



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019



The Nativity of the Lord



Feast of the Holy Family

December 29, 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,

While looking back on recent history, do you ever realize that there were times when you were working on autopilot? This could be the case any time of year, though it may be a more frequent occurrence around Christmas when there are more items on the to-do list. Despite the busyness, which is not necessarily a bad thing, I challenge and encourage you to be intentional about getting the physical and especially spiritual respite that we need. Holy days certainly require some work, but they should also refresh us and bring new vigor to our relationship with God and others. That will not happen unless we are open to it. So, amid the shopping, cooking, and whatever else you do to prepare for Christmas, please take time to do something (e.g. prayer, reading) that gets you out of autopilot and into a mode that allows you to more fully experience what little of Advent is left and of the coming Christmas season.

~ 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
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org
Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper	sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
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

Christmas Eve, Tuesday

5:00pm St. Mary †Colleen Hindman & son Lee
7:00pm Holy Cross †LaMont Schreurs

Christmas Day, Wednesday

9:00am St. Mary †For the Parish

Thursday, December 26

8:00am St. Mary †Dorothy Gannon

Saturday, December 28

5:00pm St. Mary †LeRoy Peterson

Sunday, December 29

8:00am Holy Cross †William & Kathryn Shaw
10:00am St. Mary For the Parish

Tuesday, December 31, Holy Day Vigil

5:30pm St. Mary †Cecilia Morton & son Mike

Wednesday, Jan. 1, Solemnity of Mary Holy Day

9:00am Holy Cross †Stephen Carpenter

Thursday, January 2

8:00am St. Mary †Nydia Claussen

First Friday, January 3

9:00am St. Mary †Dorothy Gannon

Saturday, January 4

5:00pm St. Mary †Ron Odgaard

Sunday, January 5

8:00am Holy Cross †Tom Bellis
10:00am St. Mary For the Parish



May the joy of Jesus
fill your heart not only
this Christmas Season
but year round!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesdays, 6:30pm, St. Mary (following 6:00pm Mass)
No 6:00pm Mass or Adoration on Dec. 24 & 31

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

Parish office closed December 24 (at Noon), 25, 26, 27,
31st (at Noon), and January 1.

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.

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, 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.

Epiphany Brunch

You are invited to celebrate Epiphany with us on Sunday, January 5 after 10:00am Mass. Jesus is revealed as Savior of all the nations! A sign up is in the pews or call the parish office to RSVP. We will be collecting personal care items to give to the area clothing/food pantries we support. To help out with food items, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4aa8a62da5fd0-holiday>. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

- †**Sunday, Dec. 22:** Adult Choir practice after 10:00am Mass
- †**Saturday, Dec. 28:** Hall in use day/evening
- †**Sunday, Dec. 29:** Coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass
- †**Weekend of Jan 4/5:** Capital Improvements collection — Wine and cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Epiphany Brunch after 10am Mass, Social Hall
- †**Sunday, January 12:** NCYC Appreciation Brunch and presentation after 10am Mass, Social Hall



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!!

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.

Religious Education Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

All Religious Education Sessions are invited to join us for an Epiphany party on January 8 from 6:00-7:00pm. Children will be guided by their catechists; parents are welcome to stay!

If your child is interested in receiving First Communion this year, please attend the mandatory parent meeting Jan. 8, 6:00-7:00pm in the Ed Center (during the Epiphany party).

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. 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

Saturday, Jan. 18: 9th Grade Family Potluck Dinner after 5:00pm Mass. Please watch for a sign up.

Wednesday, Jan. 29: Confirmation Session, 6 - 8pm, Hall

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!

Suggestion Box Reply

In prior years the Ladies' Christmas Party was planned for the first Wednesday in December but that date got booked this year and no other dates were available in December. Therefore the Stewardship Committee decided to try something new; the Epiphany Brunch. The committee is also planning a formal Ladies' Tea in the spring. We welcome any ideas and invite anyone who is interested to join the Stewardship Committee. New members and fresh ideas are always welcome!!

Collecting for St. Jude Children's Hospital

We are collecting all types of used greeting cards through January 10. They will be repurposed into gifts, décor, etc. to raise money for services provided to children and families at the hospital. Please give to Father Andrew at Holy Cross or at St. Mary put them in the box in the vestibule. Thanks!

Save the Date of January 14th!

We will hold our NCYC appreciation brunch and presentation following 10:00am Mass until about Noon. ALL are invited. We will be serving various breakfast foods. We look forward to sharing our NCYC adventures with you!

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 - klsturtz@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

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$10,746	\$5,730

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$148,298	\$137,520	\$134,869

Retirement for Religious Collection: \$255 to date

2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$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. Thank you!

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

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

Needed: 1 Cup Bearer, 2 Altar Server, 3 Ushers

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

Needed: Announcer, Lector, Cup Bearer, Altar Server

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

Needed: 2 Ushers

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

Needed: 1 Cup Bearer, 3 Ushers

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

Needed: Announcer, Cup Bearer, Altar Server, 2 Ushers

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

Needed: Announcer, 2 Cup Bearers, 1 Altar Server, 3 Ushers

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

Needed: Host Distributor, 1 Altar Server, 4 Ushers

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

Volunteers needed for all ministries.

Saturday, January 4, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Announcer	John Zidon
Lector	Cory Schoening
Cup Bearers	JoAnn Meusburger, Diane Cronk
Host Distributor	Tony Kuehn
Altar Servers	Jessica Schoening, Isabella Kuehn, Daniel Schoening
Ushers	Bill Schmitt, Jim Hudson, Dawn & Mason Reynolds
Cantor	Keaton Denker
Accompanist	Dan Scheetz

Sunday, January 5, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Announcer	Anne Davis
Lector	Jackie Crouse
Cup Bearer	Dawn Beukema
Altar Server	Jill Beukema
Ushers	Lynn & Chris Schreurs

Sunday, January 5, 10:00am, St. Mary

Announcer	Kris Sturtz
Lector	Garrett McClain
Cup Bearers	Kelly Hoffmeier, Julia Fisher
Host Distributor	Tim Loraditch
Altar Servers	Peyton & Justice Loraditch
Ushers	Dennis Schmidt, Doug Zehr, Thom Hamm, Tom & Jacki Ausman
Cantors	Mark & Sue Schmidt
Accompanist	Celeste Muehlenthaler

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Money Counters

Dec. 22 Dawn Reynolds, Carol Weber

Dec. 29 Sue White, Dona Cowman

Jan. 4 Dona Cowman, Carol Weber

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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.



Glass can be re-manufactured an infinite number of times and never wear out.

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.*

Pilgrimage to Germany and Austria

Join Father Andrew for this incredible Journey of Faith and Adventure July 24 - August 2, 2020. *In Germany, we will watch the world-renowned "Passion Play", explore historic Munich city center, visit Dachau Concentration Camp, tour Neuschwanstein Castle and experience famous Hofbrauhaus. In Austria: See Eucharistic Miracle location in Seefeld, ride to majestic alps mountaintop, explore gorgeous resort town of Seefeld, exciting tour of Salzburg salt mine, nostalgic Sound of Music tour and discover the unique and beautiful Salzburg. This trip includes daily Mass, confession and time for shopping and relaxation! Cost is \$4,699. Includes round-trip coach airfare, transportation in Europe, breakfast, lunch and dinner, museum fees and local guides. Sign up by December 31 for \$100 discount. View www.CollinsTravel.biz for full itinerary. Questions? Email Jason@CollinsTravel.biz or call 515-850-6133.*

Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22

Theme: Jesus is God made flesh.

Reading I: Isaiah 7:10-14 • She shall name him Emmanuel.

Reading II: Romans 1:1-7 • In him we have been given the gift of being apostles.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24 • God is with us.

Question for Children: When you pray, how do you hear God's voice in response?

Question for Youth: What is your experience of hearing God speak to you in your intuitions and imagination? What is God asking of you?

Question for Adults: What experiences do you have of God "speaking to you" and directing your life and work? How does God speak to you in prayer?

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, December 29

Theme: We honor the relationships of parents & children.

Reading I: Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14 • Revere your father and bring comfort to your mother.

Reading II: Colossians 3:12-21 • Clothe yourselves with mercy.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 • Take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt.

Question for Children: When is it the hardest for you to obey your parents?

Question for Youth: St. Paul lays out a way of life for the followers of Christ. Which one of these is most difficult for you to follow? Which one is easiest?

Question for Adults: We are invited to let the word of Christ dwell within us and direct our daily lives. Which one of the lifestyle suggestions speaks most loudly to you?