



# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
December 24, 2017



**The Nativity of the Lord**  
December 25, 2017



**Feast of the Holy Family**  
December 31, 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,

"Mark" my words!

That is what we will be doing this liturgical year that started with the beginning of Advent. We are now in cycle B of the three-year rotation, so the gospel readings this year focus on the Gospel of Mark. All four of the gospel writers had somewhat different perspectives on what Jesus said and did, and this year we will hear what Mark interpreted or considered most important about Jesus during his ministry. Traditionally, Mark's gospel is said to have been written shortly before A.D. 70 in Rome, at a time of impending persecution and when destruction loomed over Jerusalem. Its audience seems to have been Gentiles, unfamiliar with Jewish customs.

Mark was much younger than the other gospel writers, probably a teenager. His mother was a prominent follower of Jesus Christ. Mark is known as Peter's interpreter, both in speech and in writing. In his book, which reflects Peter's interest in spreading the gospel among the Gentiles, Mark wrote down the observations and memories of Peter. Also, Mark was apparently more impressed by the mighty works that Jesus performed than by the content of Jesus's teaching as more than half of his gospel is devoted to giving an account of the remarkable deeds that Jesus performed. Throughout the gospel, Mark particularly emphasizes Jesus's humanity. In Mark, Jesus is portrayed as immensely popular with the people in Galilee during his ministry.

So, as we hear the Gospel of Mark being proclaimed this coming year, let's try to imagine ourselves in Mark's shoes as he relates to us what Jesus said and did.

Blessings, Deacon Terry

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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
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<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
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Adult Faith Sharing	
<b>Nicole Cory - Confirmation</b>	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Stacie Hergenreter - PreK-6</b>	shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Melissa Kahler - RE, 7th-12th</b>	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Barb Liske - Secretary</b>	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Celeste Muehlenthaler - Music</b>	cmuehlenthaler@saintmaryhc.org

### Mass Schedule

*See inside for special Mass schedule.*

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

### 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*

### Wednesday, December 27

5:30pm Holy Cross †Reed Benate

### Thursday, December 28

8:00am St. Mary †Joseph McGinn

### Saturday, December 30

5:00pm St. Mary †Rita Mae Staber

### Sunday, December 31

8:00am Holy Cross †Jerrica Hilleman Ruden  
10:00am St. Mary †Sam Applebaum

### Sunday, December 31 Vigil, Solemnity of Mary

5:00pm St. Mary †Irene Anderson

### Monday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary

9:00am Holy Cross †Lawrence Hanlon

### Wednesday, January 3

5:30pm Holy Cross †Ralph and Neva Cory

### Thursday, January 4

8:00am St. Mary †Albert & Helen Schmidt

### First Friday, January 5

8:00am St. Mary †Butch Moody

### Saturday, January 6

5:00pm St. Mary †Gerald Adams

*RCIA Profession of Faith during this Mass.*

### Sunday, January 7

8:00am Holy Cross †Stephen Carpenter  
10:00am St. Mary *For the Parish*

*Children's Liturgy of the Word during this Mass.*



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

Sunday Scripture Prayer and Study  
Wednesdays, Dec. 27, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 7:00pm,  
Conference Room

Meditative Prayer Time  
Saturdays, Dec. 30, Jan. 6, 13, 20 & 27. 8:00-9:00am, Office

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Thursday, January 18, 7:00pm, St. Mary

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

## Coming Events

- †**Sunday, Dec. 31:** Coffee and donuts after 8:00am Mass
- †**Thursday, Jan. 4:** Friends of St. Francis Meeting, Hall
- †**Sunday, Jan. 7:** Coffee and donuts after 10m Mass
- †**Sunday, Jan. 14:** NCCY Appreciation Brunch, 11am, Hall
- †**Sunday, Jan. 21:** *Bridge the Gap* Workshop for Teens and Parents, 11am-12:30pm, Social Hall

*Parish Office Closing For Christmas and New Years*  
*Monday - Friday, December 25-29: Closed*  
*Monday, January 1: Closed*

## Music News

**Music Coordinator: Celeste Muehlenthaler**  
515-577-9394 / celestemu@msn.com

Please join me in thanking all the singers and musicians who help us pray with their beautiful music at our Christmas Masses! Besides just Christmas and Easter our musicians are here week after week and year after year. Thanks to them for sharing their gift of music with us!

## End-of-Year Statements

If you wish to have any donation included on your 2017 contribution statement, it must reach the Parish Office no later than **Saturday, December 30 via the mail (the office is closed Dec. 24-29.)** Collections at Mass Dec. 30/31 will be counted for 2017 regardless of check or envelope date. Donations received on or after January 1 will be credited to 2018 regardless of check or envelope date. Thank you.

Dear GOD,

Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy. ~Joyce

## 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!

## Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Our Masses are Sunday, December 31, 5:00pm at St. Mary and Monday, January 1, 9:00am at Holy Cross. Come celebrate the Mother of God!



## Help Those in Flight

Not unlike the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt for fear of their lives, millions of families worldwide have been forced from their homes by racial, religious, climatic, political, or economic forces and find themselves struggling in strange lands, many here in the Diocese of Des Moines. Join Friends of St. Francis at 6:30pm, January 4, in St. Mary Social Hall to continue our Spirit-led conversation envisioning how we can follow the guidance of Jesus, Pope Francis and Bishop Pates and help bring peace to migrants and refugees in Iowa and worldwide. We'll also seek new ways to care for our common home. Come, share, listen, question, be present. For more about Share the Journey, visit [www.sharejourney.org](http://www.sharejourney.org). For more about On Care for Our Common Home, visit <http://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>.

## Religious Education

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

The children celebrated Jesus' Birthday on Dec. 20 by singing songs, hearing the Christmas Story and creating crafts that were accompanied by a story to again share the true meaning of Christmas. In addition, tie fleece blankets were made by the students and donated to St. Joseph Emergency Shelter.

The next class will be January 10. During this class, Altar Server training will be given to kids in 4th grade that are interested, as well as anyone in 5th or 6th who may not have received training previously. Every 10 times that the children serve they receive a \$10 gift card.

All of us from the RE program wish all of you a very merry and blessed Christmas season and a happy New Year!

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

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

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 S.T.O.R.M. on Dec. 27 & Jan. 3**

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

Jan. 10 Session: Joseph- *A Most Beloved Son*  
 Jan. 17 Session: Moses- *An Unlikely Leader*  
 Jan. 24 Session: Ruth - *The Buddy System*

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

Jan. 10: *Hot Topic Night*  
 Jan. 17: *Meditative Prayer- Be still and know that I am God*  
 Jan. 24 Gathering: *Movie Night*

### Reception into the Catholic Faith!

Please join us Saturday, January 6, at the 5:00pm Mass to welcome two new members to our Catholic Faith and St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish Community. Paula Garoutte will make a Profession of Faith and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, having been previously baptized in the Episcopal Church. Ashley Young was baptized and confirmed in the Russian Orthodox Church, which is very similar to our Roman Catholic faith, and will also make a Profession of Faith in the Roman Catholic Church that evening. Both will complete their sacramental initiation into the Church by also sharing in the Eucharist at that Mass. The RCIA process typically culminates at the Easter Vigil, but because of the previous faith life and experience of both these ladies, they have participated in an abbreviated process. Please join them, as they join us, at a reception immediately following the Mass.

### 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!

### 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 - lowasher@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

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 Karen Bellis - 515-360-1465 - puzzlenuts@aol.com  
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### 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 17	Week 25	
	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$9,577	\$5,234	
	<i>Year-to-Date</i>		
	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$126,567	\$130,841	\$128,830
	Food Pantry Collection: \$743		
	Religious Retirement Collection: \$981.75		

### 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!

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

### 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.

