



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



**Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe**

November 21, 2021



First Sunday Of Advent

November 28, 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 one liturgical year ends and a new one begins over the weekends that this bulletin covers, what our Lord says in the book of Revelation is particularly relevant: "I am the Alpha and the Omega" and "the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty." Alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. So, he is making a statement about his transcendence. To say that he is the first and the last with human words is insufficient because he has no beginning and no end; he reigns over all, unlike we who have limitations. For us in this life, time begins and ends, but we pray that at some point we experience a new life with him that knows no end.

~ 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
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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	5:30pm	Holy Cross
	Wednesday	5:30pm	St. Mary
<i>See inside for special Mass time on Nov. 25.</i>	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 23

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Stephen & Michael Carpenter

Wednesday, November 24

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

5:30pm Mass, St. Mary †Isaac Beying
~ followed by Adoration

Thursday, November 25 Thanksgiving

9:00am Mass, St. Mary †Bernard Hanlon

Saturday, November 27

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Helen & Dick Opperman

Sunday, November 28

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross Patrick Phelan Family

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Rosemary Cory

12:00pm Mass, St. Mary For the Parish

Tuesday, November 30

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Lawrence Hanlon

Wednesday, December 1

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

5:30pm Mass, St. Mary The Wolf Family
~ followed by Adoration

Thursday, December 2

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Leo & Bertha Flannery

First Friday, December 3

9:00am Mass, St. Mary †Ken Cowman & Dorothy Smith

Saturday, December 4

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Bill Devereux

Sunday, December 5

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Bill Jorgensen

10:00am Mass, St. Mary For the Parish

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God of all creation, giver of all good gifts,
you bless our lives with your generous love,
by giving us once more the fruit of the fields,
our family and friends, our faith, our work,
And our lives together.

We thank you for these gifts,
and ask that you help us to imitate your goodness,
to share our blessings with those who are in need.

Amen.

Advent Prayer

All-powerful God,
increase our strength of will for doing good
that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming
and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven,
where he lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Knights of Columbus

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

Dec. 12: 6:40pm Rosary, Church, 7:00pm Meeting, Hall

Parish Council

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

No December meeting

Finance Council

No December meeting

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: January 10, 6:00pm, Social Hall

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

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

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Please join us for 9:00am Mass at St. Mary to give thanks to God for all He has provided for us!



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

Covid Reminders

The Diocese is recommending, not requiring, masks for all those over the age of five during all liturgies and events in church buildings. Masks are required for distribution of Communion for all clergy and Communion Ministers. 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: <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>.

Coming 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:** Ladies fellowship and tea following 6:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Christmas Eve Choir

All ages and skill levels welcome to sing in this choir and we'd love to have you join us. Our practices are Sundays November 21, December 5, 12 & 19 immediately following 10:00am Mass. Practices last one hour. Please contact Sue Schmidt, sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org / 515-689-9949 if you would like to join or have questions.

Noon Mass

This Mass is offered November 28 with more elements of our tradition included; at certain times the priest faces the same way as the people, incense, inclusion of some Latin. A potluck meal, catechesis, and/or fellowship will follow. Contact Fr. Andrew if you plan to attend the meal and let him know what you might be able to bring.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Susanne Campbell, sister of JoAnn Moody and Jean Rumbaugh, who passed away November 17. She is now in eternal peace with our Lord and Savior. Please pray for her family that they know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

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

~ Mass of Christian Burial is at St. Mary's on Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 10:30am, with visitation one hour prior.

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org, 515-556-4150
Tracy Miller, 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. 24/26 No sessions- Thanksgiving break
Dec. 1/3 Regular sessions
Dec. 8 No session- Holy Day of Obligation, attend Mass
Dec. 10 Regular session
Dec. 15/17 Regular sessions

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

EDGE & Youth Group will meet next on 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.

Work of Our Hands Dec. 4 & 5 – Join Us!

Enjoy a fun, relaxing time sampling food and finding out more about the goods and services provided by our parishioners (4 new vendors this year) at the 21st annual Work of Our Hands Festival, before (3:00-4:45pm) and after 5:00pm Mass Dec. 4 (with wine & cheese) and after 10:00am Mass Dec. 5 (with donuts & morning beverages) in the Social Hall. You may find that special present you've been looking for or just treat yourself. You'll find locally-grown meat, eggs, and honey; custom clothing, handmade crafts of all sorts, elegant and faith-oriented dinnerware, Christmas wreaths and holiday greenery, quality cookware and kitchen tools, natural skin care and professional makeup products, sustainable cleaning and personal care products, and repurposed books and unique journals. If you'd like to be a festival participant, contact Lisa Kautza at 515-238-5557 or Kautza@netins.net.

Coats for Kids Drive

Sunday, November 21 is the final day of our coat Drive. Thank you for your donations for kids in need at Collins-Maxwell Schools.



PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com
Celia Shedd - hoyhill@partnercom.net

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heidi Ackerman, *Co-President* - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
Sue Tollefson, *Co-President* - suet@iowacubs.com
John Fisher - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
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@midiowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
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Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - shawcattle77@gmail.com
Mike and Mary Winders - mefothergill@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

Ladies of the Parish!



You are cordially invited to a special evening of Mass, fellowship, and tea. Join us from 6:00-8:00pm on Monday, December 6. Invite a friend and let's reconnect with one another! We are collecting the following items that night to be donated to the Family Emergency Shelter: Size 6 diapers, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, and money for Dart Bus tokens.
~ *The Stewardship Committee*

Weekly Collection Financial Update

November 14 Budget Week 20

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$8,073	\$5,642

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$108,415	\$112,840	\$97,696

2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal

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

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

Advent is a time of looking forward and waiting for the celebration commemorating Christ's birth, and for His second coming. Below are descriptions of booklets we have available. Find the best fit for you to help prepare for the Christmas celebration of God among us.

Little Blue Book: Each 24-hour day has 240 "six minute" segments; give one of those segments to the Lord. Reflect on readings for weekday Masses that you may have seldom heard or peached about. Read a variety of thoughts on these seasons, feast days, and various traditions and customs. Simply let God speak to you through the words.

The Word Among Us: Jesus' first 33 years were quiet, routine and normal. Only a few understood 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. All who live for the Lord, can live hidden, yet extraordinary lives of faith; this book helps with that.

Waiting in Joyful Hope: This is an especially busy time. Read brief, down-to-earth reflections that bring prayer and Scripture into everyday life. This book helps 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: *Children's book.* Celebrate the animals who welcomed the birth of Jesus 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.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please join us to celebrate Mary, Mother of God and her important role in our Faith! Masses for this Holy Day of Obligation are Tuesday, December 7, 6:00pm Vigil Mass at Holy Cross and Wednesday December 8, 8:00am and 6:00pm at St. Mary, with Reconciliation offered 5:15 to 5:45pm. *No Adoration this evening.*

Advent Reconciliation Service

You are invited to celebrate God's love and forgiveness at our Advent Reconciliation Service on Sunday, December 12, 2:00pm at St. Mary. We will have additional priests here to assist with individual confession.

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, 515-367-2685 /, bliske@saintmaryhc.org. *If the request is not for you, please ask permission of the one it is for, to be on our prayer chain.*

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit: You designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on the 15th or 30th. If you have questions or would like to begin ACH, please contact Sarah at sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org or find the form on the table at church or on the home page of our website.

Online Giving: Available through the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa with this secure link: <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. On the drop down choose *St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart* to make your tithe donation. No fees! The Foundation sends gift receipts. ~ Thank you!

Holiday Planning

As you make plans for the holidays, keep this in mind: Christmas Day falls on a Saturday. As the solemn celebration of Jesus' birth, this day remains a Holy Day of Obligation. Likewise, the Sunday obligation (for the Feast of the Holy Family) also remains in force. Thus, we will have 2 Mass obligations to fulfill between December 24 and 26, one for Christmas and one for Sunday. Please note, one cannot "kill two birds with one stone." We must go to two Masses, one for each obligation.

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, 515-291-3543 or Deanmac1954@gmail.com. Thank you.

Snow Removal Assistance Needed



The snow is not here yet, thank goodness! But it will come. We are asking for volunteers to help with snow removal of sidewalks, etc. at St. Mary for weekend and/or weekday time frames. You will get an email with instructions and the current schedule of parish events for the time(s) you sign up. Please contact Bill Schmitt with questions, 515-291-8005. A sign up genius will be available soon.

Thank you to all who helped last year and a grateful thank you to Nick and Todd Volz for removing the snow from the parking lot at St. Mary every year, and to Laurie Phelan for taking care of snow removal at Holy Cross each year. We appreciate you!!

Are You Looking For a Way to Become More Involved With the Community?

The Blessing Box Food Pantry in Elkhart is seeking volunteers to help box items to distribute to families on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Please contact Tammi McClain, 515-290-3904 if interested.



Catholic Campaign for Human Development

This Diocesan 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 your support. *Donation envelopes are on the table by the cry room; please return your donation next weekend.*

What is a Prayer Shawl?

A prayer shawl is a soft warm reminder for people going through a rough time that you are not alone and that we are praying for you. If you know someone that could use the comfort of a prayer shawl or are interested in helping make them, please contact Dona Cowman at 515-383-4482 or racefans@iowatelecom.net.

Change of Information?

Had a baby? Moved? Dropped your landline? Have you provided your cell phone number and email? Please contact the parish office with any changes or new information so our records can be as accurate as possible. Many thanks!

Work of Our Hands



Festival

Saturday, December 4, 3:00 to 4:45pm and after Mass until 7:00pm
Sunday, December 5, after 10:00am Mass until 12:30pm
in the Social Hall

Come see goods and services from members of our Parish!!

Norwex Consultant - Heidi Ackerman

Senegense/Lipsense - Haley Carpenter

Homemade Items - Dona Cowman

Mary and Martha Consultant - Beth Hart

Handmade Sewn Crafts - Kim Heger

Paper Parlor - Kelly Hoffmeier

The Christmas Tree Farm - Sandra Hunter

The Pampered Chef - Lisa Kautza

Limelife by Alcone - Jen Linderblood

Pine Grove Family Farms - Kirsten Smith

You may find the perfect Christmas gifts you've been looking for!



Pregnancy and Infant Loss Memorial Mass

Bishop William Joensen will offer this Mass at 7:00pm on Monday, November 29 at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny for all those who have suffered the loss of a child. A reception will be held after Mass, where educational resources for healing will be provided. For more information, contact Adam Storey in the diocese's Marriage & Family Life Office, 515-237-5056.

Living Advent

This Advent you are encouraged to check out the wealth of resources our diocese has posted online for families. No matter how well we share faith in our parishes and schools, it is ultimately at home where a child's faith will take deep root and grow strong. Check out some hands-on Advent activities, conversation topics for the dinner table, and other ideas that empower parents to find meaningful and fun practices to help make our faith come alive during the Advent season: dmdiocese.org/Advent2021.

Catholic Charities Family Christmas Fest

Join us for our new family-focused event on Saturday, December 4 from 9:00 -11:00am at the Pastoral Center at 601 Grand Avenue in Des Moines. There will be children's games and crafts, the Christmas Story read by Bishop Joensen, a raffle for a hand carved Nativity. An online auction will be held November 27 through December 4. We will also have a Terry & White Christmas Collection: please bring donations of white bath & hand towels and wash cloths, toilet paper, and paper towels to help support our programs!



Online Registration: Catholiccharitiesdm.org/2021christmas or contact Holly at hackermann@catholiccharities.org or 515-237-5027. For additional information call 1-800-950-9952.

Thinking About the Priesthood?

Bishop William Joensen is offering a unique opportunity December 17-19 for men who are high school seniors or older and thinking about priesthood. Come to Bishop's Discernment Retreat and learn more about what discernment is and what life as a diocesan priest is like. Email Vocations Director Father Ross Parker at vocations@dmdiocese.org or call 515/237-5050 for more information.

Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a Catholic Faith based marriage enrichment program and has been providing couples with better communication skills and tools for over 50 years. Find out what you've been missing by attending one of these upcoming experiences. February 11 - 13 in Ankeny or April 23 - 24 in Epworth. For more information or to register go to iowa-wwme.org or call 563-608-3305.

Counseling Available

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

Church Sign

For every Goliath, there is a stone.

SAYWHAT? About 11 million tons of textiles end up in U.S. landfills each year — an average of about 70 pounds per person.

St. Catherine Labouré

Zoe Labouré was born in southern France. Her mother died when she was eight years old. Following her mother's funeral, she went into her bedroom, picked up a statue of the Blessed Mother and said, "Now, dear Lady, you are to be my mother." She eventually joined the Daughters of Charity and took the name of Catherine. She often would see apparitions of Saint Vincent de Paul and Jesus. She once saw an apparition of Mary standing on a globe with rays streaming from her hands toward the globe. This would become the Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Medal. Within a few years, millions of medals had been made.



Though she foretold a number of events that would occur, Catherine mainly lived a quiet life for the remainder of her years. She was a nursing sister who cared for her patients and for her sisters. It was not until she was near death that she revealed the visions that she had received. She was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1947. She is honored by her order and in France on November 28.

Catherine's message today: With God's grace one does not have to be a strong, outgoing type to accomplish much in the world. In the years since the Miraculous Medal was introduced, many miracles have been reported.

Have you prayed for the grace that you need to carry out God's will in your life?

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Feast of Christ the King, November 21

Theme: Jesus reigns over us in truth.

Reading I: Daniel 7:13-14 • The Son of Man will come on a cloud.

Reading II: Revelation 1:5-8 • Jesus is the faithful witness.

Gospel: John 18:33b-37 • My kingdom does not belong to this world.

For Children: Is it difficult or easy for you to tell the truth? How does Jesus help you?

For Youth: Today we celebrate Christ the King. How much do you let Jesus' truth rule your life? How difficult is it for you to follow Jesus?

For Adults: What is the truth for you? How do you live the truth everyday?

First Sunday of Advent, November 28

Theme: Be on guard!

Reading I: Jeremiah 33:14-16 • A shoot shall rise up.

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 • Love one another and act in ways pleasing to God.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 • Jesus will come again in glory; be not afraid.

For Children: What helps you to grow in your faith? Who helps you?

For Youth: Advent is the Church season when we prepare for Christ's birth at Christmas. What is one thing you can do to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas?

For Adults: Paul exhorts us to "make greater progress" in our spiritual lives. What one step could you take to make greater progress in your own life?