



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

What would be your reaction if someone equated your love for them with obeying them? In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus does exactly that. Regarding our strictly natural relationships, we might be appalled. But our relationship with him is far more than natural; it is supernatural. We cannot know and abide in him by ourselves, no matter how hard we try. Thankfully, though, he gives us the Spirit, allowing us to draw closer to him and when our time comes, hopefully to the Father. According to the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, in the early Church, the apostles recognized the need for this visitation of the Spirit upon those who had been baptized. We now know it as the sacrament of Confirmation.

Having just mentioned a sacrament, please continue to pray for the perseverance for those who are still preparing for first Reconciliation, first Communion, and Confirmation. Normally, we would have had such celebrations already, but of course they have been delayed and there is still no indication as to when we will be able to continue.

-Fr. Andrew

Parish Information

Parish Phone	515-367-2685
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	515-367-2685
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Sue Schmidt - Music	sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org

Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
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Web Site	www.saintmaryhc.org
Facebook	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart

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>.

Mass Intentions offered by Fr. Andrew

Tuesday, May 19	†Ron Odgaard
Wednesday, May 20	†Lyle Carpenter
Thursday, May 21	†Stephen Carpenter
Saturday, May 23	†Tom Bellis
Sunday, May 24	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.

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!

Join Us in Crowning Mary This Month

Honor Mary, our Mother for bringing our Savior into the world, by placing flowers at her statues in St. Mary or south of the church or in Holy Cross Church. *Thank you for the beautiful flowers we've received!*

Purchase a Flag for Holy Cross Cemetery

We will be installing new flags to add to the already 135 American flags 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. The flag pole will be marked with a laser engraved tag that identifies the honoree and the donor. Price is \$160 and includes 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 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.*

Help with Avenue of Flags for Memorial Day!

Could you assist with installing the flags on Saturday, May 23 at 10:00am and/or retiring them on Monday the 25th at 4:00pm? Each session lasts about an hour. Please contact Lynn Schreurs, 515-577-8147/lshreurs@msn.com, for more information or to volunteer. Thank you!

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Cory, life-long member of our parish. John, father of Andrew Cory, brother of Sharon Dunbar and Pat Cory, and many other extended family members in the parish, passed away last Monday. He is now resting with our Risen Lord. May his family find strength and comfort as they mourn his passing.

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

A Prayer for the Sick, Especially Those Suffering From the Coronavirus

Loving God,
You sent your son Jesus Christ to heal the sick.
We ask you to come to our aid
in the midst of the coronavirus crisis
that we too may experience your healing love.
We ask you to heal those who are sick.
Calm those who are living in fear.
Be with those who have died
and comfort their families.
Inspire health professionals to aid them
in their healing work.
Guide national leaders to lead
and make decisions with wisdom.
Help us to always be aware of your presence
as we place our trust in you.
We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

Prayer courtesy of the Archdiocese of Detroit

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.

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

Online Giving

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. Thanks to those who have used this means to tithe!

Church Sign

“Drowning” in life’s situations?
Don’t worry, your lifeguard walks on water.

Best wishes to our students graduating from high school! We pray that they call on God for guidance in their future endeavors.

Andrew Ausman	Elizabeth Leu
Karley Mae Bartleson	Hannah Liske
Abigail Bruce	Jackson McClain
Jaden Camp	Emily Miller
Emma De Costa	James Miller
Carla Edleman	Riley Miller
Nyanti Gehrke	Jennie Moore
Olivia Gehrke	Anthony Nehring
Kara Gorham	Haleigh Penton
Isabell Hobbs	Sophie Schaffer
Lydia Johnson	Ethan Smith
Ella Kahler	Hunter Soyer
Emma Kahler	Nolan Sullivan
Jared Laffey	Jonathan Wong

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

Thank you to all our Catechists who served in our program this year. We are so thankful for your dedication and service to our parish community. We couldn't do this without you.

It has been a difficult decision but we have decided to cancel VBS for this coming June. We are looking toward ways to serve the children and families in this parish remotely and are open to any suggestions you might have. Please know you are all in our prayers daily.

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

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.

Hello! We hope this finds you healthy and happy. *Catholicify* is a free Catholic app that is 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 Grandma. You can find Mass and endless resources for Mass readings, Catholic prayers, saints and more! We also wanted to mention a podcast that we find both informative and funny called *The Crunch-A-Catholic Podcast*. This 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

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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PARISH TRUSTEES

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PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

Weekly Collection Financial Update

May 10 Budget Week 44

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$2,980	\$5,730

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$263,822	\$257,850	\$262,503

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	\$34,851	\$29,486	\$20,070

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 in the vestibule or on our website home page in the lower right hand corner.

Blood Drive Thursday, May 28

Blood Drives are essential to the health of our country according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which has exempted them 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. Safety measures to be taken: LifeServe has doubled their disinfecting and sanitizing routines; they will disinfect all surfaces in the social hall that they will use before, during, and at the conclusion of the drive. All team members will wear face masks and donors are asked to wear their own. LifeServe will practice social distancing and they have implemented new donor screening questions. They are monitoring the health of every 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 are needed to assist with the blood drive. LifeServe will provide all snacks.

Schedule an Appointment: Visit <https://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/>. Select "Donate;" then "Schedule Your Donation;" then "Schedule a Donation Now;" then "Sponsor Name Search;" enter "Elkhart;" then "Search;" Elkhart Community should show up, then select "Schedule;" and 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 mention our Drive and they will assist you.

Catholic Youth Camp Cancelled This Summer

For an informational video, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=551613985540292>.

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 this Tuesday, 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/>.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 17

Theme: We have the spirit of truth to guide us.

Reading I: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 • They prayed to receive the Holy Spirit.

Reading II: 1 Peter 3:15-18 • Christ died for sins once for all.

Gospel: John 14:15-21 • If you love me, obey my commandments.

Question for Children: Jesus promises to be our friend forever. How do friends treat each other?

Question for Youth: Jesus promised us that the Holy Spirit (the Advocate) would remain with us always. When have you experienced the Spirit?

Question for Adults: Which one of the promises in today's Gospel gives you the most hope?



Making Plans!

Bishop Joensen recently sent out an email in anticipation of reopening churches to public celebrations. There are a number of criteria to be met before that can happen. Here are a few main points:

~ Individual parishes will only be allowed to resume public weekday Masses when all required criteria are met. The diocese is tracking county specific data, to try to discern when it is prudent to resume public weekday Masses. We are being guided by the national guidelines for reopening, which direct us to watch for a 14-day decrease in positive COVID-19 tests, or a 14-day decrease in the percentage of positive COVID-19 tests.

~ Daily Mass will resume before Sunday Mass.

~When Mass is resumed, the general plan states:

- a. Social distancing must be maintained throughout the Mass.
- b. The worship space must be thoroughly disinfected between every Mass, following the cleaning guidelines prepared by the Diocese, which are based on CDC guidance.
- c. Efforts are made to make the Mass as hygienic as possible, while respecting the integrity of the liturgy.

~ Even when we resume Mass, please know that with respect to the vulnerable members of our communities whom we want to protect and not spread the virus, the SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION REMAINS SUSPENDED.

~ For those who will attend Mass, please make an occasional presence, and not a daily presence. This is an act of charity toward others, as it can allow more people to participate in daily Mass and better serve the common good.

~Only attend Mass at your own parish. Traveling to neighboring parishes creates a greater health risk for all, and hinders the diocese in its efforts to make the sacraments publicly available in the safest way possible.

For the full letter from Bishop Joensen please go to <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>.