



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

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:

Wait! It doesn't have to be that way, it's not inevitable or necessary! But you **do** have to take charge of making it different! As we enter this liturgical Season of Advent, and the cultural Holiday Season, I've *already* heard some people say they can't wait until it's all over. Advent is meant to be a time of prayerful preparation and hopeful waiting for a new Birth of Christ in our lives. But so often it's overrun by all the shopping, planning, preparing, travel and partying that have become the exhausting norm. Add to that the get togethers that are "supposed to be" joyful times, but only make this the busiest time of the year for counselors, and others mental health professionals. But wait! It doesn't *have* to be that way! It's not inevitable or necessary. But you **do** have to take charge of making it different! Yes, you will have to go against the flow and be counter-cultural, letting Advent be a time of waiting, and the Christmas Season begin on Christmas Day, instead of ending then. May Christ indeed be born anew for you this Advent, rather than December 26th being the time when you just thank God it's all over! Fr. Dan

Parish Information

Parish Phone	515-367-2685
Fr. Dan Krettek	515-423-2888
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. Dan Krettek	dkrettek@saintmaryhc.org
Deacon Terry Schleisman	tschleisman@saintmaryhc.org
Adult Faith Sharing	
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@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	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

Masses

Wednesday, December 6

6:00pm St. Mary †Deceased Women of Parish

Thursday, December 7

5:30pm Holy Cross †Michael Carpenter

Friday, December 8

Holy Day, Immaculate Conception of Mary

6:30pm St. Mary †Brad West

Saturday, December 9

5:00pm St. Mary †Albert & Helen Schmidt

Sunday, December 10

8:00am Holy Cross †Gary & Donna Smith

10:00am St. Mary For the Parish

**Advent Reconciliation Service:
Sunday, Dec. 17, 2:00pm, St. Mary**

Welcome To Our New Members!



We welcome the following folks who have joined our Parish:

Tyler & Katie Wells who live in Bondurant

Robert & Aletha Tehmeh and sons Tehris and Terry,
who live in Ankeny

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Advent Reflection Resources

Below are descriptions of the booklets we have for all ages in the vestibule. Advent is a time of looking forward and waiting for something greater; both for the commemoration of Christ's birth, and for the time when He comes again.

Between Darkness and Light: Journey from the darkness of ourselves and our world into the Christmas light of Christ.

Preparing For Perfect Joy: Family reflections, prayers and action activities.

Your Advent Adventure! Child-friendly ideas and colorful art that invite children to join with Jesus in uncovering the riches of Advent and Christmas.

The ACT of Advent: For teens/young adults. In Advent we are preparing for Jesus' birth as well as His second coming. How is our Advent readiness? Are we prepared? Are we ready to ACT and serve those around us?

Little Blue Book: Short reflections on Matthew's Gospel and a "buffet table" about the Advent and Christmas seasons, feasts, traditions and customs.

The Word Among Us: Daily meditations and inspirational stories with theme "Do You See What I See?"

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!



Christmas Party!!

All ladies of the Parish are invited to join us this Wednesday, December 6 at St. Mary for Mass at 6:00pm followed by our party. We ask you to bring a child sized package of new socks and/or new underwear, which we will donate to those in need. You are also asked to bring a salad, vegetable, chips or a dessert to share at our meal. This is a great time to connect with the ladies of the Parish!

RSVP to the Parish Office by today, December 3.

Dec. 23/24 Sunday Obligation 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 commemorate
the birth of our Savior!

Sunday Scripture Prayer and Study

Wednesdays, Dec. 13, 20 & 27, 7:00pm, Conference Room

Meditative Prayer Time

Saturdays, Dec. 9, 16, 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, December 12, 6:00pm, Office Area

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Sunday, December 10, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 1

Jean Bruns, Kristi Edleman, Kim Remsburg

Coming Events

†**Monday, Dec. 4:** "Mourning Coffee Club", 10-11am, Conference Room. Meets every Monday, except holidays.

†**Wednesday, Dec. 6:** Parish Office opens at 10:00am due to Staff meeting — Ladies Party after 6pm Mass, Hall

†**Dec. 9/10 Weekend:** Blessing of Mothers-To-Be at Masses

†**Sunday, Dec. 10:** Practice for Stations of the Nativity after 8am Mass at Holy Cross. Performance on Dec. 17

†**Dec. 16/17 Weekend:** Food Pantry Collection for Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter

Music News



Music Coordinator: Celeste Muehlenthaler

515-577-9394 / celestemu@msn.com

We would love to have someone play guitar for Christmas Eve Mass. Please prayerfully consider this. It would add so much to our music. The Spirit is calling YOU!

Deo Gratias Choir (adults) practices are Sundays after 10:00am Mass Dec. 3, 10 & 17 and practices for **Good News Singers (children)** are Wednesday, 6:00pm on Dec. 6 (in the Music Room), and in the Church on Dec. 13, 17 & 20.

Liturgical Ministers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the Holy Day Mass this Friday, 6:30pm at St. Mary and also for our Masses December 16 through January 1. A sign up is available at each Church; please volunteer where able. You may also contact the Parish Office to volunteer. Thank you!

Religious Education

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

The poster contest with Knights of Columbus is underway. The theme this year is *May Christmas Fill Your Heart With Love*. Paper is available in the Ed Center and in the vestibule of St. Mary and Holy Cross. The posters are to be turned in by December 13 and will be judged that evening by our EDGE Students.

The Service Project for December will be Toys for Tots. New and unwrapped toys can be placed under the tree in the Ed. Center and need to be brought in no later than December 13. Thank you to all who donated to Catholic Charities and the Blessing Box in November, a great deal was gathered!!!

There will not be class on December 6 as the Ladies' Christmas Party will be taking place that evening.

Normal class will occur on December 13.

On December 20 we will have a *Birthday Party for Jesus* (both classes together from 6:00-7:00pm). The children will be singing some Christmas songs at the end of the hour if you would like to come and hear them sing.

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

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

Dec. 3: 9th Grade - Lesson 5 — 10th Grade - Lesson 16
 — *please report your service hours at this session.*

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

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

No EDGE or S.T.O.R.M. sessions on December 6.

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

Dec 13: *Abraham- Our Hope and Our Promise*

Dec 20: EDGE Christmas Party

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

Dec 13: *Youth Group Game Night*

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

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Mass for this Holy Day of Obligation is this Friday, December 8, 6:30pm at St. Mary. Please join us to celebrate Mary and her important role in the celebration of our Faith!

✠ Blessing For Mothers-To-Be

At Masses next weekend, we invite all pregnant women to receive a blessing; that they know of God's presence and strength as they await the birth of their child, have a safe delivery and a healthy baby.

Stations of the Nativity



Children of the parish are invited to take part in the performance of *Stations of the Nativity* on Sunday, Dec. 17 right after 8:00am Mass at Holy Cross. Practice will be next Sunday, Dec. 10 also after 8:00am Mass. Please contact Michele Hand (515-387-1417 or handjm06@msn.com) with names and ages of children wanting to participate.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Garrett McClain - 515-685-2314 - Alleman-gmccclair@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 - mccclairnj@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 - tammimccclair71@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 - ishaw@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

November 26 Week 22

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$2,718	\$5,234

Year-to-Date

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$110,225	\$115,140	\$114,803

Campaign for Human Development Collection: \$105

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	52,041.64	\$ 51,091.64	\$ 5,350.36

✠ 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.

Liturgical Ministers for December 8 Holy Day and for Next Weekend

Friday, December 8, 6:30pm Mass at St. Mary

Lector *Volunteer needed*
Cup Bearers JoAnn Meusbarger, Jacki Ausman
Host Distributor *Volunteer needed*
Altar Servers *3 Volunteers needed*
Ushers *4 Volunteers needed*

Saturday, December 9, 5:00pm Mass at St. Mary

Announcer Arlene Anderson
Lector Kris Sexton
Cup Bearers Diane Cronk, John Zidon
Host Distributor Jerry Barnwell
Altar Servers Riley Anderson, Hunter Halligan
Justin Anderson
Ushers Dawn & Mason Reynolds,
Mike Devereux, Mark Lengel

Sunday, December 10, 8:00am Mass at Holy Cross

Announcer Karen Bellis
Lector Sheri Fogarty
Eucharistic Minister Tony Kuehn
Altar Server Isabella Kuehn
Ushers Dave & Char McHone

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

Announcer Matt Miller
Lector Tracy Kangas
Cup Bearers Lori McQuiston, Dan Gonnerman
Host Distributor Lisa Gonnerman
Altar Servers Christianne Ledet
Ushers Doug Zehr, Dennis Schmitt,
Brodie, Angie, Kaden & Drew Gilligan

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Money Counters

Dec. 3: Dona Cowman, Dawn Reynolds
Dec. 10: Brenda Nehring, Sharon Morris

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Have You Seen It!!

We are missing a Christmas tree skirt at Holy Cross. If you've seen it, please call Chris Schreurs, 515-681-1351. Thanks!

Parish & Friends Bereavement Group

The "Mourning Coffee Club" continues to meet Mondays, 10:00am in St. Mary's Conference Room. *(If you would like to participate, but this isn't a good day/time for you, please let Paula know, and we'll change it to better fit schedules.)*

In this holiday season, we focus on learning and sharing ways to cope with what can be a bittersweet time when we may WANT to feel joy amid the cheer of the season but we FEEL 'alone in the crowd.' Grief is always a personal issue, but bereavement can also offer ways we can learn to travel THROUGH life's valley of shadows that haunt our happiness.

"Mourning Coffee Club" offers a supportive community of fellowship with others who are in this stage of life, and 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 in your ability to; and if you've successfully closed that window, come and share the tools you've used in times of crisis.

Call or text your interest and questions to Paula Garoutte at 515-306-6633 or email paulasongbird@msn.com.

SAYWHAT? Recycling 1 ton of cardboard saves 46 gallons of oil.

Retirement Fund for Religious

This collection provides support for thousands of elderly Religious who worked for years for little or no stipend. Your gift helps their Religious Communities provide loving care for them while ensuring their good work will continue.

Please return the attached envelope in the collection basket next week. Thank you.

Advent Reconciliation Service



You are invited to celebrate God's love and forgiveness at our Advent Reconciliation Service Sunday, December 17, 2:00pm at St. Mary. We will have additional priests here to assist with individual confession.



Christmas Memorials

We offer you the opportunity to memorialize a loved one by making a donation toward flowers that will decorate St. Mary and Holy Cross this Christmas season. Your gift will be a beautiful remembrance during the Christmas season. A memorial list with the names of your loved ones will be printed in a future bulletin.

Flower donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes; additional flower envelopes are in the vestibule. Please return your donation by December 18.

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 their permission to be on our prayer chain.*

Catholic Youth Camp Registration is Open!

Registration is conducted on a "first come, first serve" basis and is only online at stmcenter.com. Camp is open to 3rd-12th graders. *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.*

See Diocesan events at www.dmdiocese.org and offerings sponsored by St. Joseph Ed Center at www.sjeciowa.org

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

First Sunday of Advent, December 3

Theme: Active waiting.

Reading I: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 • We have not seen any God like you!

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 • He will strengthen you to the end.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37 • Be constantly on guard!

For Children: What special things do you do to get ready for a visitor at your house? What things can you do like that to get ready for Jesus?

For Youth: What is one thing that you can do this week to help you remember that Jesus is coming?

For Adults: When you're getting ready to receive a guest, what are some things you do? How do you apply this to receiving Christ?