



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 2018

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 Third Sunday of Advent is also referred to as *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is Latin for "rejoice," the first word of the entrance antiphon and St. Paul repeats it a couple times in the second reading. A variant of it is employed in the first reading. It is also signified by the pink candle being lit on Advent wreaths. For those of us in the northern hemisphere, it will soon be the darkest time of the year due to lack of sunlight. In a spiritual sense, Jesus is the light in whom we take great joy. He is that light we need in our lives to dispel the darkness that is brought about by sin. Let us not get caught up so much in the frivolities of the season that he is obscured and we are unable to enjoy the season and holiday for what it really is.

Two families, one at each church, have graciously donated altar bells. Jacob and Heidi Ackerman have donated a set to Holy Cross in memory of their son Albert. The other family that donated a set to St. Mary wishes to remain nameless. For those of you who attended Mass before the second Vatican Council, you may recall hearing the bells being rung during the Eucharistic prayer. It is a tradition that we will continue here at St. Mary and Holy Cross, not just because we can. Ringing these bells serves both a natural and supernatural purpose. Naturally, sometimes we get distracted, even during Mass (imagine that!) and this is a way to refocus our attention. Supernaturally, it denotes when one of the most important parts of Mass occurs, which is consecration, when the bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Jesus. We will renew this tradition at Christmas. ~ Father Andrew

Parish Information

Parish Phone	515-367-2685
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	515-367-2685
Deacon Terry Schleisman	515-669-6158
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
Deacon Terry Schleisman	tschleisman@saintmaryhc.org
Adult Faith Sharing	
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
Andrea Fisher - RE, 7th-12th	afisher@saintmaryhc.org
Stacie Hergenreter - PreK-6	shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org
Melissa Kahler - RE, 7th-12th	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
Barb Liske - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
Celeste Muehlenthaler - Music	cmuehlenthaler@saintmaryhc.org
Peter Relyea - Bookkeeper	prelyea@saintmaryhc.org

Mass Schedule	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

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>

Masses and Adoration

Tuesday, December 18

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

Wednesday, December 19

5:30pm Holy Cross †Mikey & Will Carpenter

Thursday, December 20

8:00am St. Mary †Rosemary & Leo Overmohle
~ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:00pm, St. Mary

Saturday, December 22

5:00pm St. Mary †Bill & Joe Ross

Sunday, December 23

8:00am Holy Cross †Bill Davis
10:00am St. Mary For the Parish

Christmas Eve, Monday

5:00pm St. Mary †Jean Dunlay
7:00pm Holy Cross For the Parish

Christmas Day, Monday

9:00am St. Mary †Cecelia Morton

Christmas Eve Masses

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

Christmas Day Mass

9:00am, St. Mary



Join us to commemorate the
birth of our Savior!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday, Dec. 18, 6:30pm, St. Mary (following Mass)
Thursday, December 20, 7:00pm, St. Mary

RCIA Gathering
Sundays, Dec. 16 & 23, 11:00am-12:30pm, Social Hall

Cross Ministry
Meeting: Tuesday, January 22, 6:30-8:00pm, Social Hall

Finance Council
Meeting: Tuesday, January 15, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Stewardship Committee
Meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 6:00pm, Office Area

Knights of Columbus
Meeting: Sunday, January 20, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 5
Mary Cory, Kelly Muth

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!



It's Not Too Late for Advent Resources!

There's more than a week remaining in Advent so take a resource booklet from the table to help you along the last part of your Advent journey to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth and His second coming.

Area Advent Reconciliation Services

Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, Sunday, Dec. 16, 3:00pm
Christ the King, Sunday, Dec. 16, 7:00pm
Ss. John & Paul, Monday, Dec. 17, 7:00pm
St. Anthony, Saturday, 22, 9:00am

Pastoral Assistance

Please contact Fr. Andrew, 515-367-2685, or Deacon Terry, 515-669-6158, for pastoral assistance or if a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit.

Liturgical Ministers Are Needed!

Volunteers are needed for our Masses next weekend and for Masses through January 1. A sign up is available at each Church; please volunteer where able or contact the Parish Office to volunteer. Thank you!

Thank You

Thank you for everything you did at the time of our loss.
~ The Richard Dyer Family

Christmas Flower Memorial

Your gift will be a beautiful remembrance at St. Mary and Holy Cross during the Christmas season. A memorial list of your loved ones will be printed in next weekend's bulletin.
Please return your donation to the office by December 17.

Upcoming Events

- †Stations of the Nativity: Sunday, Dec. 16 after 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross
- †Adult Choir practice: Sundays, Dec. 16 & 23 11:00am-12:30pm, St. Mary Church
- †Good News Singers practice: Wednesday, Dec. 19, 5:30-6:30pm, Sunday, Dec. 23, 11:00am, St. Mary Church
- †Crafts, Games & Social Time: Thursday, Dec. 20, 9:30am, Social Hall

A Get Together!

Join us for conversation and working on crafts or playing games on Thursday at 9:30am in the Social Hall.

Donations for 2018

If you wish to have any donation, tithe or pledge payment included on your 2018 contribution statement, it must reach the Parish Office no later than 3:00pm, Friday, December 28 through collections at Mass, mailed or personally delivered to the Parish Office. Checks received after this date, even if dated December 2018, will be credited as 2019 donations. Thank you.

End-of-Year Statements

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 or e-mail Peter Relyea (prelyea@saintmaryhc.org) with a request to print and mail (or e-mail) a statement to you. Thank you.

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

Religious Education PreK-6

Stacie Hergenreter, Catechetical Leader
shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org, 515-491-3876

Class December 19: Reminder that class will be held upstairs in the Social Hall from 6:30-7:30pm. This will be the only class, we will not have our usual 5:15 and 6:30 classes. The children will be celebrating Jesus' Birthday Party, which is being hosted by EDGE. A huge thank you to Andrea and Melissa and the EDGE kids for doing this! The children are really looking forward to the party!

Service Project for December - 200 PLUS FOOD ITEMS!!!! Our service project is food donations for local food pantries. The group is aiming to collect 2 items per child, which would put us at approximately 200 food items. We are looking for items like Mac & Cheese, peanut butter, breakfast bars, canned veggies or fruit, etc.

Key Up Coming Dates

Dec. 19 - Birthday Party for Jesus, 6:30-7:30pm, with EDGE
 No class - Dec. 26 and Jan. 2
 Jan. 9 - Class

***April 28 - First Eucharist

S.T.O.R.M. Report

Grades 7-12 Youth 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 (7th/8th) Sessions: 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Dec. 19: EDGE team & kids will set up and host *Birthday Party for Jesus*

Dec. 26 & Jan. 2: No EDGE sessions

S.T.O.R.M. (grades 7th-12th)

Our *Ugliest Christmas Sweater or Festively Dressed Christmas Party* is today, (Sunday) from 4:00-5:30pm in the Youth Area at St. Mary. Bring your favorite Christmas goodie/snack to share, and bring a friend. Prizes like Casey's cards, movie tickets, t-shirts, Starbucks, to name a few! Prizes will be awarded to the best dressed, ugliest sweater, most festive, MVP etc.!

Attention all 9th-12th graders: We are looking for teens to help plan, lead and work the 8th grade Retreat at St. Mary on Sunday, February 24. Please check your calendars and save the date NOW! Call/text Melissa or Andrea if you are interested in helping with this amazing experience!

Retreat Team Meetings (Youth Area/Ed Center)

GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE HOURS!

- Sundays, Jan. 27, Feb. 3 & 10, 4:00-6:00pm
- Wednesdays, Jan. 30, Feb. 20, 6:00-8:30pm
- Wednesday/Thursday, Feb. 21/22, 6:00-8:00pm (if needed)
- Friday, Feb. 22, 6:00-9:00pm, Dress Rehearsal & Pizza
- Saturday, Feb. 23, Time TBA. Retreat/Environment prep
- Sunday, Feb. 24, RETREAT. Meet at 9:15am in Ed Center; attend Mass as a team. We will wrap up by 6pm.

Tithing

Thank you to those who have recently signed up for ACH and to those who have increased their monthly amount!! 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. Questions? Contact Peter Relyea, *prelyea@saintmaryhc.org/515-367-2685*.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Garrett McClain - 515-685-2314 -Alleman- gjmccclain69@gmail.com
 Sheri Olson - 515-967-5663 - Bondurant - lowasheri@gmail.com
 Cory Schoening - 515-964-7403 - Ankeny-cschoeni@nationwide.com
 Mark Schmidt -515-402-9949-Ankeny-mark1.schmidt@centurylink.net

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Shaun Magill, *Co-President*-515-205-3934-shaunkrismagill@gmail.com
 Dave Pottebaum, *Co-President*-515-710-8932-pottebaum5@msn.com
 Doug Jones - 515-367-4402 - Elkhart - djones@bossard.com
 Laurie Phelan - 515-201-6111- Maxwell - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
 Rita McClain - 515-249-6841 - Bondurant - mcclainrj@hotmail.com
 Sue Tollefson - 515 208-0536 - Cambridge - suet@iowacubs.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - 515-967-6770 - arlene@4andersons.com
 Nicole Cory - 515-313-3014 - ncory@saintmaryhc.org
 Paula Garoutte - 515-306-6633 - paulasongbird@msn.com
 Beth Hart - 515-515-306-4916 - mrrsmatthart@gmail.com
 Kelly Hoffmeier - 515-975-7865 - nkhoff@msn.com
 Tammi McClain - 515-290-3904 - tammimcclain71@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

Anne Davis - 515-321-7558 - annedavis06@gmail.com

Weekly Collection Financial Update

Dec. 8/9 Week 24

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$ 3,022	\$5,157

Year-to-Date

	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$126,296	\$123,762	\$116,989

Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Balance Due
\$53,806	\$46,275	\$44,309	\$9,497

Pledge cards are in the vestibule and can be returned in the collection basket at Mass, to the Parish Office, or you may donate on the Diocesan website: www.dmdiocese.org/ada-online-giving-instructions.cfm.

Everyone's participation is needed! Thank you.

Sharing God's Gifts Diocesan Campaign

Thank you for your continued support; we appreciate your timely payments for this Campaign.

Pledged	Payments	Balance Due	SMHC Rec'd
\$443,909.35	\$420,705.82	\$23,078.53	\$204,352.91

Jesus is the only reason for every season!

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, December 22, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Needed: 1 Altar Server, 2 Ushers

Announcer	Drew Hanlon
Lector	Lorrie Hanlon
Cup Bearer	Drew Hanlon, Delila Roberts
Host Distributor	Joe Rumbaugh
Altar Servers	Daniel & Jessica Schoening
Ushers	Drew Hanlon, Joe Rumbaugh

Sunday, December 23, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Announcer	Laurie Phelan
Lector	Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer	Deacon Terry
Altar Server	Jill Beukema
Ushers	Mike Veasman & Mike Phelan

Sunday, December 23, 10:00am, St. Mary

Needed: Announcer, Lector, 3 Altar Server, 3 Ushers

Cup Bearers	Jacki & Tom Ausman
Host Distributor	Deacon Terry
Ushers	Jacki & Tom Ausman

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

Needed: Announcer, 2 Cup Bearers in Hall,

Host Distributor to Choir Loft, 1 Altar Server, 2 Ushers

Lector	Lorrie Hanlon
Cup Bearers	Jacki & Tom Ausman
Host Distributor	Deacon Terry
Host Distributor, Hall	Drew Hanlon, Joe Rumbaugh
Altar Servers	Andrew Ausman, Julia Fisher
Ushers	Jacki & Tom Ausman, Drew Hanlon, Joe Rumbaugh

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

Announcer	Celia Shedd
Lector	Anne Davis
Cup Bearer	Deacon Terry
Altar Server	Isabella Kuehn
Ushers	Lynn & Chris Schreurs

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

Needed: 1 Altar Server, 3 Ushers

Announcer	Cory Schoening
Lector	John Roberts
Cup Bearers	Jacki Ausman, Delila Roberts
Host Distributor	Deacon Terry
Altar Server	Daniel & Jessica Schoening
Ushers	Jacki Ausman

Saturday, Dec. 29, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

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

Announcer	Cory Schoening
Altar Server	Daniel & Jessica Schoening

Sunday, December 30, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Needed: Cup Bearer, 2 Ushers

Announcer	Celia Shedd
Lector	Anne Davis
Altar Servers	Kelcie & Natalie Shedd

Sunday, December 30, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

No volunteers at this time.

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

Needed: Lector, 2 Cup Bearers, 3 Altar Servers, 4 Ushers

Host Distributor	Deacon Terry
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Tuesday, January 1, 9:00am Holy Day Mass, Holy Cross

Needed: Lector, Cup Bearer, Altar Server

Announcer	Lynn Schreurs
Ushers	Bill & Shirley Jorgensen

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Money Counters

Dec. 16: Sue White, Dona Cowman

Dec. 23: Sharon Morris, Carol Weber



In the U.S. alone, over 20 billion diapers are thrown out a year, accounting for over 3.5 million tons of waste.

The Snow Will Be Coming!



We are looking for volunteers to shovel the walks and steps at St. Mary. It would be for a two-week shift now through mid April. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Drew Hanlon, dhanlon@windstream.net/515-367-3367. Thank you for considering this request.

Spending More Money than Expected for Christmas?

Want to learn to be better stewards of God's money? Parishioner Scott Warner is offering another Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class at St. Mary on Thursdays, beginning February 7, at 6:30pm for nine weeks. The only requirement is the purchase of a FPU kit. Last May, Scott successfully completed Ramsey Solutions Financial Coach Master Training Program. This allows him to offer additional private coaching to anyone in need. If interested in attending, please contact Scott, swarner@gdmhabitat.org/515-971-4320.

Steubenville 2019

Sign up now for this retreat held on July 26-28 in St. Paul, MN. See the flier on the bulletin board. For questions please contact Andrea Fisher at afisher@saintmaryhc.org or 515-240-5059.

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.*

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 & 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 & WHO radio.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday of Advent, December 16

Theme: John baptized with water, but the Messiah will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Reading I: Zephaniah 3:14-18a • Rejoice, for the Lord is in your midst.

Reading II: Philippians 4:4-7 • Rejoice in the Lord always.

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18 • John the Baptist announces the coming of the Messiah

For Children: Why is it so important to keep promises which you have made?

For Youth: What do you remember from stories about your Baptism? What does your Baptism mean to you now?

For Adults: How can you live the promise of your Baptism each day?