



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Third Sunday of Advent

Dec. 15, 2019

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,

In Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) we often quote the beautiful response of the Missionaries of Charity when they were asked why they chose to implement CGS in their homes and in the formation of their sisters. "Because of the element of contemplation." In the atrium, we don't tell children it's time to contemplate scripture or make them sit in silence. We proclaim the word to them and give them time and materials in order to go deeper. Sometimes it will happen that a whole atrium will fall into a concentrated silence, and the catechists look at each other and sit down carefully and quietly so as not to break it! Other times, the children seem to "take turns" at being absorbed in thought, while others give the catechists a run for their money. But ultimately when given this time over many weeks we see the fruit of this work and what joy it brings to the child deepening their relationship with God.

This time of year is so busy with activities, gatherings, and running that sometimes we forget to take a deep breath and truly see the beauty Advent provides to us. As we enter the 3rd week of Advent, the week of joy, I encourage you to take time to slow down, read the scriptures, allow yourself time to contemplate what the Lord is speaking to you, and truly become like a child with joy in anticipation of the birth of Christ.

~ Tracy Miller, Co-coordinator, Preschool-6th grade Religious Education

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
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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 - 4:30p.m.
St. Mary, or by appointment with Fr. Andrew.

Baptism: Contact the Parish Office about a preparation program.

Marriage: Contact the Parish Office 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, December 17

6:00pm St. Mary †Rosemary & Leo Overmohle
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, December 18

5:30pm Holy Cross †Dorothy Gannon

Thursday, December 19

8:00am St. Mary †Donnie Smith

Saturday, December 21

5:00pm St. Mary †Rosemary Cory

Sunday, December 22

8:00am Holy Cross †Albert Ackerman
10:00am St. Mary For the Parish

Christmas Eve Masses

5:00pm, St. Mary

7:00pm, Holy Cross

Christmas Day Mass

9:00am, St. Mary



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesdays, 6:30pm, St. Mary (following 6:00pm Mass)

Parish Council

Meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 6:30pm, Ed Center

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 7:00pm, Ed Center

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: Monday, January 13, 6:00pm, Ed Center

Friends of St. Francis

Meeting: Date to be announced

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Sunday, December 15, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 6

Ashley Conover, Josie Smeltzer, Jennifer Theulen

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 and Holy Cross or on our website. We are glad you are here!

Pastoral Assistance

Please contact Fr. Andrew, 515-367-2685, for pastoral assistance or if a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit.



There's Still Time to Prepare!

We have booklets for all ages in the vestibule to help you along the remainder of your Advent journey. This is a time of looking forward and waiting, both for celebrating Christ's birth, and for the time when He comes again.



Advent Reconciliation Service

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, sets our hearts free from the burden of sin through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **Join us for our Service today, Sunday at 1:00pm**, to celebrate His love and forgiveness. We will have additional priests here to assist with individual confession.

Unable to attend our Service? Here are other area services:

SS John & Paul & St. Theresa, Monday, Dec. 16, 7:00pm

St. Joseph, Tuesday, Dec. 17, 6:30pm

St. Anthony, Saturday, Dec. 21, 9:00am

Jesus Asks Us to Feed the Hungry

For many years members of our parish have provided a meal for guests at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter on the second Sunday of each month. And we continue the tradition in 2020! We are in need of volunteers for April, May, July, September, November and December 2020. One or more families can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal, although the shelter prefers that no more than five people actually be present at the house at a time. 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. To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza at kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687.

Food Pantry Collection



Our collection next week is for Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter. They are most in need of monetary donations to purchase needed supplies at a reduced cost. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing with those in need.

Upcoming Events

†**Sunday, Dec. 15:** *Stations of The Nativity*, after 8am Mass — **Advent Reconciliation Service**, 1:00pm, St. Mary

†**Adult Christmas Choir practice** (6th graders and up): Sundays after 10am Mass for one hour on Dec. 15 & 22

†**Children's Choir practice** (1st - 5th graders): Sunday 9:25 - 9:55am, Dec. 15 & 22, Social Hall

†**Weekend of Dec. 21/22:** Food Pantry Collection for Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter

†**Sunday, January 5:** Epiphany Brunch after 10:00am Mass, Social Hall

Christmas Memorials



We offer you the opportunity to memorialize a loved one by making a donation toward flowers that will decorate St. Mary and Holy Cross this Christmas season. A memorial list with the names of your loved ones will be printed in the next bulletin. *Flower donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes; additional flower envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please return your donation by this Tuesday.*

We Are In Need of Your Assistance!

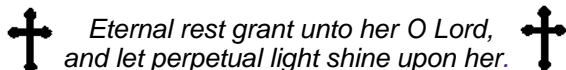
We are looking for additional volunteers to do one or two-week shifts of snow removal at St. Mary through mid April. Many hands make light work! For more information or to volunteer, please email Drew at dlhanlon@windstream.net. Thank you for considering this request. Many, many thanks to those who have already volunteered!!

Collecting for St. Jude Children's Hospital

We are collecting used greeting cards of any kind, Christmas, sympathy, birthday etc. The cards are recycled into holiday gifts, décor and more to raise money for services provided to children and families at the hospital. Please give them to Father Andrew at Holy Cross or at St. Mary put them in the box provided in the vestibule, now thru January 10. Thank you!

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rosemary Cory, mother of Kelly Tracy and aunt of Terri, Thom and Nancy Hamm, who passed away December 4th. May her family find strength and comfort during this most difficult time.



Religious Education Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

Sessions this week include a Reconciliation Service from 5:15-5:45pm on the 17th and 5:45-6:15pm and 6:30-7:00pm on the 18th.

January 8: Come to an Epiphany Party from 6:00-7:00pm, hosted by the EDGE Students! — Mandatory meeting for parents whose child is preparing for their First Communion, 6:00 - 7:00pm

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, Grades 7 & 8

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

No EDGE sessions on Dec. 18, 25 or Jan. 1. We will meet again on Jan. 8 from 6:00 - 7:30pm and host the RE kids for an Epiphany party.

May you and your families have a blessed Advent, Christmas and New Year!

Confirmation, Grades 9 & 10

Next Session: Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6:00-8:00pm, Social Hall. Watch the bulletin & emails for upcoming events.

S.T.O.R.M., Grades 7-12

Over the winter break on Monday, Dec. 30 we will open the youth room for all 7th-12th graders from Noon-8:00pm for a S.T.O.R.M. Winter Gathering. You can plan to stay for a little while or for the entire time. If you are experiencing a bit of cabin fever this is a time for you to get out of your house and gather with friends for some fun. It will be free time for you to watch movies, play video games, or board games, karaoke, or hang out! Snacks and drinks provided. You are welcome to bring a friend or two! We hope to see you on Dec. 30!

Epiphany Brunch

You are invited to celebrate Epiphany with us on Sunday, January 5 after the 10:00am Mass. Epiphany means revelation and both the visit of the Wise Men and his Baptism are important times when Jesus was revealed as Savior of all the nations! We will be collecting personal care items to be distributed between the three area clothing/food pantries we support. Please mark your calendar to attend! All are welcome!

*"Merry Christmas" is full of warmth and love:
"Happy Holidays" are empty words.*

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Will Bates - 630-470-8271 - a_k_bates@live.com
John Fisher - 515-240-2293 - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Doug Jones - 515-367-4402 - djones@bossard.com
Tim Loraditch - 515-556-4390 - Tloraditch@gmail.com
John Roberts - 515-460-2093 - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Stacey Rooney - 515-490-5034 - Rooneyslg17@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dave Pottebaum, *President* - 515-710-8932—pottebaum5@msn.com
Heidi Ackerman - 641-203-5322 - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
Doug Jones - 515-367-4402 - djones@bossard.com
Rita McClain - 515-249-6841 - mcclainrj@hotmail.com
Laurie Phelan - 515-201-6111 - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Sue Tollefson - 515 208-0536 - suet@iowacubs.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - 515-967-6770 - arlene@4andersons.com
Jacki Ausman - 515-441-3739 - jackiausman@gmail.com
Kathy Gass - 515-419-8569 - k.gass@mchsi.com
Beth Hart - 515-515-306-4916 - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - 515-975-7865 - nkhoff@msn.com
Tammi McClain - 515-290-3904 - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kris Sturtz - 515-238-1362 - ksturtz@gmail.com
Sue White - 515-967-2996 - charylmyron@q.com
John Zidon - 515-967-3367 - jzidon@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - 515-201-6111 - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Karen Bellis - 515-360-1465 - puzzlenuts@aol.com
Pat Bishop - 515-387-1391 - pjbishop@midiaowa.net
Lowell Crouse - 515-387-9530 - l3jl@windstream.net
John Freeman - 641-363-4462 - johnfmingo@hotmail.com
Tracy Irwin - 515-771-3071 - sammyjack@partnercom.net
Lynn Schreurs - 515-577-8147 - lschreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - 515-720-3587 - lshaw@tru-test.com
Mike and Mary Winders - 641-227-3346 - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

PARISH TRUSTEES

Anne Davis - 515-967-7477 - annedavis06@gmail.com
Doug Jones - 515-367-4402 - djones@bossard.com

PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Seeking a volunteer; contact the Parish Office for more information.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

December 8, Budget Week 23

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$4,978	\$5,730

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$137,552	\$131,790	\$130,799

2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Amt. Due
\$48,797	\$41,015	\$38,686	\$10,111

Second collection will be taken up until paid in full, or donate online at dmdiocese.thankyou4caring.org/, being sure to designate our parish for your donation.

Auto Debit for Tithing

If you don't use this type of tithing, please consider it. You designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on a pre-determined date. If you have questions or would like to begin ACH, please contact Sarah, parish bookkeeper, at sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org. Thank you.

Liturgical Ministers

Our upcoming Masses are by sign up. Please volunteer at Church or contact the office to help out. Thank you!

Saturday, December 21, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Needed: 2 Cup Bearers, 3 Altar Servers, 3 Ushers

Sunday, December 22, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Volunteers needed for all ministries.

Sunday, December 22, 10:00am, St. Mary

Volunteers needed for all ministries.

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Needed: Announcer, 4 Cup Bearers, 3 Altar Server, 4 Ushers

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, 7:00pm Mass, Holy Cross

Volunteers needed for all ministries.

Christmas Day, Wednesday, 9:00am Mass, St. Mary

Volunteers needed for all ministries.

Saturday, December 28, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Needed: Announcer, Lector, 2 Cup Bearers, 1 Host Distributor, 2 Altar Servers, 4 Ushers

Sunday, December 29, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Volunteers needed for all ministries.

Sunday, December 29, 10:00am, St. Mary

Volunteers needed for all ministries.

Tuesday, December 31, 5:30pm Holy Day Vigil Mass, SM

Needed: Lector, 2 Cup Bearers, 1 Host Distributor, 1 Altar Server, 4 Ushers

Wednesday, January 1, 9:00am Holy Day Mass, HC

Volunteers needed for all ministries.

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Money Counters

Dec. 15 Sharon Morris, Kathy Daup

Dec. 22 Dawn Reynolds, Carol Weber

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Donations for 2019 / End-of-Year Statements

If you wish to have any donation, tithe or pledge payment included on your 2019 contribution statement, it must reach the Parish Office no later than Noon on Monday, December 30, through collections at Mass, mailed or personally delivered to the Parish Office. Checks received after this date, even if dated December 2019, will be credited as 2020 donations. Thank you.

In order to save on postage, paper and printing expense, we will not be mailing Year End Tithing Statements to everyone. If you would like a Year End Tithing Statement, please call the office, 515-367-2685 or email Sarah, sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org with a request to print and mail (or email) a statement to you. Thank you.

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, contact Barb at 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.*

Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!



Making paper from recycled paper reduces the related contribution to air pollution 95%.

Winter Weather Cancellations



Whenever North Polk School is cancelled, dismissed early, or evening school activities are cancelled due to weather, classes, meetings and activities here at the Parish will be cancelled as well. In most instances, Masses - both daily and weekend - will not be cancelled, so please use your own judgment. If the need to cancel weekend activities arises, this information will be on the three major TV networks and WHO radio.

Thank You's

A HUGE thank you to all! We wanted to thank our parish family for generously supporting 9 of our youth and 3 adults as we made our pilgrimage to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis this year. What a blessing it has been to have your support and generosity! We have greatly appreciated all you have done to make NCYC possible. We look forward to sharing our experience and extend our thankfulness to you all at our Appreciation Brunch on January 12 following 10:00am Mass. All are welcome! Please mark your calendars. With sincere thankfulness!

Brayden, Matthew, Weston, Sophie, Madeline, Gracie, Megan, Ella, Emma, Aubrey, Andrea and Melissa

St. Mary-Holy Cross,

On behalf of Bill and Kris Sexton, St. Mary-Holy Cross has made a donation to Orphan Sponsorship International in memory of Kris' (and my) mother, Colleen Hindman. Kris and Bill, myself, and our family were touched by your thoughtfulness as well as by your memorial to our mother. I want to let you know that your memorial donation will be put to special use by OSI, in the name of your parish and in the name of our mother. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness. Sending warmest wishes.

*~ Nick Hindman, President & Founder
of Orphan Sponsorship International*

Christ Our Life Catholic Regional Conference

Save The Date! September 26/27, 2020, Wells Fargo Arena
Hear world class speakers, celebrate Mass among thousands, fill your spirit with music, attend reconciliation, visit Jesus in adoration and feel your soul rejoice. *To learn more, contact our parish "Go To" folks: Heidi Ackerman, 641-203-5322 / heidimdittmer@gmail.com or Dona Cowman, 515-383-4482 / racefans@iowatelecom.net*

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15

Theme: God's kingdom is close - it is Jesus.

Reading I: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 • The desert will rejoice and bloom!

Reading II: James 5:7-10 • Be patient.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 • The blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, and deaf hear.

Question for Children: Why is Christmas such a time of happiness for people?

Question for Youth: God speaks to you every day: Isaiah tells us our ears and eyes will be opened in Christ to hear God's voice. What do you hear God saying to you?

Question for Adults: How have you seen the promise of the Prophet Isaiah fulfilled in Christ?