



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 16, 2020

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,

As Iowans last week we were on ground zero for a dramatic display of politics that reminds us why this nation desperately needs us as Christians to, despite what some politicians think, practice the faith publicly. That is not to say that other religions do not have anything to offer. However, unlike other religions, we follow God incarnate, the person of Jesus Christ, who is recorded in the Gospel of John as having said:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (14:27).

Regardless of what happens, and not just in politics, we can always have a peace that no one else can provide. It does not mean that everything is great or goes the way we want it to, but it does also point to a peace that is unmistakably perfect and everlasting and the world deserves to know about it through both our words and deeds.

~ Fr. Andrew

Parish Information

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

Mass Schedule	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 - 4:30p.m. St. Mary, 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>.

Mass and Adoration

Tuesday, February 18

6:00pm St. Mary †Dorothy Gannon
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, February 19

5:30pm Holy Cross †Jeanne Cavendar

Thursday, February 20

8:00am St. Mary †Nydia Claussen

Saturday, February 22

5:00pm St. Mary †Cecilia Morton & son, Mike

Sunday, February 23

8:00am Holy Cross †Jim & Margaret Shaw
10:00am St. Mary For the Parish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesdays, 6:30pm, St. Mary (following 6:00pm Mass)

Parish Council

Meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 6:30pm, Ed Center

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 7:00pm, Ed Center

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: Monday, March 9, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Friends of St. Francis

Meeting: Date to be announced

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Sunday, February 16, with 1st Degree,
6:30pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 2
Cody Coffelt, Michele Hand, Shanana Roling

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!

† Pastoral Assistance

Please contact Fr. Andrew, 515-367-2685, for pastoral assistance or if a family member is in a care facility, homebound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit.

Ash Wednesday

We begin our Lenten journey February 26. Our Masses are 8:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary.

— *We are in need of Liturgical Ministers for these Masses. Please sign up in the vestibule, or contact the Parish Office to volunteer. Thank you.*

Stations of the Cross Leaders and Meal Hosts

Please volunteer to lead the Stations of the Cross one Friday during Lent and/or prepare and host a Lenten meal after Stations on March 6. A sign up is in the vestibule at St. Mary or contact the Parish Office to volunteer.

This Thursday!

You are invited to join us for conversation, fellowship, playing games and/or working on your craft. We gather in the Social Hall at 9:30am.

Join Father Andrew for a Pilgrimage to Germany and Austria!

This incredible Journey of Faith and Adventure is July 24 through August 2. Some of the things we will do: *In Germany*, watch the world-renowned "Passion Play", explore historic Munich city center, visit Dachau Concentration Camp, tour Neuschwanstein Castle and experience famous Hofbrauhaus. *In Austria*: Eucharistic Miracle location in Seefeld, ride to majestic alps mountaintop, explore gorgeous resort town of Seefeld, exciting tour of Salzburg salt mine, nostalgic Sound of Music tour and discover the unique and beautiful Salzburg. This trip includes daily Mass, confession and time for shopping and relaxation! Cost is \$4,699. Includes round-trip coach airfare, transportation in Europe, breakfast, lunch and dinner, museum fees and local guides. View www.CollinsTravel.biz for full itinerary. Questions? Email Jason@CollinsTravel.biz or call 515-850-6133.

Upcoming Events

- †**Sunday, February 16:** Celebration of 60 years of service for Janet Phelan after 10:00am Mass, Social Hall
- †**Thursday, February 20:** Crafts, Games & Social Time, 9:00am, Social Hall
- †**Sunday, February 23:** Coffee & donuts after 8am Mass
- †**Fridays during Lent: Stations of the Cross**, 6:00pm, St. Mary. Lenten meal on March 6, 20, April 3. Fish fries on February 28, March 13 & 27

Music News

Sue Schmidt, coordinator
515-689-9949 / sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org

Easter Music News: Easter and spring are right around the corner! Planning has started for our Easter Vigil choir; you are cordially invited to join this choir. Practices are Sundays, March 1 through April 5 immediately after 10:00am Mass and will last one hour. This choir will sing at the Easter Vigil evening Mass on Saturday, April 11. All ages welcome! So, if you like to sing and want to be part of our parish Easter choir, come check us out. Contact me for more information.

Catholic Youth Camp

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.

Christ Our Life Catholic Regional Conference

SAVE THE DATE! September 26 & 27, 2020
Wells Fargo Arena, Des Moines

Hear world class speakers, celebrate Mass among thousands, fill your spirit with music, attend reconciliation, visit Jesus in adoration and feel your soul rejoice.

To learn more, contact our parish "Go To" folks: Heidi Ackerman, 641-203-5322 / heidimdittmer@gmail.com or Dona Cowman, 515-383-4482 | racefans@iowatelecom.net

"As citizens, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group."

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, USCCB

Religious Education Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org, 515-556-4150
Tracy Miller, tmiller@saintmaryhc.org, 515-520-7981

We are very excited this week to begin enrollment in our sacramental preparation program. The Tuesday session will enroll at the 6:00pm Mass. The Wednesday session enrollments will be in the church at the beginning of each session. Please bring your children to their class as usual. After attendance is taken, the Level 2 class will join any parents who would like attend the enrollment in the Church.

Feb. 18/19: Regular Sessions; Enrollment for Sacramental Prep at each session.

Feb. 25/26: No Sessions. Our Ash Wednesday Masses are 8:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary; please attend Mass with your family.

March 3/4: Regular Sessions

S.T.O.R.M. Report

Grades 7-12 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

8th & 9th Graders: Saturday and Sunday, February 22-23 is our mandatory retreat. We begin with 5:00pm Mass at St. Mary and will sleep at the church and wrap up our retreat at 8:00am Sunday morning. Before 5:00pm Mass begins please bring your overnight bag, sleeping bag, blankets, pillow and sleeping mats/cots to the Social Hall. Please sit with your family during Mass. Following Mass we will begin our retreat in the Social Hall. Parents check your email for important details regarding the retreat.

EDGE, Grades 7 & 8

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

No EDGE Feb. 19

Saturday/Sunday, February 22-23: Mandatory 8th & 9th grade retreat. See information above.

No EDGE Feb. 26 as it is Ash Wednesday. Our Masses are 8:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary; please attend Mass with your family.

Confirmation, Grades 9 & 10

Parents: Please be watching for Individual Progress Emails coming for your 9th and 10th graders.

9th grade only: Saturday/Sunday, Feb. 22-23: Mandatory 8th & 9th grade retreat. See information above.

Saturday, Feb. 29: 10th Grade Family Potluck Dinner after 5:00pm Mass. RSVP to Nicole and watch for a signup genius. Students to present their Saint Display.

Saturday, March 14: 9th Grade Family Potluck Dinner after 5:00pm Mass. Please RSVP through signup genius that's already been sent out.

Auto Debit for Tithing

Please consider using this type of tithing if you currently do not. 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 at sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org or find the form on the home page of our website. Thank you!

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Will Bates - a_k_bates@live.com
John Fisher - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Stacey Rooney - Rooneyslg17@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Jacki Ausman - jackiausman@gmail.com
Kathy Gass - k.gass@mchsi.com
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
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Kris Sturtz - klsturtz@gmail.com
Sue White - charylmyron@q.com
John Zidon - jzidon@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Karen Bellis - puzzlenuts@aol.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiaowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com
Tracy Irwin - sammyjack@partnercom.net
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - ishaw@tru-test.com
Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

PARISH TRUSTEES

Anne Davis - annedavis06@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 9 Budget Week 32

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$2,218	\$5,730

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$196,482	\$183,360	\$188,979

2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$48,797	\$47,573	\$46,521	\$2,276

*We are almost there—thank you for your generosity!
Second collections continue to be taken up until paid in full,
or donate online at dmdiocese.thankyou4caring.org/, being
sure to designate our parish for your donation. Thank you!*

End-of-Year Statements

If you would like a Year End Tithing Statement, please contact the office, 515-367-2685 / bliske@saintmaryhc.org or email Sarah, sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org, with a request to print and mail (or email) a statement to you.



LENTEN RESOURCES

You can choose from various booklets for your Lenten reflection to prepare for Easter and the rest of eternity. Determine which you think might be best for you or your family by reading the following descriptions. Booklets will be available next weekend.

Lenten Blessings Await

Daily Reflections, Actions and Prayers

How often do we get sidetracked by trivial things and miss out on wonderful opportunities as they slip? They knocked; we missed out on opening the door. Lent is a good time to get out your priority meter and ask *who and what matters most to me?* Use this reflection to stay focused on today. These encouragements can help you make the most of your life and experience each day now! Immerse yourself in the present, the right now, a time you've never seen or experienced before. Allow it to unfold, bringing with it a multitude of possibilities for you to live, learn, grow, and rejoice.

Not by Bread Alone

Prayerfully journey through Lent with fresh and meaningful reflections on the daily Mass readings. These insightful meditations can deepen your experience of this solemn season of prayer to prepare you to participate more fully in the joy of the great Easter mystery.

40 Clues for 40 days

Activity Booklet For Children

The Church uses the word *mysteries* to mean stories and truths of our Faith. Children will get ready for the great mystery of Easter by finding clues throughout the season of Lent. They will use number puzzles, word games, family fun and prayer to get them ready for the greatest mystery of all — the mystery of Easter!

Rice Bowls 75% of donations support world needs and 25% stays in our Diocese.

Little Black Book

Each day, one page will walk you through the Gospel, a few verses at a time with explanations and reflections along the way. This practice of prayer is peaceful, even something to look forward to. You'll also find that it helps to make your day go a little better. Prayer does that. The other page has a variety of quotes, information, timely thoughts, and will look at the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Daily Graces

Family Reflections and Actions

Isn't it tough enough getting through each day without doing extra things for Lent? How will we do it? With God's grace, infused in our Lenten practices, we will make every day better for our families. Ask for God's grace as you explore how to help your family grow in the Spirit. Because parents have enough to do already, this reflection gives you just one line from the daily Mass reading to think about. The family prayer takes only a few minutes, and the activities are easy and, yes, fun!

The Word Among Us

At its core, Lent is about letting Jesus change us so we can follow him more closely. One moment St. Peter was following the Lord and then was so weak at another moment. We are all "Peter" in our own way. Invite Jesus to transform you as he did St. Peter. And if you feel it's too challenging, image St. Peter standing beside you saying, "If Jesus could change me, he can *change anyone!*"

Parish Lenten Opportunities

Mass: Tuesdays, 6:00pm, St. Mary (followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Holy Cross, Thursdays, 8:00am, St. Mary, and First Friday, 9:00am, St. Mary.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesdays after 6:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Stations of the Cross: This is a devotional prayer practice that reflects on the Passion and Death of Jesus using artistic representations, accompanied by prayerful reflections. The tradition as it is today began with St. Francis of Assisi. We pray these Stations on Fridays, 6:00pm at St. Mary, followed by a meal and fellowship.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays, 4:00-4:30pm at St. Mary, or contact Father Andrew. Our parish Reconciliation Service is Sunday, March 29, 1:00pm at St. Mary.

There are numerous Lenten events being offered by the Diocese and other parishes; please visit www.dmdiocese.org. For events sponsored by St. Joseph Educational Center visit www.sjeciowa.org.

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, February 22, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Announcer	Arlene Anderson
Lector	Jack McDermott
Cup Bearers	Diane Cronk, John Zidon
Host Distributor	Susan Stillmunkes
Altar Servers	Daniel Schoening, Isaac Miller, Jonah Miller
Ushers	Jim Hudson, <i>3 volunteers needed</i>
Cantor	Lisa Jones
Accompanist	Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, February 23, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Announcer	Sheri Fogarty
Lector	Stacey Rooney
Cup Bearer	Dawn Beukema
Altar Server	Jill Beukema
Ushers	Tracy Irwin Family
Cantor	Drew Hanlon
Accompanist	Stacey Rooney

Sunday, February 23, 10:00am, St. Mary

Announcer	Garrett McClain
Lector	Garrett McClain
Cup Bearers	Carol Weber, Nicole Cory
Host Distributor	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Altar Servers	Lauren Feldmann, Sawyer Smeltzer, Caleb Coffelt
Ushers	Andrew Cory, Jerry McClain, Doug Zehr, Dennis Schmidt, Thom Hamm
Cantors	Teri Hamm, Shirley Robertson
Accompanist	Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

Feb. 16: Dawn Reynolds, Sharon Morris

Feb. 23: Kathy Daup, Dona Cowman

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Prayer Shawls

A prayer shawl is a soft warm reminder for people going through a rough time that you are not alone and that we are praying for you. If you know someone that could use the comfort of a prayer shawl or are interested in helping make them, please contact Dona Cowman at 515-383-4482 or racefans@iowatelecom.net.

Healing Mass

Rwanda genocide survivor Father Ubald Rugirongoga will celebrate a healing Mass on Monday, March 9, 7:00pm at St. Pius X Church in Urbandale and Tuesday, March 10, 7:00pm at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny. Father Ubald was ordained in 1984. In 1994, during the genocide, he lost 80 members of his family and 45,000 parishioners. After the genocide, he preached forgiveness. He forgave the man who killed his family and adopted that man's children when there was no one to care for them. For more information, contact Anne Spina at 515-864-6945.

Contemplative Prayer

Emmaus House offers Contemplative Prayer Wednesdays from Noon - 12:45pm. We begin with a Scripture reading, followed by contemplative prayer and spoken intentions. Mass is celebrated Tuesdays and Fridays at Noon. Join us!



14 billion pounds of garbage are dumped into the ocean every year. Most of it is plastic.

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.

Pleasant words bring encouragement to the soul.



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.*

Volunteer Recruitment Opportunity

We are looking for dedicated and passionate "people-oriented" supporters at InnerVisions West and InnerVisions South to help answer phone calls, greet patients, and help them navigate the in-take form. Or as a volunteer nurse, you would be trained in providing life-affirming medical services and programs to our at-risk-patients. If interested, please call InnerVisions at 515-440-2273.

It's Not Too Late to Register!

Men young and old are invited to the Catholic's Men's Conference being held at the Downtown Embassy Suites this Saturday, February 22. Keynote speaker is Matt Campbell, Iowa State football head coach. This will be a morning of encouraging and challenging men to boldly proclaim the Kingdom of God, the truths of the Catholic faith, and to live a virtuous life within their families and society. Get tickets and more information at www.iowacatholicmensconference.com.

See Diocesan sponsored events and job openings, and parish events at www.dmdiocese.org

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 16

Theme: God's Commandments are a way of life.

Reading I: Sirach 15:15-20 • Human beings have free will. The Law is a gift from God.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 • Happy are they that follow the Law of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37 • The Law is God's gift of life. The holiness of Jesus' followers is a choice of life.

Question for Children: Which rules cause you the most difficulty? Why?

Question for Youth: In your own words, describe what the spirit of God's law is.

Question for Adults: Have you considered that laws are made with love? Do you accept God's love through his laws?