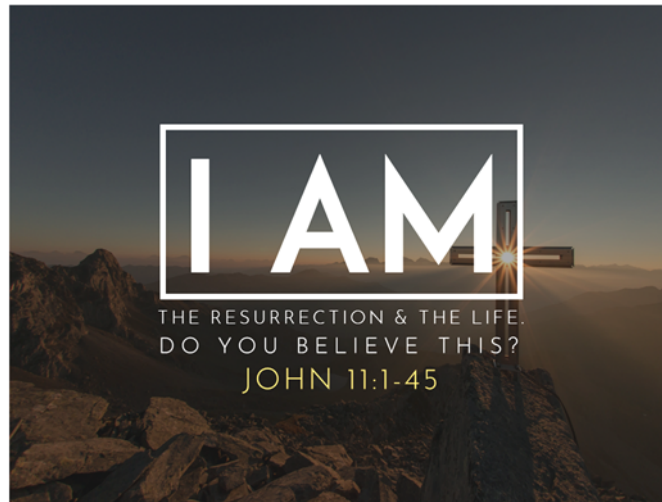




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 29, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is the last Sunday of Lent before Palm Sunday, which initiates Holy Week. In the gospel, Jesus has yet another encounter with someone that ends in him pointing to the paschal mystery. His friend Lazarus is sick and will die and not unlike with the blind man in last Sunday's gospel, he says, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." It is yet another reminder that with faith in this challenging time, we too will be able to recognize the glory of God at work in our lives and the lives of others, even those who are gravely affected.

Is it hard to imagine that the situation in which we find ourselves without Mass and other activities as a parish is only in its second week? If so, perhaps such is how the shock of being deprived of the greatest sacrament affects us. While we as creatures and especially as sinners are not necessarily *entitled to receive the Eucharist, our Lord intends us to receive it. How sweet will be that reunion whenever it occurs?*

As of yet, there is no definitive directive from the diocese regarding Holy Week. Be aware that there might not be any public liturgies. If that will be the case, I intend to put together something that will aid in your entering into the highest holy day of year. Ideas for that are greatly appreciated; please let me know.

Some people have asked if I am recording and broadcasting Masses and the answer is no. The main reason for that is there are so many other priests out there who are doing so. Also, it seems we are being bombarded with a lot of other things at this time. I want to reach out to you in other ways such as the bulletins and an occasional e-mail message that would be more impactful than just another video.

Remember that the office is still open, and I maintain a presence in the building. If you would like to chat and/or go to confession (especially since the Lenten Reconciliation service is cancelled), you can stop by and ask, although a call or e-mail is preferable in case I happen to be out. The church also remains open for prayer from about 8 AM to 8 PM Monday through Friday and about 10 AM to 8 PM on the weekends. ~ Fr. Andrew

Parish Information

Parish Phone	515-367-2685	Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	515-367-2685	Fax	515-367-7028
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org	Web Site	www.saintmaryhc.org
Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper	sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org	Facebook	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org		
Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry	afisher@saintmaryhc.org	Reconciliation:	By appointment only with Fr. Andrew.
Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org	Baptism:	Contact Fr. Andrew for preparations.
Barb Liske - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org	Marriage:	Contact Fr. Andrew at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.
Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE	gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org	Priesthood and Religious Life:	See Diocesan website at http://www.vocationsonline.org .
Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE	tmiller@saintmaryhc.org		
Sue Schmidt - Music	sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org		

Mass Intentions offered by Fr. Andrew

Tuesday, March 31	†Cecilia Morton & son Mike
Wednesday, April 1	†Jim & Margaret Shaw
Thursday, April 2	†Dorothy Gannon
First Friday, April 3	†Joe Shaw
<u>Palm Sunday</u>	
Saturday, April 4	For the Parish
Sunday, April 5	†Don Murphy

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@saintaryhc.org) to receive updates from us as well as from Bishop Joensen.

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. Phone messages and email will be checked frequently, even when staff is not in the office, and your messages will be returned.

See diocesan website <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>, for updates and resources.

Broadcasting of Masses

[Our Lady's Immaculate Heart](#): recorded and uploaded daily
[St. Luke the Evangelist](#): Weekdays Tuesday-Saturday 11:30am on [Facebook Live](#). Sundays 8:30am via Facebook Live, then posted to the [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#)

[All Saints](#): Sunday 9am

[Basilica of St. John](#): Weekday Mass at noon; Saturday 9am; Sunday 10:30am

[Christ the King](#): Sunday 8:30am

[Holy Trinity](#): Daily Mass, Sunday Mass

[St. Anthony](#): Daily Mass 8am, Sunday 9:30am (Latin EF), Sunday 11am

[St. Joseph](#): Sunday Mass, 9am – through Facebook Live

[Sacred Heart](#): Daily 9am, Sunday 9am

[St. Mary of Nazareth](#): Daily Mass Tuesday-Friday at 11am; Sunday Mass at 10am

[St. Theresa](#): Daily Mass 6:30am, Saturday 4:30pm, Sunday 8:30am

Sunday Mass is carried at 8am on KCWI, Channel 23.

Iowa Catholic Radio broadcasts Mass on Saturdays and Sundays at 7 am. <https://www.iowacatholicradio.com/>

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

† 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, 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.

Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making the rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our
children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the
tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap
our arms around each other,
Let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God
to our neighbors.

By Lillian Giornelli

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!

"Keep the Faith" Car Cruise

Let's get out of the house and get together but keep your "social distance". We miss our Saint Mary-Holy Cross family!!!! "What?" you ask. "How do we do that and stay in our safe environment? Let's all meet at the Saint Mary parking lot in Elkhart a little before 1:00pm this Sunday, March 29, but stay in your car and greet those around you through the safety of your car glass or appropriate distance to stay safe. Maybe decorate your vehicle to match your spirit in whatever theme you wish. Just make sure the decorations will hold up to highway speed.

At 1:00pm we will leave the parking lot and cruise through the country (on hard roads) through several of the communities in our parish. The planned route is to pass through Main Street in Elkhart and head East, drive to Holy Cross and through the cemetery then back Northeast to Farrar then on to "scoop the loop" in Maxwell, Cambridge, Huxley, Slater, Sheldahl and Polk City and then back to Elkhart.

Join us if you can anytime along the route or come out and watch for us and wave to us as we pass by. You can make a greeting sign for us.

If you can't join us know that we miss you and care about you. May God bless you and keep you well. Pray for and take care of each other.

Lynn and Chris Schreurs
515-577-8147 / LSchreurs@msn.com

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th grade Coordinators

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

As parents you are well equipped to take care of all of your children's needs. This includes the great privilege of being the primary educators of your children in the faith. It's an honor to be able to walk alongside you on this journey with your children. As distance demands, we are not able to be there with your children week after week, Sunday after Sunday, so we would like to encourage you to know that you have all the tools necessary to continue to facilitate the beautiful relationship between your child and our Lord ! If you are looking for a few ideas to help you along the way, here are a few suggestions you can consider to help you at home. These have worked for us, but no one way to live out the faith is right, just do what works best for you!

Consider making a prayer table. A small coffee table or end table works perfectly. Cover this table with a beautiful cloth, perhaps you have a purple cloth to denote this time of preparation we are in during Lent. If you have a picture of Mary or Jesus, add this to the prayer table, with a statue or a prayer card and The Most Holy Bible, and then place this table in a prominent place in your home. Our family rarely gathers around this table, but its beauty and simplicity set apart our living space and remind us of Jesus. Many people have suggested reading the daily readings to help us remain close to our Lord, and while this is a great practice, we have also found that reading one paragraph from the Gospels, is a great way to start our morning off in prayer before we begin school. We have been able to read through the entire book of Matthew through this method and are now half way through Mark. Another great practice is to pray a family rosary. This too is a bit too lofty for our family and instead when we pray this devotion; we stick to a decade of the rosary. The divine Mercy Chaplet is a much shorter prayer and if you go on YouTube you can find this easily in song. Our children love to sing along with this beautiful prayer and it adds an element of music to our day and prayers.

These are just a few suggestions, but in this new world of schooling from home, and suggestion after suggestion on the internet on how to pass this social distancing time without going too crazy, perhaps you just need to be assured of our prayers! We are praying for our families, and are here to help in whatever way you need. Perhaps that is a phone call, to remind you that you are not alone, or someone to pick up eggs from the grocery store (I have had a lot of luck with Aldi in Ankeny!). Whatever it is, we are here for you and are happy to do whatever we can to help.

If you are looking for a tangible way for you and your children to help others during this time, please consider writing a letter or drawing a picture to the elderly or home bound of our parish. If you are interested, email the parish office to receive a list of addresses.

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

Palms for Palm Sunday



Fr. Andrew will bless the palms and have them available on a table in the vestibule of St. Mary next Sunday, from 10:00 to 8:00pm. Come pick up palms for your family; maybe stop in the Church and read the Passion of our Lord. Please practice social distancing.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

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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

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Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - lshaw@tru-test.com
Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

PARISH TRUSTEES

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Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 22 Budget Week 38

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$175	\$5,730

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$227,753	\$217,740	\$227,294

2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal

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 donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving/annual-diocesan-appeal-giving>, being sure to designate our parish for proper credit. Each gift is vital to reaching our assessment. Thank you.

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$49,556	\$11,665	\$7,590	\$41,966

Considering switching over to automatic withdrawal from your bank account for your tithing? Please contact Sarah Baumberger, sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org, for additional information or find the form on the home page of our website, lower right hand corner.

Change of Information?

Had a baby? Moved? Dropped your landline? New email?
Please email the parish office with any changes
so our records can be as accurate as possible. Thank you!

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 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.*

Church Sign

YOU are the only Bible some people may ever read.

Job Opportunity

St. Joseph Catholic School in Des Moines is looking for a person to drive a bus route for the 2020-2021 school year. The position provides an opportunity for a part-time job with excellent compensation. You would drive a morning route from approximately 6:45-8:15am and then again in the afternoon from 2:45-4:15pm. The schedule would start on August 24 and should end before Memorial Day. You would only work on the days when school is in operation. Please consider this opportunity if you have a CDL or are interested in applying for the license. This is truly an excellent way to have part-time employment and have opportunities for other activities during the day

If you are interested, please contact Ervin Rowlands at erowlands@stjosephschooldsm.org. Please share this with anyone who may be interested in this position.



The world uses over 500 billion plastic bags a year – that's 150 for each person on Earth.

Victim Assistance Advocate

The Diocese encourages anyone with allegations of abuse by clergy to contact their local police department or diocesan Victim Assistance Advocate Sam Porter at Sam.Porter@polkcountyiowa.gov or 515-286-2015. He can assist the person with making a complaint, and with receiving support and counseling services.

Pro Life Quote

"The old law permitted abortion to save one life when two would otherwise die. The new law permits abortion to take one life when two would otherwise live."

~ Herbert Ratner, M.D.

Readings and Questions for Faith

Fifth Sunday of Lent — *New life in Christ Jesus.*

Reading I: Ezekiel 37:12-14 • I will put my spirit in you.

Reading II: Romans 8:8-11 • You are in the Spirit.

Gospel: John 11:1-45 • I am the resurrection and the life.

Question For Children: How do your actions show that you put your faith and trust in Jesus?

Questions For Youth: Lazarus received a second chance at life through Jesus. How have you experienced second chances in your own life?

Questions for Adults: The death from which we are called is healing from those things which bind us and hold us back: memories, fears, rejection... What binds you? What keeps you from fully being your own most true self in Christ?