



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



The Ascension of the Lord

May 24, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

This Sunday, known as the Ascension of the Lord, marks the beginning of the seventh and last week of the Easter season. We have been without Sunday Mass for nine weeks now. Does it not seem like this will never end? Thankfully, though, according to the readings, Jesus does not leave the apostles without not only promising them, "I am with you always, until the end of the age." It is not an idle promise, because he already gave them his body and blood of the Eucharist, the celebration of which they were charged with perpetuating, and of which we will someday (pray that it somehow be today!) partake again. Lastly, for those who do not pray the Rosary, I cannot recommend it enough. Surely after trying it you will realize that the mysteries relate to one another in a way that reflects the events of Jesus' life and help us know him better. One of the best examples is the glorious mysteries, particularly the first three, which show us how the Resurrection, Ascension, and Pentecost cannot be isolated from each other and how necessary were all three for our salvation.

-Fr. Andrew

Parish Information

Parish Phone

Fr. Andrew Windschitl

Fr. Andrew Windschitl

Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper

Nicole Cory - Confirmation

Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry

Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry

Barb Liske - Secretary

Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE

Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE

Sue Schmidt - Music

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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 26	†John Cory
Wednesday, May 27	†Will & Mikey Carpenter
Thursday, May 28	†Leo & Rosemary Overmohle
Saturday, May 30	†Ralph & Neva Cory
Sunday, May 31	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 Fr. Andrew or 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!

Memorial Day



Please join us at Holy Cross Cemetery at 10:30am on Memorial Day. Fr. Andrew will have a blessing of the graves and we will recite the Litany of the Saints (no Mass). The Maxwell Legion will be at the cemetery at 10:50am for their salute and Taps. The McKensie Guard will play a few songs on their bagpipes, and there will also be a fly over. We will then disburse to view the flags in the cemetery. *Please keep in mind and practice social distancing. The Church will not be open during this time.*

Crowning Mary This Month

Honor Mary, our Mother, by placing flowers at her statue in St. Mary's Church and/or by her statue south of the Church or at Holy Cross 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. *Thank you to those who have already brought flowers.*



Change of Information?

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

Prayer For Families Adjusting to New Ways of Life

Dear God,

As families adjust to being more at home,
we ask that You guide your people
in their new realities.

Give spouses grace for each other.

When parents are worn out, give them words
of kindness and encouragement
to speak to their children.

Help children find creative ways to experience
the beauty of all You have created
and continue their learning.

In your Name, Amen.

*Have mercy on me, God, have mercy on me.
In you I seek refuge. In the shadow of your wings,
I seek refuge till harm pass by.*

~ Psalm 57:1

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.*

Blood Drive This Thursday

The Elkhart Community Blood Drive will be from 3:00 – 7:00pm in the social hall. LifeServe 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, have implemented new donor screening questions and 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. You should refrain from giving blood for 28 days if in the past 28 days you have:

- traveled to a country in which the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified outbreaks.
- 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

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.

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

We are very sad that we had to cancel VBS for this year. We have a summer care package for our Pre-School through 6th grade families. These will be available spread out on tables in the Parish Hall on May 25, 26 & 27. Please stop in and pick yours up. If you are unable to do so we will deliver/mail the remaining care packages on the 28th. Please be sure to have your correct address on file. Email one of us with any changes and we will get you updated.

We begin our First Communion and Sacramental Prep meditations this Wednesday, May 27, 6:00pm at St. Mary. Parents should have received an email outlining social distancing requirements and instructions. We look forward to pondering these mysteries with your children. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns!

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

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.

Graduating Seniors: The Parish has a gift for you; please pick yours up from the table near the cry room.

You are in our hearts and in our prayers. Hoping you are finding a new normal, happiness, and joy in the newness of spring. Some of our SMHC families are having or have had some sort of graduation celebration. We offer a huge CONGRATULATIONS! Below you will find a prayer for our graduates. May God continue to bless you in all your new adventures! Keeping you in our prayers,

Nicole, Andrea and Melissa

Graduation Prayer



Heavenly Father,
I have knowledge, so will You show me now,
How to use it wisely and find a way somehow
To make the world I live in a little better place,
And make life with its problems a little bit easier to face.
Grant me faith and courage and put purpose in my days,
And show me how to serve you in effective ways.
So my education, my knowledge and my skill
May find their true fulfillment as I learn to do your will.
And may I ever be aware in everything I do,
That knowledge comes from learning, and wisdom comes
from You. *Amen.*

Online Giving

Thank you to those who have used this type of tithing!

We currently offer online giving through the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa, by using this secure link: <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. Use the drop down menu and choose *St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart* to make your donation which will be credited as tithes, and will appear on your year end statement. No fees! The Foundation will send all gift acknowledgement letters. Thanks for considering this!

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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FINANCE 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 17	Budget Week 45	
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
	\$10,892	\$5,730
Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund		
Received	Budget	Last Year
\$274,714	\$263,580	\$273,116

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.

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Amt. Due
\$49,556	\$35,051	\$29,711	\$19,845

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.

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

Cost Saving Measures

In addition to the monetary savings previously noted in areas of water, electric and gas usage, less frequent garbage pickup, minimal office supplies being ordered; we are saving money by not needing to order supplies for the kitchen and bathrooms; savings on paper and copier usage as we are emailing the bulletin and only printing a few for the table in the vestibule. We also have been saving on the cost of liturgical supplies.

Church Sign

Give thanks for each day....you'll never get to live it over again.

Christ Our Life Catholic Regional Conference

We are happy to inform you that the conference will proceed as planned Saturday and Sunday, September 26 & 27 at Wells Fargo Arena, with some exciting additions. Further information and guidelines will be announced soon. Thank you for your continued support of this great biennial event!

Catholic Youth Camp Cancelled This Summer

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

Counseling Available

Catholic Charities has licensed, professional therapists working with clients of all faiths and backgrounds who are addressing depression, anxiety, stress, marital issues, relationship problems, child behavior problems, trauma, abuse and more. Set up an appointment by calling 515-237-5045 or emailing sfister@catholiccharitiesdm.org.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be using strategies from government and health care agencies to best serve our mission. Thanks to our innovative and dedicated staff, all Catholic Charities programs continue to operate under strict, protective measures.

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 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/>.

Emmaus House Spirituality Virtual Offering Centering Prayer Group

You are invited to join us every Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00pm. No prior experience with Centering Prayer is necessary and you do not need a copy of the book.

First Half Hour: Centering Prayer and time for intentions, both personal and for those most affected in our world during this pandemic.

Second Half Hour: Excerpt from Thomas Keating's Invitation to Love: The Way of Christian Contemplation, and opportunity for group reflection and sharing will follow.

Please join us for this sacred time of stillness and silence as we open to receive more deeply God's presence within us.

If interested in attending, please RSVP at www.theemmaus.house.org/upcoming-events so we can email you the link to the online gathering.

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 mid March. With social distancing restrictions in place, they have found safe and creative ways to continue packaging meals on a limited basis. Their Packaging Center is open and you are invited 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

The Ascension of the Lord, May 24

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

Reading I: Acts 1: 1-11 • Why are you standing there looking up at the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

Reading II: Ephesians 1:17-23 • We are Jesus Christ's complement.

Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20 • All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Question for Children: Jesus tells us to make disciples wherever we are. A disciple is one who follows Jesus. Name one way that you can be a disciple of Jesus this week.

Question for Youth: Jesus commanded his disciples to go and make disciples of all people. How can you help to make disciples of your peers?

Question for Adults: Jesus commissioned the disciples to go out to proclaim the Gospel. When have you proclaimed the Good News of Jesus by how you act and live each day?

Saints: Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs

Charles Lwanga lived in Uganda, Africa. He was baptized on the very day that his own teacher was murdered for the faith. Because he refused to take part in the immorality of the day, he was sent to prison. Enroute, three of his companions, including Lwanga, were murdered, burned to death along with two soldiers. Saint Charles Lwanga, together with twenty one other martyrs, was canonized in 1964 by Pope Paul VI. He has been named the patron of African youth. He and his companion martyrs are honored by a memorial on June 3.

What strong faith this young man had! Knowing that it would probably lead to his own martyrdom, he persevered in his request for Baptism. Then he stood up to the king, defending himself and others against what he knew to be wrong.

