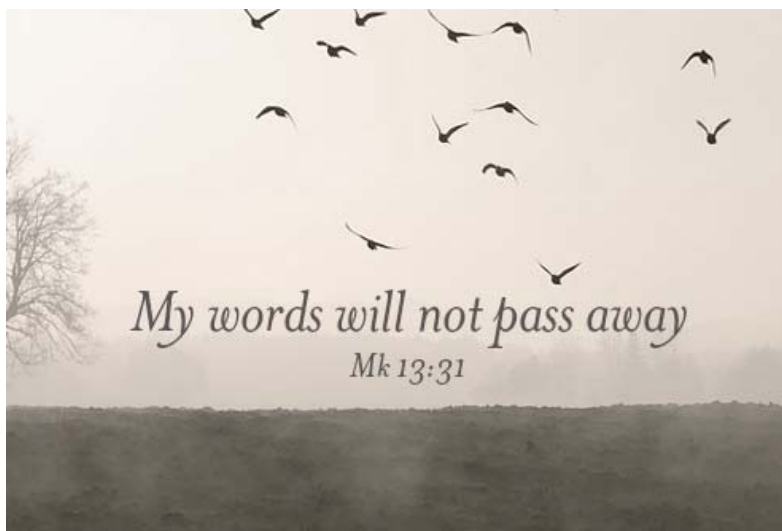




# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



## Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 14, 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:

As the liturgical year draws to a close in about two weeks, the readings, especially for this Sunday, seem to reflect time coming to an end. It is inevitable, but Jesus reminds us "of that day or hour, no one knows." Therefore, like the fig tree that he uses as an example, we do not quit, we are meant to continue producing fruit. We do so while reflecting on what are traditionally known as the "four last things:" death, judgment, heaven, and hell.

Death eventually claims all of us. Relatives of our recently deceased fellow parishioners expressed to me that as they were dying, they were at peace. I encourage everyone to pray for a peaceful death for their loved ones and themselves.

Judgment occurs after death. We might imagine it playing out like a court room drama, which might be the case, but we really do not have an indication from Scripture or otherwise. The main point here is that an accounting of what we did and/or did not do with what God gave us in this life will be made in some way.

The outcome of this judgment is experiencing heaven or hell. According to the Catechism, "Those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live for ever with Christ" (paragraph 1023). On the other hand, "To die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's merciful love means remaining separated from him for ever by our own free choice" (1033).

There may be many reasons in this world and in this time to not have hope, but as our Lord says in the Gospel, even "heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." To put it another way, everything as we seem to know it will go away, but thankfully he will not. ~ Father 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** ssschmidt@saintmaryhc.org

**Mass Schedule**

Tuesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
Wednesday	5:30pm	St. Mary
Thursday	8:00am	St. Mary
First Friday	9:00am	St. Mary
Saturday	5:00pm	St. Mary
Sunday	8:00am	Holy Cross
	10:00am	St. Mary
4th Sunday	12:00pm	St. Mary

**Reconciliation:** St. Mary: Wednesdays 4:45 - 5:15pm; after 9:00am First Friday Mass and Saturdays 4:00 - 4:30pm; or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Contact Fr. Andrew

**Marriage:** Contact Fr. Andrew at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

**Priesthood/Religious:** www.vocationsonline.org

## Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration

### Tuesday, November 16

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Patrick J. Phelan

### Wednesday, November 17

4:45 - 5:15pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

5:30pm Mass, St. Mary †Fr. Gene Koch  
~ followed by Adoration

### Thursday, November 18

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Rita & Donnie Smith

### Saturday, November 20

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Beverlee Stokka

### Sunday, November 21

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross For the Parish

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

## Autumn Prayer

We see signs of summer's passing  
in golden leaves, shortening days,  
misty mornings, autumn glow.

We sense its passing  
in rain that dampens, winds that chill,  
Harvest's bounty placed on show.

Creator God, who brings forth  
both green shoot and hoar frost,  
sunrise and sunset,  
we bring our thanks  
for seeds that have grown,  
harvests gathered, storehouses filled,  
mouths fed.

And, as your good earth will soon rest  
through winter's cold embrace,  
we will look forward to its re-awakening  
when kissed by next Spring's first touch.

*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 card found in the vestibule of St. Mary or Holy Cross or on our website. We are glad you are here!



## Book of Remembrance

This Book will be in the Sanctuary this month. You are invited to write in the names of your deceased loved ones to be remembered at our Masses.

## You Have Moved the NCCY Bus!

Thanks to your awesome generosity we received donations to get our bus to NCCY and back so no further fundraising is needed! Thank you for your love, prayers and support!

## Work of Our Hands

Parishioners can showcase their businesses or sell products at our Work Of Our Hands Festival, December 4 & 5 at St. Mary's Social Hall. Parishioners who are service providers, hobbyists, or willing to provide their service or goods for a fee or barter are welcome to participate and exhibit their goods or services. Contact Lisa Kautza at [kautza@netins.net](mailto:kautza@netins.net) or 515 - 964-7687 or text at 515-238-5557 **before November 15** if you'd like to participate or for more information.

## Decorations at Holy Cross Cemetery

Please pick up any of your decorations that you would like to keep by Friday of this week. All decorations remaining will be removed from the graves.

† For Pastoral assistance, please contact Fr. Andrew at 515-367-2685 or [Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org).

## Covid Reminders

The Diocese is recommending, not requiring, masks for parishioners over the age of five during all indoor liturgies and other indoor parish events. Masks are required for all clergy and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion during the distribution of Communion. We have masks and hand sanitizer available. If you wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please receive from Fr. Andrew (he sanitizes after each). For Diocesan updates please go to: <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>.

## Finance Council

Meeting: November 16, 6:30pm, Social Hall

## Knights of Columbus

Nov. 21: 6:40pm Rosary, Church, 7:00pm Meeting, Hall

## Parish Council

Meeting: November 23, 6:30pm, Social Hall

## Stewardship Committee

Meeting: January 10 6:00pm, Social Hall

## Upcoming Events

- † **Choir practice:** Sundays, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, 12 & 19 after 10:00am Mass
- † **Sunday, Nov. 28:** Coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass
- † **Weekend of Dec. 4/5:** Work Of Our Hands Festival: Saturday, 3:00-4:45pm and after Mass to 7:00pm and Sunday, after 10:00am Mass to 12:30pm — Wine & Cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 10:00am Mass
- † **Monday, Dec. 6:** Fellowship time for ladies of the parish following 6:00pm Mass, St. Mary

## Christmas Eve Choir

We will have a Christmas Eve choir this year! If you would like to sing in this choir, please plan to attend practices on Sundays November 21, December 5, 12 & 19 immediately following 10:00am Mass. Practices last one hour. All ages and skill levels welcome and we'd love to have you join us. Please contact Sue Schmidt, [sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org) / 515-689-9949 if you would like to join or have questions.

## Liturgical Ministers

We are looking for lectors, ushers and Host distributors for our Masses. Training provided. If you have questions or are interested in serving, please contact Fr. Andrew at [Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org). Thanks for considering this!

Church Sign: JESUS is the map to the Treasure!

## 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

If you have a child interested in receiving First Communion this spring, please attend a parent meeting Wednesday, January 5, 6:30pm in the Ed Center. This meeting is mandatory and we will discuss what First Communion will be like this year. If you are unable to attend, please contact one of us to arrange an alternative time.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

### Upcoming Schedule

**Nov. 17/19 - Regular sessions**

**Nov. 24/26 No sessions- Thanksgiving break**

**Dec.1/3 Regular sessions**

## S.T.O.R.M. Report

### 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

**EDGE & Youth Group will not gather Nov. 17 & 24** due to NCYC and Thanksgiving. We meet again December 1.

### Purpose (9th & 10th grades) Confirmation Program

Sessions are 6:00-8:00pm in the Social Hall.

Upcoming Sessions: Wednesday, December 15

Wednesday, January 26

Saint Displays due for 10th graders at our January session.

## Thanksgiving Day Mass



Please join us on November 25 for 9:00am Mass at St. Mary, and give thanks to God for all He has given us!

## Thank You

To our St. Mary-Holy Cross faith family,

On behalf of the family of Bill Jorgensen, thank you for your kindness, support, and comforting words. We gratefully appreciate the cards, flowers, prayers, wreath, and expressions of sympathy in our great loss. God bless you all for your thoughtfulness during this difficult time. Our church family has been a comforting blessing to each of us.

~ Shirley Jorgensen & Family

## Ladies of the Parish!

Please join us for Mass on Monday, December 6, 6:00pm at St. Mary, followed by light h'orderves and fellowship. We will be collecting items for the Emergency Family Shelter. They are in need of size 6 diapers, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, and money for bus tokens. You can bring your donation that evening. Bring a friend (or two) and join us!

## 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](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.*

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Chair* - [jroberts@huxcomm.net](mailto:jroberts@huxcomm.net)

Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)

Tim Loraditch - [Tloraditch@gmail.com](mailto:Tloraditch@gmail.com)

Tammi McClain - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)

Larry Sauer - [sauerld@outlook.com](mailto:sauerld@outlook.com)

Celia Shedd - [hoyhill@partnercom.net](mailto:hoyhill@partnercom.net)

## FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heidi Ackerman, *Co-President* - [heidimdittmer@gmail.com](mailto:heidimdittmer@gmail.com)

Sue Tollefson, *Co-President* - [suet@iowacubs.com](mailto:suet@iowacubs.com)

John Fisher - [Johnfisher@sienafastener.com](mailto:Johnfisher@sienafastener.com)

Diane Gannon - [ddkgannon@gmail.com](mailto:ddkgannon@gmail.com)

Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - [arlene@4andersons.com](mailto:arlene@4andersons.com)

Beth Hart - [mrsmatthart@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmatthart@gmail.com)

Kelly Hoffmeier - [nkhoff@msn.com](mailto:nkhoff@msn.com)

Tammi McClain - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)

Kathy Petersen - [katherine@huxcomm.net](mailto:katherine@huxcomm.net)

Kris Sturtz - [klsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:klsturtz@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@midiaowa.net](mailto:pjbishop@midiaowa.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 - [shawcattle77@gmail.com](mailto:shawcattle77@gmail.com)

Mike and Mary Winders - [mefothergill@yahoo.com](mailto:mefothergill@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)

## Coats for Kids Drive



If you have a clean, slightly used winter coat you can spare, please consider donating it to our K of C coat drive to help those in need at Collins-Maxwell Schools. New coats are welcome as well! Drop-off bins are at St. Mary's and Holy Cross until November 21. If you have any questions, feel free to call Jon Hand at 515-291-8814 or Cory Schoening at 515-360-4824.

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	\$5,290	\$5,642	<b>October 31</b>
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$3,300	\$5,642	<b>November 7</b>

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$98,343	\$107,198	\$96,234

## 2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Payments	Unpaid Pledges	Refund
\$51,038	\$53,470	\$3,060	<b>\$2,432</b>

Thank you to those who have been so generous to this year's assessment. Additional monies received from those paying on their pledges will be refunded to the parish!



## ADVENT RESOURCES

*You have various booklets to choose from to help prepare for the Christmas celebration of God among us. Determine ahead of time which might be best for you by reading the following brief descriptions. Booklets will be available next weekend.*

### Little Blue Book

#### *Advent and Christmas Seasons*

Six minutes a day. Each 24-hour day has 240 "six minute" segments; you are asked to give one of those segments to the Lord. Each day you will reflect on passages assigned for the weekday Masses, giving you reflections from all the Gospels that you may have seldom heard proclaimed or peached about. 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

#### *Blessed Are You Who Believe*

For all that Jesus accomplished, he lived in a hidden corner of the earth. His first 33 years were quiet, routine and normal. Hardly anyone understood that God was living among them. Yet in the ordinary and the hidden, Jesus lived a life extraordinarily pleasing to his heavenly Father. This gives us hope. Most days our lives are ordinary, sometimes even boring. Jesus shows us that God can do the incredible through the ordinary. Everyone who lives for the Lord, can live hidden, yet extraordinary lives of faith; let this book help you with that. May your faith journey this Advent make the angels rejoice!

### Waiting in Joyful Hope

#### *Daily Reflections*

Prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ with this inviting guide. During the especially busy Advent and Christmas seasons, this book offers brief, down-to-earth reflections that bring prayer and Scripture into everyday life in a thought-provoking and lasting way. Through reflections on readings from the weekday and Sunday Masses, you will grow in your understanding of the Word of God. This book will help busy people, not to have "one more thing to do" this busy season, but to "do the best thing" this busy season, to enrich your prayer life.

### Gather Around the Manger

#### *Activity Booklet For Children*

This booklet invites us to remember the animals who welcomed the birth of Jesus. The donkey gives Mary a ride to Bethlehem, the sheep warms the baby with wool and the dove sings the baby to sleep. Celebrate the animals of Advent with games, puzzles and activities that each day offers children an age-appropriate scripture verse, reflection and activity that enriches the understanding of the story of Christmas.

## Celebrate Advent like Mary!



### Parish Advent Opportunities

**Mass:** Tuesdays, 5:30pm at Holy Cross; Wednesdays, 5:30pm at St. Mary (followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament); Thursdays, 8:00am at St. Mary, and First Friday, 9:00am at St. Mary.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Wednesdays after 5:30pm Mass.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** St. Mary: Wednesdays, 4:45-5:15pm, Saturday, 4:00-4:30pm, or by appointment with Fr. Andrew.

Advent Reconciliation Service: *Date and time to be announced.*

Find Advent events and resources offered by the Diocese and other parishes at [www.dmdiocese.org](http://www.dmdiocese.org).

## Volunteers Needed to Prepare a Meal for Homeless Families

Our parish has been preparing a meal for the families at the Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter on the second Sunday of each month for more than twenty years. We need volunteers currently for April, July, August, and December in 2022. One or more families or groups can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal (about 10 families up to 34 people). Covid precautions are taken (masks & distancing) while up to 3 people can now prepare the meal on-site. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt that can be used for a tax deduction. To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza at [kautza@netins.net](mailto:kautza@netins.net) or 515-964-7687.

We are grateful to the following parishioners who prepared meals this past year: Rebecca and Will Bates, Arlene and Todd Anderson family, Religious Education students, JoAnn Meusbarger, Sharon Adams, Lisa Pritchard, Parish Council, Knights of Columbus, Matt and Angie Miller family, Stacey and Tom Rooney, Tammi and Garrett McClain, and Sharon Morris; some of who prepared more than one meal. Thank you for your generosity!

### Thank You's

*Confirmation Work Day:* Many thanks to the young people and adults who pulled out all the grass from the Holy Cross Cemetery driveway. You receive a standing ovation from the Cemetery Committee!

*Blood Drive:* Our November 4th pint (of soup) for a pint blood drive collected an average 33 blood products which will sustain or save up to 99 lives. Of the 38 people who registered to donate, 32 were able to do so. Thank you to the following who came to donate blood or treats and/or volunteered at the drive: new parishioners and first-time donors Kevin Cowles and Angela McClannahan, David Thomas, Susan Pratt, Rita McClain, Patricia Thomas, Michael Lenz, Mary Jo Ward, Tammi & Garrett McClain, Marion Panyan, Dona Cowman, Eric Argotsinger, Renee Spratt, Mary Smith, Brian Liske, Joe Rumbaugh, Courtney Reiser, Doug Heger, Fr. Andrew Windschitl, Larry Mitchell, Lori Churchill, Jack McDermott, Judy Sesker, Larry Sauer, Glenda Oberender, Michael Boyd, Kathleen Greenwood, Janet Stewart, Patrick Cory, Karen Stafford, Scott Schaffer, Kathy Petersen, Doug Jones, Craig Ellyson, Tim & Lisa Kautza, Kathy Daup, Sue White, Andrea Fisher and parish youth.

Please schedule an appointment (required, no walk-ins yet) for our Thursday, January 27 (3:00 – 7:00pm) drive either by signing up on the bulletin board in the vestibule at St. Mary Church or visiting [www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/). If you have difficulties/questions, please call LifeServe Blood Center 800-287-4903 and tell them you wish to sign up to donate at the Elkhart Community Blood Drive. Volunteers and treats for the canteen are also needed. Please contact Lisa & Tim Kautza if you wish to help ([kautza@netins.net](mailto:kautza@netins.net) or 515-964-7687).

*From Emergency Family Shelter:* Thank you so much for the meals you provided for our guests at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter this past year. These meals not only make our guests feel cared for, but they also model proper nutrition and meal ideas for families in their future homes. You also take a huge burden off the staff. The shelter staff counts you among our most precious blessings. We truly cannot thank you enough!

Sincerely, *Randy Jansen, Shelter Coordinator*



Americans throw away 25 billion styrofoam coffee cups every year.

## 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 most Wednesdays (4:00 to 6:00pm), Saturdays (10:00am to Noon) and Sundays (1:00 to 3:00pm). If you would be willing to help for a 2 hour shift, please contact Delila Roberts, 515-597-2782 or Jeriann McLaughlin, [Deanmac1954@gmail.com](mailto:Deanmac1954@gmail.com) or 515-291-3543. Thank you.

## Helping Your Community!

The Blessing Box Food Pantry in Elkhart is collecting items for upcoming holiday food boxes to be distributed. We are in need of canned green beans and french fried onions. If you are able to assist, please put your donation under the table outside the cry room. Thank you for your generosity. They are also seeking volunteers to help box up items to distribute on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Please contact Tammi McClain at 515-290-3904 if interested.

## Monthly Healing Services

Beginning November 17, all are invited to attend a healing service at St. Ambrose Cathedral on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. *"Come to me, all you are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

## Interested in a Vocation to the Priesthood?

Men aged 16 and older are invited to join Bishop William Joensen, Vocation Director Fr. Ross Parker and other priests from the area at the Andrew Dinner on Monday, November 22. This is an evening of prayer, good food and fun for young men interested in learning more about the vocation of priesthood. We begin with a 5:00pm Holy Hour at St. Albert School in Council Bluffs followed by a simple dinner. For more information, please contact Fr. Andrew, visit [vocationsonline.org](http://vocationsonline.org), or contact the Vocations Office, [vocations@dmdiocese.org](mailto:vocations@dmdiocese.org) / 515-237-5014.

## Catholic Youth Camp Early Bird Registration

For almost 60 years, young people have been coming to St. Thomas More Center in Panora to encounter a week of adventure, joy, faith, creating memories and building friendships. Register by December 31 to get a discount for the best week of your child's summer! To find out more or to register, go to <https://stmcenter.com/>. *Added bonus:* our parish pays \$100 of the camp fee for children of the parish.

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 14

*Theme: Jesus will come again.*

*Reading I:* Daniel 12: 1-3 • Those who lead others to justice shall be like stars!

*Reading II:* Hebrews 10: 11-14, 18 • Christ takes away our sins.

*Gospel:* Mark 13: 24-32 • Jesus will come again, and the believer must be ready.

*For Children:* If Jesus came to visit you today, what would you do? What would say? How would you act?

*For Youth:* If today was your last day, what would you be most thankful for? What would you regret?

*For Adults:* If today's your last, what would you do with it?