



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018



The Nativity of the Lord



Feast of the Holy Family
December 30, 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,

Next Sunday, December 30th, or this Sunday, December 23rd, depending upon when you received this bulletin and read it, is the Feast of the Holy Family. With that in mind, only read the first half of this article on Sunday, December 23rd and save the rest for Sunday December 30th. ;-) this is a two-week bulletin.

The Feast of the Holy Family, also referred to as Holy Family Sunday, is celebrated to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the model family of Nazareth. Very little is known about the daily life of the Holy Family, made up of foster father St. Joseph, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of course the child Jesus. We do know of their travel to Bethlehem for the birth of the child Jesus, the story of their escape to Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem.

This feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families. The best way to live out the Church in the family unit is to make Christ the center of family and individual life. St. John Chrysostom urged all Christians to make each home a "family church," and in doing so, we sanctify the family unit. Blessings, Deacon Terry

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

Christmas Eve, Monday

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

Christmas Day, Tuesday

9:00am St. Mary †Cecelia Morton

Wednesday, December 26

5:30pm Holy Cross †LaMont Schreurs

Thursday, December 27

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

Saturday, December 29

5:00pm St. Mary †Brad West

Sunday, December 30

8:00am Holy Cross For the Parish
10:00am St. Mary †Sam Applebaum

Monday, December 31, Holy Day Vigil

5:30pm St. Mary †Reed Benenate

Tuesday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary Holy Day

9:00am Holy Cross †Lawrence Hanlon

Wednesday, January 2

5:30pm Holy Cross †Ray & Muriel Schreurs

Thursday, January 3

8:00am St. Mary †Bill Roberts

First Friday, January 4

9:00am St. Mary †Rick McQuiston

Saturday, January 5

5:00pm St. Mary For the Parish

Sunday, January 6

8:00am Holy Cross †Jessica Hilleman Ruden
10:00am St. Mary †Ron Hamm

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!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22 & 29, 6:30pm, St. Mary
(following Mass)

Thursday, January 17, 7:00pm, Holy Cross

RCIA Gathering

Sunday, Dec. 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

Parish office closed

December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1.

Upcoming Events

- †**Good News Singers and Adult Choir practice:** Sunday, Dec. 23 after 10:00am Mass, St. Mary Church
- †**Sunday, Dec. 30:** Coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass
- †**Weekend of January 5/6:** Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass — coffee & donuts after 10:00am Mass

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 Holy Day of Obligation



Our Masses are Monday, December 31, 5:30pm at St. Mary and Tuesday, January 1, 9:00am at Holy Cross.
Come celebrate Mary, the Mother of God!

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.

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!

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!

Donations for 2018

If you wish any donation, tithe or pledge payment to be included on your 2018 contribution statement, it must reach the Parish Office no later than 3:00pm, Friday, December 28 through collections at Mass, the mail, or personally delivered to the office. Cash or checks, received after this date, even if checks are 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 e-mail Peter Relyea (prelyea@saintmaryhc.org) or call the office, with a request to print and mail (or e-mail) a statement to you. Thank you.

Religious Education PreK-6

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

Service Project - 200 PLUS FOOD ITEMS!!!! December's service project was food donations for local food pantries. The group's goal was to collect 2 items per child, which would put us at approximately 200 food items! We not only met the goal, we surpassed it!!! Thank you so much to all for your generosity.

The Knights of Columbus Poster Contest: We had 40 participants this year, up from last year. We had fantastic art work turned in by all of the kiddos. Part of the gift that each winner received was \$5 to donate towards a specific food item for the food pantry collection. We wanted to emphasize sharing since that truly is what the season is all about. The following were the first place winners. Congratulations!!!

PreK-K: *Drew Reiter* 4th: *Mya Pottebaum*
1st: *Drew Mueggenberg* 5th: *Elyse Walmsley*
2nd: *Claire Hand* 6th: *Will Pottebaum*
3rd: *Gus Schaffer*

Key Up Coming Dates

No class: Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 ***April 28 -
Class: January 9, 16 & 23 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. 26 & Jan. 2: No EDGE sessions

S.T.O.R.M. 9th-12th graders:

January 6, Game Night! 4:00-5:30pm, Youth Area

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. Call/text Melissa or Andrea if you are interested in helping with this amazing experience!

Retreat Team Meetings (Youth Area/Ed Center)

Receive 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.

Your Help is Needed



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 at *dlhanlon@windstream.net* or 515-367-3367. Thank you for considering this request.

Spending More Money than Expected?

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. Only requirement is to purchase a FPU kit. If interested in attending or have questions, please contact Scott at *swarner@gdmhabitat.org* or 515-971-4320.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Garrett McClain - 515-685-2314 -Alleman- gjmccclain69@gmail.com
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
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 - mclclairnj@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
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. 15/16 Week 25

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$ 10,445	\$5,157

Year-to-Date

	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$136,741	\$128,918	\$126,567

Food Pantry: \$751.75

Retirement for Religious: \$500

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. Thank you.

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.

Liturgical Ministers

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

Announcer	Matt Miller	<i>Needed: 2 Ushers</i>
Lector	Lorrie Hanlon	
Cup Bearers	Jacki & Tom Ausman	
Host Distributor	Deacon Terry	
Cup Bearers, Hall	Di Schleisman, Matt Miller	
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

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

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

Announcer	Celia Shedd	<i>Needed: Cup Bearer</i>
Lector	Anne Davis	
Altar Servers	Kelcie & Natalie Shedd	
Ushers	Mike & Mary Winders	

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

*Needed: Announcer Lector, 1 Cup Bearer, Host Distributor,
1 Altar Server, 5 Ushers*

Cup Bearer	Carol Weber
Altar Servers	Jackson & Joel Waters

Monday, December 31, 5:30pm Holy Day Vigil Mass, St. Mary

Needed: Lector, 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

Announcer	Lynn Schreurs	<i>Needed: Cup Bearer</i>
Lector	Jeff Ruden	
Altar Server	Brock Phelan-Ruden	
Ushers	Bill & Shirley Jorgensen	

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

Announcer	Arlene Anderson
Lector	Riley Anderson
Cup Bearers	Cory Schoening, Patty Devereux
Host Distributor	Mike Devereux
Altar Servers	Justin Anderson, Emily Devereux Abby Devereux
Ushers	Mike & Joe Devereux, Jim Hudson, Joe Rumbaugh

Sunday, January 6, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Announcer	Karen Bellis
Lector	Sheri Fogarty
Cup Bearer	Tony Kuehn
Altar Server	Isabella Kuehn
Ushers	Lynn & Chris Schreurs

Sunday, January 6, 10:00am, St. Mary

Announcer	Susan Genalo
Lector	Matt Miller
Cup Bearers	Carol Weber, Mike Nehring
Host Distributor	Tim Loraditch
Altar Servers	Sawyer Smeltzer, Veronica Loraditch, Caleb Coffelt
Ushers	Jacki & Tom Ausman, Gregg Richwine, Doug Zehr, Andrew Cory

Christmas Prayer

*Lord, on this Christmas Day,
in the midst of the joy of our celebrations,
help us recall what is truly important about this day.
In the midst of opening presents,
help us remember the love that each gift represents.
In the midst of Christmas dinner,
help us remember that you are the source of all life.
In the midst of family gatherings,
help us remember that you are the fullness of all joy.
And in the midst of Christmas Mass,
help us remember the supreme act of love, sacrifice,
and humility that we celebrate on this Christmas Day
when your Son came as a helpless, unknown baby
and grew to be the life and light of the world. Amen.*

Money Counters

Dec. 23: Sharon Morris, Carol Weber

Dec. 30: Sue White, Dona Cowman,
Dawn Reynolds, Kathy Daup

Jan. 6: Dona Cowman, Sharon Morris

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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 & 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23

Theme: Jesus is identified as Lord before he is born.

Reading I: Micah 5:1-4 • From you will come forth a savior.

Reading II: Hebrews 10:5-10 • One sacrifice instead of many.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 • Mary visits Elizabeth.

For Children: How does the Blessed Virgin Mary help you to follow Jesus?

For Youth: When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

For Adults: What role does Mary play in your own spirituality? If you were Elizabeth, how would you greet her at your doorway, if she were to arrive there?

Feast of the Holy Family, December 30

Theme: Jesus establishes his obedience to and relationship with, God the Father.

Reading I: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 • Show reverence for God by honoring your parents.

Reading II: Colossians 3:12-21 • Serve the Lord by loving one another.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52 • The boy Jesus stays behind in the Temple.

For Children: Jesus was obedient to his parents, even though he was the Son of God. Why is obedience so important? Is it something you struggle with?

For Youth: When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

For Adults: How are you, too, called to our Father's house?



Our lovely Christmas flowers have been shared with us by

In Memory of

Sharon Adams	Gerald Adams Family and Hohn
Tom and Jackie Ausman	LaVina Clemens
Larry and Mary Bishop Family	Duane and Martha Untiedt
Mike and Rachelle Breen	John and Ann Breen, Jim Wilgenbusch
Lyle and Jeanne Carpenter	Carpenter Family, Shaw Family
John Cory	Fran Cory
Mary Ann Cory	Ira Cory
Patrick Cory	Marge Cory
Diane Cronk and Delila Roberts	Violet Peterson
Lowell and Jackie Crouse	Ron and Elaine Crouse, Marie Budden
Mary Davis	Bill Davis
Bill and Sharon Dunbar	Ralph and Neva Cory, Bill and Wanda Dunbar and Sandy
Kelly Dunbar	Grandpa and Grandma
Joe and Lori Dunham	Vicki Ellis
Paula Garoutte	My Beloved Angels
Drew and Lorrie Hanlon	Robert Wasson, Dorene Hanlon
Doug and Kim Heger	Mary Iliff
Darlene Hughes	Joseph and Coletta Klaas, Tim and Terry Hughes
Mark and Sheryl Hurley	Hurley and Eveland Families
Bill and Shirley Jorgensen	Cain and Jorgensen Families
Dave and Barb Liske	Joe Rubendall, Overmohle and Liske Families
Garrett and Tammi McClain	Ron Koeppel





In Memory of

Scott and Elizabeth Mitchell

Ira Cory

JoAnn Moody

Gale and Margaret, Jim Campbell

Thomas and Sharon Morris

Bill and Eunice Morris, John and Clellene Sample,
Tom Bellis, Curt Barry, Judy Epps

Don Morton

Cecelia and Mike Morton

Mary Jane Nehring

Debbie Odgaard

Ron Odgaard, John and Ann Breen

Merle and Robin Olberding

Vern and Margaret Olberding

Ray and Meri Parent

Merle and Jane Parent

Glen and Katherine Petersen

Agnes Weires

Pat and Janet Phelan

Harry and Irene Wilson, Martin and Mary Phelan

Robert and Brenda Reid

Ron Reid, Dorothy Blake

Dennis Schmidt

Mark and Sue Schmidt

Gary and Judy Sesker

Albert and Margaret Rasmussen, Nelland and Inez Sesker

Celia Shedd

Clifford and Wilma Priebe, Stephen Kurt

Dan Sickerson

Leo and Emma Sickerson, Mike Sickerson

Kevin and Lindsey Taber

Sarah Kelly Jensen

Jeff Way

Nira Talty

Blanche Wright

Jay Cory, Helen Cory Speakman, Paul Cory,
Kathryn Cory, Mary Cory Wilson, Jeff Loftus,
Chuckie Barnes

THANK YOU!

