



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 28, 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,

The most important week of our liturgical year begins with Palm Sunday. Jesus enters Jerusalem to what seems like great fanfare. Yet the mood will dramatically change with the events of Good Friday. We already know that they do not last because of the empty tomb of Easter Sunday. Nonetheless, we cannot experience the Resurrection without the other happenings leading up to it. I encourage you to do as much as you can this week to immerse yourself in this divinely orchestrated and grand scheme because eternal life depends on it!

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
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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

Holy Week Schedule	Tuesday	6:00pm	St. Mary
	Wednesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
	Holy Thursday	7:00pm	St. Mary
	Good Friday	3:00pm	Holy Cross
		7:00pm	St. Mary
	Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil	8:00pm	St. Mary
	Easter Sunday	8:00am	Holy Cross
		10:00am	St. Mary

Reconciliation: Tuesday 5:15 - 5:45pm, Cry Room, or by appointment Monday-Friday with Fr. Andrew

No Reconciliation on Saturday, April 3

Baptism: Contact Fr. Andrew for prep program

Marriage: Contact Fr. Andrew at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Holy Week



Tuesday, March 30

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

6:00pm St. Mary †Clifford & Sarah Seuferer
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, March 31

5:30pm Holy Cross †Jim & Margaret Shaw

6:30pm Sunday Scripture Study, office area

Thursday of the Lord's Supper, April 1 (no 8am Mass)

7:00pm St. Mary †Donnie & Rita Smith
Adoration after Mass until 10:00pm in Social Hall

Friday of the Lord's Passion, April 2

3:00pm Holy Cross Stations and Veneration
of the Cross

7:00pm St. Mary Passion Service

Good Friday is a day of fast and abstaining from meat.

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, April 3 (no 5pm Mass)

Mass begins in the Church

8:00pm St. Mary †Bill Devereux

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, April 4

8:00am Holy Cross Patrick Phelan Family

10:00am St. Mary †Harry Richardson

A Prayer for Holy Week

God of love,
My prayer is simple:
Your son Jesus,
suffered and died for me.
I know only
that I cannot have real strength
unless I rely on you.
I cannot feel protected
from my many weaknesses
until I turn to you
for forgiveness and your
unalterable love.
Help me to share this
strength, protection and love
with others. 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.*

Knights of Columbus
April 18: 6:40pm Rosary, Church
7:00pm Meeting, Social Hall

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

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

Parish Council
Meeting: April 27, 6:30pm, Social Hall

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 the next bulletin. *Please return your donation by Monday, March 29.*

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 the our Triduum services to commemorate the Last Supper, Jesus' death on the Cross and his Resurrection, accomplished by him on our behalf. These are sacred days which give purpose and meaning to all we do as Catholics.

Be a Disciple: Stay Awake to Pray!

On Holy Thursday we have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following our 7:00pm Mass until 10:00pm in the Social Hall. A sign up is available at both Churches or call the parish office.

Holy Land Collection

On Good Friday we take up a collection for the works of the Church in the Holy Land. Your donation helps those who care for these holy places and shrines which carry great significance for our faith. They are most grateful for your support. Pray that the Holy Land, with all its history, becomes an example of reconciliation among people and religions.

Easter Vigil Mass

This Mass begins at 8:00pm and we will gather in the church. As you enter you will be given a candle.

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

It is always the aim of our work in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to assist the child to fuller participation in the Mass. They have spent the last few weeks pondering the time of Jesus' Passion. Holy Week has many opportunities to experience our faith with our children. We encourage you to bring your children to the Triduum.

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.

First Communion families please keep an eye on your email for important dates and times!

March 30/31- Regular Sessions
April 6/7- Regular Sessions- Liturgy of Light, parents welcome to attend.
April 13.14- Final 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

April 7: Final EDGE session for 2020-2021

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

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)

Our last session for the year will be Wednesday, April 14 from 6:00-8:00pm at St. Mary. Please watch your email for important information in the coming weeks.

Holy Cross Easter Mass

Sign up at Holy Cross to attend this Mass 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.

Easter Reflection Resources

We have *The Little White Book* and *The Word Among Us* available for your use during the Easter Season. You'll find them in St. Mary's vestibule and Holy Cross' entryway.

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

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
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Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
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STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
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CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
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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 21 Budget Week 38

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
	\$1,937	\$4,860

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$214,260	\$184,680	\$227,551

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Payments	Unpaid Pledges	Amt. Due
\$51,038	\$21,085	\$5,230	\$29,953

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.

Brighten Mary's Day!

Mary Davis of our parish is recuperating after her fall; we are hoping some of our parishioners will send her a card to perk up her day! Her address is The Bridges at Ankeny, 3510 NW Abilene Rd, Ankeny, IA 50023.

Thank You!

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of the Huxley Food Pantry, I thank you for your recent donation of \$471.20. Your continued support of this ministry shows that you take seriously the command to feed God's sheep. Our number of clients this past year was all over the place; 13 households one night to zero the next. It is good to know we have your support!

Sincerely, *Jackie Rasmussen, Coordinator*

Spring Community Service Day

Saturday, April 10 from 8:00am to Noon our Confirmation students and Knights of Columbus will hold their annual Service Day. If you or someone you know is looking for help with yard work or anything outside of the house, we can help! We are not offering help inside of homes this year to limit contact with homeowners. A form is available at either Church and can be dropped in the box there or emailed to Nicole Cory by Wednesday, April 7. You may also contact Nicole, ncory@saintmaryhc.org/515-313-3014, if they can help you, or for more information.

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, 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.

Annual Diocesan Appeal

Please consider how you are able to help support the work of the Diocese and return your pledge card from Bishop Joensen to the parish office or drop it 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>; and from the "Designate" dropdown, choose our parish. Thank you!

Divine Mercy Sunday

This Diocesan celebration is April 11 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Des Moines. Sacrament of Reconciliation offered at 2:00pm, Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00pm, followed by Mass at 3:30pm. This will be livestreamed. See more at <https://www.divinemercydesmoines.com/>.

Tuition Grants for Enrolling at St. Joseph School

If your child attends a public school, St. Joseph's is offering a Welcome Tuition Grant. This grant entitles each child to \$1,000 off tuition the first year and \$500 off the following year. The school would love to schedule a tour for you! Please contact Principal Jodi Halligan for more information, jhalligan@stjosephcatholicdsm.org or 515-266-3433.



70% of corrugated cardboard is recovered for recycling.

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.

The Third Option

Meet some great people while spending some time with your spouse at *The Third Option*. This is a program for couples that are hurting and for couples that want to make a good thing better! We go through 14 skill-based workshops that help couples develop better understanding, sensitivity and trust. We meet each second and fourth Monday of the month, from 7:00-9:00pm at All Saints Church, 650 NE 52nd Ave, Des Moines.

Holy Hour

Faith in the time of crisis is a sign of what a Eucharist-centered Church can offer the world. Bishop Joensen encourages us to renew our focus on the Eucharist as he hosts a Holy Hour at St. Ambrose Cathedral on Mondays 5:00 to 6:00pm at [Facebook.com/dmdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/dmdiocese).

Catholic Women's Conference

You are invited to join a virtual encounter to *Renew and Refresh* on Saturday, April 10. Featured speaker is Barbara Heil, a former Pentecostal minister and now a dynamic and inspirational Catholic speaker. Bishop William Joensen will also speak. It's a morning only event and it's free. Zoom meeting - DCCW Annual Convention. Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461204444>

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Palm Sunday, March 28

Theme: Jesus dies for us.

Reading I: Isaiah 50:4-7 • He opens my ear that I may hear.

Reading II: Philippians 2:6-11 • He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave.

Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47 • The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For Children: Name one thing that you will do each day this week to remind you that Jesus died and rose to new life for you.

For Youth: We hear the story of Jesus' death each year. What did you hear differently this year? How has your faith changed in the past year?

For Adults: Identify and share one way that you personally "die in Christ."