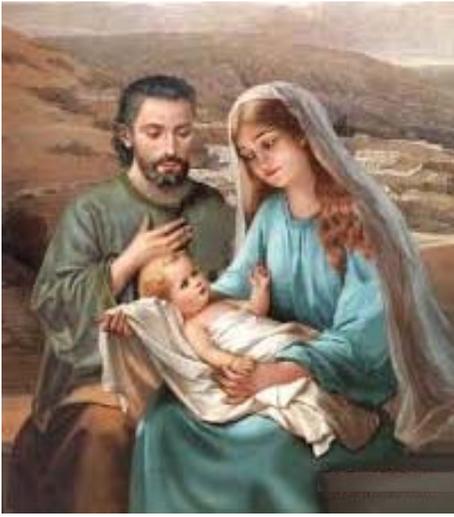




# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



**Feast of the Holy Family**

**December 27, 2020**



**Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

**January 3, 2021**

*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,

Merry Christmas to all. I pray that you receive and enjoy the peace that only our God can provide. What follows is an excerpt from a sermon by St. Bernard.

"Notice that peace is not promised but sent to us; it is no longer deferred, it is given; peace is not prophesied but achieved. It is as if God the Father sent upon the earth a purse full of his mercy. This purse was burst open during the Lord's passion to pour forth its hidden contents - the price of our redemption. It was only a small purse, but it was very full. As the Scriptures tell us: *A little child has been given to us, but in him dwells all the fullness of the divine nature.* The fullness of time brought with it the fullness of divinity. God's Son came in the flesh so that mortal men could see and recognize God's kindness. When God reveals his humanity, his goodness cannot possibly remain hidden. To show his kindness what more could he do beyond taking my human form? My humanity, I say, not Adam's - that is, not such as had before his fall."

May you experience a blessed new year with this peace "which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). ~ Fr. Andrew

## Parish Information

<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	515-367-2685
<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. Andrew Windschitl</b>	Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper</b>	sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Nicole Cory - Confirmation</b>	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	afisher@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Barb Liske - Secretary</b>	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE</b>	gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE</b>	tmiller@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Sue Schmidt - Music</b>	sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org

<b>Mass Schedule</b>	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 4:00-4:30pm in **Cry Room**, or by appointment with Fr. Andrew.

**Baptism:** Contact Fr. Andrew for a preparation program

**Marriage:** Contact Fr. Andrew at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

**Priesthood and Religious Life:** See Diocesan website at <http://www.vocationsonline.org>.



## Religious Education

### Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, [gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org), 515-556-4150  
Tracy Miller, [tmiller@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org), 515-520-7981

Wishing you every happiness this Christmas Season  
and prosperity in the New Year.

#### Upcoming dates

Jan. 6: 6:30pm First Communion Parent meeting, Ed Center  
Jan.12/13: Regular sessions resume  
Jan. 19/20: Regular Sessions  
Jan. 26/27: Regular Sessions

## S.T.O.R.M. Report

### Grades 7-12 Coordinators

Melissa Kahler, [mkahler@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org), 515-290-2830  
Andrea Fisher, [afisher@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org), 515-240-5059

### Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

Nicole Cory, [ncory@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org), 515-313-3014

A joyful Christmas season and Happy New Year! We pray you are enjoying time with your family and that you all are staying healthy! It seems appropriate as we enter into the new year of 2021, that we invite you to pray and meditate on the following verse with us; "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jer. 29:11. May your new year be filled with peace and hope.

We are looking forward to being in session again hopefully very soon! More information will be forthcoming as we consult with and are directed by the Diocese of Des Moines. We will be in touch! God Bless! ~ Andrea & Melissa

### C1 & C2

**10th Grade Only:** Saint Displays are due at the end of January.

Please watch your email and the bulletin for updates regarding our session in January.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas season  
and a Happy New Year! ~ Nicole

## For Our Wise & Wonderful Members!

Please share your Christmas memories with us. We request your submission to the parish office by January 1st to be entered in a drawing for prizes!

## Church Sign

Can't sleep??? Don't count sheep...Talk to the shepherd!!!

## Donations for 2020 / End-of-Year Statements

If you wish to have any donation included on your 2020 contribution statement, it must reach the Parish Office no later than Noon on Wednesday, December 30, through collections at Mass, mailed or personally delivered to the Parish Office. Checks received after this date, even if dated December 2020, will be credited as 2021 donations.

In order to save on postage, paper and printing expense, we will not be mailing year end donation statements to everyone. If you would like a statement, please email Sarah at [sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org) or contact the office, 515-367-2685 with a request to print and mail (or email) a statement to you. Thank you.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doug Jones, *Chair* - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Will Bates - [a\\_k\\_bates@live.com](mailto:a_k_bates@live.com)  
John Fisher - [Johnfisher@sienafastener.com](mailto:Johnfisher@sienafastener.com)  
Tim Loraditch - [Tloraditch@gmail.com](mailto:Tloraditch@gmail.com)  
John Roberts - [jroberts@huxcomm.net](mailto:jroberts@huxcomm.net)  
Stacey Rooney - [Rooneyslg17@gmail.com](mailto:Rooneyslg17@gmail.com)

## FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dave Pottebaum, *President* - [pottebaum5@msn.com](mailto:pottebaum5@msn.com)  
Heidi Ackerman - [heidimdittmer@gmail.com](mailto:heidimdittmer@gmail.com)  
Diane Gannon - [ddkgannon@gmail.com](mailto:ddkgannon@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Laurie Phelan - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Sue Tollefson - [suet@iowacubs.com](mailto:suet@iowacubs.com)

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - [arlene@4andersons.com](mailto:arlene@4andersons.com)  
Jacki Ausman - [jackiausman@gmail.com](mailto:jackiausman@gmail.com)  
Beth Hart - [mrsmatthart@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmatthart@gmail.com)  
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Sue White - [charylmyron@q.com](mailto:charylmyron@q.com)  
John Zidon - [jzidon@msn.com](mailto:jzidon@msn.com)

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Karen Bellis - [puzzlenuts@aol.com](mailto:puzzlenuts@aol.com)  
Pat Bishop - [pjbishop@midiaowa.net](mailto:pjbishop@midiaowa.net)  
Lowell Crouse - [l3jl@windstream.net](mailto:l3jl@windstream.net)  
John Freeman - [johnfmingo@hotmail.com](mailto:johnfmingo@hotmail.com)  
Tracy Irwin - [irwin@partnercom.net](mailto:irwin@partnercom.net)  
Lynn Schreurs - [lschreurs@msn.com](mailto:lschreurs@msn.com)  
Larry Shaw - [shawcattle13@gmail.com](mailto:shawcattle13@gmail.com)  
Mike and Mary Winders - [Mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:Mwinde59@yahoo.com)

## PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - [fogarty929@gmail.com](mailto:fogarty929@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)

## PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - [Mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:Mwinde59@yahoo.com)

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

December 20 Budget Week 25

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$11,658	\$4,860

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$138,690	\$121,500	\$148,298

## 2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Information and a pledge card have been mailed to each household. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give and mail your pledge to the parish or donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving/annual-diocesan-appeal-giving>, being sure to designate our parish for proper credit. Each gift is vital to reaching our assessment. Thank you.

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$49,556	\$46,477	\$45,577	<b>\$3,979</b>

Considering switching over to automatic withdrawal from your bank account for your tithing? Please contact Sarah Baumberger, [sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org), for additional information or find the form in the vestibule or on our website's home page, <https://www.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, please contact Barb, [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.

## Save Lives while Savoring Homemade Soup!!

Our blood drive is Thursday, January 28, 3:00 to 7:00p.m. in the Social Hall. What safer and easier way to serve others than to donate your life-supporting blood that will help save or sustain the life of three others. LifeServe Blood Center provides a disinfected and sanitized environment. Blood is always in short supply and especially now. The whole process (registration, confidential health history interview, donation, and post-donation rest in our canteen) will take less than an hour with the actual donation taking only about 10 minutes. LifeServe personnel and donors are required to wear a mask. Appointments are required for added safety. To schedule your appointment sign up in the vestibule of St. Mary or use this link and choose your donation time: [https://donor.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/169798](https://donor.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/169798) then log in or create an account. If you have difficulties or questions, please call LifeServe Blood Center at 800-287-4903 and mention you would like to sign up for the Elkhart Community Blood Drive on January 28. **AND** for this particular blood drive we're offering "a pint for a pint" so come donate a pint and enjoy homemade soups at the canteen! Contact Lisa or Tim Kautza ([kautza@netins.net](mailto:kautza@netins.net) or 515-964-7687) if you'd like to volunteer to help in the canteen or can provide cookies, bars or other snacks.



## Jesus Asks Us to Feed the Hungry

Our parish has been preparing a meal for the families at the shelter on the second Sunday of each month for a couple of decades. We are in need volunteers for June, July, November and December 2021. One or more families can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal. Covid precautions are taken; meal providers do not enter the shelter and masks are to be worn. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt for a tax deduction. Please share your love with some families who are experiencing unexpected and dire changes to their lives. To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza at [kautza@netins.net](mailto:kautza@netins.net) or 515-964-7687.

## Winter Weather Cancellations



If North Polk School is in session and cancel, dismiss early, or cancel evening activities due to weather, events here at the parish are cancelled. In most instances, Masses - both daily and weekend - will not be cancelled, so please use your own judgment. If we need to cancel weekend activities it will be on the three major TV networks and WHO radio.

## The Gift of a Christmas Concert

In a Christmas season darkened by disease, division, and discouragement, Bishop William Joensen invites you to celebrate the joy and hope by watching *The Lessons, Reflections, and Carols of Christmas*, a livestream Christmas concert/prayer service presented by the Drake University alumni choir, and representatives of our Diocese. This event, featuring music, Scriptures, and reflections written for this celebration, can be accessed through January 6 at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd1rPwPhXYIW0od6Ln6npWg>



The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is around 1.6 million square kilometers – bigger than Texas.

## CYC Registration Open



Catholic Youth Camp is going to be exciting this year! Campers will see new cabins, a renovated Dingman Lodge and increased number of staff for enhanced safety precautions. We're planning for the most amazing summer ever! Camp is open to 3rd-12th graders. For more information and to register, please go to [stmcenter.com](http://stmcenter.com). *Our Parish will contribute \$100 of the fee to CYC for each child of our Parish who attends. Please notify Barb in the office when you have registered your child.*

## St. Joseph Catholic School 2021-2022

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year opens the week of January 4. Please call or email and schedule your tour today! Please contact Jodi Halligan for more information, 515-266-3433, [jhalligan@stjosephcatholicdsm.org](mailto:jhalligan@stjosephcatholicdsm.org) or [www.stjosephcatholicdsm.org](http://www.stjosephcatholicdsm.org).

## On The Radio

Tune in to Iowa Catholic Radio (1150 AM, 88.5 FM or 94.5 FM) most Fridays around 7:15pm to hear Fr. Andrew discuss that coming Sunday's Gospel. At 9:00am every Friday tune in for the Bishop's weekly radio show, "Making it Personal With Bishop Joensen".

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Feast of the Holy Family, December 27

*Theme: Families grow through good times and bad.*

*Reading I:* Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 • Those who fear the Lord honor their parents.

*Reading II:* Colossians 3:12-21 • Family life in the Lord.

*Gospel:* Luke 2:22-40 • The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

*For Children:* Why is it important for you to obey your parents or guardians?

*For Youth:* God is among us in the person of Jesus. How does having a God who knows what it means to be human affect the way you pray and think about God?

*For Adults:* Whether single, married, or divorced, how does Paul's advice ring true in your own life? Choose one of his suggestions and share how it touches your life.

### Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, January 3

*Theme: The mystery of the incarnation - Jesus is a gift to all humanity.*

*Reading I:* Isaiah 60:1-6 • Your light has come!

*Reading II:* Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 • We all share the same promise!

*Gospel:* Matthew 2:1-12 • They opened their coffers and presented him with gifts.

*For Children:* In your life, who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend?

*For Youth:* Life can sometimes be rough: losing your home, moving, feeling fear or danger. How do you experience God being and staying with you in such times?

*For Adults:* How this past week did you demonstrate God's love at home and at work?