



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Your talent is
God's gift to you.
What you do with
it is your gift back
to God.



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 15, 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,

The light of the wise virgins in last Sunday's Gospel was seen by saints such as St. Augustine as a symbol of our good works that are the results of our faith, symbolized by the virgins' lamps. Like those virgins, the servants of this Sunday's Gospel are given talents by their master and he expects them to do something with them that results in some kind of profit. The master's praise of the first two servants is equal even though they were given a different number of talents. What matters is that they used whatever amount they were given to the full. This contrasts with the third servant, who even though he was given less, did nothing with it. The consequences of the first two servants' action and the third servant's lack of action is clear. What can we say about our own reception of God's gift of faith and production of fruit for Him? ~ 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
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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	St. Mary

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.vocationonline.org>.

Mass and Adoration

Tuesday, November 17

6:00pm St. Mary †*June Norris*
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, November 18

5:30pm Holy Cross †*Bernard Hanlon*

Thursday, November 19

8:00am St. Mary †*Clifford & Sarah Seuferer*

Saturday, November 21

5:00pm St. Mary †*Ralph & Neva Cory*

Sunday, November 22

8:00am Holy Cross †*Will & Mikey Carpenter*
10:00am St. Mary *For the Parish*

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. Read more on the insert in this bulletin.

✝ 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 for assistance.

Temporary Adjustment to Phase 3 Regathering Guidelines

On November 6, the diocese implemented a regathering policy adjustment, made out of concern for the physical and spiritual health of the people of our diocese, and to protect our gathering around the Eucharistic table and worshipping together through these upcoming months. Due to the rising COVID cases throughout the Diocese of Des Moines, the increased hospitalizations, and the anticipated difficulties that the winter season will bring, the Diocese of Des Moines has suspended all parish and diocesan sponsored or hosted social events, beginning November 23 through January 10.

The diocese remains in phase III of regathering, which allows for public worship and additional parish functions, but is adjusting the policy to temporarily prohibit parish and diocesan sponsored or hosted social events. While we hope for the ability to resume social gatherings on January 11, we do recognize that the suspension may need to be extended at that time.

For Diocesan updates, livestream Masses and resources, please go to <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>

Church Sign

When you are down to nothing God is up to something!

God is Close

As our lives seem distant and disjointed,
we remember that God is always close
and in this divine closeness
we are one no matter where we sit.

The Creator of all
that is
and was
and is to come,
is present in the gentle whisper.

Remember the absolute tenderness
and perpetual closeness of God.
In all the chaos and fear,
He is near always,
close enough to whisper peace
to our weary hearts.

God of silence and stillness,
we trust you are with us
in this time of noise and chaos.
We pray for an end to this pandemic.
Whisper your words of comfort,
encouragement and hope to all
who need them in these days of fear.
Draw close to those who are sick
and all those who risk illness,
caring for them,
protecting and uplifting them.

In Your name, we pray. Amen.

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Parish Council

Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 24, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship Committee

Meeting, Monday, Dec. 14, 6:00pm, Social Hall

✝ Book of Remembrance

We have our Book of Remembrance placed in the Sanctuary this month, but are doing it a little different this year. 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.

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!



On The Radio

Tune in to Iowa Catholic Radio (1150 AM, 88.5 FM or 94.5 FM) most Fridays around 7:15pm to hear Fr. Andrew discuss this upcoming Sunday's Gospel. At 9:00am every Friday tune in for the Bishop's weekly radio show, "Making it Personal With Bishop Joensen".

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

In lieu of regular sessions for the final week of class we have decided to provide an opportunity for Reconciliation, Mass and Adoration for each session. We have made an Advent packet for each family and these can be picked up at your session's Mass time. Please RSVP to Geneveve or Tracy if you plan to attend Mass. If you are unable to attend Mass, these packets will be available the following day in the Ed Center. Please pick up at your earliest convenience.

Tuesday, Nov. 17- Session A - 5:15pm Adoration and Reconciliation, Mass at 6:00pm

Wednesday, Nov. 18- Session B and C - 6:15pm Mass with Adoration and Reconciliation to follow.

Thursday, Nov. 19- At Home Families, 6:00pm Adoration and Reconciliation with Mass to follow.

January 6- First Communion Parent Meeting, 6:30pm, Ed Center

January 12/13- Sessions Resume

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 previously scheduled events for students in Grades 7th - 12th are cancelled now through January 12.

Many of you are aware of the recent heartbreaking decision we made to cancel in-person gatherings for our RE, EDGE, Confirmation and Youth Group programs. We have all had a great couple months together so far. However, we understand the importance of keeping everyone safe during these uncertain times of Covid-19. We will not be gathering from now until January 12, 2021. Watch the bulletin, SMHC website, and the Remind App for at-home faith formation opportunities. We pray that we are able to gather face to face once again after the holidays! Stay safe.

~ Melissa, Andrea & Nicole



Coats For Kids

Help keep a child warm this winter by joining the Knights of Columbus as they collect winter coats November 21 to 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. For questions, or to arrange 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.

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
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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
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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 1 Budget Week 18

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$1488	\$4,860

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$97,696	\$92,340	\$105,693

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/>.

Masks at Mass

In addition to the bishop's letter below regarding the mask mandate, priests and deacons were sent the following details from him. Please be aware of this and know that you can contact me about any questions, comments, and/or concerns. - Fr. Andrew

Legitimate exemptions would include individuals who cannot wear a mask because of a medical or psychological condition that precludes mask use. Conditions could include sensory sensitivities, extreme anxiety or fear of mask use, or severe skin conditions. These conditions are rare. It would be imprudent to pry into a person's claim that he or she is unable to wear a mask, but it is appropriate to ask individuals to wear a mask, by either empowering the greeters, or by asking parishioners privately before or after Mass. Some parishioners may be unsure if an exemption applies to them. One possible aid in discernment is to ask if there are any situations in which they can wear a mask. If a person can wear a mask at the store, or at a place of employment, or at the doctor's office, then they can wear a mask at Mass. This discernment should take place in private conversations.

Additionally there is the challenge of enforcement. Again, I do expect that our parishes ensure observance by the faithful. A parish should not forcibly remove parishioners who refuse to comply, instead they should provide direct correction to those individuals outside of Mass whenever possible. It would be valuable to offer catechesis on the binding nature of a legitimate command from a legitimate authority. As Cardinal Sarah wrote in *Let us Return to the Eucharist in Joy*, "A sure principle in order not to err is obedience... In times of difficulty (e.g., wars, pandemics), Bishops and Episcopal Conferences can give provisional norms which must be obeyed. Obedience safeguards the treasure entrusted to the Church." This obedience should not be presented as a burden to be endured, but as a freeing gift, an assurance that we are in harmony with the will of God, and a condition of possibility for any properly ordered community of love.

Finally, let us promote this requirement pastorally. There is significant frustration, loneliness and pain in our communities. Cardinal Sarah reminded us, "Due attention to hygiene and safety regulations cannot lead to the sterilization of gestures and rites, to the instilling, even unconsciously, of fear and insecurity in the faithful." A pastoral approach does not mean lowering expectations, but it does mean being sensitive to the wounds our people are suffering, accompanying with love those who struggle, and fostering peace and an experience of community even while physically distant.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am acutely aware in the State of Iowa and in our country the incidence of infection, hospitalization, and mortality due to the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 is rising significantly just as we as enter the holiday and winter seasons. I conclude that it is necessary to require face masks or coverings at all public Masses, sacramental celebrations, and other events in Church buildings in the Diocese of Des Moines, effective immediately. This requirement extends through February 2, 2021 (The Feast of the Presentation), at which time it will be reviewed. I have taken this critical step so we may responsibly continue to gather around the Eucharistic altar – the source and summit of our faith – and worship together.



The Eucharist is the pearl of great price won at the cost of Christ's saving sacrifice on the Cross. The personal and communal sacrifice entailed in wearing a mask, while it involves for many a yielding of our will and personal preference and comfort, pales in comparison to the privilege of participating in the Mass. Our ability to continue to experience God's grace in the sacramental life of the Church is directly linked to our ability to mitigate the risk of COVID infections; therefore, a mask requirement is prudent at this time. Moreover, simple charity obliges us to take into account the physical health of all parishioners as a way to ensure that worship is relatively safe and accessible to as many parishioners as possible. None of us wants to be the cause for someone else to withdraw or refrain from Mass attendance because certain members of a congregation fail to employ this basic means of protection for our neighbor.

This diocesan requirement applies to all those over the age of five, who do not have a medical or psychological condition prohibiting mask use. A personal preference opposed to mask use, or the belief that masks are not effective, does not qualify as a condition exempting one from mask use. If parishioners are unsure whether an exemption applies to them, they should consult with their pastor who can assist in discernment.

The Diocese asks parishes to communicate this requirement to all parishioners, and to ensure observance by the faithful. Again, the one thing needful is to be able to place ourselves at Jesus' feet, to heed his command to take, eat, and drink his Body and Blood. We are consoled and revived in our belief that Jesus continues to meet us in the Eucharist; we continue to support each other as the family of God, and we remain in God's providential care. As Cardinal Robert Sarah has reminded us in his letter, *Let us Return to the Eucharist with Joy*, "The Church will continue to cherish the human person as a whole. She bears witness to hope, invites us to trust in God, recalls that earthly existence is important, but much more important is eternal life: sharing the same life with God for eternity is our goal, our vocation."

The Sunday Mass obligation remains suspended. For those who do not attend Mass during the pandemic, God's infinite grace and mercy remain abundantly available.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.
Bishop of Des Moines



ADVENT RESOURCES

We have a choice of two booklets for young adults/adults and a booklet for children available to help you and your family prepare for the Christmas celebration of God among us. A brief description of each booklet is below. We will 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Daily meditations & 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 by the time Christmas arrives, you will know God's presence in your life more deeply.

O come, Emmanuel!
Come into our hearts!

Waking Up To Advent

Activity Booklet For Children

Just as morning begins a brand new day, so Advent begins a brand new Church year. Help children "wake up" to this new Church year with playful activities and thought-provoking reflections. In this simple book, children can celebrate Advent saints, learn the meaning of beloved Advent scriptures, and find help each day in getting ready for the riches of Christmas. Help you and your child wake up to Advent together!

Celebrate Advent like Mary!

Parish Advent Opportunities

Mass: Tuesdays, 6:00pm at St. Mary (followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament); Wednesdays, 5:30pm at Holy Cross; Thursdays, 8:00am at St. Mary, and First Friday, 9:00am at St. Mary.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesdays after 6:00pm Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays, 4:00-4:30pm in the cry room at St. Mary or by appointment with Fr. Andrew. Reconciliation is also offered Tuesdays at St. Mary during Adoration following 6:00pm Mass and after First Friday Mass on December 4. There will not be a parish Reconciliation Service this Advent.

From Our Home to Yours...

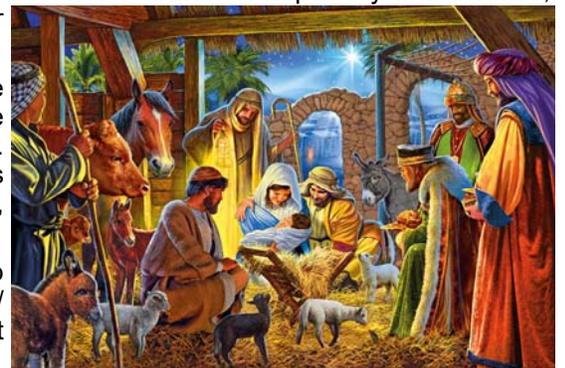
From Bishop William Joensen:

With great enthusiasm, I invite you to join me and the Catholic Charities Board of Directors for *No Room at the Inn VIRTUAL*. This year the entire family can join in from the comfort and safety of your home. We will listen to some 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.

Pope Francis reminds us that on account of Christ's birth among us, we are all brothers and sisters. Especially at Christmas, we are called to make a real place for each other in our hearts and in our communities.

I hope you consider joining me for the broadcast of "No Room" and support the important housing initiatives provided by Catholic Charities benefiting the Emergency Family Shelter, Domestic Violence Shelter and Refugee Services. WHEN: Friday, December 4, 7:00 – 8:00pm FOR: Musical Performances, Kids Activities and Virtual Program Tours. WHERE: Anywhere! On your computer, TV, or phone.

To register online, please go to: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdm.org/nri/>. To purchase raffle tickets for a hand-carved nativity scene, please go to: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdm.org/nativity/>. For additional information please contact Holly at hackermann@catholiccharitiesdm.org or 515-237-5027.





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.*

Thank You St. Mary – Holy Cross Parish – Parish Volunteers Needed

Thank you so much for the meals St. Mary – Holy Cross provides for the guests at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter (formerly St. Joe's), especially during a global health crisis! 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 of staff who would be cooking on top of their normal duties if the meals weren't provided. During this time of year when we take note of those for whom we are thankful, the shelter staff counts you among our most precious blessings. We all wish you very happy holidays.

~ Randy Jansen, Shelter Coordinator

Our parish has been preparing a meal for the families at the shelter on the second Sunday of each month for a couple of decades. We need volunteers in 2021 for April, June, July, September, November and December. One or more families can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal. Covid precautions are taken as meal providers will not need to enter the shelter and masks are to be worn. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt that you can use for a tax deduction. Please share your love with some families who are experiencing unexpected and dire changes to their lives. To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza at kautza@netins.net or 515.964.7687.

We are grateful to the following parishioners who prepared meals this past year: Arlene and Todd Anderson family, Rebecca and Will Bates, Religious Education students, Pat and Gail O'Connor, JoAnn Meusburger, Sharon Adams, Lisa Pritchard, Pastoral Council, Knights of Columbus, Kris Sexton, Matt and Angie Miller family, Kathy and Rick Daup, and Sharon Morris. Thank you!

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.

St. Luke's Kindergarten Information Meeting

Do you have a child that might be ready for Kindergarten for the next school year? Join us Monday, November 30, at 6:00pm, for an evening discussion with our kindergarten teachers, principal, and school nurse about kindergarten readiness, what to expect at St. Luke's School, what you need to attend in the fall, and tuition assistance options. After the discussion you'll have the opportunity to register your child and tour the school. Students will be placed in spots starting the week of December 8, so don't wait to register. Any child who registers between Nov. 30 and Dec. 31 will receive a \$25 registration fee discount. Please bring your child's birth certificate and 2 copies of their baptismal certificate. Masks required. Parents only; please keep children at home. More information at www.slte-school.org.



An average American will produce about 90,000 pounds of garbage in his or her lifetime.

Four New Blood Donors Put Us Over the Top

Our November 5 blood drive was another success as 39 units of blood were collected (117 lives saved or sustained) and our goal was 35 units. We had 4 first-time donors!! **Thank you** to the following who came to donate, provide snacks, and/or volunteered at the drive: Shonda Hay, Dawn Beukema, Brett Beukema, Janet Stewart, Mary Jo Ward, Mary Smith, Janet Harmeyer, Tami and Mark Wise, Garrett McClain, Kathy Petersen, Linda Froehlich, Tawna Kerr, Judy and Gary Sesker, Teresa Kaltenheuser, Denise Northrop, Bonnie and George Altenhofen, Cassandra Hollingshead, Glenda Oberender, Joe Rumbaugh, Doug Jones, Lori Churchill, Sandy Ortiz, Kelly and Mitch Muth, Connie Passmore, Jill Swanson, Craig Ellyson, Tim and Lisa Kautza, Kathy Daup, Janean Struthers, Susan Hobart, Patrice Hudson, Abigail Bruce, Susan Pratt, Ashley Segal, Ron McWilliams, Sharon Dunbar, Ben Kautza, and Rebecca Bates, and thank you to the EDGE adult and high school core team and Broxton Warg for helping set up for the drive and to Fr. Andrew and Barb Liske for resetting after the drive. The **next blood drive** is January 28 from 3:00pm – 7:00pm in the social hall. Go to www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/ to sign up to donate, and invite a friend to do the same.

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.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Our diocese takes up this national collection and your support makes a difference for families living in poverty across the United States. The need is even greater this year, for those who can least afford it have been hardest hit by the economic impact of the pandemic. 25% of our collection stays in our diocese. Envelopes will be available next weekend; we ask you to return your donation the following weekend. Thank you for your continued support of these diocesan collections to assist those in need.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 15

Theme: Christ calls us to use our gifts for the Reign of God.

Reading I: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 • The wise woman receives her reward.

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 • You are children of the light.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30 • We must use the gifts we have been given!

For Children: Name one talent or gift that God has given you and tell how you have used it.

For Youth: Name three talents that you have. How can you use these talents in the next week to make someone's life better?

For Adults: Using Jesus' parable as your starting point, describe in your own words how you are using your own gifts to enrich the reign of God.