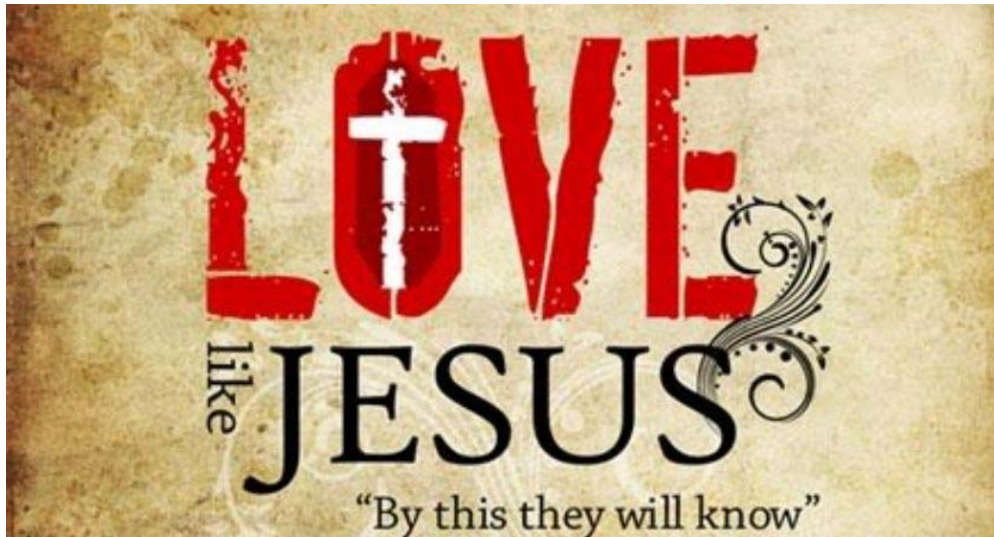




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

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:

For what it is worth, I have been praying for the parish as a whole and for Fr. Kirby, that everyone experiences a peaceful transition. It has been a tumultuous several years here with flooding, disease, and storm. Some people have joked that we have yet to endure pestilence. Whatever the trial, God always offers the grace we need to at least persevere. Context is key when reading Scripture. We should be careful to not isolate parts of it, especially just to prove a point we want to make. Because of its context, the Gospel this Sunday is more mysterious than it would be by itself. Jesus states, "Now is the Son of Man glorified." Immediately before he says this, Judas decides to betray him and leaves the supper. Despite this tragedy, Jesus is glorified. His glorification is indicative of the love that he has for us. Then he commands us to have for each other. Let us love particularly, but not only our fellow Christians notably when is really hard to do because Christ himself demands it of us and so that others might be drawn to him. "See what love they have for one another." ~ Father 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
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
Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org

Mass Schedule	Tuesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
	Wednesday	5:30pm	St. Mary
	Thursday	8:00am	St. Mary
	First Friday	9:00am	St. Mary
	Saturday	5:00pm	St. Mary
	Sunday	8:00am	Holy Cross
	4th Sunday	12:00pm	St. Mary

Reconciliation: St. Mary: Wednesdays 4:45 - 5:15pm and Saturdays 4:00 - 4:30pm; or by appointment.

Baptism: Contact Fr. Andrew

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

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration

Tuesday, May 17

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Stephen & Michael Carpenter

Wednesday, May 18

4:45 - 5:15pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

5:30pm Mass, St. Mary †James Holden
~ followed by Adoration

Thursday, May 19

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mary Maxwell

Saturday, May 21

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

5:00pm St. Mary †Mark Schmidt

Sunday, May 22

8:00am Holy Cross People of the Parish

10:00am St. Mary †Leo & Emma Sickerson

A Prayer to Mary

*Blessed are you, O Mary,
silent witness of Easter!
You, O Mother of the Crucified One
now risen,
who at the hour of pain and death
kept the flame of hope burning,
teach us also to be,
amongst the incongruities of passing time,
convinced and joyful witnesses
of the eternal message of life and love
brought to the world
by the Risen Redeemer.*

Pope John Paul II, 2004

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!

Live the Easter Season

The resurrection of Jesus is such overwhelming Good News that we celebrate the Easter season until Pentecost, which is June 5. The Diocese has a wealth of resources that encourage us to be an Easter people through the spring. There's a guide with family-friendly ideas for how to celebrate the season highlighting various feast days. There are Sunday Gospel reflection questions for families and personal reflections and a Liturgy of Light prayer experience that can be celebrated at home any time. Go to dmidiocese.org/easter and check out the many ways we can continue to celebrate Christ's resurrection!

Catholic Charities Collection This Weekend

For more than 95 years, Catholic Charities has provided essential services to those in need within our southwest Iowa diocesan community. The mission of Catholic Charities is to empower individuals and strengthen families which exemplifies the Catholic Social Teaching principles in advancing human dignity and service to others. Today in the midst of ever increasing needs, such as food, shelter, health and safety, and resettlement, the services offered by Catholic Charities helps help to respond to these socio-economic necessities. During the past few years, Catholic Charities, in partnership with the Diocese, has also extended support to those affected by floods, tornadoes, the derecho, rental assistance, COVID-19, and other disaster-related events within our Diocese. Your donation is most appreciated.

Covid Updates

From Bishop Joensen: Masks are optional for the faithful and clergy during Mass and other indoor activities and are no longer required for the distribution of Holy Communion. Everyone is encouraged to discern the use of masks based on their own health and potential immunity to COVID-19.

If you wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please receive from Fr. Andrew (he sanitizes after each).

Masks and hand sanitizer are available. *Diocesan updates:*
<https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>

Parish Council

Meeting: May 24, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: May 17, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: June 13, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

May 15, 6:40pm Rosary, SM, 7pm Mtg, Hall

Coming Events

- †**This Weekend:** Catholic Charities 2nd collection
- †**Weekend of May 21/22:** Food Pantry Collection for *The Blessing Box* in Elkhart
- †**Blood Drive:** Thursday, May 26, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall
- †**Vacation Bible School:** Tuesday, June 21 - Thursday, June 23, 5:00-7:30pm, St. Mary

Purchase a Flag for Holy Cross Cemetery

Memorialize your special someone with a flag to be flown Memorial weekend, Fourth of July, Labor Day weekend and Veteran's Day, along with our current flags. Your flag pole will be marked with a laser engraved tag that identifies the honoree and the donor. Price is \$200 which includes the flag and pole, identifying label, base installation, raising and lowering the flag and flag storage. **Orders and payment due today, Sunday, May 15 to Lynn Schreurs.** Go to <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/holy-cross-cemetery-committee> for the order form of find them at church. Please contact Lynn, 515-577-8147, if you have questions. Note that we only install new flags once a year prior to Memorial weekend.

InnerVisions Baby Bottle Campaign

InnerVisions HealthCare is a local unplanned pregnancy and STD medical clinic. Their mission is to empower women in vulnerable situations to choose parenting or adoption. Next weekend you'll find baby bottles in a bassinet; please take one, fill it with change, cash, or check (made out to InnerVisions HealthCare) and return it the following weekend. If you have any questions, please contact Bryan at InnerVision's (515-280-4706). To learn more about their two clinics and life-affirming mission, visit www.ivhcare.org.

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

Registration for next year is underway! We look forward to receiving everyone's registration and getting a head start on our preparations for next year.

Join us for *Summer With The Saints!* June 21-23rd, from 5:00 -7:30. We look forward to seeing you there! Let us know if you or your teen would like to help!

Both of these registration forms have been emailed and are available at church. Completed forms can be emailed to bliske@saintmaryhc.org, mailed to the office or dropped off at the office.

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

Purpose Confirmation Program

Friday, May 20, 6:30pm, Confirmation Liturgy Rehearsal
Dinner for sponsors and teens.

Saturday, May 21, Confirmation Liturgy. Teens to be there by 12:50pm, Liturgy begins at 2:00pm.

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



Food Pantry Collection

This collection is next weekend. Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass; we will also take up a monetary collection. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing with those who need a little help. Your donation this month will assist Elkhart's Food Pantry *The Blessing Box*. Thank you for your continued support.

Memorial Day



This day was established after the Civil War as a means to unify the country with a national day of remembrance. Please join us for 10:00am Mass at Holy Cross Church on Monday, May 30. The Maxwell Legion and the McKinsey Guard Bagpipers will be present following Mass. Come see our Avenue of Flags. We will also have a self-guided walking tour available at the church and cemetery.

Holy Cross Cemetery Collection

We will have a second collection at our Masses on Memorial weekend and at our Memorial Day Mass for Holy Cross Cemetery. The funds will be used for maintenance of the grounds. If you are unable to attend Mass here that weekend or on Memorial Day, you are welcome to mail your donation to the parish office. Please make checks out to Holy Cross Cemetery. Thank you in advance for your support to assure Holy Cross Cemetery remains a beautiful resting place.

Outdoor Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus will be serving a pancake breakfast outside at Holy Cross Church on Sunday, May 29 following 8:00am Mass.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com
Celia Shedd - hoyhill@partnercom.net

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heidi Ackerman, *Co-President* - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
Sue Tollefson, *Co-President* - suet@iowacubs.com
John Fisher - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
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

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Karen Bellis - puzzlenuts@aol.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiova.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com
Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - shawcattle77@gmail.com
Mary Winders - mefothergill@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

**Live, so that when people get to know you,
they will get to know Christ.**

Weekly Collection Financial Update

May 8	Budget Week 45		
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$3,322	\$5,642	
<i>Year to Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund</i>			
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
	\$264,789	\$253,890	\$242,901

2022 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Please consider how you are able to help support the work of the Diocese and return the pledge card sent by Bishop Joensen, by mail to the parish office or dropped in the collection basket at Mass. If donating by check, please make it out to the Diocese of Des Moines. You can also donate at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown.

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$54,744	\$40,460	\$37,835	\$2,625	\$16,909

Thank you to those who've already donated so generously!

Laudato Si Small Group Study

Join us for a study of Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si' On Care for Our Common Home*. We as human beings are united by the concern of our planet, and every living thing that dwells on it, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Ken and Rita Bresnan will facilitate the group that will meet weekly for two hours, over the course of four weeks - May 16, May 23, June 6, and June 13 from 1:00-3:00pm via Zoom. Anyone interested in learning more about our common call to be good stewards of the earth and all who inhabit the earth are welcome and encouraged to join the conversation. Cost is \$30. <https://csm.coursestorm.com/course/laudato-si-small-group-study>.

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.*

You Can Help Save Lives!



Sign-up in the vestibule of St. Mary to donate your valuable and much needed blood at our drive on Thursday, May 26 from 3:00 to 7:00pm in the Social Hall. Or sign up at www.lifesevebloodcenter.org. Appointments are required. It only takes about 30 – 45 minutes from check-in to check-out and then enjoy beverages and homemade treats at our canteen. If you are unable to donate but would like to help, we welcome homemade treats and volunteers to help in the canteen. To help please contact Lisa and Tim Kautza, kautza@netins.net; 515-964-7687.

Liturgical Ministers Needed

Memorial weekend is coming up and ministers for our Masses are by sign up. Please contact Barb at the office if you are able to help out. Thank you!!

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit: Please consider using this type of tithing. You designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on the 15th or the 30th. If you have questions or would like to begin ACH, please contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org or find the form on the table at church or on the home page of our website.

Online Giving: This is available through the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa with this secure link: <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. On the drop down choose *St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart* to make your tithe donation. No fees! The Foundation sends gift receipts.

Thank you for considering one of these for your tithing.

World Youth Day 2023

All young adults are invited to join the Diocese for a pilgrimage to Lisbon, Portugal next summer for World Youth Day. This opportunity is held only once every few years, and is a fantastic opportunity to encounter the Lord through his global Church. The two-week pilgrimage includes a few days hosted by a Lisbon family, a week of hotel lodging for World Youth Day itself, and a day trip to Fatima after hearing from the Pope. For more information: www.dmdiocese.org/wyd23!



Recycling one ton of plastic bottles saves the equivalent energy usage of a two person household for one year.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

This Catholic faith based marriage enrichment program is for couples who want to keep their marriage vibrant and alive. Find out how by attending one of these upcoming experiences: September 9-11 in Dubuque or November 18-20 in Holstein. For more information or to register go to iowa-wwme.org or call 563-608-3305.

Achilleus and Nereus, Martyrs, c. First Century

As with many of the early martyrs, little is known with certainty about these two saints and many of the accounts are conflicting. What is not disputed is the site of their graves, the catacomb of Domitilla in Rome. But, with that as a starting point, we can surmise the most likely history of their martyrdom.

Persecution of Christians occurred over much of the first three centuries of the Church; however none of the early harassment matched that which began with the ascension of Trajan to Emperor in 98 A.D. An elite unit assigned to the emperor was charged with hunting down Christians and killing those who would not apostatize. Achilleus and Nereus were members of this unit.

While it is not known how long Achilleus and Nereus participated in this persecution, it is believed that, witnessing the strong faith of those who suffered martyrdom at their hands, these two were converted to Christianity and resigned their commissions. As had their victims, Achilleus and Nereus refused to offer sacrifices to the pagan gods to spare their lives. For this, they were beheaded in about 100 A.D. Their bodies were recovered and placed in the catacomb of Domitilla where many of their victims had been buried.

Pope Damasus (366-384 A.D.) was extremely interested in the history and tombs of the martyrs of the early Church and had an epitaph inscribed near the tombs of these two soldiers which praised these two praetorian soldiers who volunteered for military service and were carrying on their "cruel" duty, but suddenly laid aside their madness, "cast down shields, helmets, and bloodstained weapons," were converted, and "bear with the triumph of Christ, they were put to death with the sword."

An optional memorial honors these two martyrs on May 12.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 15

Theme: Jesus commands us to love one another!

Reading I: Acts 14:21-27 • They assembled the church and gave an account of all that.

Reading II: Revelation 21:1-5a • God will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35 • Love one another!

Children: How do you make obvious that you love your family and friends?

Youth: The world is full of examples of people who don't love others. What are the results of hate that you see in the world? How would the world be different if we followed Jesus' commandment?

Adults: Jesus' commandment to love another is a challenge. What will you do this week to deepen the love you have for those around you in life?