



# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



## Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

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*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.*

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Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to recommend for your reflection two great four-letter words. I take my motivation from the article by Randy Kiel on page 5 of the November 17th edition of our diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Mirror (<http://www.dmdiocese.org/the-catholic-mirror.cfm>). Mr. Kiel is a psychotherapist practicing in Clive, a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines, and a candidate for the permanent diaconate. In his article he writes specifically of one great four-letter word: **HELP**, but also uses another that I think is equally great: **DON'T**. Human as we are, we all have many needs, some of which we can't meet on our own. If being a disciple of Jesus means anything, it means living a life in which we try to help others in need - which is everyone - however we can. The article details twelve don'ts (and dos) to keep in mind when helping someone in emotional need or distress, an all too common experience for many at this time of the year. It's relatively easy to help with the financial and material needs of people, but harder when it comes to their emotional hurts and struggles. Randy's article gives some very good guidance here that I highly recommend.

Fr. Dan

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## Parish Information

<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Fr. Dan Krettek</b>	515-423-2888
<b>Deacon Terry Schleisman</b>	515-669-6158
<b>Parish General Email</b>	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Parish Fax</b>	515-367-7028
<b>Parish Web Site</b>	www.saintmaryhc.org
<b>Parish Facebook Site</b>	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
<b>Fr. Dan Krettek</b>	dkrettek@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Deacon Terry Schleisman</b>	tschleisman@saintmaryhc.org
Adult Faith Sharing	
<b>Nicole Cory</b> - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Stacie Hergenreter</b> - PreK-6	shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Melissa Kahler</b> - RE, 7th-12th	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Barb Liske</b> - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Celeste Muehlenthaler</b> - Music	cmuehlenthaler@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Peter Relyea</b> - Bookkeeper	prelyea@saintmaryhc.org

<b>Mass Schedule</b>	Wednesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
	Thursday	8:00am	St. Mary
	First Friday	8:00am	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 [www.dmdiocese.org/vocations.cfm](http://www.dmdiocese.org/vocations.cfm)

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## Masses

### Sunday, December 17

2:00pm St. Mary **Advent Reconciliation Service**

### Wednesday, December 20

5:30pm Holy Cross †William & Kathryn Shaw

### Thursday, December 21

8:00am St. Mary †Theresa Kaltenheuser

### Saturday, December 23

5:00pm St. Mary †Joe Ross

### Sunday, December 24

**No 8:00am Mass at Holy Cross**

9:00am St. Mary *For the Parish*

### Christmas Eve, Sunday

5:00pm St. Mary †Jean Dunlay

7:00pm Holy Cross †LaMont Schreurs

### Christmas Day, Monday

9:00am St. Mary *For the Parish*

## Dec. 23/24 Weekend Masses

Saturday, Dec. 23, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Sunday, Dec. 24, **9:00am**, St. Mary

*No morning Mass at Holy Cross*

## Christmas Eve Masses

5:00pm, St. Mary

7:00pm, Holy Cross

## Christmas Day Mass

9:00am, St. Mary



Join us to celebrate the birth of Christ!

Sunday Scripture Prayer and Study

Wednesdays, Dec. 20 & 27, 7:00pm, Conference Room

Meditative Prayer Time

Saturdays, Dec. 23 & 30, 8:00-9:00am, Office

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, December 21, 7:00pm, Holy Cross

Pastoral Council

Next meeting to be announced.

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 7:00pm, Conference Room

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 6:00pm, Office Area

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Sunday, January 21, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 1

Jean Bruns, Kristi Edleman, Kim Remsburg

## 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!



## Advent Reconciliation Service

Set your heart free from the burden of sin through the Sacrament of Reconciliation! Come join us for our Advent Reconciliation Service this Sunday, December 17 at 2:00pm, to celebrate His love and forgiveness. Additional priests will be here to assist with individual confession.

*Unable to attend our Service? Ss. John & Paul Church in Altoona has their service on Monday, Dec. 18 at 7:00pm.*

## 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.

*Flower donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes or are available in the vestibule.*

*Please return your donation to the office by December 18.*

## Thank You

Parish Family,

We want you to know that your kindness at this time is more deeply appreciated than any words can express. Thank you so much for the beautiful plant basket you sent for my dad's funeral. It was beautiful. ~ Christie & Larry Sauer

## Parish & Friends Bereavement Group

The "Mourning Coffee Club" meets Monday, December 18, 10:00am in St. Mary's Conference Room. We offer a supportive community of fellowship as we learn about the process of grieving and how to become more comfortable during this difficult period of readjustments. Come discover where you are in your journey; and if you've successfully closed that window, come and share the tools you've used in times of crisis.

Contact Paula Garoutte with your interest and questions, paulasongbird@msn.com or 515-306-6633.

## Coming Events

✚ **Sunday, Dec. 17:** *Stations of the Nativity* after 8:00am Mass at Holy Cross.

✚ **Monday, Dec. 18:** "Mourning Coffee Club", 10-11:00am, Conference Room

✚ **Thursday, Dec. 21:** Crafts, Games & Social Time, 9:30am, Social Hall

*Parish Office Closing For Christmas and New Years*

*Friday, December 22: Closes at Noon*

*Monday - Friday, December 25-29: Closed*

*Monday, January 1: Closed*

## Music News

**Music Coordinator: Celeste Muehlenthaler**

515-577-9394 / celestemu@msn.com

**Final practice for Deo Gratias Choir** is Sunday, Dec. 17 after 10am Mass.

**Good News Singers final practice** is Wednesday, December 20, 6:00pm in the Church.

## Many Helpful Hands Needed!!

Transforming St. Mary for each celebration takes the help of several people, especially for Christmas! This year's window for decorating is very small so anyone who can help is begged to!! Creativity not needed, but welcome! We'll begin decorating on Sunday, Christmas Eve Day after 9:00am Mass until it's done! Please call Melanie to let her know if you are available, 515-450-9355. Thank you!!!

## Religious Education

**PreK-6, Stacie Hergenreter, Catechetical Leader**  
*shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org, 515-491-3876*

We will be having a Birthday Party for Jesus this Wednesday from 6:00-7:00pm! The children will be hearing the Christmas story, singing, making a craft and enjoying a sweet treat. Please come early to pick them up and hear them sing a few songs. Our next class will be January 10.

Altar Server training will be given in January during class for 4th graders that are interested as well as anyone in 5th or 6th grades who may not have previously received training. Every 10 times that the children serve they receive a \$10 gift card, so a little incentive for them!

Congratulations to the following November STAR students. They decorated and enjoyed some Christmas cookies!!!

*PreK/K: Luke Hergenreter & MacKenzie Cornelius*

*1st: Drew Gilligan & Alex Princehouse*

*2nd: Tanner Heaps & Tenley Fried*

*3rd: Alexis Hergenreter & Luci Kucera*

*4th: Ava Koudelka & Sawyer Smeltzer*

*5th: Nathan Feldman & Ava Husak*

*6th: Jocelyn Hobbs & Maggie Bruce*

**Grades 9 & 10, Nicole Cory, Confirmation Coordinator**  
*ncory@saintmaryhc.org, 515-313-3014- texts welcome!*

### Upcoming Confirmation Sessions , 6:00 - 7:30pm

Dec. 17: 9th Grade - Lesson 6 — 10th Grade - Lesson 17  
Jan. 7: 9th Grade - Lesson 7 — 10th Grade - Lesson 18

Coming Jan. 21; "Bridge The Gap", a teen & parent workshop. Confirmation students can earn a ticket for our drawings for attending. Please see the general area of the bulletin for more information.

**Grades 7-12, Melissa Kahler, Youth Coordinator**  
*mkahler@saintmaryhc.org, 515-290-2830*

### NO EDGE or Youth Group on Dec. 27 & Jan. 3

### EDGE 7th & 8th graders, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Dec 20: EDGE *Christmas Party*

Jan. 10 Session: Joseph- *A Most Beloved Son*

Jan. 17 Session: Moses- *An Unlikely Leader*

### S.T.O.R.M. 9th-12th graders, 7:45-9:00pm, Youth Room

Dec 20: "*Ugliest or Most Festive Sweater*" Christmas Party

Jan. 10 Gathering: *Hot Topic Night*

Jan. 17 Gathering: *Meditative Prayer- Be still and know that I am God*

## † Pastoral Assistance

Please contact Fr. Dan Krettek, 515-423-2888, or Deacon Terry Schleisman, 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.

## End-of-Year Statements

If you wish to have any donation, tithe or pledge payment included on your 2017 contribution statement, it must reach the Parish Office no later than Friday, December 29 11:00am via the mail or personally delivered. Collections at Masses December 30 and 31 will be counted as 2017 donations, regardless of date on the check or envelope. Tithes received on or after January 1 will be credited to 2018 regardless of the date on the check or envelope. Thank you.

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Garrett McClain - 515-685-2314 -Alleman- gmccclain@iowatelecom.net  
Lori McQuiston - 515-249-7663 - Maxwell - mcquiston@midiaowa.net  
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  
Karen Bellis - 515-360-1465 - Ankeny - puzzlenuts@aol.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 - mrsmatthart@gmail.com  
Kelly Hoffmeier - 515-975-7865 - nkhoff@msn.com  
Tammi McClain - 515-290-3904 - tammimccclain71@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  
Joe Dunham - 515-967-5118 - joedunham11@msn.com

## PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Anne Davis - 515-967-7477 - annedavis06@gmail.com

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

**December 10**      **Week 24**

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$3,718	\$5,234

*Year-to-Date*

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$116,989	\$125,608	\$126,179

Campaign for Human Development Collection: \$135

Religious Retirement Collection: \$845

## Annual Diocesan Appeal

Pledge cards are available in the vestibule or donate on the Diocesan website: <http://www.dmdiocese.org/ada-online-giving-instructions.cfm>. Thanks to those who have pledged!

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Balance Due</u>
\$ 56,442	53,341.64	\$ 54,491.64	<b>\$ 1,950.36</b>

Dear GOD,

I bet it is very hard for You to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. ~ Nan

## Monthly Financial Update

	November, 2017			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Last Year	Actual	Budget	Last Year
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	\$ 24,302	\$ 26,576	\$ 22,090	\$ 134,290	\$ 137,852	\$ 136,687
Operating Expenses	\$ 41,667	\$ 26,037	\$ 27,379	\$ 159,926	\$ 161,806	\$ 145,697
Net operating income (expense)	\$ (17,365)	\$ 539	\$ (5,289)	\$ (25,636)	\$ (23,954)	\$ (9,010)
Cash Balance of General Fund	\$ 101,603	N/A	\$ 111,334			

**Liturgical Ministers for December 23 through the Holy Day on January 1 are by sign up.**  
Please sign up at Church or contact the parish office to volunteer. Thank you!!

**Saturday, December 23, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary**  
*Needed: Announcer, Cup Bearer  
3 Altar Servers, 4 Ushers*

**No 8:00am Mass at Holy Cross Dec. 24**

**Sunday, December 24, 9:00am Mass, St. Mary**  
*No volunteers at this time.*

**Christmas Eve, Sunday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary**  
*Needed: Announcer, Cup Bearer,  
2 Host Distributors, 3 Altar Server, 5 Ushers*

**Christmas Eve, Sunday, 7:00pm Mass, Holy Cross**  
*No volunteers at this time.*

**Christmas Day, Monday, 9:00am Mass, St. Mary**  
*Needed: Announcer, 2 Cup Bearers,  
3 Altar Servers, 2 Ushers*

**Saturday, Dec. 30, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary**  
*Needed: Announcer, Lector, Cup Bearer,  
Host Distributor, 3 Altar Servers, 4 Ushers.*

**Sunday, December 31, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross**  
*No volunteers at this time.*

**Sunday, December 31, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary**  
*No volunteers at this time.*

**Sunday, December 31, 5:00pm Holy Day Vigil Mass, SM**  
*Needed: Lector, Cup Bearer, Host Distributor,  
3 Altar Servers, 4 Ushers*

**Monday, January 1, 9:00am Holy Day Mass, Holy Cross**  
*No volunteers at this time.*

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### Money Counters

**Dec. 17:** Kathy Daup, Carol Weber  
**Dec. 26:** Lisa Kautza, Dona Cowman, Sue White  
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### Marriage Encounter

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend has something in it for every married couple. The Weekend has value for couples married one year on up to 50 years or more. Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends on February 9 -11 in Ankeny, March 9 - 11 in La Crosse, and April 20 - 22 in Dubuque. Early registration is highly recommended. For information and to register go to [iowa-wwme.org](http://iowa-wwme.org) or call 563-608- 3305 or email [JLJwwme08@Gmail.com](mailto:JLJwwme08@Gmail.com)

**SAYWHAT?** Recycling a stack of newspaper just 3 feet high saves one tree.

### “Bridge The Gap” is Back!

This workshop is a fun way to explore and embrace the differences and similarities between the generations of teens and their parents. It is open to all parents and 9-12th graders. Teens should attend with one or both of their parents. Join us Sunday, January 21 from 11:00am to 12:30pm. The workshop is hosted by Nicole Cory. A light brunch will be provided; you are asked to RSVP to Nicole at 515-313-3014 or [ncory@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org).



### 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](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.*

### Christian Experience Weekend (CEW)

This is a renewal weekend, designed to enable them to more deeply “experience” themselves and their relationship to God and the Christian community. Women's CEW is January 26-28 at OLIH. For more information, contact Maria Schweers, [maschweers@mchsi.com](mailto:maschweers@mchsi.com) or visit <http://olih.org/cew-retreats/>.



### Winter Weather Cancellations

Whenever North Polk School is cancelled, dismissed early, or evening school activities are cancelled due to weather; events here at the Parish will also be cancelled. If there is a need to cancel weekend activities, it will be on TV channels, 5, 8, & 13, and on WHO radio and KWKY Catholic Radio.

### Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

#### Third Sunday of Advent, December 17

*Theme: God is doing great things for us.*

*Reading I:* Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 • God is the joy of my soul.

*Reading II:* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 • Do not stifle the spirit.

*Gospel:* John 1:6-8, 19-28 • Prepare the way of the Lord!

*For Children:* As we get closer to Christmas, name one thing you really want for your home or the world, such as peace, friendship, or food for the poor.

*For Youth:* John tried to help people prepare their lives for the coming of the Messiah. What do you need to change about your life to be ready for Jesus' coming?

*For Adults:* If you were to write three suggestions for those who follow Jesus, to keep them strong in their faith, what would you write?