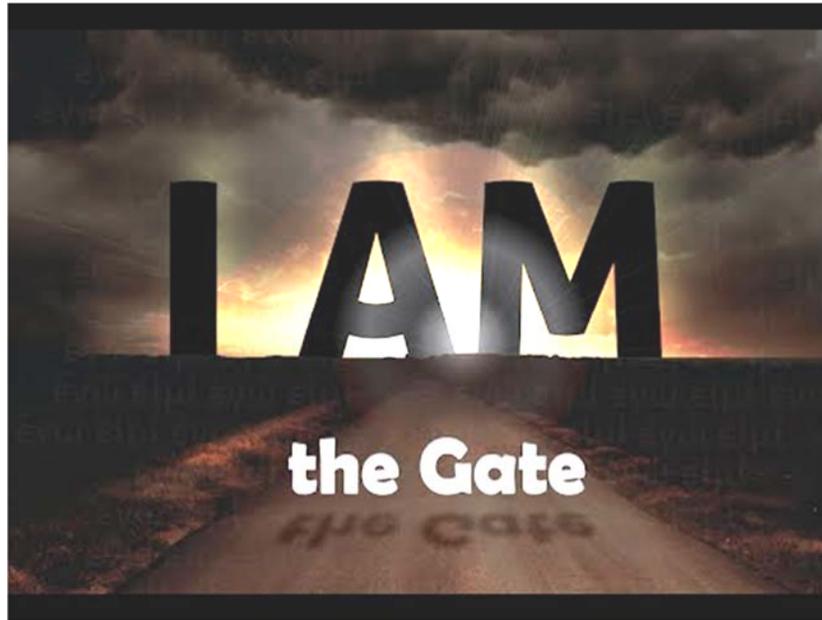




# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



## Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Many of you likely heard that despite some other organizations opening, the bishops of the state have decided to maintain our posture of no public Masses, among other activities, for what seems to be the foreseeable future. The letter can be found on the back page of this bulletin and a video from Bishop Joensen can be found on the diocese's website ([www.dmdiocese.org](http://www.dmdiocese.org)). Without a doubt, this is frustrating because we are not being allowed to celebrate the Mass, which is our most important action as Catholics. While nothing can replicate it, we still need to do what we can to remain united with God. St. Mary's remains open for prayer throughout the week and I am still in the office during the week. Even though that is the case and you would like to have confession or just a meeting to chat, it is best to call or send an e-mail to schedule it. For what it is worth, know of my continued prayer for you all.

*~Fr. Andrew*

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### Parish Information

<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:smhc@saintmaryhc.org">smhc@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	515-367-2685	<b>Fax</b>	515-367-7028
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	<a href="mailto:Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org">Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org</a>	<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.saintmaryhc.org">www.saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Sarah Baumberger</b> - Bookkeeper	<a href="mailto:sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org">sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org</a>	<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="#">St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart</a>
<b>Nicole Cory</b> - Confirmation	<a href="mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org">ncory@saintmaryhc.org</a>	<b>Reconciliation:</b>	By appointment only with Fr. Andrew.
<b>Andrea Fisher</b> - 7th-12th Ministry	<a href="mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org">afisher@saintmaryhc.org</a>	<b>Baptism:</b>	Contact Fr. Andrew for preparations.
<b>Melissa Kahler</b> - 7th-12th Ministry	<a href="mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org">mkahler@saintmaryhc.org</a>	<b>Marriage:</b>	Contact Fr. Andrew at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.
<b>Barb Liske</b> - Secretary	<a href="mailto:bliske@saintmaryhc.org">bliske@saintmaryhc.org</a>	<b>Priesthood and Religious Life:</b>	See Diocesan website at <a href="http://www.vocationsonline.org">http://www.vocationsonline.org</a> .
<b>Geneveve Loraditch</b> - PreK-6 RE	<a href="mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org">gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org</a>		
<b>Tracy Miller</b> - PreK-6 RE	<a href="mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org">tmiller@saintmaryhc.org</a>		
<b>Sue Schmidt</b> - Music	<a href="mailto:sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org">sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org</a>		

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## Mass Intentions offered by Fr. Andrew

Tuesday, May 5	†Nydia Claussen
Wednesday, May 6	†Jim & Margaret Shaw
Thursday, May 7	†Dorothy Gannon
Saturday, May 9	†John & Eleanor Sabol
Sunday, May 10	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 it is 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. Since we cannot do this together as a congregation during Mass, we invite you to bring flowers throughout the month of May to place in the vases by our Mary statues. There will be vases in the front of church at St. Mary as well as the statue outside starting May 1. Thank you for helping us honor the Blessed Mother of Jesus as we give thanks to her for bringing our Savior into the world.



## Have You Tried It Yet?

Our parish has been looking into offering online giving and we are currently able to offer this opportunity through 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.

**Start your day with gratitude.... End your day with thanks.**

## In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Charlie Brendeland**, brother of Joyce Volz, who passed away April 23 and for the repose of the soul of **Duane Saari**, brother-in-law of Kris Sexton, who died April 27. May they be at peace with our Risen Lord and their families know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

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

## A Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus,  
We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,  
We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,  
We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing  
difficult decisions between food on the table  
or public safety,  
We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate  
health insurance,  
We pray that no family will face  
financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care  
due to immigration status,  
We pray for recognition of the  
God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,  
We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers,  
We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church  
be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing.  
Be with us, 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!

## 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/>.

## 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

Happy May! Here's hoping this month brings better weather and better tidings.

May is the month of Mary. Some ideas for your domestic church might be planting a Mary Garden, praying the Hail Mary as a family daily, saying the Rosary, singing a Mary inspired song or inviting your children to write a prayer.

We hope and pray your families have been safe and well. As always if you have any needs, please feel free to reach out. Even if it's just for a chat, we are here for you!

### 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

We will gather virtually this Wednesday evening, May 6. Please contact one of us if you are interested in participating. And remember, reach out to us if we can assist you in any way!

**Confirmation:** Watch for updates through email.

### Help Me Grow Prayer

Christ in Heaven, another springtime is upon us, and we are blessed to have a fresh new chance along with it. Lord, I cry out to you because I want to do better for You. Give me the motivation to read more, pray more, and to make my flames brighter for You and Your word. Help my passion for You become stronger and more vibrant. Help me grow a newly energized mindset and keep me determined as I venture through this season of my life. In Your son's name I pray. Amen.

May God Bless always! ~ Andrea, Nicole and Melissa

### Prayer at Planting Time

Thank you, God of generosity, Creator of all things,  
for everything that grows on the earth.

Thank you for the people who tend the land  
and who make it fruitful.

In our age we may forget our dependence  
on wind and weather, on sun and rain,  
without which nothing would grow.

In this seedtime of the year,  
make bright in us an appreciation for farmers  
and all who help bring forth the fruits of the earth.  
Keep us always in mind the things that matter most.

Help us to bring rural America together,  
to fulfill our responsibilities in glorifying your earth,  
that this world may fulfill your will for the land  
to sustain your creation until the end of time.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Adapted from the Rural Life Committee, Diocese of Sioux Falls*

### PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Will Bates - [a\\_k\\_bates@live.com](mailto:a_k_bates@live.com)  
John Fisher - [Johnfisher@sienafastener.com](mailto:Johnfisher@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 - [mrsmatthart@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmatthart@gmail.com)  
Kelly Hoffmeier - [nkhoff@msn.com](mailto:nkhoff@msn.com)  
Tammi McClain - [tammimccclair71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimccclair71@gmail.com)  
Kris Sturtz - [ksturtz@gmail.com](mailto:ksturtz@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@midiowa.net](mailto:pjbishop@midiowa.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

April 26 Budget Week 42

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
	\$2,855	\$5,730

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$254,160	\$246,390	\$251,395

## 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	\$31,451	\$25,961	<b>\$22,515</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.*

## 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, please contact Barb, [bliske@saintmaryhc.org](mailto: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.*

## Cost Saving Measures

A letter from the Finance Council was included with Fr. Andrew's email message on April 24 as well as being posted to our website. It mentioned monetary savings in the areas of water, gas/electric, and garbage pickup. Additional savings are being realized due to not using as many office supplies and cleaning supplies as normal. We were stocked up on these items before the pandemic and are just using what we have on hand.

## 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 6 if you have registered your child for CYC.



More than 1 million plastic bags end up in the trash every minute.

## Movie Reviews

See [www.catholicnews.com/movies.cfm](http://www.catholicnews.com/movies.cfm).

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 3

*Theme: We enter life to the full through Christ.*

*Reading I:* Acts 2:14a, 36-41 • You must reform and be baptized.

*Reading II:* 1 Peter 2:20b-25 • By his wounds you were healed.

*Gospel:* John 10:1-10 • I am the gate.

*Question for Children:* How is Jesus your example when others don't like you?

*Question for Youth:* Sheep know their shepherd and follow his voice. How hard is it for you to recognize God's voice in your own life? Who has helped you hear God's voice?

*Question for Adults:* In what specific ways is Christ an example which you follow when dealing with others, especially with the ones against whom you hold a grudge or those who dislike you?



April 28, 2020

Our Dear People:

Since the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic, Catholics in Iowa have been obliged by civil, scientific, and church authorities to sacrifice the opportunity to receive sacraments and worship in common.

With the lifting of restrictions against certain public gatherings, including religious assemblies, by Governor Kim Reynolds, members of the faithful are understandably renewed in their hope that they might safely return to church and resume some form of regular parish life. Yet the spread of the COVID-19 disease

remains a real and present danger. In particular, the health and survival of the elderly and other vulnerable populations is still a grave concern. Many parishioners and priests fall within these groups.

In light of the expectation that positive cases of COVID-19 will peak in Iowa in the next few weeks, we have decided it would be most prudent for now to continue to follow the liturgical restrictions we have in place, including the suspension of public Masses. Without an effective vaccine or widespread testing and contact data that justifies a change in course, we simply are not at a place where we can resume our previous prayer practices.

The suspension of the Sunday Mass obligation remains in effect statewide, and all vulnerable persons, the sick, and those who may have been exposed to the virus are asked to look after their own welfare with the support of those who care for them. We ask parish, school and diocesan staff to continue to minister to the faithful, and the faithful to each other, in ways other than meeting in groups during this difficult time of the pandemic. We strongly encourage parishioners to visit the website and social media outlets of the parishes and schools to stay in touch as we look forward to gathering in person.

We will continue to closely monitor the statewide and respective regional situations through the weeks of May and beyond. When the time comes that we can gather in greater numbers while observing social distance, safe hygienic practices and other precautions without placing one another at serious risk, public Masses and other sacramental celebrations will be allowed to resume.

These days are not easy. We understand that many of you are frustrated with this situation; so are we. We want to celebrate Mass with our parishioners and get back to "normal." However, we take the advice of Paul: "Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer." (Romans 12:12). Take comfort in knowing that Jesus is with us and with you, our faithful.

Your Brothers in Christ,

Most Rev. Michael Jackels  
Archbishop of Dubuque

Most Rev. R. Walker Nickless  
Bishop of Sioux City

Most Rev. Thomas Zinkula  
Bishop of Davenport

Most Rev. William Joensen  
Bishop of Des Moines