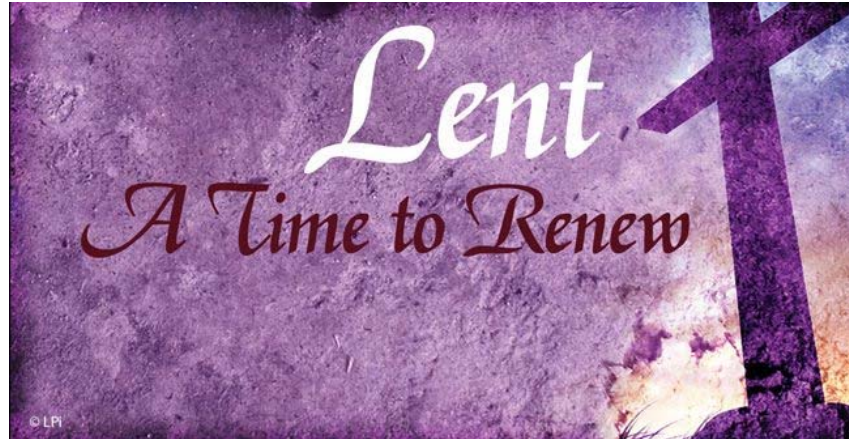




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 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:

Recently, Fr Dan convened a meeting of parish committee and council leaders to discuss next years' budget plans. We heard Peter Relya outline the budget trends for our parish. It seems the dollar amount of tithing and number of people who tithe are both on the decline. Unfortunately, that trend is opposed to a trend of increasing costs and higher prices. I don't know the expected time that those two lines are anticipated to intersect, but they are headed that way, unfortunately. Fortunately, we have a parish of some generous givers who contribute the bulk of the parish financial needs while some don't tithe at all. Not a good situation. What do we as a parish need to do to counter or stop this trend? You, as parishioners, matter! Fr Dan and council leaders, and all parishioners need to hear viable ideas, so talk away.

In conjunction with the financial matters being discussed, there was a discussion of why people are no longer being active in their Catholic faith. People are not coming. There was discussion of RE children whose parents don't attend Mass. What is that teaching those kids? There was discussion of adult faith formation and Eucharistic Adoration activities being poorly attended. Why not? What needs to happen or change for people to become INVOLVED in their faith? How many young people have you seen from the last Confirmation class?

Back when many of us were growing up, the stock answer was, "if you don't go, you will go to Hell!" That wasn't Jesus' way of inviting, encouraging people to follow Him and I don't want to talk that unloving talk. Why are so many Protestant mega-churches filled to the brim and yet they lack the true Eucharist? What part of our faith needs to be reexamined, and why?

Blessings, Deacon Terry

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 and Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, February 21

5:30pm Holy Cross †LaMont Schreurs

Thursday, February 22

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

Friday, February 23

6:00pm St. Mary Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 24

5:00pm St. Mary †Jean Wagoner

Sunday, February 25

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

Sunday Scripture Prayer and Study
Wednesdays, February 21 & 28, 7:00pm, Conference Rm

Meditative Prayer Time
Saturdays, February 17 & 24, 8:00-9:00am, Office

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, March 15, 7:00pm, St. Mary

Pastoral Council
Next meeting to be announced.

Finance Council
Meeting: Tuesday, February 20, 7:00pm, Conference Room

Stewardship Committee
Meeting: Tuesday, March 13, 6:00pm, Office Area

Knights of Columbus
Meeting: Sunday, February 18, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 1
Jean Bruns, Kristi Edleman, Kim Remsburg

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!

Lenten Resources

Please take advantage of the various reflection resources for your Lenten Journey that are available in the vestibule. They will help God's presence in you become more evident, more of a reality in your everyday life and, they may help God's light shine through you to others in need of love.

Stations of the Cross and Fellowship

Join us to pray these Stations on Fridays during Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary, followed by fellowship and a meatless meal.

Could you lead the Stations of the Cross on March 9 or 16? Sign up at St. Mary or contact Barb, 515-367-2685/ bliske@saintmaryhc.org for details. Thanks for considering it!

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.

Encounter Lent

Join us and nearly 14,000 Catholic Communities across the United States, on a life-changing Lenten journey with Catholic Relief Service's Rice Bowl. This week, as companions on the journey, we encounter our neighbor, Majd, in Iraq, who with his family were forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

Rice Bowls are located with the Lenten Resources.

Let's Chat!

Join us this Tuesday, 7:00pm in the Social Hall. We'll begin talking about Lent and Holy Week, their meaning and purpose; then hopefully followed by discussion and personal experiences. Then we will chat about ANYTHING else you want to share and discuss. This is a great opportunity for community building within our parish. ALL are invited to join us. Hope to see you there! And yes, we will have popcorn!

Coming Events

†**Sunday, Feb. 18:** Men's Choir practice, 11:00am, St. Mary

†**Tuesday, Feb. 20:** Let's Chat, 7:00pm, Social Hall

†**Friday, Feb. 23:** Stations of the Cross, 6pm, St. Mary, followed by Lenten meal, Social Hall

†**Sunday, Feb. 25:** Coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass, — Easter Vigil Choir practice, 11:00am, St. Mary

Music News

Music Coordinator: Celeste Muehlenthaler
515-577-9394 / celestemu@msn.com

Our Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil Choirs will take turns rehearsing on Sundays after Mass during Lent. Today, Sunday, Feb. 18 our men will rehearse at 11:00am and next Sunday, Feb. 25 the Easter Vigil Choir will rehearse at 11:00am. More information to come as we continue rehearsing. Everyone is welcome to sing with us! If you let me know you're coming, I'll have music ready for you.

Mass of Healing

St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Ankeny invites everyone to an incredible night of healing with Fr. Ubald on Wednesday, March 14 at 6:00pm. Fr. Ubald has an amazing gift and his focus is on healing, forgiveness and evangelization. During the 1994 genocide Fr. Ubald lost over 80 members of his family and more than 45,000 of his parishioners were exterminated. He escaped through the Congo on foot in the middle of the night. When he left Rwanda at that time he made a promise to his Bishop that he would return to bring healing to his people. You may learn more about Fr. Ubald and his work by going to www.frubald.com. Bring others to join us for this special Mass of Healing. Come and pray for others who cannot be there to pray for healing. As Fr. Ubald would say, "Jesus is not limited to time and space."

Fr. Ubald will also hold this service at St. Francis of Assisi Church on Thursday, March 15, 6:00pm and on Friday, March 16 at Christ the King Church, 7:00pm.

Step Away From the Busyness of Life!

Emmaus House offers spiritual direction, a quiet chapel for daily prayer and twice weekly Eucharistic celebration, or just a place to enjoy an opportunity for silence and solitude. To reserve a room for a day, overnight, weekend or longer stay, or to schedule a private retreat, please call Cindy Shaw at 515-282-4839 or see www.emmaushousedm.com.

Religious Education

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

Lent has begun and the journey of Lent will be shared with the students during each opening. Lent is my favorite time of year and always has been even as a young child. I feel closer to Jesus as I visualize and try to imagine what he may have felt and thought during the days leading up to his crucifixion. The fact that a person could be that strong and have so much love for all is beyond moving; so may all of the children feel his love for them during this season of Lent.

The service project for February involved all RE students K-8th making Valentines for those in nursing homes. The Valentines were delivered to Sunny View Care Center in Ankeny and the residents were very excited to receive them. The kids really enjoyed making the Valentines and a lot of kind words were written.

February 21: We will have class.

February 28: We will have class and students who volunteered to read the Stations of the Cross for **March 2nd** will be practicing right after each opening.

RE FEES: Please submit your January payment as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

Don't forget to sign up to help with the KofC Fish Fries!

Sunday February 18: Confirmation Session 6:00 - 7:30pm

Sunday March 4: Confirmation Session 6:00 - 7:30pm

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

Would you like to go on a fun retreat with 2,200 other current 8th-12th graders? We will attend a Steubenville retreat in St. Paul MN July 27-29. Cost is \$310 with \$50 required right away. Cost includes six meals, registration cost, transportation, late night pizza party, and a T-shirt. For more information or to watch video testimonials go to www.partnershipforyouth.org or contact Andrea Fisher.

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

Save the date! Sunday, February 25, is our mandatory 8th grade retreat. We begin with 10:00am Mass at St. Mary and will end at 5:30pm.

Feb. 21: No session

Feb. 25: Retreat!

Feb 28: Prayer Stations

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

Feb 21: No gathering, Retreat Team Work Session

Feb 28: Youth Group; Retreat Team R&R

Retreat Team Meetings (Youth Area/Ed Center)

Sunday, Feb. 18, 6:00-9:00pm

Wednesday, Feb 21, 6:00-8:00pm

Thursday, Feb 22, 6:00-8:00pm

Friday, Feb. 23, 6:00-9:00pm, Dress Rehearsal & Pizza

Saturday, Feb. 24, Time TBA. Retreat prep & Environment

Sunday, Feb. 25, RETREAT. Meet at 9:15am in Ed Center; attend Mass as a team. We will wrap up by 6:00pm.

Movie Reviews

See www.catholicnews.com/movies.cfm.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Garrett McClain - 515-685-2314 - Alleman - gmclain@iowatelecom.net
 Lori McQuiston - 515-249-7663 - Maxwell - mcquiston@midiaowa.net
 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

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 Dave Pottebaum, *Co-President* - 515-710-8932 - pottebaum5@msn.com
 Karen Bellis - 515-360-1465 - Ankeny - puzzlenuts@aol.com
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 Rita McClain - 515-249-6841 - Bondurant - mcclainrj@hotmail.com
 Sue Tollefson - 515 208-0536 - Cambridge - suet@iowacubs.com

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 Tammi McClain - 515-290-3904 - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
 Sue White - 515-967-2996 - charylmyron@q.com
 John Zidon - 515-967-3367 - jzidon@msn.com

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 Pat Bishop - 515-387-1391 - pjbishop@midiaowa.net
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 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

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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

	February 11	Week 33	
		Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests		\$ 8,949	\$5,234
	<i>Year-to-Date</i>		
	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$173,420	\$172,711	\$171,525

Annual Diocesan Appeal

Below is a corrected report. Thank you to all who have donated to this Appeal!!

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Amt. Due
\$ 56,442	\$ 53,841.64	\$ 56,291.64	\$ 150.36

Sharing God's Gifts Diocesan Campaign

Thank you for your continued support; we appreciate your timely payments for this Campaign.

Pledged	Payments	Balance Due	SMHC Rec'd
\$443,909.35	\$404,085.52	\$39,823.83	\$196,042.76

End-of-Year Statements

We will not be mailing out Year End Tithing Statements. If you would like yours, please contact Peter, 515-367-2685 or prelyea@saintmaryhc.org, for your statement. Thank you.

Monthly Financial Update

	January, 2018			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Last Year	Actual	Budget	Last Year
OPERATING INCOME	\$ 21,583	\$ 25,735	\$ 26,454	\$ 191,501	\$ 191,563	\$ 197,204
Operating Expenses	\$ 26,797	\$ 26,595	\$ 25,344	\$ 213,944	\$ 215,196	\$ 197,516
Net operating income (expense)	\$ (5,214)	\$ (860)	\$ 1,110	\$ (22,443)	\$ (23,633)	\$ (312)
Cash Balance of General Fund	\$ 100,461	N/A	\$ 104,280			

Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday, February 24, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

- Announcer Sonya Staudt
- Lector Olivia Jones
- Cup Bearers Lisa Jones, Tony Kuehn
- Host Distributor Susan Stillmunkes
- Altar Servers Isabella Kuehn, Bennett Bruns
- Mary Staudt
- Ushers Doug, Patrick & Thomas Jones,
- Mark Lengel

Sunday, February 25, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

- Announcer Celia Shedd
- Lector Heidi Ackerman
- Cup Bearer Mike Phelan
- Altar Server Kelcie Shedd
- Ushers Bill & Shirley Jorgensen

Sunday, February 25, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

- Announcer Susan Genalo
- Lector Kris Sturtz
- Cup Bearers Garrett McClain, Tom Ausman
- Host Distributor Jacki Ausman
- Altar Servers Griffen Muth
- Ushers Tom, Jacki & Andrew Ausman,
- Tammi & Jackson McClain

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Money Counters

- Feb. 18:** Sue White, Dona Cowman
- Feb. 25:** Dawn Reynolds, Dona Cowman

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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. Information cards are in the vestibule. *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.*

Want To Strengthen Your Marriage?

Join us for *The Third Option*, an on-going support group for marriages built upon 14 skill based workshops to help couples develop better understanding, sensitivity and trust. This program is for couples that are hurting and for those who want to make a good thing better! We meet the first and third Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm at Mercy College, 928 6th Ave, Des Moines. See <http://www.dmdiocese.org/the-third-option.cfm> for more information on our local group and <http://thethirdoption.com/> for information about the program.

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



Recycle clean plastic bags at stores with bins so marked. Drop off ziploc bags; grocery bags; newspaper bags; dry-cleaning bags; bread bags, produce bags, plastic wrap from toilet paper, napkins and paper-towels; plastic shipping envelopes; all bags labeled #2 or #4.



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.*

Winter Weather Cancellations



Whenever North Polk School is closed or evening school activities cancelled due to weather; activities here at the Parish will be cancelled as well. In most instances, Masses - daily and weekend - will not be cancelled. If there is a need to cancel weekend activities it will be on the three major TV networks; WHO radio and KWKY Catholic Radio.

Area Lenten Information

The St. Joseph Educational Center is your one stop shop for info on Stations of the Cross, Reconciliation Services and fish fries in the Des Moines area this Lent! Visit our website at www.sjeciowa.org, click on *Resources*, then *Liturgical Seasons* to see what's happening at parishes near you.

A Child's Letter to God

Dear God,
Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident? -Norma

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

First Sunday of Lent, February 18

Theme: Reform your lives!

Reading I: Genesis 9:8-15 • I am setting my covenant with you forever!

Reading II: 1 Peter 3:18-22 • You are saved by your baptisms!

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15 • Jesus was sent by the Spirit into the desert.

For Children: What will you do this Lent to become more like Jesus?

For Youth: Lent gives us a chance to do things differently – to "go to the desert." How can you make Lent a time for growing in faith?

For Adults: What is the one area of your life which you most want to "reform" as you get ready to embrace the Gospel?