



# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 9, 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,

Q. Who was born due to the event known as the Immaculate Conception?

A. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was born! The Immaculate Conception refers to Mary being immaculately conceived in the womb of her mother Anne, who was married to Joachim.

Mary has been known as "*Theotokos*", or "God-Bearer" (Mother of God) during the early years of the Church. This title was a response to early threats to 'orthodoxy', the preservation of authentic Christian teaching.

Many people, including many Catholics, think that the Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Jesus through the action of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Immaculate Conception refers to the condition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.

It is interesting to note that Jesus is the only person who had the privilege of choosing His own mother! Also, whoever He chose to be His mother would be perfect due to the graces that He could have poured out upon that person.

We too are called to be "God-Bearers" in the way we live our lives in our present condition here on earth.

Blessings, Deacon Terry

---

## Parish Information

<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Deacon Terry Schleisman</b>	515-669-6158
<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>Deacon Terry Schleisman</b>	tschleisman@saintmaryhc.org
Adult Faith Sharing	
<b>Nicole Cory</b> - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Andrea Fisher</b> - RE, 7th-12th	afisher@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Stacie Hergenreter</b> - PreK-6	shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Melissa Kahler</b> - RE, 7th-12th	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Barb Liske</b> - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Celeste Muehlenthaler</b> - Music	cmuehlenthaler@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Peter Relyea</b> - Bookkeeper	prelyea@saintmaryhc.org

<b>Mass Schedule</b>	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

*See inside for special Mass schedule.*

**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

### Tuesday, December 11

6:00pm St. Mary †Albert & Helen Schmidt  
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### Wednesday, December 12

5:30pm Holy Cross †Bernard Hanlon

### Thursday, December 13

8:00am St. Mary †Clifford & Sarah Seufferer

### Saturday, December 15

5:00pm St. Mary †Ron Odgaard

### Sunday, December 16

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word during this Mass.

## 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!

*Regular weekend Mass schedule December. 22/23*

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Tuesdays, Dec. 11 & 18, 6:30pm, St. Mary (following Mass)  
Thursday, December 20, 7:00pm, St. Mary

RCIA Gathering

Sundays, Dec. 9, 16 & 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

Friends of St. Francis

Meeting: date and time to be decided

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Sunday, Dec. 16, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 5

Mary Cory, Kelly Muth

## 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!



## Advent Reconciliation Service

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, sets our hearts free from the burden of sin through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Come join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ for our Advent Reconciliation Service this afternoon, Sunday, at 2:00pm, 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. Luke The Evangelist, Dec. 9, 4:30pm*

*St. Theresa, Dec. 10, 7:00pm*

*Assumption-Granger, December 12, 6:30pm*

*St. Joseph Dec. 13, 6:30pm*

*St. Pius X, Dec. 13, 7:00pm*

*Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, Dec. 16, 3:00pm*

*Christ the King, Dec. 16, 7:00pm*

*Ss. John & Paul, Dec. 17, 7:00pm*

*St. Anthony, Dec. 22, 9:00am*



## Advent Reflection Resources

We have booklets for kids, families and adults available in the vestibule to help you along your Advent journey. This is a time of looking forward and waiting for something greater; both for celebrating Christ's birth, and for the time when He comes again.

## 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.

## 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.

## Liturgical Ministers Are Needed!

Volunteers are needed for our Masses the weekend of December 22 & 23 and for Masses through January 1. A sign up is available at each Church; please volunteer where available or contact the Parish Office to volunteer. Thank you!

## Upcoming Events

- † **Stations of the Nativity:** Practice Dec. 9 after 8am Mass, with performance Dec. 16 after 8am Mass, Holy Cross
- † **Adult Choir practice:** Sundays, Dec. 9, 16 & 23 11:00am-12:30pm, St. Mary Church
- † **Advent Reconciliation Service:** Sunday, Dec. 9, 2pm, SM
- † **Good News Singers practice:** Wednesdays, Dec. 12, 6:00-6:45pm & Dec. 19, 5:30-6:30pm, St. Mary Church

## Music News



**Music Coordinator: Celeste Muehlenthaler**

515-577-9394 / celestemu@msn.com

Do you (or anyone you know) play trombone? We'd love to have you join us for Christmas Eve Mass at 5:00pm. Music is ready; we hope someone is able to play! Let me know if you are available to help out!

## Food Pantry Collection



Our collection next week is for Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter. They are most in need of monetary donations to purchase needed supplies at a reduced cost. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing with those in need.



## Christmas Memorials

We offer you the opportunity to honor a loved one by making a donation toward flowers to 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; and are also available in the vestibule. Please return your donation by December 16.*

## Religious Education PreK-6

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

### Service Project for December - 200 PLUS FOOD ITEMS!

Our service project is food donations for local food pantries. Donations can be placed in the Ed Center. The group is aiming to have 2 items per child, which would put us at approximately 200 food items. We are looking for items like Mac & Cheese, peanut butter, breakfast bars, can veggies or fruit, etc.

**Knights of Columbus Poster Contest** - Pre-K & Kindergarten students were given a sheet to color. 1st - 6th graders were given a blank sheet of paper to put their creations on. They are due back December 12. The theme is *Keep Christ in Christmas*. Awards will be granted to the winners. We are hoping for all to participate this year!!!

### Key Up Coming Dates

Dec. 12 - Class

Dec. 19 - Birthday Party for Jesus, 6:30-7:30pm, with EDGE  
No class - Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

Jan. 9 - Class

## 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. 12: *Hail Mary Full of Grace* and Party Planning

Dec. 19: EDGE team & kids will set up and host Birthday Party for Jesus

Dec. 26 & Jan. 2: No EDGE sessions

### C1 & C2 (9th & 10th Grades) Sessions 6:00-7:30pm

Sunday, Dec. 9: Session at 6:00pm—Movie Night. Popcorn will be provided, please feel free to bring a snack and drink.

Select Confirmation volunteers to prepare and deliver meal to Catholic Charities Family Emergency Shelter on Dec. 9.

Thursday, Dec. 13: Confirmation Core Team Meeting, 6:30pm, Social Hall

### S.T.O.R.M. (grades 7th-12th)

*Ugliest Christmas Sweater or Festively Dressed Christmas Party* is next Sunday, December 16 from 4:00-5:30pm in the Youth Area at St. Mary. Bring your favorite Christmas goodie/snack to share, and bring a friend. Prizes like Casey's cards, movie tickets, t-shirts, Starbucks, to name a few! Prizes will be awarded to the best dressed, ugliest sweater, most festive, MVP etc.!

**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. Please check your calendars and save the date NOW! Call/text Melissa or Andrea if you are interested in helping with this amazing experience!

**Retreat Team Meetings** (Youth Area/Ed Center)

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR 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.

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Garrett McClain - 515-685-2314 -Alleman- gjmccain69@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 - Elkhardt - 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 - tammimccain71@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. 1/2 Week 23

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$ 6,749	\$5,157

*Year-to-Date*

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$123,274	\$118,605	\$113,271

## Annual Diocesan Appeal

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Balance Due</u>
\$53,806	\$46,275	\$43,849.25	\$9,956.75

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](http://www.dmdiocese.org/ada-online-giving-instructions.cfm).

Everyone's participation is needed! Thank you.

## 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.*

## Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

### Saturday, December 15, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Announcer	Jack McDermott
Lector	Di Schleisman
Cup Bearers	Diane Cronk, Susan Stillmunkes
Host Distributor	Deacon Terry
Altar Server	Bennett Bruns, Daniel Schoening, Jessica Schoening
Ushers	Dawn & Mason Reynolds, Tom Bowman, Mark Birchmier

### Sunday, December 16, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Announcer	Lynn Schreurs
Lector	Stacey Rooney
Cup Bearer	Deacon Terry
Altar Server	Natalie Shedd
Ushers	Sandra Hunter, Tracy Irwin

### Sunday, December 16, 10:00am, St. Mary

Announcer	Garrett McClain
Lector	Matt Miller
Cup Bearers	Marion Panyan, Mike Nehring
Host Distributor	Deacon Terry
Altar Server	Griffen Muth
Ushers	Bill & Kelly Dunbar, Brody Gilligan Family

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

## Money Counters

**Dec. 9:** Carol Weber, Kathy Daup

**Dec. 16:** Sue White, Dona Cowman

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Steubenville 2019

Sign up for this retreat held on July 26-28 in St. Paul, MN. The cost is \$307, which includes six meals, two T-shirt's, transportation, housing and retreat fee. On the table near the cry room you will find an information flier and a registration form. To sign up, please attach a \$50 nonrefundable deposit to that form and place it in the box on that table or in the collection basket at Mass. For questions please contact Andrea Fisher, [afisher@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org)/515-240-5059.

## 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](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.*

## 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.

## Kids Say the Funniest Things!

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"



An average person in America will produce about 90,000 pounds of garbage in his or her lifetime.

## The Snow Will Be Coming!



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, [dlhanlon@windstream.net](mailto:dlhanlon@windstream.net)/515-367-3367. Thank you.

## Christian Experience Weekends (CEW)

This Weekend is a renewal for adults, designed to enable them to more deeply "experience" themselves and their relationship to God and the Christian community.

A Women's CEW will be held at OLIH Church in Ankeny beginning the evening of Friday, January 18, and concluding that Sunday afternoon. For more information, contact Nicole Vortherms, [nicole.vortherms@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.vortherms@gmail.com) or 515-423-6040. A Men's CEW, also held at OLIH, begins the evening of Friday, February 15, and concludes that Sunday afternoon. For more information, contact Curt Carlson, [curtcew2019@gmail.com](mailto:curtcew2019@gmail.com) or 515-783-3819.

Information also available at <http://olih.org/cew-retreats/>.

## Saint Oscar Romero

The Friends of St. Francis have identified several resources on the life and legacy of St. Oscar Romero.

*Romero*, a 1989 film, is based on real events in the life of St. Romero. As Archbishop of San Salvador, he finds himself between 1980s El Salvador's ruling military elite and a band of Marxist guerillas as a man with simple demands: freedom and justice for all people. He did not see his calls for peaceful interaction of both factions bear fruit during his life that ended by assassination in March 1980.

*Monsenor: The Last Journey of Oscar Romero* (DVD and Youtube). Produced in 2012, this film is in Spanish with English subtitles and narration. As one reviewer stated: "In El Salvador in the late Seventies, one man was the voice of the campesinos, the poor, the disenfranchised, and the Disappeared—all struggling under the corrupt Salvadoran government." Romero worked tirelessly and in constant personal peril until the day he was martyred.

*National Catholic Reporter has run a series about St. Romero; <https://www.ncronline.org/feature-series/memories-of-romero/stories>.*

Contact Tim Kautza or Marion Panyan for comments/questions.

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Second Sunday of Advent, December 9

*Theme: We are getting ready to welcome Christ into our hearts.*

*Reading I:* Baruch 5:1-9 • God will show all the earth the splendor of Jerusalem.

*Reading II:* Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 • He who has begun a great work in you will continue to strengthen you.

*Gospel:* Luke 3:1-6 • The preaching of John the Baptist.

*For Children:* What things do you do to get ready for a big event or celebration?

*For Youth:* How do you share the Good News of Jesus with others?

*For Adults:* Name one thing you can do to help "prepare the way of the Lord?"