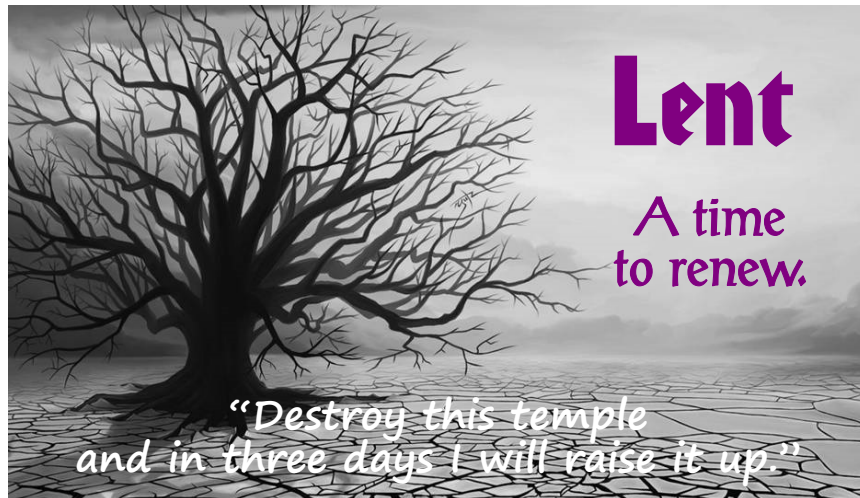




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Third Sunday of Lent
March 7, 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 warm and cuddly Jesus that we may have experienced in the past is clearly not present in the Gospel reading for this Sunday. He seems to be angry because he is in the temple flipping tables. We can safely conclude that anger by itself is not sinful since he never sinned. In this case, he is expressing *righteous* anger over the temple being abused by those selling animals and the money changers. Perhaps we could also conclude that anger is sinful when it is objectively unjustifiable. On a different note, Jesus is purifying the temple, a place where animal sacrifices took place. He connects the purification to his body, which would eventually become the only and ultimate sacrifice necessary for the forgiveness of sin.

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
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org
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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

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 9

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

6:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Tom Bellis

~ followed by Adoration

Wednesday, March 10

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Will & Mikey Carpenter

6:30pm Sunday Scripture Study, office area

Thursday, March 11

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Rita & Donnie Smith

Friday, March 12

6:00pm Stations of the Cross, St. Mary

Saturday, March 13

11:00am - Noon Reconciliation, St. Mary

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Elaine Barnwell

Sunday, March 14

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Tom & Alice Tynan

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mike Lacey

A Lenten Prayer

Loving Father,
So many times
I turn away from you
and always
you welcome me back.
Your mercy and love
gives me confidence.
Thank you for the invitation
to share, fast and pray
so that you can form
a new heart within me.
Your powerful compassion
for my weaknesses
leads me to ask for mercy
and await with great hope
the Easter joy you share with us.

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>.

Temporary Solution Regarding Mask Wearing at St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

Stewardship Committee
Meeting: March 8, 6:00pm, Ed Center
Finance Council
Meeting: March 16, 6:30pm, Social Hall
Knights of Columbus
Meeting: March 21, 7:00pm
Parish Council
Meeting: March 23, 6:30pm, Social Hall

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 our Lenten offerings and the reflection resources in the vestibule.

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

This weekend is the kick off for the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Bishop Joensen has sent a letter and pledge card to each family of the parish asking for support for the work of the Diocese. Please consider how you are able to help. You can mail your pledge card to the parish office or put it in the collection basket. If donating by check, please make it out to the Diocese of Des Moines and we will forward it to them. You can also donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>, using the "Designate" dropdown to choose our parish. Thank you for your continued generosity for this appeal. Our assessment this year is \$51,038.

Change of Information?

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



Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday, March 14. Spring ahead one hour!

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Denise Daup, sister of Rick Daup, who passed away last Monday. She is now at peace with our Lord; may her family find strength and comfort as they mourn her passing.

✠ Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her. ✠

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.

At Home Families: Please pick up your final packet. There are some really great things in there to help your families enter into the season of Lent with your children. You can find these downstairs in the third grade classroom, (directly north of the bathrooms in the Ed Center).

As we enter into the next half of Lent we want to encourage all families to take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We talk about this sacrament often in our classrooms, but unfortunately, this year we don't have a time set aside during each session for the children to celebrate the sacrament. Father has offered many extra times to make it convenient for you. If none of these times work for you, he also will meet via appointment.

March 9/10 & 23/24: Regular Sessions
March 16/17: No Sessions- Spring Break!
Sunday, March 28: Sacramental Preparation:
First Meditation. Children and parents meet
in the Social Hall at 1:00pm

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 10: Session
March 17 & 24: No sessions (Spring Break, Confirmation session)
April 7: Final EDGE session for 2020-2021

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

March 10: Gathering
March 17 & 24: No gatherings
April 7: Gathering

Purpose (Confirmation Program)

Wednesday, March 24, 6:00 - 8:00pm: Confirmation Session,
Social Hall at St Mary.

Brighten Someone's Day!

Bob Baker and Karen Bellis of our parish are homebound due to the pandemic and we are hoping some of our parishioners will send them a card (or have your kids draw them a picture) to perk up their day! Their address is 6750 Corporate Dr. Apt 403 in Johnston, IA 50131. Thank you!

✠ 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

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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

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Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Kris Sturtz - klsturtz@gmail.com
Sue White - charylmyron@q.com
John Zidon - jzidon@msn.com

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Larry Shaw - shawcattle13@gmail.com
Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

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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

February 28 Budget Week 35

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
	\$5,252	\$4,860

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$194,756	\$170,100	\$209,926

Year End Statement

If you would like this statement, please email Sarah at sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org or contact the office, 515-367-2685 with a request to mail or email your statement.

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.

Prayer Partners



Children preparing for their First Holy Communion officially enrolled this past week. Please keep them in your prayers as they anxiously await this exciting moment in their faith journey. If you'd like to promise to pray for one of these children, please take a bookmark with their name on it. These will be on display after each Mass this weekend.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Please join us as we sing this Chaplet after the Stations of the Cross on **Friday, March 26**. This has become a parish Lenten tradition for the past several years and is a beautiful chant to assist us as we pray the Rosary. Below is the history of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

The Chaplet of Mercy is a prayer that Jesus taught St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, a young Polish mystic, in 1935. He directed this humble nun to pray it unceasingly and to encourage others to do the same, attaching to its prayerful recitation a myriad of extraordinary promises.

The Chaplet is prayed in word or song using any ordinary rosary. It can also be sung using various melodies.

Since her death in 1938, devotion to the Chaplet has spread throughout the world. Thousands upon thousands attest to its power, solidifying its place as one of the most popular devotions in the Church today.

Many are unaware that the Lord originally requested that this prayer, in which we offer the Heavenly Father the Body and Blood of Jesus, be recited as a means to appease God's wrath, especially for the scourge of abortion.

Early in her diary, St. Faustina wrote that the Lord instructed her to offer herself, together with Him, to God the Father, repeating words similar to those that He would later dictate as the Chaplet of Mercy. This was to be done to atone for sins being committed in "the most beautiful city" in Poland and to avert a chastisement due there for those sins.

The words with which I entreated God are these: **Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us. (475)**

She wrote in her diary that Jesus Himself said that He was about to destroy one of the most beautiful cities of our country like Sodom was destroyed on account of the crimes perpetrated there.

This 'spark from Poland' - the Chaplet of Mercy - has been called the antidote for abortion, and indeed for all the ills of the world. As it continues to spread in popularity may it enkindle in all hearts the fire of God's love for each and every soul, especially the baby in the womb. May it ignite a flame that exposes all evil and lights the way to the ocean of mercy and eternal life with God.



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 Sunday, March 28.

Fish Fry Friday!



The next and final drive thru fish fry with our Knights of Columbus' delicious food is March 19! Free will offering.



Over 90% of all products shipped in the U.S. are packaged in corrugated boxes, which makes up more than 400 billion square feet of cardboard.

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.

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 be speaking. It will be a morning only event and it's free. You are invited to a Zoom meeting - DCCW Annual Convention. Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91012020000>

The Third Option

This is a marriage enrichment ministry, which meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Strengthen your marriage by joining us from 7:00-9:00pm at All Saints Church, 650 NE 52nd Ave. in Des Moines. Questions? Contact Adam Storey at astorey@dmdiocese.org.

Tuition Grants for Enrolling at St. Joseph School

St. Joseph Catholic School is enrolling now for the 2021-2022 year. 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.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday in Lent, March 7

Theme: We must do what God wants.

Reading I: Exodus 20:1-17 • Keep my commandments.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 • Christ is the power of God.

Gospel: John 2:13-25 • In three days, I will raise it up.

For Children: Share one way in which you "honor your father and mother."

For Youth: Jesus was angry - as we all get at times. When is your anger a good thing? When is it not?

For Adults: As you hear the Commandments proclaimed today, which one of them really strikes you?