



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the gospel reading for this Sunday, Jesus upends the popular belief that maladies are the result of someone's sin. He tells his disciples that "it is so that the works of God might be made visible." These are challenging words that we need to not only hear in this trying time, the world needs them to become our attitude toward the situation in which we find ourselves. We could easily wallow in this mess or like the Christians we are and the saints who have gone before us, we could continue to serve our Lord and neighbors and make God visible to them. This could also be an opportunity to slow down and enjoy life more as opposed to inordinately busy ourselves.

Despite Masses and other activities being cancelled, I maintain a presence in the building and remain available for individual confessions and/or consultation. I recommend taking time to pray with Mass readings, and if you have family, to discuss them. It is not just a pious practice; it is good to keep track of what is going on in the liturgy, especially when you cannot attend. The church will be open throughout the day for anyone to pray. At this time there is no indication as to when Masses will resume and what Holy Week including Easter will be like. Unfortunately, there is still a lot that is unknown. It is frustrating, though that is the reality. For those who have requested Mass for someone: I continue to celebrate daily on my own and honor those intentions.

Thanks to the Augustine Institute, we have a complimentary forty-day subscription to FORMED, a Catholic platform with content including movies, programs, audio, and books for adults and children alike. I encourage especially those families with children preparing to receive a sacrament to take advantage of it.

1. Go to www.formed.org and click on 'SIGN UP.'

2. Select 'I belong to a parish or organization.' Type 'St. Mary-Holy Cross' to find the parish and select it. The address will be next to it. Click 'Next.'

3. Enter your name and e-mail address on the next page, then click 'Sign Up.'

After that you should be able to access the content. If for some reason you have trouble signing up, please let me know. ~ Fr. Andrew

Parish Information

Parish Phone

Fr. Andrew Windschitl

Fr. Andrew Windschitl

Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper

Nicole Cory - Confirmation

Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry

Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry

Barb Liske - Secretary

Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE

Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE

Sue Schmidt - Music

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 Intentions offered by Fr. Andrew

Tuesday, March 24	†Joe Rubendall
Wednesday, March 25	†Wendell & Ruth Carpenter
Thursday, March 26	†Fr. Ed Pfeffer
Saturday, March 28	†Harry & Mary Johnston
Sunday, March 29	†Leo & Emma Sickerson and for the Parish

Changes in Parish Practice

Although we are not able to gather as a parish community, we will communicate through email, our website and our facebook page. If you have not already, please provide your email to Barb (bliske@saintmaryhc.org) to receive updates from us.

~ All Catholics in the Diocese of Des Moines are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. All parish meetings and events are cancelled until further notice.

~ St. Mary's Church will be open for private prayer from 8:00am to 8:00pm Monday through Friday and from 10:00am to 8:00pm Saturday and Sunday.

~ Fr. Andrew will privately celebrate daily Mass and offer the Mass intention for the day. These Masses are not open to the public in keeping with the Bishop's directive.

~ Private, one-on-one confession can be scheduled by appointment with Fr. Andrew (Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org).

~ All Religious Education classes, Preschool through 12th Grade are cancelled until April 14. (See the RE section of this bulletin for a message from program coordinators.)

~ Funerals may be held, but limited to no more than 10 people, according to current CDC guidelines.

~ If it is 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. Staff members will have limited office hours during the week. Phone messages and email will be checked frequently, even when staff is not in the office, and your messages will be returned.

Bishop Joensen emailed all people of the Diocese last Tuesday (*another reason to have your email on file at the parish office*). His pastoral message can be found at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>.

Also at this site you will find a list of parishes that livestream Masses, prayer resources, radio resources, social services and other pertinent information.

† Pastoral Assistance

Please contact Fr. Andrew, 515-367-2685, for pastoral assistance. Care facilities and hospitals have restricted pastoral visits at this time.

We Are Here to Help!

If you are, or someone you know is, in need of assistance due to restrictions from the coronavirus pandemic, please contact the parish office. We will do our best to match your needs to our resources. Also, if you are willing to help in some way, please email Barb.

**God can make a way...when there seems to be no way.
Just ask Him.**

Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic

O Mary, you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.
O loving Mother, you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

Under thy protection we seek refuge,
Holy Mother of God.

In our needs, despise not our petitions,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis

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 on our website. We are glad you are here!

Are You on Your Way to Transformation?



We are more than half way through the Season of Lent. How are you doing with your commitments you began Ash Wednesday? Are you going strong or easing up? Are you struggling? Talk to God about it!

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

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.*

Religious Education Preschool - Youth Ministry

Coordinators

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

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

Dear Families,

To minimize the spread of the Coronavirus, Bishop Joensen has cancelled all public weekend Masses until further notice and has relieved Catholics of their Sunday obligation. All Catholic Schools have also been closed until 4/14. To that end, Religious Education classes at St. Mary Holy Cross are also suspended for the next four weeks. If your family is preparing for a special sacrament we will reach out to you on an individual basis as more information on how to provide these sacraments becomes available.

God Bless,

St. Mary Holy Cross Religious Education Team

First Communion at our parish is suspended until the restriction for public gatherings is lifted by the Governor. As soon as we have more information we will discuss how best to proceed with our preparations. Please continue to pray for these children whose hearts are longing to receive Jesus.

Are you in need of anything? How can we pray for you? If you have specific prayer requests or needs at this time please email Geneveve, gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org, or Tracy, tmiller@saintmaryhc.org.

Confirmation Liturgy has also been postponed. Stay tuned for more information.

Graduating High School 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, 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.*

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fourth Sunday of Lent. *We are children of the Light.*

Reading I: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a • David is anointed king of Israel.

Reading II: Ephesians 5:8-14 • You are people of the light.

Gospel: John 9:1-41 • Jesus gives us sight.

For Children: What are the things that Jesus wants you to do as his friend?

For Youth: Jesus helps each of us see the world differently. How do you see differently because you believe?

For Adults: Share how you, as a child of the light, in the power of Christ, produce goodness, justice, and truth for the world. What specific actions do you take to do this?

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 15 Budget Week 37

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
	\$7,671	\$5,730

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$227,578	\$212,010	\$220,432

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. 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.

Auto Debit for Tithing

Use this safe and convenient service to automatically withdrawal from your bank account for your tithing. Contact Sarah at sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org for more details.