



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 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,

This is the fifth Sunday of Lent. Palm Sunday follows. As if to prepare us for the last couple weeks of Lent and Easter, the author of the Psalm begs to be cleansed of his sin. We echo him with the response "Create a clean heart in me, O God." Surely the Lord delights in our desire to be without sin and be right with him because by establishing another covenant with Israel in the first reading, he indicates that is also his desire. He wants it so much that as St. Paul reminds us in the second reading and by what Jesus prophesies in the Gospel, he is not only willing to suffer and die to accomplish such a union, he also carries it out.

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

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| 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 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 23

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

6:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Bill Ross

~ followed by Adoration

Wednesday, March 24

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Beryl Moreland

6:30pm Sunday Scripture Study, office area

Thursday, March 25

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Joe Rubendall

Friday, March 26

6:00pm Stations of the Cross & Chaplet of Divine Mercy,
St. Mary

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 27

11:00am - Noon Reconciliation, St. Mary

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Violet Peterson

Sunday, March 28

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Stephen & Michael Carpenter

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Bernardine Gorman



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

A Lenten Prayer

Most forgiving Lord,
again and again
you welcome me back
into your loving arms.
Grant me freedom
from the heavy burdens of sin
that weigh me down
and keep me so far from you.
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!

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>.

SMHC Temporary Solution Regarding Masks

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

Knights of Columbus
March 21: 6:40pm Rosary, Church
7:00pm Meeting, Social Hall

Parish Council
Meeting: March 23, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship Committee
Meeting: April 12, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Finance Council
Meeting: April 20, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Please join us as we sing this Chaplet after the Stations of the Cross this Friday. This has become a parish Lenten tradition and is a beautiful chant to assist us as we pray the Rosary.

Palm Sunday and Easter Vigil Masses

We will gather in the church for the beginning of both of these Masses. Processions are not allowed this year so please go directly into the church. As you enter, you will be given a palm or candle for the respective Mass.

Holy Week

The central days of our life as Catholic Christians are Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil/Easter. Why not make it a priority this year to attend all our services to commemorate the journey from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, to the Cross and to the Resurrection accomplished by Jesus on our behalf. These are sacred days which give purpose and meaning to all we do as Catholics.

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

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.

On April 6/7 we will have a para-liturgy called the Liturgy of Light at each of our sessions. Modeled after Easter Vigil this is a very beautiful prayer service for the children; parents are welcome to attend. Please let us know if you're interested in attending. We will provide more details as it gets closer.

March 23/24- Regular Sessions
March 28- First Communion Special Session
March 30/31- Regular Sessions
April 6/7- Regular Sessions- Liturgy of Light,
parents welcome to attend.

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 24: No session (Confirmation session)
April 7: Final EDGE session for 2020-2021

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

March 24: No gathering
April 7: Gathering

8th-11th Grade Teens! The biannual National Catholic Youth Conference is this November in Indianapolis! NCYC has been the highlight of several of our High Schoolers faith development and we feel blessed that this conference will be held. 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 or Andrea for more information and details.

Purpose (Confirmation Program)

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

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.

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Thank you to those who have been so generous to this 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. Pledge cards can be mailed to the parish office or dropped in the collection basket. If donating by check, please make it out to the Diocese of Des Moines. You can also donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Our assessment this year is \$51,038.

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 - Rooneyslg17@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
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Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
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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
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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 14 Budget Week 37

| Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund | Received | Budget |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | \$11,137 | \$4,860 |

| Year to Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Received | Budget | Last Year |
| \$212,308 | \$179,820 | \$219,946 |

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

| Parish Goal | Payments | Unpaid Pledges | Amt. Due |
|-------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| \$51,038 | \$17,605 | \$3,860 | \$33,433 |

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.

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



Around 80% of retailers and grocers recycle cardboard.



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 next Sunday.

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!

Graduating Seniors!

Our parish 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 a generous anonymous parishioner. If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please go to <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/2021%20St.%20Mary-Holy%20Cross%20Scholarship%20Application.docx.pdf> or contact the parish office.

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

Covid Memorial Mass

Join us for this Mass in memory of all lives lost due to Covid, this Monday, March 22, 7:00pm at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in West Des Moines. Celebrant is Bishop Joensen. The Rosary will be prayed at 6:30pm. You are invited to bring a picture of your lost loved one for a special blessing during Mass. A special collection will be taken up for the Diocesan Covid Relief Fund.

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 this Thursday, March 25, 7:00-7:45pm at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church & Student Center, 1150 28th Street in Des Moines.

Chrism Mass

Bishop Joensen blesses and consecrates oils used in sacraments throughout the year at this Mass. This year it will be livestreamed. You are invited to watch and join our prayers with others around the Diocese this Friday, March 26, 2:00pm at www.facebook.com/stpatrickimogeneiowa/.

Divine Mercy Sunday

The Diocesan celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday is April 11 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Des Moines. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered at 2:00pm, the Divine Mercy Chaplet is at 3:00pm, followed by Mass at 3:30pm. The Chaplet and Mass will also be livestreamed. Sponsored by Divine Mercy Des Moines Committee, see more at <https://www.divinemercedesmoines.com/>.

Roof Replacement to Begin at St. Mary

Iowa Legends Roofing & Remodeling will be here this Monday, March 22, to begin work on the replacing the roof. Weather permitting, they estimate 3 to 4 days to complete the work.

Will YOU Feed the Hungry?

Our parish has been preparing a meal for the families at the shelter on the second Sunday of each month for a couple of decades. Could you volunteer for July or December? One or more families can prepare and deliver a meal. Due to Covid, meal providers do not enter the shelter and masks are to be worn. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt for a tax deduction. Please share your love with some families who are experiencing unexpected and dire changes to their lives. To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza at kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687.

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.*



Catholic Youth Camp

Campers will see new cabins, a renovated Dingman Lodge and increased number of staff for enhanced safety precautions. We're planning for the most amazing summer ever! Camp is open to 3rd-12th graders. For more information and to register, please go to stmcenter.com.

Our Parish will contribute \$100 of the fee to CYC for each child of our Parish who attends. Please notify Barb in the office when you have registered your child.

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 21

Theme: Death and New Life

Reading I: Jeremiah 31:31-34 • I will make a new covenant with Israel.

Reading II: Hebrews 5:7-9 • Jesus learned to obey God.

Gospel: John 22:20-33 • If it dies, it produces much grain.

For Children: Name one thing you can do or stop doing that will help you have a better friendship with Jesus.

For Youth: Sometimes one thing needs to die in order for something new to be born. When have you experienced this in your own life? What do you need to let go of now for something new to grow?

For Adults: Name one area in your life that you need to let go of, to die to, in order to rise with new life.