



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Third Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2020

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,

Some of you have questioned what precautions we can take regarding the spread of disease. Surely, we should be prudent and do something while not getting carried away. The challenge is that our liturgy by nature is communal. Therefore, how do we be cautious without degrading it? Consider that some parts are both not essential and bring with them greater risk than other parts. With that in mind and as instructed by the bishop, the following changes will be made. Caution about physical contact with others is urged. For now, the encouragement to greet others before Mass in the same way we have been doing it will be halted. This includes the sign of peace. Distribution of the Precious Blood is suspended until further notice. To receive the body of Christ is to also receive the fullness of his body, blood, soul, and divinity. Anyone serving as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion should wash their hands before Mass. Those who receive Communion on the tongue will not be denied, but please consider receiving on the hand for now. The holy water fonts at the entrance of each church have been emptied, though the larger vessels still contain water as it is not accessed in the same way as the water in the fonts. Please pray for those who are sick with this disease (as well as any other) and that this pandemic comes to a swift resolution. ~ 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 |

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|----------------------|--------------|---------|------------|
| 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 4:00 - 4:30p.m. St. Mary, 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.

Priesthood and Religious Life: See Diocesan website at <http://www.vocationsonline.org>.

Mass, Adoration, Stations of the Cross

Tuesday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 18

5:30pm Holy Cross †Dorothy Gannon

Thursday, March 19

8:00am St. Mary †Zac Yeggy

Saturday, March 21

5:00pm St. Mary For the Parish

Sunday, March 22

8:00am Holy Cross †Michael Carpenter
10:00am St. Mary †Leo & Emma Sickerson

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesdays, 6:30pm, St. Mary (following 6:00pm Mass)

Parish Council

Meeting: Tuesday, March 24, 6:30pm, Ed Center

Finance Council

Meeting: **Change of date: Thursday, March 26,**
7:00pm, Ed Center

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: Monday, April 13 6:00pm, Social Hall

Friends of St. Francis

Meeting: Date to be announced

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Sunday, March 15, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 3
Christine Sauer, Kathleen McCarty, Lindsay Farmer

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 and Holy Cross or on our website. We are glad you are here!

† Pastoral Assistance

Please contact Fr. Andrew, 515-367-2685, for pastoral assistance or if a family member is in a care facility, homebound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit.

† How's Your Lenten Transformation?

We are starting the third week of Lent. How are you doing with your Lenten commitments you began on Ash Wednesday? Are you going strong or easing up? Are you struggling? Talk to God about it!

Take advantage of the reflection resources in the vestibule.

The best math equation: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

This Thursday!

We are getting together for conversation, playing games or working on crafts. Join us at 9:30am in the Social Hall!



Stations of the Cross

Retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary. We invite you to join us for these powerful Stations each Friday of Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary. Come walk with Jesus to Calvary.

Following the stations we will have a meal and fellowship.

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 us your time and talents to enhance our Liturgies!

Baby Bottle Campaign

Thank you to those who have already returned their baby bottle and donation for InnerVisions HealthCare. Thank you for your generosity! If you did not return it this weekend, please bring it by next weekend. InnerVisions is a local unplanned pregnancy and STD medical clinic whose mission is to empower women in vulnerable situations to choose parenting or adoption.

Upcoming Events

†**Fridays during Lent, Stations of the Cross:** 6:00pm, St. Mary. Lenten meal on March 20 & April 3. It will be decided at a later date if a fish fry will be held on March 27

†**Easter Vigil Choir practices:** Sundays, now through April 5 after 10:00am Mass, lasting one hour

†**Thursday, March 19:** Crafts, Games & Social Time, Social Hall, 9:30am

†**Facilities in use this week for CGS training:**
Thursday, Social Hall & Ed Center, 5:30 - 9:00pm
Friday, Ed Center, 5:30-9:00pm

Saturday, Social Hall & Ed Center, 8:30am - 9:00pm
Sunday, Social Hall & Ed Center, 12:30pm-5:30pm

†**March 21/22 Weekend:** Collection for Maxwell Food Pantry

†**Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service:** Sunday, March 29, 1:00pm, St. Mary

Music News

Sue Schmidt, coordinator

515-689-9949 / sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org

Easter Vigil Choir: We practice Sundays after 10:00am Mass for one hour now through April 5. All ages welcome! So...if you like to sing...come practice and sing with us for the Easter Vigil Mass on April 11 at 8:00pm. No problem if you can't make all the practices, we are singing songs we already know. Please contact me for additional information.

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 in need. Your donation this month will assist the Maxwell Food Pantry.



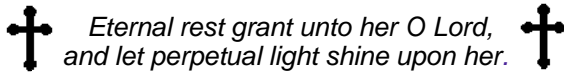
Prayer Chain

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, contact Barb at 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.*

Pleasant words bring encouragement to the soul.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Veda Dyer who passed away Tuesday and for her family that they find peace and strength as they mourn her passing.



Religious Education Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

Please mark your calendars for March 20 at 6:00pm. This is the night our program is leading the Stations of the Cross for the parish. If your child has a reading part, please arrive at 5:40. Otherwise children will sit with their families. There is a simple Lenten meal following.

On March 24 and 25 there is an opportunity for Reconciliation. We will have two priests on March 25. Please take the time to encourage your children to take advantage of this Sacrament of Light!

- March 17/18** - No Sessions - Have a great Spring Break!
- March 24/25** - Regular Sessions and Reconciliation
- Sunday, March 29** - First Meditation for Communal Prep 11:00am, Social Hall & Ed Center.
- March 31/April 1** - Regular Session

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, Grades 7 & 8

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

No EDGE March 18 due to Spring Break for area schools
No EDGE March 25 due to Confirmation session

Confirmation, Grades 9 & 10

Wednesday, March 25: Confirmation Session 6:00-8:00pm, Social Hall



Lenten Reconciliation Service

You are encouraged to attend this Service on Sunday, March 29, 1:00pm at St. Mary. Additional priests will assist with individual confessions.

Come experience the healing power of Christ!

Graduating Seniors!

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce a scholarship to be granted to a high school senior pursuing higher education! Money used to fund the scholarship was donated by the Women's Altar and Rosary Society, the Knights of Columbus, and by anonymous parishioners. If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please pick up an application in the vestibule or find the application on the home page of the parish website.

If you are interested in donating money for future scholarship opportunities, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Will Bates - a_k_bates@live.com
John Fisher - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Stacey Rooney - Rooneyslg17@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dave Pottebaum, *President* - pottebaum5@msn.com
Heidi Ackerman - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Sue Tollefson - suet@iowacubs.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Jacki Ausman - jackiausman@gmail.com
Kathy Gass - k.gass@mchsi.com
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kris Sturtz - ksturtz@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 - sammyjack@partnercom.net
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - lshaw@tru-test.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 8 Budget Week 36

| Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund | <u>Received</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | \$3,239 | \$5,730 |

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

| <u>Received</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Last Year</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| \$219,907 | \$206,280 | \$209,723 |

2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal

An updated report from Diocese will be available soon.

2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal

This Appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as a Diocesan family and support programs and services that our parish could not provide on its own. Information and 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 drop it in the collection basket at Mass. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to reaching our assessment. Please join us to continue God's work of spirituality, charity and education. Thank you.

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, March 21, 5:00pm, St. Mary

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|------------------|--|
| Announcer | Arlene Anderson |
| Lector | Olivia Jones |
| Host Distributor | John Zidon |
| Altar Servers | Jack & Tommy Selby, Bennett Bruns |
| Ushers | Doug, Patrick, Thomas Jones, Drew Hanlon |
| Cantor | Lisa Jones |
| Accompanist | Mary Schmelzer |

Sunday, March 22, 8:00am, Holy Cross

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|--------------|--------------------|
| Announcer | Kathy Daup |
| Lector | Heidi Ackerman |
| Altar Server | Isabella Kuehn |
| Ushers | Tracy Irwin Family |
| Cantor | Drew Hanlon |
| Accompanist | Stacey Rooney |

Sunday, March 22, 10:00am, St. Mary

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|------------------|---|
| Announcer | Tracy Kangas |
| Lector | Kris Sturtz |
| Host Distributor | Mike Nehring |
| Altar Servers | Lauren Feldmann, Griffen & Leah Muth |
| Ushers | Dennis Schmidt, Bill & Kelly Dunbar, Andrew Cory, Jerry McClain |
| Cantors | Garrett McClain Christine Muehlenthaler |
| Accompanist | Celeste Muehlenthaler |

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Money Counters

March 15: Dawn Reynolds, Carol Weber

March 22: Sharon Morris, Kathy Daup

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What is a Prayer Shawl?

A prayer shawl is a soft warm reminder for people going through a rough time that you are not alone and that we are praying for you. If you know someone that could use the comfort of a prayer shawl or are interested in helping make them, please contact Dona Cowman at 515-383-4482 or racefans@iowatelecom.net.

Had a baby? Moved? Dropped your landline?

Please contact the parish office with any changes so our records can be as accurate as possible. Thank you!

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 and WHO radio.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

This Catholic Faith based marriage enrichment program has been providing couples with better communication skills and tools for over 50 years. Start a new chapter in your marriage by attending one of these weekends: April 24-26, Ankeny; May 29-31, Dubuque; November 6-8, Coralville. For more information or to register: iowa-wwme.org or 563-608-3305.



The world produces 381 million tons in plastic waste yearly – this is set to double by 2034.

A Unique Lenten Journey

Please join us for the Passion of our Lord according to John, presented entirely in music and narration. This is a powerful and emotional experience deepening the understanding of Christ's suffering and Passion in a manner only music can often provide. Join us Friday, March 27, 5:30pm at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 2926 Beaver Avenue.

Area Reconciliation Services

- Sunday, March 22, St. Boniface, Waukee, 1:00pm
- Tuesday, March 24, St. Joseph, Des Moines, 6:30pm
- Wednesday, March 25, Assumption, Granger, 6:30pm
- Wednesday, March 25, St. Theresa, Des Moines, 7:00pm
- Thursday, March 26, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona, 7:00pm
- Thursday, March 26, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona, 7:00pm
- Thursday, March 26, St. Pius, Urbandale, 7:00pm
- Saturday, March 28, Basilica of St. John, Des Moines, 10am
- Sunday, March 29, St. Mary, Elkhart, 1:00pm**
- Sunday, March 29, St. Mary of Nazareth, Des Moines, 3pm
- Tuesday, March 31, St. Luke, Ankeny, 6:30pm
- Tuesday, March 31, Sacred Heart, West Des Moines, 7pm
- Wednesday, April 1, St. Augustin, Des Moines, 6:00pm

Visit a Seminary

If you or someone you know has been thinking about becoming a priest, we've got an opportunity for you! Father Ross Parker is taking prospective seminarians to visit Conception Seminary in Missouri March 28-30. See what it's like, talk to seminarians who are discerning what God wants them to do and get your questions answered by Father Ross. Contact him at vocations@dmdioocese.org or 515-237-5050.

Divorced?

Find comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic teachings. The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide 12-week group begins March 23, 6:00pm at Christ the King Parish in The Blessed Mother Room. Cost is \$30 and includes all needed materials. For more information contact Deacon Tony Valdez at t.valdez@me.com. Visit www.catholicdivorce.com.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday of Lent, March 15

Theme: Jesus is the Living Water

Reading I: Exodus 17:3-7 • Is the Lord in our midst or not?

Reading II: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 • We are at peace with God through Christ.

Gospel: John 4:5-42 • Whoever drinks the water I give, will never thirst again.

Question for Children: How do you experience Jesus helping and loving you?

Question for Youth: Jesus revealed himself to an outcast of society. How can you be "living water" to the outcasts of your school? Society? The world?

Question for Adults: When you are tempted to try to satisfy your "thirst for meaning" through some other means, what keeps you coming back to the living water of intimacy with Christ? Through what means do you experience Christ's power in your life: Sacraments? Scripture? Prayer? Others?