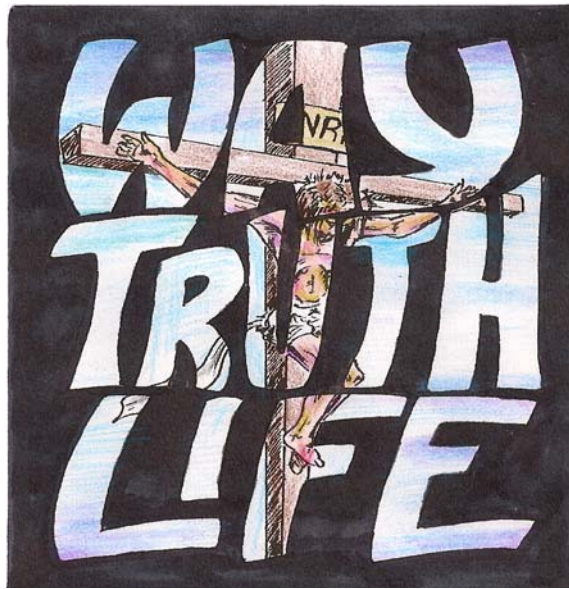




# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Easter season continues unabated as this is already the fifth Sunday. Our readings have taken a turn from emphasizing Jesus' post-resurrection appearances to preparing the disciples for his ascension. And it seems, according to this Sunday's Gospel, that he wants them to not be as concerned about the ascension itself as what happens afterward. At the end of the reading he makes a curious proclamation: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father." What work could a believer possibly do that is greater than what Jesus himself does? While I do not have an answer, it is certainly something about which to pray and think.

During the most recent weekly online meeting with the bishop, other priests, and diocesan staff, we learned that there is now a committee working on a plan for when it is deemed suitable for us to gather again. At this time, I do not know of any details, including any date for when that would happen.

Happy Mother's Day to all you mothers out there. I pray that you experience the love of our Lord and Blessed Mother and bless your children with it. *-Fr. Andrew*

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## Parish Information

<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper</b>	sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Nicole Cory - Confirmation</b>	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	afisher@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Barb Liske - Secretary</b>	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE</b>	gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE</b>	tmiller@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Sue Schmidt - Music</b>	sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org

<b>Email</b>	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Fax</b>	515-367-7028
<b>Web Site</b>	www.saintmaryhc.org
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="#">St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart</a>

**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>.

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## Mass Intentions offered by Fr. Andrew

Tuesday, May 12	†Joe Shaw
Wednesday, May 13	†Cecelia Morton & son Mike
Thursday, May 14	†Catherine McMahon
Saturday, May 16	†Albert & Helen Schmidt
Sunday, May 17	For the Parish

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

### We Are Here to Help!

If you are homebound, at high risk, caring for family, or know someone who is, and are in need of help with errands, picking up prescriptions or groceries, etc., please contact the parish office. Also, if you are willing to help in some way, please email Barb.

### Change in Parish Practice

If 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 the diocesan website at

<https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>  
for livestream Masses, updates and resources.



### Easter Season Resources

We have *The Little White Book* and *The Word Among Us* available in the vestibule of St. Mary for your use this Easter Season which goes through Pentecost celebrated on May 31. If you'd like one mailed to you, please contact the office.

### Join Us in Crowning Mary This Month

It is a Catholic tradition to honor Mary, our Mother, during the month of May by placing flowers at her statue. We invite you to bring flowers throughout this month to place in the vases by our Mary statue in St. Mary's Church and also by the statue of Mary south of the Church. Thank you for helping us honor the Blessed Mother of Jesus as we give thanks to her for bringing our Savior into the world.



### Church Sign

**Faith in Jesus can turn stumbling blocks  
into stepping stones.**

### Have You Tried It Yet?

Our parish is currently able to offer online giving through the generosity of the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa. They have provided all parishes with a secure link: <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. Using the drop down menu, you can choose our parish (St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart) and make your donation. Contributions made through this platform will be treated as tithes to our parish. There are no fees associated with this, so ALL of your donation goes to our parish. The Foundation will send all gift acknowledgement letters.



### A Prayer to End a Pandemic

Let us pray, dearly beloved,  
for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic  
that afflicts our world,  
that our God and Father will heal the sick,  
strengthen those who care for them,  
and help us all to persevere in faith:

Almighty and merciful God,  
source of all life, health and healing,  
look with compassion on our world,  
brought low by disease;  
protect us in the midst  
of the grave challenges that assail us  
and in your fatherly providence  
grant recovery to the stricken,  
strength to those who care for them,  
and success to those working  
to eradicate this scourge.  
Through Christ our Lord.

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 form found in the vestibule of St. Mary and on our website. We are glad you are here!

### Thank You

Fr. Andrew and St. Mary-Holy Cross Family,

Many thanks for the card and caring thoughts at this sad time. Claudette was the kindest soul. We miss her greatly.

~ Kirk, Liz, Lindy & Riley Peterson

### Provide a Meal!

We are looking for three volunteers to provide a Sunday evening meal for guests at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter on the second Sunday of September, November and December 2020. One or more families can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal. Currently because of COVID - 19, although we hope it won't be the case come September, the shelter does not allow meal providers into the shelter and accepts the meal at the front door. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt to use for a tax deduction. To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza at [kautza@netins.net](mailto:kautza@netins.net) or 515-964-7687. Peace of Christ to all during this unsettling time.

## In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Paula Wilson**, sister-in-law of Janet Phelan, who passed away April 29 and for the repose of the soul of **Jeanette Baldwin**, mother of John Baldwin, who passed away May 3. May they be at peace with our Risen Lord and comfort for the sorrowing hearts of their families.

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

## Religious Education

### Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, [gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org), 515-556-4150  
Tracy Miller, [tmiller@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org), 515-520-7981

Families anticipating the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion should have received an email from us. If you have not received it or have any questions, comments or concerns please let us know.

Please pray for the following children as they await these beautiful sacraments: *Evelyn, Scottie, Carver, Beckett, Grace, Kayden, Ava, Finley, Charlie, Aliya, Landon, Kaylee, Mackenzie, Brenna, Marcus, Ayla, Drew, Will, Luke, Colin, Claire, Dawson and Michael.*

### Grades 7-12 Coordinators

Melissa Kahler, [mkahler@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org), 515-290-2830  
Andrea Fisher, [afisher@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org), 515-240-5059

### Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

Nicole Cory, [ncory@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org), 515-313-3014

Hello everyone, we hope this finds you all healthy and happy. We wanted to let you know of another free Catholic app that we discovered a short time ago. It's called Catholicify. This is an app designed to help grow your faith. You can join a social prayer network that is built especially for the Catholic Church. There are several opportunities to grow in your Catholic faith by scheduling goals to remember to pray a rosary, fast or even call your Grandpa. You can find Mass and endless resources for Mass readings, Catholic prayers, saints and more! The second item we wanted to share with you is a podcast that we find both informative and funny called The Crunch-A-Catholic Podcast. This podcast is geared toward high school youth and older. The topics covered are relevant and often shared in a humorous manner and quite entertaining! We hope you find time to check out the above resources. Please reach out to us if there is anyway we can help you and your family during our time apart from our church.

May God continue to bless you and your family!

*Andrea, Nicole and Melissa*

**Confirmation 1 & 2:** The first online session has been sent out, please let Nicole know when you've completed it. Watch your emails for more lessons and updated information.

## 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 515-367-2685 or [bliske@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:bliske@saintmaryhc.org).

*If the request is not for you, please ask permission of the one it is for to be on our prayer chain.*

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Will Bates - [a\\_k\\_bates@live.com](mailto:a_k_bates@live.com)  
John Fisher - [Johntfisher@sienafastener.com](mailto:Johntfisher@sienafastener.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Tim Loraditch - [Tloraditch@gmail.com](mailto:Tloraditch@gmail.com)  
John Roberts - [jroberts@huxcomm.net](mailto:jroberts@huxcomm.net)  
Stacey Rooney - [Rooneyslg17@gmail.com](mailto:Rooneyslg17@gmail.com)

## FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dave Pottebaum, *President* - [pottebaum5@msn.com](mailto:pottebaum5@msn.com)  
Heidi Ackerman - [heidimdittmer@gmail.com](mailto:heidimdittmer@gmail.com)  
Diane Gannon - [ddkgannon@gmail.com](mailto:ddkgannon@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Laurie Phelan - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Sue Tollefson - [suet@iowacubs.com](mailto:suet@iowacubs.com)

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - [arlene@4andersons.com](mailto:arlene@4andersons.com)  
Jacki Ausman - [jackiausman@gmail.com](mailto:jackiausman@gmail.com)  
Kathy Gass - [kathygass68@gmail.com](mailto:kathygass68@gmail.com)  
Beth Hart - [mrsmathart@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmathart@gmail.com)  
Kelly Hoffmeier - [nkhoff@msn.com](mailto:nkhoff@msn.com)  
Tammi McClain - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)  
Kris Sturtz - [klsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:klsturtz@gmail.com)  
Sue White - [charylmyron@q.com](mailto:charylmyron@q.com)  
John Zidon - [jzidon@msn.com](mailto:jzidon@msn.com)

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Karen Bellis - [puzzlenuts@aol.com](mailto:puzzlenuts@aol.com)  
Pat Bishop - [pjbishop@midiaowa.net](mailto:pjbishop@midiaowa.net)  
Lowell Crouse - [l3jl@windstream.net](mailto:l3jl@windstream.net)  
John Freeman - [johnfmingo@hotmail.com](mailto:johnfmingo@hotmail.com)  
Tracy Irwin - [irwin@partnercom.net](mailto:irwin@partnercom.net)  
Lynn Schreurs - [lschreurs@msn.com](mailto:lschreurs@msn.com)  
Larry Shaw - [lshaw@tru-test.com](mailto:lshaw@tru-test.com)  
Mike and Mary Winders - [Mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:Mwinde59@yahoo.com)

## PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - [fogarty929@gmail.com](mailto:fogarty929@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)

## PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - [Mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:Mwinde59@yahoo.com)

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

May 3 Budget Week 43

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$6,457	\$5,730

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$260,837	\$252,120	\$258,886

## 2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Information and a 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	\$32,651	\$27,186	<b>\$22,370</b>

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

## Blood Drives Essential for Health of the Country – May 28 Drive Still On

Blood is a critical part of healthcare and blood drives are essential to the health of our country according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which has exempted blood donation locations from the COVID-19 recommendation that gatherings of ten be canceled. Our Elkhart Community Blood Drive will be held as planned on Thursday, May 28 from 3:00 – 7:00pm in the social hall. There will be changes, however, to ensure the safety of the blood supply, blood donors, and LifeServe team members. LifeServe has doubled their disinfecting and sanitizing routines. LifeServe will disinfect all surfaces in the social hall (chairs, tables, etc.) that they will use both before, during, and at the conclusion of the drive. All team members will also wear face masks during the drive and donors are asked to wear their own. LifeServe is also practicing social distancing as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Additionally, LifeServe Blood Center has implemented new donor screening questions and is monitoring the health of every LifeServe team member.

All blood donors are to schedule appointments (see below if you don't already have an appointment). Walk-in donations are not accepted. Donors are asked to pre-screen their temperatures. Donors should refrain from giving blood for 28 days if in the past 28 days:

- Donor has traveled to a country in which the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified outbreaks.
- Donor has been diagnosed with or is suspected of having COVID-19
- Donor has lived with an individual or individuals diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19

**No volunteers or treats** are needed to assist with the blood drive as only LifeServe team members and donors will be allowed in the area during the drive and LifeServe will provide their own snacks.

**To schedule an appointment**, visit <https://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/>. Select "Donate;" then select "Schedule Your Donation;" then "Schedule a Donation Now;" then "Sponsor Name Search;" then enter "Elkhart;" then "Search;" then Elkhart Community should show up then select "Schedule;" then pick an available time and either log in or create an account. If you have difficulties or questions, please call LifeServe Blood Center 800-287-4903 and tell them you wish to sign up to donate at the Elkhart Community Blood Drive.



## Hello from Me and My House!

Spring greetings! I hope that this finds you healthy and happy. It has almost been 2 months since we were last able to gather to celebrate Mass. It's been that long and yet so many of us are still trying to wrap our head around what's happening.

We are being inundated with a frenzy of media. It's hard to decipher what is true, false, accurate or exaggerated. I don't feel like I know any more now than I did at the beginning and I find myself second guessing everything. I can say with certainty that much has changed and if I'm being honest, I'm delighted about it.

I've seen so much "loving thy neighbor" lately that it makes my heart swell. Communities are answering the call of those in need and are coming together just like the good old days but in some new and unique ways too. The good old days being those when we saw a stranger walking down the road looking disheveled, we didn't immediately assume they meant us harm. Days when there was a little more love and trust in the world.

People are writing letters again. The care of the most vulnerable in our communities: the young, elderly, weak, poor, ill etc. has become more of a priority than I've seen in my lifetime. Community gardens are being planted, food banks are filling up, groceries and supplies are being delivered. Families are cooking at home and sitting down to eat dinner together often. And people are reaching out to check on each other on a regular basis.

Social media pages titled: How can we help? are popping up everywhere. Parades are the new way to celebrate things. Those with birthdays, graduations, or weddings have lines of cars driving by to say hello and mailboxes are filling up with cards. Even though we cannot get together, celebrations are bigger than they've ever been before. People are freely passing on things they no longer use—rather than seeking a profit.

The time and talents of many are being shared with the world. From opera singers on the balconies of Italy to American singers doing a free concert from their living room. The entire city of New York stops what they are doing at the same time each day to cheer on essential workers from their doors and windows. Yoga instructors and fitness gurus are offering their classes free online. Teachers are learning new ways to teach through technology and staying connected to their students.

We are all learning to live with a new normal and there is so much good coming out of it. How often have we taken for granted the ability to just go somewhere, or reaching out to those in isolation? How many Masses have we skipped thinking... I'll go next week? How many opportunities have we pushed off only to realize now it is vastly different? I sincerely hope that much of this new attitude of caring, giving, and staying connected is here to stay. Until we can gather again if you need help — keep asking for it. And if you can help, keep giving it!

Email [joshua2415smhc@gmail.com](mailto:joshua2415smhc@gmail.com) with any thoughts, ideas, and opinions you have.





In one year the U.S., steel recycling saves enough energy to heat and light 18,000,000 homes!

## Pope Francis: Day of Prayer, Fasting and Works of Charity on May 14

May 03, 2020, by Jim Fair

### Purchase a Flag for Holy Cross Cemetery



Again this year we will be installing new flags to add to the already 135 American flags that we display four times per year in Holy Cross Cemetery. Memorialize your special someone with a flag that will be flown on Memorial weekend, Fourth of July, Labor Day weekend and Veteran's Day. Your flag pole will be marked with a laser engraved tag that identifies the honoree and the donor. Price is \$160 which includes the flag and pole, identifying label, base installation, raising and lowering the flag and flag storage. Contact Barb at the parish office with your request by **Tuesday, May 19** and provide her with identification label information and payment (checks made payable to Lynn Schreurs). Contact Lynn if you have any questions: 515-577-8147. Reminder-----we only install new flags once a year prior to Memorial weekend.

### Catholic Youth Camp Registration is Open!

Registration is conducted on a "first come, first serve" basis and is only online at [stmcenter.com](http://stmcenter.com). Camp is open to 3rd-12th graders. Go to [stmcenter.com/news-1](http://stmcenter.com/news-1) for information about camp and Covid-19. Our Parish will contribute \$100 towards the fee for CYC for each child of our Parish who attends. Please notify Barb in the parish office by May 15 if you have registered your child for CYC.

### Holding Tiny Hands

This is a nonprofit run by parishioners Bob and Susan Selby. They are asking for volunteers to make masks for parents of preemies and other critically ill infants in the neonatal intensive care units of Blank and Mercy. If you are able to help, please see instructions with specifications at <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/Instructions%20for%20making%20masks.pdf>. When you're finished please reach out to Susan by email, [susan@holdingtinyhands.org](mailto:susan@holdingtinyhands.org) or by phone, 515-441-0324, to arrange for pickup. Susan is also happy to answer any questions that you may have. Find out more about this nonprofit at <https://www.holdingtinyhands.org/>.

### Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 10

Theme: *Jesus, our cornerstone.*

*Reading I:* Acts 6:1-7 • They chose leaders to care for the poor.

*Reading II:* 1 Peter 2:4-9 • Come to the Lord, a living stone.

*Gospel:* John 14:1-12 • If you know me, you know my Father also.

*Question for Children:* What are some ways that you can act like Jesus would if he were in your situation?

*Question for Youth:* Jesus is "the way, the truth, the life" and he asks us to do as he does. How do you try to follow Jesus' way?

*Question for Adults:* How are the promises of this Gospel passage made real in your own life? How do you experience yourself doing greater works than even Jesus did?

Pope Francis has accepted the proposal from the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity for May 14, 2020, to be a Day of Prayer and Fasting and Works of Charity, to implore God to help humanity overcome the coronavirus pandemic.

The Holy Father made this announcement after praying the Regina Caeli from the Library of the Apostolic Vatican Palace.

"We began May a short while ago, Marian month par excellence, during which the faithful love to visit Shrines dedicated to Our Lady," Pope Francis said. "This year, because of the health situation, we go spiritually to these places of faith and devotion, to place in the Holy Virgin's heart our worries, expectations, and plans for the future."

"And, as prayer is a universal value, I have accepted the proposal of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity so that next May 14 believers of all religions unite spiritually in a Day of Prayer and Fasting and Works of Charity, to implore God to help humanity overcome the coronavirus pandemic. Remember: May 14, all believers together, believers of different traditions, to pray, fast, and do works of charity."

*Please join our Holy Father this Thursday for a day of prayer, fasting and works of charity.*

Regina Caeli

- V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
- R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
- V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
- R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.
- V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
- R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### Meals From the Heartland

The impact of Covid-19 has created a massive need to get food to hungry people here in Iowa and around the U.S. Meals From the Heartland has sent out over 75,000 meals to those in need here in Iowa and surrounding states since March 13. With social distancing restrictions in place, they have found safe and creative ways to continue packaging meals on a limited basis. Their Center will be open for meal packaging starting May 19. They invite you to come help package meals - all while keeping people safe and helping those in need! For more information and to sign up please go to <https://mealsfromtheheartland.org/covid-friendly-meal-packing/>.

### Christ Our Life Catholic Regional Conference

September 26 & 27 at Wells Fargo Arena.

To learn more, contact our parish "Go To" folks: Heidi Ackerman, 641-203-5322 / [heidimdittmer@gmail.com](mailto:heidimdittmer@gmail.com) or Dona Cowman, 515-383-4482 | [racefans@iowatelecom.net](mailto:racefans@iowatelecom.net)