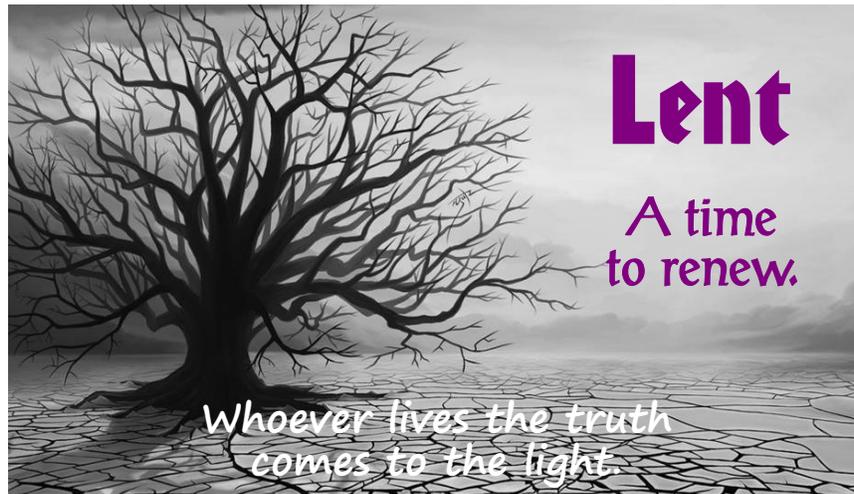




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 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,

Perhaps the most well-known and famous verse of Scripture, John 3:16, is contained in the Gospel reading this Sunday. It is indeed a beautiful and succinct summation of God's love for humanity and the entire Gospel message. It is a cause for rejoicing on this Laetare (Latin word for 'rejoice') Sunday and contrasts with the unfortunate circumstances in which Israel finds itself in the first reading. Both readings, particularly the end of the first and verse 16 of the Gospel, display God's fidelity to His people despite their sinful behavior. Let us receive the faith of which St. Paul writes in the second reading and believe in this God who was not content to simply tell us about eternal life, He acted on it by giving His only son, who took on flesh and suffered and died for us.

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

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	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; after 9:00am First Friday Mass, March 5, 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.

Mass and Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, March 16

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

6:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Mary Jones

~ followed by Adoration

Wednesday, March 17

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †LaMont Schreurs

6:30pm Sunday Scripture Study, office area

Thursday, March 18

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Lowell & Charlie Brendeland

Friday, March 19

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

Saturday, March 20

11:00am - Noon Reconciliation, St. Mary

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Leo, Emma & Mike Sickerson

Sunday, March 21

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross Patrick Phelan Family

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †John & Fran Cory

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.*

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Harry Sechrest**, brother-in-law of Helene Uhlenhopp who passed away March 3rd and for the repose of the soul of **Myron White**, husband of Sue, who passed away March 6th.

May they be at peace with our Lord and their families find comfort and strength and know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

✠ Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, ✠
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

A Lenten Prayer

Loving God of forgiveness,
I come before you
humbled and sad
in the face of my own
repeated failings.
I hold out my hands
as a petitioner would,
asking for mercy.
It is then that I feel
you reach out
and take my hand
in your loving grasp.
Thank you for the love
you pour out on me
so lavishly.
Help me
to follow more closely
in the path
you have set for me,
the path of your Son. Amen.



Finance Council
Meeting: March 16, 6:30pm, Social Hall
Knights of Columbus
Meeting: March 21, 7:00pm
Parish Council
Meeting: March 23, 6:30pm, Social Hall
Stewardship Committee
Meeting: April 12, 6:00pm, Ed Center

Holy Cross Palm Sunday and Easter Masses

Sign up at Holy Cross to attend these Masses or call Stacey Rooney, 515-490-5034. When all available seating has been reserved, we will inform you of that so you can plan to attend a different Mass.

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

There's Still Time....

to form your personal faith this Lent by participating in ... Scripture Study (in-person/virtual)...Stations of the Cross... Reconciliation...Eucharistic Adoration...weekday Mass...use of reflection resources. These will help God's presence in you become more of a reality in your everyday life and may help God's light shine through you to others in need.

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

No class this week due to spring break.

First Communion families: We begin our special sessions Sunday, March 28 at 1:00pm. This is for at least one parent and child. Please come to the Social Hall and we will begin in opening prayer and divide into groups from there.

At Home Families: Please pick up your final packet. There are some really great things in there to help your families in this season of Lent. You can find these downstairs in the third grade classroom (directly north of the bathrooms).

As we are in the last half of Lent we want to encourage all families to take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We talk about this sacrament often in our classrooms, but unfortunately, this year we don't have a time set aside during each session for the children to celebrate the sacrament. Father has offered many extra times to make it convenient for you. If none of these times work for you, he also will meet via appointment.

March 16/17: No Sessions- Spring Break!
March 23/24: Regular Sessions
Sunday, March 28: Sacramental Preparation:
First Meditation. Children and parents meet
in the Social Hall at 1:00pm
March 30/31: 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: 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

March 17 & 24: No sessions (Spring Break, Confirmation session)
April 7: Final EDGE session for 2020-2021

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

March 17 & 24: No gatherings
April 7: Gathering

Purpose (Confirmation Program)

Session March 24, 6:00 - 8:00pm in the Social Hall.

Attention 8th-11th Grade Teens!

We are pleased to announce that we get to participate in the biannual National Catholic Youth Conference this November in Indianapolis! NCYC has been the highlight of several of our High Schoolers faith development and we feel blessed that the NCFYM has decided to hold this conference. With the uncertainties of Covid and several guidelines in place for large gatherings, the NCYC planning committee has decided to offer the pilgrimage at a limited attendance. In order for our SMHC youth to attend we need to know ASAP if your child would be interested in going to or learning more about NCYC. Please contact Melissa Kahler or Andrea Fisher for more information and details.



Food Pantry Collection

Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass next weekend; we will also have a basket available on the table for monetary donations. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the *Maxwell Food Pantry*.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doug Jones, *Chair* - djones@bossard.com
John Fisher - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Stacey Rooney - Rooneysl17@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Jacki Ausman - jackiausman@gmail.com
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@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 - shawcattle13@gmail.com
Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@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

Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 7 Budget Week 36

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
	\$6,415	\$4,860

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$201,171	\$174,960	\$216,667

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Payments	Unpaid Pledges	Amt. Due
\$51,038	\$5,645	\$3,035	\$45,393

Auto Debit for Tithing

Please consider using this type of tithing if you currently do not. You designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on a pre-determined date. If you have questions or would like to begin ACH, please contact Sarah at sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org or find the form in the vestibule or on our website's home page, <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/>. Thank you to those who currently use ACH for your tithing.



Fish Fry Friday!

Join the Knights of Columbus for their final drive-thru Fish Fry this Friday. Cost is a free will offering.

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

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

Leaders for Stations of the Cross

We pray these Stations each Friday of Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary. Would you like to lead us in the these Stations this Friday or next Friday? We have various books from which to choose. Sign up at St. Mary or contact the office to volunteer. Thank you.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Please join us as we sing this Chaplet after the Stations of the Cross on **Friday, March 26**. This has become a parish Lenten tradition for the past several years and is a beautiful chant to assist us as we pray the Rosary.



A Memorial Gift

We offer you the opportunity to remember a loved one by donating towards the flowers that will decorate our Churches this Easter season. A memorial list will be printed in a future bulletin. Donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes; additional flower envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please return your donation by Sunday, March 28.

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Bishop Joensen has sent a letter and pledge card to each family of the parish asking to support the work of the Diocese. Please consider how you are able to help and mail your pledge card to the parish office or drop in the collection basket. If donating by check, please make it out to the Diocese of Des Moines and we will forward it to them. You can also donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>, using the "Designate" dropdown to choose our parish. Thank you for your continued generosity for this appeal. Our assessment this year is \$51,038.

TAIZÉ Lenten Service

A Taizé Lenten prayer experience is a time to rest in God, to let the words listened to and sung penetrate our being. There is no preaching, no teaching. Just a simple service: short chants, repeated over and over in candlelight, plus some short Scripture readings. And silence. Join us Thursday, March 25, 7:00-7:45pm at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church & Student Center, 1150 28th Street in Des Moines.

St. Joseph Catholic School

Check out our school with a tour! Call or email today to schedule! Contact Jodi Halligan for more information, jhalligan@stjosephcatholicdsm.org, 515-266-3433 or www.stjosephcatholicdsm.org.

Get Your Copy of *The Catholic Mirror* Online

Email communications@dmdiocese.org with your name and parish/town for a digital version, or www.dmdiocese.org/catholic-mirror/digital-version. We are committed that every registered Catholic household gets *The Catholic Mirror* every month; and now you can choose how to receive it!



TRIDUUM SERVICES

Holy Thursday, April 1

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, St. Mary Adoration after Mass until 10:00pm, Social Hall

Good Friday, April 2

3:00pm Stations and Veneration of the Cross, Holy Cross
7:00pm Commemoration of the Passion of Jesus, St. Mary

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 3

8:00pm Mass, St. Mary (no 5:00pm Mass)

Easter Sunday, April 4

Masses: 8:00am, Holy Cross
10:00am, St. Mary

Liturgical Ministers

You are invited to assist with our Palm Sunday Masses, Holy Week Services and Easter Sunday Masses. A sign up is in the vestibule at St. Mary and at Holy Cross or call the parish office to volunteer. Thank you for giving of your time and talents to enhance our Liturgies!

Thank You!

A huge "thank you" to all on the prayer chain who prayed for me with my diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease which was made in September 2020. That diagnosis was confirmed through a DAT brain scan. I was seen at Mayo Clinic today where two doctors told me I do NOT have PD after another brain scan and testing! Thank you very much for prayers that were answered. ~ Deacon Terry

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.*

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.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 14

Theme: We believe

Reading I: Chronicles 36:14-17, 19-29 • Early and often did God send messengers to them.

Reading II: Ephesians 2:4-10 • God is rich in mercy.

Gospel: John 3:14-21 • The light came into the world.

For Children: Who is one person in your life who supports your faith and helps it to grow?

For Youth: How can you move toward God's light in your life? What is your darkness that needs Jesus' healing?

For Adults: When is it difficult for you to believe? What particular line in this reading helps your faith?