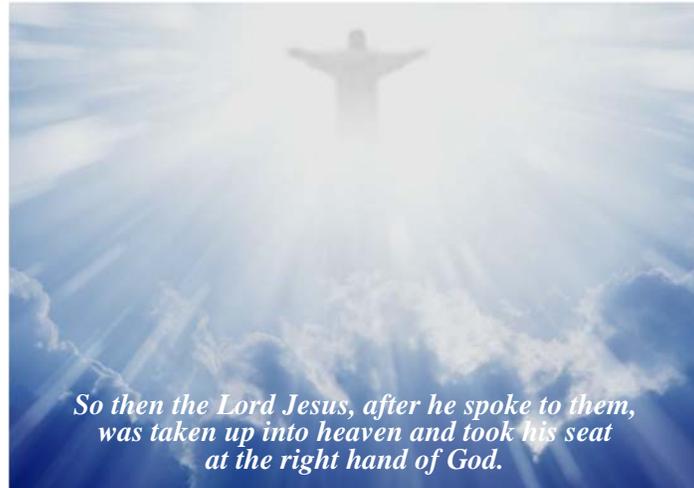


St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God.

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

May 16, 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,

Also the second glorious mystery of the rosary, the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated this Sunday. Referring to it, Jesus says, "it is better for you that I go" (John 16:7). How could this be? Is not the common goal of all Christians to be with Christ forever? Indeed it is, but until we die and are resurrected with a glorified body not unlike his, we will not be ready. So, he ascends and the Holy Spirit is sent to be with us. In this way God can be with us regardless of where we are and can continually sanctify us in this life in preparation for the next.

One of the restrictions that was repealed by the diocese a week or two before Easter was that of holy water in the fountains. As of last Sunday, with input from others, I replaced the water. Water remains available in the containers in the back of each church. Certainly, no one will be forced to make use of it if they are not comfortable. I am thankful that we can return to making use of this important sacramental and that it is a step among more to come toward more normalcy.

~ Fr. Andrew

Parish Information

Parish Phone	515-367-2685
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	515-367-2685
Parish General Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
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Parish Facebook Site	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
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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

Reconciliation: Tuesdays 5:15 - 5:45pm; Saturdays 4:00-4:30pm and after 9:00am First Friday Mass, 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, Reconciliation & Adoration

Tuesday, May 18

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

6:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Lowell & Charlie Brendeland
~ followed by Adoration

Wednesday, May 19

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

Thursday, May 20

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Elaine Barnwell

Saturday, May 22

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †John Cory

Sunday, May 23

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Sharon Williams

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Bernardine Gorman

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!

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

Masks Required in Parish Buildings

Bishop Joensen has extended the mask requirement at all public Masses, sacramental celebrations, and other events in Church buildings. This decision corresponds to the recommendations of public health experts within the local medical community.

For updates, resources and livestream Masses, 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.

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 on Monday, May 31.

Prayer of Mary, The Magnificat,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Knights of Columbus

May 16: 6:40pm Rosary, Church
7:00pm Meeting, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: May 18, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Parish Council

Meeting: May 25, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: June 14, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Thank You's

To our Holy Cross and St. Mary faith family:

On behalf of the family of Mike Phelan, thank you for all the prayers, cards, generosity and stories shared in memory of Uncle Mike. He loved our parish community as evidenced by his arrival two hours in advance of Mass to engage with many of you—as well as his maker. We miss him greatly and will think of him each time we enter Holy Cross, glance at the last pew on the left side and remember his unique greetings!

Sincerely, *The Family Phelan*

Our parish received the following "thank you" from Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter. "I take this time to let you know how much we appreciate you for continuing to provide meals for our shelter guests this past year. Thank you for your patience and cooperation over the past year as we quickly made changes in operating procedures to ensure everyone was safe." ~ Randy Jansen, Shelter Coordinator

Special thanks to the following who prepared and delivered meals to the shelter during the pandemic: Rebecca and Will Bates, Pat and Gail O'Connor, Jo Ann Meusburger, Sharon Adams, Lisa Pritchard, our Pastoral Council, Knights of Columbus, Kris Sexton, Matt and Angie Miller family, Kathy and Rick Daup, Sharon Morris, Stacey and Tom Rooney, Arlene and Todd Anderson family, Tammi and Garrett McClain, and our Religious Education students. Your generosity is much appreciated. If you'd like to prepare and deliver a meal in December 2021, please let Lisa and Tim Kautza know at kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dick Opperman, brother-in-law of Sharon Adams, who passed away April 30. May he be at peace with our Lord and Helen and their family know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

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

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd seeks to help adults open their eyes to the hidden riches of the child, especially to the child's spiritual wealth, so that adults will be drawn to learn from the child and to serve the child. There is a Level 1 formation starting this summer in Ames at St. Cecilia Parish. We have limited scholarships available to help with costs. Even if you don't want to serve as a Catechist, this formation is one of the best adult faith formations you can take. It has been such a gift for both of us and we strongly encourage you to consider taking it.

July 12-18, 2021, January 15-16 & February 5-6, 2022
and March 5-6, 2022 if needed.

For more information, please contact Melissa Teggatz at mteggatz@stceciliaparish.org or 515-232-3515, ext. 356.

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

We have been blessed with quite a few people attending our STORM youth gatherings on Wednesday evenings; it's been a fun group to get to know. However, with school coming to a close and summer sports kicking off, the teens' Wednesday evenings are filling up with practice, scrimmages and games. We will try to plan a few monthly gatherings on Sunday evenings this summer! Watch your bulletin and social media for updates and information. Did you know that youth ministry at SMHC has a Facebook page? You can find us on Facebook at: Storm YM Sm-hc (Storm YM Elkhart) Have a fantastic summer!

Blessings, Andrea Fisher and Melissa Kahler

Blood Drive



Thursday, May 27, 3:00 to 7:00pm in the Social Hall. What safer and easier way to serve others than to donate your life-supporting blood that will help save or sustain the life of three others. The process (registration, confidential health history interview, donation, and post-donation rest in our canteen) will take less than an hour with the actual donation taking only about 10 minutes. The environment is disinfected and sanitized and all are required to wear a mask. Appointments required for added safety; sign up in the vestibule of St. Mary or go to https://donor.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/169798 to choose your donation time and then log in or create an account. If you have difficulties or questions, please call LifeServe Blood Center at 800-287-4903. Contact Lisa or Tim Kautza, kautza@netins.net / 515-964-7687) to volunteer that day or to bring snacks.

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 - Rooneysl17@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heidi Ackerman, *Co-President* - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Jacki Ausman - jackiausman@gmail.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@midiaowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
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Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - shawcattle13@gmail.com
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

May 9 Budget Week 45

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$2,666	\$4,860

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$245,562	\$218,700	260,207

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Unpaid Pledges</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$51,038	\$31,518	\$5,137	\$19,520

Thank you to those who have been so generous to this year's Appeal. If you have not made a pledge, 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 at Church. 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>; then choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Thank you.

SAY WHAT? Plastic bags can take up to 1,000 years to decompose.

Upcoming Parish Council Opening

St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish Council was established just over a year and a half ago in an attempt to help Father Andrew guide and make decisions for our Parish family. This Council was established with six parishioners with representatives from both St. Mary's and Holy Cross. Our aim is to have each new member serve a three year term with two members rotating off each year. Now that the Council is established, we are looking for up to two new members to join. This June the Parish will hold a vote (if necessary) for new members who are interested. If you are interested, or anyone you know who might be, please feel free to reach out to any of the current Parish Council members for more 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, 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.*

Auto Debit for Tithing

Please consider using this type of tithing where you designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on a pre-determined date. For questions or to begin ACH, please contact Sarah, sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org, or find the form in the vestibule or on the home page of our website, <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/>.

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 will send gift receipts. Thank you for considering using this for your tithing and thank you to those who are currently using it!

Exciting Vocations News!

Three young men will be ordained to the transitional diaconate in early June. This is the last major step before priesthood ordination. And at the end of June, five men will be ordained to the priesthood! Please keep them and those discerning a vocation to religious life in your prayers.

The Third Option

This is a free marriage enrichment ministry for all couples whether they are facing obstacles in their marriage or just trying to make a good thing better!

Couples will walk through 14 skills-based workshops, listen to a couple who has overcome comparable frustrations, and provides support group discussions on suggested exercises/tools. *The Third Option* will meet every 2nd and 4th Monday "IN PERSON" at All Saints Catholic Church on 650 NE 52nd Avenue in Des Moines. The workshop is held from 7:00-9:00pm and participants are welcome to join anytime.

If you have questions, or would like to register contact Adam Storey at astorey@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5056. You can also contact Barb Berenguel at barbberenguel@yahoo.com or 515-229-0535.

Isidore, Husband and Farmer, 1070-1130

Isidore was born of poor parents in Madrid they instilled a great love of prayer and a revulsion of sin in him. He rose early each morning to go to Mass and, while laboring all day in the fields, communed with God and the saints. But his attendance at daily Mass angered some of his fellow workers, as it caused Isidore to arrive later at work than they did. John de Vargas hid himself one day to confirm this and, sure enough, Isidore did arrive after his co-workers. De Vargas was about to take him to task for his lateness when he saw a team of snow-white oxen plowing the field parallel to Isidore's team. With unknown figures driving this team, de Vargas realized that supernatural help was compensating for the work that Isidore missed. Thereafter John de Vargas came to admire his field hand and Isidore is said to have worked miracles for the benefit of his employer's family.

Isidore married a girl as simple as himself and they had one child, a boy who died young. His wife, Maria Torriba, is also a saint, honored under the name, Santa Maria de la Cabeza.

Though poor, Isidore and Maria always shared what they had with those who had less. He often invited the poor into his house for a meal and ended up with only the leftover scraps for himself. On one occasion, Isidore was late for a confraternity dinner. When he arrived, he had with him a train of beggars. His hosts noted that they had saved only his portion and that there was not enough for this large group who had come with him. Isidore replied that there would be plenty for himself and Christ's poor. When the food was served, there was ample for everyone with food leftover.

Many other miracles have been attributed to Isidore. About eighty years after his death, Isidore appeared in a vision to the King of Castile who was then fighting the Moors. Isidore showed him a hidden path, which allowed his soldiers to surprise and defeat the enemy. Another time, the intercession of Isidore brought King Philip III of Spain back from the brink of death to good health. His shrine in Madrid has been the site of many other miracles.

St. Isidore is one of the "Five Saints of Spain" (together with St. Ignatius, St. Francis Xavier, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. Philip Neri). He is the patron of farmers and of Madrid. He is also a patron of laborers and of the national Rural Life Conference in the United States.

Saints have been profound and learned scholars and saints have been very simple people. God wants us to use the talents he has given us in his service -- in most cases, this means service to your neighbor. Do you give unselfishly of what you have for the needs of the poor, the sick, and the other members of your community?

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, May 16

Theme: We are sent, and Christ is with us.

Reading I: Acts 1:1-11 • He was lifted up before their eyes.

Reading II: Ephesians 1:17-23 • May God grant you a spirit of wisdom.

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20 • Proclaim the gospel everywhere.

For Children: How do you experience the divine power of Christ-among-us in your daily life?

For Youth: Even after Jesus ascended into heaven, he worked through the disciples to spread the Gospel. We are Jesus' disciples today. How can you open yourself up more to let Jesus work through you to be Good News in the world today?

For Adults: Jesus helps us be brave when we need to be. When do you need to be brave?