



# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



## Second Sunday of Advent

Dec. 8, 2019

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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,

In the Gospel this weekend we encounter St. John the Baptist. Among the many things that we could learn from him, one is that our faith is not always glamorous. Recall that he is described as wearing "clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt" and "his food was locusts and wild honey." Such a lifestyle does not seem to be a good selling point when trying to bring people into the fold. Yet, do we at least admire him for his conviction? His faith led him to live this way and carry out his mission to proclaim the coming of the Messiah, even though he later seems to implicitly admit that he does not know it is Jesus. What about our faith do we not understand? Is there something about it over which we even agonize? If so, there is no need to do so. Prayer, while it should not be considered a quick fix, will help bring peace. Of course, there are additional ways we can take to gain understanding, such as reading the *Catechism*. Certainly I am available to serve you as well, but so often I do not know if someone is struggling unless they inform me, so please do not hesitate to contact me.

~ Father Andrew

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## 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
<i>See inside for Mass time on Dec. 9.</i>	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>.

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## Mass and Adoration

**Monday, December 9**

***Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

9:00am St. Mary †Rosemary & Leo Overmohle

**Tuesday, December 10**

6:00pm St. Mary †Mary Maxwell

~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Wednesday, December 11**

5:30pm Holy Cross †Mikey & Will Carpenter

**Thursday, December 12**

8:00am St. Mary †Fr. Gene Koch

**Saturday, December 14**

5:00pm St. Mary †For the Parish

**Sunday, December 15**

8:00am Holy Cross †Michael Carpenter

10:00am St. Mary †Don Murphy

**1:00pm Parish Reconciliation Service, St. Mary**

## Welcome To Our New Members!



We welcome to our Parish family  
Chelsea and Genaro Mata, who live in Elkhart.

## New Birth by Water and the Holy Spirit

Celebrate with us in welcoming into our Faith



**Evelyn Marie**

Daughter of Luke and Tracy Miller  
who was baptized at our Parish.

## 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.



## Advent Reflection Resources

PREPARE JESUS We have booklets for all ages available in the vestibule to help you along your Advent journey. This is a time of looking forward and waiting, both for celebrating Christ's birth, and for the time when He comes again.

## Feast of the Immaculate Conception Of the Blessed Virgin Mary



This Feast is transferred from Sunday the 8th to Monday the 9th. Our Mass is 9:00am at St. Mary. Please join us to celebrate Mary and her important role in our Faith!



## Advent Reconciliation Service

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, sets our hearts free from the burden of sin through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **Join us for our Service next Sunday at 1:00pm**, to celebrate His love and forgiveness. We will have additional priests here to assist with individual confession.

*Unable to attend our Service? Here are other area services:*

St. Pius X, Thursday, Dec. 12, 7:00pm

Basilica of St. John, Saturday, Dec. 14, 10:00am

SS John & Paul & St. Theresa, Monday, Dec. 16, 7:00pm

St. Joseph, Tuesday, Dec. 17, 6:30pm

St. Anthony, Saturday, Dec. 21, 9:00am

## Christmas Eve Masses

5:00pm, St. Mary

7:00pm, Holy Cross

## Christmas Day Mass

9:00am, St. Mary



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesdays, 6:30pm, St. Mary (following 6:00pm Mass)

Parish Council

Meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 6:30pm, Ed Center

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 7:00pm, Ed Center

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: Monday, December 9, 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 5

Mary Cory, Kelly Muth, Karen Stafford

## Upcoming Events

†**Adult Christmas Choir practice** (6th graders and up):

Sundays after 10am Mass for one hour on Dec. 8, 15 & 22

†**Children's Choir practice** (1st - 5th graders): Sundays

9:25 - 9:55am, Dec. 8, 15 & 22, Social Hall

†**Sunday, Dec. 8:** Hall in use 11:00am-2:00pm

†**Poster Contest: Keep Christ in Christmas.** Preschool-6th grade; entries due by class time Wednesday, Dec. 11

†**Sunday, Dec. 15: Stations of The Nativity**, after 8am

Mass—**Advent Reconciliation Service**, 1:00pm, St. Mary

†**Weekend of Dec. 21/22:** Food Pantry Collection for Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter

## 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!

## Poster Contest

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring this contest with the theme *Keep Christ In Christmas* for students in grades Preschool through 6th. Entries are due back by class time on December 11. Awards will be granted to the winners of each grade.

## Stations of the Nativity



The children of the parish will be performing *Stations of the Nativity* at Holy Cross next Sunday after 8:00am Mass.



## 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. 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 available in the vestibule. Please return your donation by December 15.*

## 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

If you have a child who is preparing for their First Communion, please note in your calendar the upcoming mandatory parent meeting January 8, 6:00 - 7:00pm.

### Sessions: Dec. 10/11 & Dec. 17/18

Sessions on Dec 17/18 include a Reconciliation Service from  
5:15-5:45pm on the 17th and 5:45-6:15pm and  
6:30-7:00pm on the 18th.

## 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

### EDGE, Grades 7 & 8

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Session: Dec. 11

### Confirmation, Grades 9 & 10

Next Session: Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6:00-8:00pm in the  
Social Hall

Watch the bulletin and emails for upcoming events.

### High School Students

Join us for our Advent Party! December 11, 7:30-9:00pm,  
in the Youth Area.

## The Annual Diocesan

This Appeal is underway and our Finance Council would like to thank those of you who have already contributed to our parish goal. The Annual Diocesan Appeal is the vehicle for parishes to support the ministers and ministries of the Church in our diocese. The funds raised help to provide: formation for our future priests; health care, travel, and citizenship assistance for current priests; pension benefits to retired priests; counseling, emergency food, shelter, and clothing for our brothers and sisters; Catholic education for our children; formation for young people, engaged couples, and catechists; and much more! The total assessment due from St. Mary-Holy Cross this year is \$48,797, of which we still need about \$12,500. This assessment is due the end of February, and we need your help to finish strong! Please prayerfully consider your ability to support the Catholic Church of Southwest Iowa while also supporting your parish of St. Mary-Holy Cross. Any donations collected beyond the stated goal are returned to the parish! We will take up a second collection at Masses (when one is not already scheduled) until our goal is achieved. You may also donate with a pledge card or online. Thank you for supporting the mission and work of the Church!

## Retirement Fund for Religious

This collection provides support for thousands of elderly sisters, brother and religious order priests who worked for years with little or no stipend. Your gift offers their Religious Communities vital support for necessities such as medications and nursing care. Thank you for giving back.

Please return the donation envelope included in this bulletin,  
in the collection basket next week. Thank you.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Will Bates - 630-470-8271 - [a\\_k\\_bates@live.com](mailto:a_k_bates@live.com)  
John Fisher - 515-240-2293 - [Johnfisher@sienafastener.com](mailto:Johnfisher@sienafastener.com)  
Doug Jones - 515-367-4402 - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Tim Loraditch - 515-556-4390 - [Tloraditch@gmail.com](mailto:Tloraditch@gmail.com)  
John Roberts - 515-460-2093 - [jroberts@huxcomm.net](mailto:jroberts@huxcomm.net)  
Stacey Rooney - 515-490-5034 - [Rooneyslg17@gmail.com](mailto:Rooneyslg17@gmail.com)

## FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dave Pottebaum, *President* - 515-710-8932—[pottebaum5@msn.com](mailto:pottebaum5@msn.com)  
Heidi Ackerman - 641-203-5322 - [heidimdittmer@gmail.com](mailto:heidimdittmer@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - 515-367-4402 - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Rita McClain - 515-249-6841 - [mcclainrj@hotmail.com](mailto:mcclainrj@hotmail.com)  
Laurie Phelan - 515-201-6111 - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Sue Tollefson - 515 208-0536 - [suet@iowacubs.com](mailto:suet@iowacubs.com)

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - 515-967-6770 - [arlene@4andersons.com](mailto:arlene@4andersons.com)  
Jacki Ausman - 515-441-3739 - [jackiausman@gmail.com](mailto:jackiausman@gmail.com)  
Kathy Gass - 515-419-8569 - [k.gass@mchsi.com](mailto:k.gass@mchsi.com)  
Beth Hart - 515-515-306-4916 - [mrsmatthart@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmatthart@gmail.com)  
Kelly Hoffmeier - 515-975-7865 - [nkhoff@msn.com](mailto:nkhoff@msn.com)  
Tammi McClain - 515-290-3904 - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)  
Kris Sturtz - 515-238-1362 - [klsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:klsturtz@gmail.com)  
Sue White - 515-967-2996 - [charylmyron@q.com](mailto:charylmyron@q.com)  
John Zidon - 515-967-3367 - [jzidon@msn.com](mailto:jzidon@msn.com)

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - 515-201-6111 - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Karen Bellis - 515-360-1465 - [puzzlenuts@aol.com](mailto:puzzlenuts@aol.com)  
Pat Bishop - 515-387-1391 - [pjbishop@midiaowa.net](mailto:pjbishop@midiaowa.net)  
Lowell Crouse - 515-387-9530 - [l3jl@windstream.net](mailto:l3jl@windstream.net)  
John Freeman - 641-363-4462 - [johnfmingo@hotmail.com](mailto:johnfmingo@hotmail.com)  
Tracy Irwin - 515-771-3071 - [sammyjack@partnercom.net](mailto:sammyjack@partnercom.net)  
Lynn Schreurs - 515-577-8147 - [lschreurs@msn.com](mailto:lschreurs@msn.com)  
Larry Shaw - 515-720-3587 - [lshaw@tru-test.com](mailto:lshaw@tru-test.com)  
Mike and Mary Winders - 641-227-3346 - [Mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:Mwinde59@yahoo.com)

## PARISH TRUSTEES

Anne Davis - 515-967-7477 - [annedavis06@gmail.com](mailto:annedavis06@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - 515-367-4402 - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)

## PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Seeking a volunteer; contact the Parish Office for more information.

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	Received	Budget
Nov. 24 Budget Week 21	\$6,931	\$5,730
Dec. 1 Budget Week 22	\$7,131	\$5,730

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$132,573	\$126,060	\$127,757

Human Development Collection: \$55.00

## 2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Amt. Due
\$48,797	\$37,815	\$35,615	\$13,182

## Auto Debit for Tithing

If you don't use this type of tithing, please consider using 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](mailto:sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org). Thank you to those who currently use ACH for your tithes.

Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!

## Hello and Happy Advent from Me and My House!

In continuing with the 7 themes of Catholic Social Teaching, I continue this week with: The dignity of work and the rights of workers and solidarity.

It may seem like people are here to serve the economy but it's the other way around. The economy should be serving the people. Working every day is about more than making a living. If you aren't happy with your choice of job or career, then its likely you are not doing what you're meant to do. When we work, its our chance to be creative. To develop our talents and to use the gifts we've been given by God. Computers and machines replacing humans working is increasing and this isn't good for us. We were created to work in order to grow and have personal fulfillment. While helping the poor financially should always be a priority, the bigger picture must be to provide everyone the dignity of being able to work, having access to steady employment.

In addition to offering steady employment, workers rights must be protected as well. When we work, we should have the right to fair and decent wages, to join or organize unions, to private property and to economic initiative. It's very important for employers to understand that protecting their capital means protecting their employees. Happy employees are productive and can contribute to our economy better than anything else.

Solidarity means that we are one global family no matter any difference that we may have. National, racial, ethnic, economic or ideological differences should never be reasons for indifference. In many places people are considered expendable and their basic human rights are being stripped due to such differences. Caring for the poor and vulnerable is also part of solidarity. Political and social differences are getting worse. People with more power or a higher social status are being favored more frequently than ever before.

Most of us would just assume that this is all common sense, but it isn't. Many people believe we have come a long way as humans when it comes to solidarity and in many ways we have. But with the divide between the poor and wealthy becoming greater comes a greater divide in social and political status. Think about what you see on social media, or on the news. The divisions between humanity are growing with the increasing access people have, to spread ideas of hate and indifference to others.

Its hard not to worry about the state of the world we are living in. The scary things can make it difficult for us to have the courage to do what we are called to do. Remember "Do not be afraid" is one of the most used phrases in the Bible. We have the same access to spread love and joy as those spreading conflict. Take the first step today in creating a better world tomorrow. Begin with kindness.

Email [joshua2415smhc@gmail.com](mailto:joshua2415smhc@gmail.com) with any thoughts, ideas, and opinions you have.





## Liturgical Ministers

**Ministers for our Masses Dec. 21/22, 24/25, 28/29 and Dec. 31/Jan. 1 are all by sign up. Please volunteer at Church or call the office to help out. Thank you!**

### Saturday, December 14, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Announcer	Lisa Schoening
Lector	John Zidon
Cup Bearers	Drew Hanlon, Cory Schoening
Host Distributor	Di Schleisman
Altar Servers	Kaden Gilligan, Emily Devereux, Abigail Devereux
Ushers	Brodie, Angie & Drew Gilligan, Mike Devereux
Cantor	Drew Hanlon
Accompanist	Lorrie Hanlon

### Sunday, December 15, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Announcer	Kathy Daup
Lector	Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer	Tony Kuehn
Altar Server	Isabella Kuehn
Ushers	Brett Beukema, Sandra Hunter

### Sunday, December 15, 10:00am, St. Mary

Announcer	Susan Genalo
Lector	Tim Loraditch
Cup Bearers	Nicole Cory, Jacki Ausman
Host Distributor	Tom Ausman
Altar Servers	Griffen & Leah Muth
Ushers	Doug Zehr, Andrew Cory, Jerry McClain, Dennis Schmidt, Garrett McClain
Cantors	Terri Hamm, Garrett McClain
Accompanist	Mary Schmelzer

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## Money Counters

**Dec. 8** Lisa Kautza, Dona Cowman

**Dec. 15** Sharon Morris, Kathy Daup

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## Thank You's

Dear Members of St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish, our Holy Cross family, friends and neighbors....it has been 6 months since Pat's accident. He is at home and able to get around the house with the help of a walker. We appreciate all of your visits, cards, calls, well wishes, and prayers so much. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Please continue to keep Pat in your prayers as we continue this journey.

~ Pat and Janet Phelan

A great big heart-felt thank you to all the parishioners that supported the holiday food boxes at *The Blessing Box*. We packaged 30 Thanksgiving boxes and will package 30 more at Christmas. Your generosity is much appreciated!

St. Mary-Holy Cross,

Thank you for your donation of \$691.70. With it we are able to purchase items that aren't donated. Food from the Food Bank of Iowa costs 17 cents per pound. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Jackie Rasmussen, Huxley Food Pantry Coordinator

## We Are In Need of Your Assistance!

Volunteers are needed for one or two week shifts of snow removal at St. Mary through mid April. Email Drew Hanlon, dlhanlon@windstream.net, if interested or have questions.



Americans throw away enough office paper each year to build a 12 foot high wall from Seattle to NY (a new wall every year).

Dear St. Mary/ Holy Cross Parish,

It has been my honor to share my love and gift of music in the service of the Lord and this loving parish. So it is with mixed emotions that I am announcing my retirement as the organist for Holy Cross as of February 1, 2020.

I began this journey when we moved here from another parish in 1960. I started first at St. Mary's. Our then pastor was Msgr. John McIlhon. Being the musician that he was, he decided that Holy Cross needed music, because there was none provided at that time. He bought a used spinet organ and so for awhile I was playing at both churches.

Also I sang and helped with St. Mary's choir for some time before focusing entirely on playing for Holy Cross. I was the first organist for Holy Cross and please God I won't be the last. Thank you for all the support you have given me over the years. Love, Janet Phelan

## 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.*

## Collecting for St. Jude Children's Hospital

We are collecting used greeting cards of all occasions now through January 10. These cards are recycled into holiday gifts, décor and more to raise money for services provided to children and families at the hospital. Please give them to Father Andrew at Holy Cross or at St. Mary put them in the box provided in the vestibule. Thanks!

## 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.

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Second Sunday of Advent, December 8

*Theme: God's kingdom is at hand - it is here.*

*Reading I:* Isaiah 11:1-10 • The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb.

*Reading II:* Romans 15:4-9 • Accept one another, as Christ accepted you.

*Gospel:* Matthew 3:1-12 • Reform your lives!

*Question for Children:* Beyond toys and other things, what do you hope will happen in your family this Christmas?

*Question for Youth:* What are your greatest challenges in allowing Christ to be your teacher and following him?

*Question for Adults:* Name the one thing in your life you must "move out of the way" in order to make more room for Christ – a grudge, a possession, a memory, a hurt.