



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
November 22, 2020



First Sunday Of Advent
November 29, 2020

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,

Because this is a two-week bulletin and I think a change of pace might prove beneficial, let us consider a possible meaning of the Gospel reading (Luke 17:11-19) for Thanksgiving Day. The reading describes an encounter that ten persons with leprosy have with Jesus. He cleanses them as they depart and only one returns to give him thanks. While there may seem to be a lot of reasons for us to be depressed, especially in this challenging time, surely God has blessed us in some way. So if you struggle with focusing too much on negative things, I encourage and even challenge you to focus on positive things, specifically what are the blessings and graces He has given and how they are to be used to serve Him and others.

It is my understanding the diocese has recommended that parishes not host Reconciliation services this Advent. As an alternative, we have been encouraged to offer additional times for the sacrament. Therefore, during the month of December, in addition to the regular time of 4 PM Saturday, it will be available after the First Friday Mass on the 4th and after each Tuesday evening Mass. Of course, you can still schedule by appointment. ~ Fr. 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
Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper	sbaumberger@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

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
			10:00am

Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:00-4:30pm in **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.

Priesthood and Religious Life: See Diocesan website at <http://www.vocationsonline.org>.

Mass and Adoration

Tuesday, November 24

6:00pm St. Mary †Jesse Follett
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, November 25

5:30pm Holy Cross †Lawrence Hanlon

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26

9:00am St. Mary †Colleen Hindman & Son, Lee

Saturday, November 28

5:00pm St. Mary †Robert Richardson

Sunday, November 29

8:00am Holy Cross For the Parish
10:00am St. Mary †Bernardine Gorman

Tuesday, December 1

6:00pm St. Mary †Cecilia Morton & Son, Mike
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, December 2

5:30pm Holy Cross †Bill & Betty Cook

Thursday, December 3

8:00am St. Mary †Doris Olson

First Friday, December 4

9:00am St. Mary †Rita Smith

Saturday, December 5

5:00pm St. Mary †Bill Devereux

Sunday, December 6

8:00am Holy Cross †Jim & Rita Rooney
10:00am St. Mary For the Parish

Tuesday, December 8 Holy Day Mass

6:00pm St. Mary †Rosemary & Leo Overmohle

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Elsbeth Emma Noel, Mother of Emilie Zehr, who passed away November 18 in Bettendorf. May her family know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss. A private funeral will be held at St. Ann's Church in Long Grove at a later date.

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

A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Gratitude

Father in Heaven, Creator of all,
and source of all goodness and love,
please look kindly upon us
and receive our heartfelt gratitude
in this time of giving thanks.

Thank you for all the graces and blessings
You have bestowed upon us,
spiritual and temporal:
our faith and religious heritage,
our food and shelter, our health,
the love we have for one another,
our family and friends.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity,
please grant us continued graces
and blessing throughout the coming year.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Parish Office is closed November 26 & 27.

Parish Council
Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 24, 6:30pm, Social Hall
Stewardship Committee
Meeting: Monday, Dec. 14, 6:00pm, Social Hall
Finance Council
Meeting: No meeting in December

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!

Masks Now Required at Mass

Bishop Joensen requires masks at Mass in every parish. This shows our love for others by protecting them. Our faith calls us to be Good Samaritans and to be mindful of the common good.

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

Thanksgiving Mass

 Please join us on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, for 9:00am Mass at St. Mary, and give thanks to God for all He has given us!

Book of Remembrance †

Please contact Barb (bliske@saintmaryhc.org/515-367-2685) with the names of your deceased loved ones that you would like remembered and prayed for during our Masses and she will write their names in this Book in the Sanctuary.

For Diocesan updates, livestream Masses
and resources, please go to [https://www.dmdiocese.org/
resources/worship/coronavirus](https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus)

Coats For Kids



Help keep a child warm this winter by joining the Knights of Columbus as they collect winter coats now through December 13 for children in need. Please consider donating a new or slightly used winter coat to benefit children within the Collins-Maxwell School District. If you're not able to bring a coat to Mass, please contact the Knights and they'll arrange to pick it up. A collection container is available at St. Mary and Holy Cross. For questions, or to arrange a pick up for a donation, please contact Jon Hand at 515-460-0050 or Cory Schoening at 515-360-4824.



The Blessing Box Requests Food Donations

The Blessing Box could use our help with turkey, ham and monetary contributions. The food pantry will be providing turkey with their Thanksgiving meal box and ham with the Christmas meal but are in need of additional contributions for the more than 30 local in-need families. If you are able to contribute, please bring donations to The Blessing Box located in Elkhart Christian Church which is open the first Saturday of the month from 9:00 to 10:00am and the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm.

Christmas Eve Masses

5:00pm, St. Mary
7:00pm, Holy Cross

Christmas Day Mass

9:00am, St. Mary

Join us to commemorate the birth
of our Savior!



Regular weekend Mass schedule on Dec. 26/27

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

The Advent Packets are ready for pick up and are in the Ed Center with your names on them. There is a brief explanation in the packet and we will be emailing weekly to help you utilize these tools at home. There are a lot of handmade materials in them; as we worked on them we spent a lot of time in prayer for your families. We hope you enjoy them. If you have any questions, please let us know.

We are officially on winter break. As hard as it is not to meet in Advent, and share these mysteries with your children, we hope this precaution will increase our abilities to serve your families in Lent and Easter!

If you have a child interested in receiving the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist, please mark your calendars for a meeting on January 6 at 6:30pm in the Ed Center.

Praying for you all to have a fruitful Advent.

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

All scheduled events are cancelled through January 12.

Hello EDGE/Confirmation and Youth Group Families,

Our prayer is that everyone is staying safe and healthy during these uncertain times. We look forward to meeting in person again sometime very soon. The team is coming up with some ways to help us feel connected while we are apart. Please watch your mailbox for our first mailing.

Enjoy your family and Happy Thanksgiving! We are grateful for each of you!

We would like to leave you with a joke... At what time of day was Adam created? A little before Eve.

Blessings, ~Melissa, Andrea & Nicole

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Please join us to celebrate Mary and her important role in the celebration of our Faith! Mass for this Holy Day is Tuesday, December 8, 6:00pm at St. Mary.

Huxley Clothes Pantry

During the month of December St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish members help at this Clothes Pantry. It is open to the public Wednesday evenings, 4:00 to 6:00pm, Saturday, 10:00am to Noon and Sundays 1:00 to 3:00pm. If you would be willing to help during the Pantry's public hours, please call Delila Roberts, 515-597-2782. Thank you.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doug Jones, *Chair* - djones@bossard.com
Will Bates - a_k_bates@live.com
John Fisher - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Stacey Rooney - Rooneyslg17@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dave Pottebaum, *President* - pottebaum5@msn.com
Heidi Ackerman - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Sue Tollefson - suet@iowacubs.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
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
John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com
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

November 15 Budget Week 20

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$9,265	\$4,860

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$106,991	\$97,200	\$115,482

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	\$45,477	\$42,917	\$6,639

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's home page, <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/>.

Work of Our Hands 2020



Be sure to check out the Parish Facebook page for information on our virtual Work of Our Hands festival!

THE PAMPERED CHEF

Timesaving kitchen tools, pantry items, and recipes that make cooking quick and easy (and fun)! Individual orders always welcomed. Shop online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at

www.PamperedChef.Biz/LisaK.

I have many items on hand as cash & carry for last minute gifts or cooking and baking needs.



LISAKAUTZA

401 NW Kimberly Lane,
Ankeny, IA 50023
(515) 964-7687 (Home)
(515) 238-5557 (Cell)
pclisak@gmail.com

SANDRA HUNTER

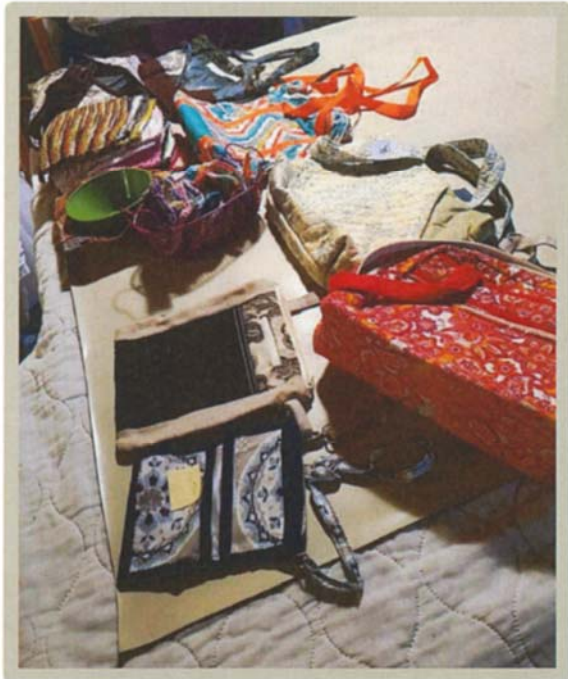
The Christmas Tree Farm
33459 - 663rd Ave, Box 236
Maxwell, IA 50161
(515) 387-8778
treefarm@iowatelecom.net

Lots of Christmas trees to choose from at the Christmas Tree Farm. For details visit christmastreehunter.com or or call Sandra.



KELLY & SOPHIE HOFFMEIER
Paper Parlor
Polk City, IA
(515) 975-7865
sojosmom@gmail.com

JOURNALS & ART BOOKS
We repurpose old books and
create one-of-a-kind journals
and art books for all ages.



DONA COWMAN
61384 Hwy 210
Cambridge, IA 50046
(515) 383-4482
racefans@iowatelecom.net

HOMEMADE ITEMS

Sewing, quilting, and baking.
I have hand-quilted wall hangings,
table runners and mini quilts.
I make knit scarves and crocheted
necklaces. I also have various bags
and other craft and baked items.
I also do custom bags, wall
hangings or table runners.

This festival is a great way to support your fellow
parishioners this holiday season!



Advent Reflection Resources



PREPARE JESUS

These are available in the vestibule for your use during Advent; a time of looking forward and waiting for something greater; both for the annual celebration of the event of Christ's birth, and Christ's second coming. A brief description is below. We also have available various booklets we received as free samples.

Little Blue Book Advent and Christmas Seasons: Six minutes a day. That's what you are asked to give during the 26 days of Advent and 17 days of the Christmas season. Each weekday this book walks you through a little piece of the Gospel of Mark. There are also a variety of thoughts about these seasons, feast days, and various traditions and customs. Simply let God speak to you through the words, guiding you to reflections that sometimes seem to come from nowhere. It can change your day...change your life.

The Word Among Us: Daily meditations and inspirational features to make you ponder and awaken you this Advent. Even as our lives have been upended, one thing has not changed: the love of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Let what you read here help you meet Jesus a little more deeply each day and during Mass, and when Christmas arrives, you will know God's presence in your life more deeply.

Waking Up To Advent Activity Booklet For Children: *This booklet is included in the Advent family packet prepared by Geneveve & Tracy; please pick yours up in the Ed Center.*



Join in the Sounds of the Season

The Elkhart Christian Church invites members of our parish to participate by making a recording, as individuals or as a group, singing, playing an instrument, reading a poem, or whatever you enjoy during the Advent and Christmas seasons. If on a jump drive, please mail it to Tim Butler, P.O. Box 97, Elkhart, IA, 50073 (will be returned), or email it to him at tjbutler317@gmail.com if not too big. Members of their church will turn all the recordings into a performance, which will be broadcast on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/elkhartchristianchurch>, via a live watch party. Submit your recording by December 1; the live showing is Sunday, December 13. If you need help with the recording, reach out to Tim Butler at above email. If you have questions contact Mary Jo Ward at ecsecretary@windstream.net or Tim Butler.

No Room at the Inn VIRTUAL!

This year the entire family can join in from the comfort and safety of your home on Friday, December 4, 7:00 – 8:00pm. We will listen to holiday music, have some fun trying to spot all the candy canes, and go on virtual tours of Catholic Charities programs and learn how we address homelessness in our community. To register online, please go to: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdm.org/nri/>. To purchase raffle tickets for a hand-carved nativity scene, go to: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdm.org/nativity/>. For additional information contact Holly at hackermann@catholiccharitiesdm.org/515-237-5027.

Date Night - Christmas in a World of Unknown

The first Christmas was incredibly peaceful and joyful but accompanied by fear and anxiety. Come see how this Christmas may be more similar to the first than we realize. Area couple are invited to St. Cecilia Social Hall on Saturday, December 6, 7:00pm. Due to COVID: no meal or childcare, wear a mask and social distance. For more information email DateNight@StCeciliaParish.org or call 515-441-0480.



100% of baby sea turtles have plastic in their stomachs.



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.*

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

This collection assists community leaders who work to expand access to affordable housing, health care and education. It also supports the development of worker-owned businesses, and advocates for changes to structures that keep people in poverty. Thank you for helping those in need. *Donation envelopes are by the tithe basket, please return your donation next weekend or mail it to the parish office.*

Winter Weather Cancellations



If North Polk School is in session and cancel, dismiss early, or cancel evening activities due to weather, events here at the parish are cancelled. In most instances, Masses - both daily and weekend - will not be cancelled, so please use your own judgment. If we need to cancel weekend activities it will be on the three major TV networks and WHO radio.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe, Nov. 29

Theme: Jesus' kingdom is a kingdom of actions and deeds, not merely of words.

Reading I: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17 • I will tend my sheep.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28 • Christ has been raised from the dead.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 • When did we see you hungry?

For Children: Who are the people most in need of help who live around you, and how can you help them?

For Youth: What can you do (alone, with friends, or with your family) to help those who are without food, shelter, or have other needs? When have you seen Jesus in the poor?

For Adults: As you grapple with this very strong, direct and demanding Gospel passage, name the people for whom you have cared personally – or if there are none, those for whom you will offer care in the coming weeks.

First Sunday of Advent, December 6

Theme: Active waiting.

Reading I: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 • We have not seen any God like you!

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 • He will strengthen you to the end.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37 • Be constantly on guard!

For Children: What special things do you do to get ready for a visitor at your house? What things can you do like that to get ready for Jesus?

For Youth: What is one thing that you can do this week to help you remember that Jesus is coming?

For Adults: When you're getting ready to receive a guest, what are some things you do? How do you apply this to receiving Christ?