your prayer.
Offer Him our prayers of praise and thanksgiving.
Present our petitions to Him. (*Share your petitions with Mary*)
Let us live like you in the love of your Son
that His Kingdom may come.
Lead all people to the source of living water
that flows from His Heart, spreading over the world
hope and salvation, justice, and peace.
See our trust in you; answer our prayer.
Show yourself always, our Mother. Amen.



The average person has the opportunity to recycle more than 25,000 cans in a lifetime.

The Story of Plastic

You're Invited! Join Iowa Interfaith Power & Light and the Interfaith Green Coalition of Central Iowa for a free screening at home of *The Story of Plastic* with a special panel discussion on Saturday, June 20 at 1:30pm using Zoom. The panelist will be Ciji Mitrison, Stephanie Kellogg Heifner, and Elizabeth Sheldon who will provide insight and wisdom around the documentary and what actions we can take.

Due to physical distancing and keeping everyone safe at this time, we will not be able to watch the documentary together. Instead, you will be sent a link to watch it from the comfort of your own home. Make sure to block out 90 minutes to watch the documentary before the day of the panel discussion. When you register, you will get a confirmation email with the Zoom login information for the panel discussion on June 20 at 1:30pm. Due to the limited number of documentary views, before the panel date you will receive a second email with the link to view *The Story of Plastic*. Please go to <https://iowaip.l.salsalabs.org/thestoryofplastic/index.html> for more information on the event, read a little about our panel, and register today!

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 14

Theme: The Eucharist is the center of our faith.

Reading I: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a • One does not live by bread alone, but by the Word of God.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 • We are the Body of Christ when we participate in the Eucharist.

Gospel: John 6:51-58 • The Word of God made flesh, Jesus, declared he was the Bread of Life.

Question for Children: How does receiving Holy Communion change how you treat those around you?

Question for Youth: Jesus tells us that through the Eucharist we will remain in him and he in us. How does the Eucharist keep you in relationship with Jesus?

Question for Adults: Share how the Eucharist connects us as "one body" – how does it change the way we relate to each other?