



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 24, 2019

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,

Has anyone noticed the suggestion box just outside the doors to the church? Has anyone made any suggestions lately?

I'm guessing many of you don't even realize it is there. With the goal in mind of improving our parish and parish community, please consider using it. What is working well, and what needs to be fixed, and how so? And if you don't want to, you don't have to sign your name.

I do not get the sense that the suggestion box is often used. I personally have not been told that I need to _____ (fill in the blank), or that as a parish we should _____. I KNOW that I am far from perfect and could stand a tune-up in areas of my ministry as a deacon. As a parish whole, we cannot improve if we do not know how we are missing the mark, or hitting the mark, whichever the case. There is an old adage that you cannot please all the people all of the time, but it would be nice to know what it would take to please some of our parishioners some of the time. Please use the suggestion box to share your thoughts, ideas, joys, complaints and comments about our parish.

Would it be helpful to our parish to have some of the comments submitted to our suggestion box published in either the weekly bulletin or the Mass Appeal? Maybe we could generate some good dialogue that could ultimately be beneficial to our parish. In order to respect confidentiality, if you would prefer not to have a comment published, even if you submit it anonymously, please note that on the suggestion. Fr. Andrew will be the "gatekeeper," so to speak, of the suggestion box.

I would think that more transparency between all would be good for all. Write 'em out; drop 'em in the box! - Deacon Terry

Parish Information

Parish Phone	515-367-2685
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	515-367-2685
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. Andrew Windschitl	Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org
Deacon Terry Schleisman	tschleisman@saintmaryhc.org
Adult Faith Sharing	
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
Andrea Fisher - RE, 7th-12th	afisher@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
Dave Ortega - Bookkeeper	dortega@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

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 and Adoration

Tuesday, February 26

6:00pm St. Mary †John & Ann Breen
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, February 27

5:30pm Holy Cross †Keith Dittmer

Thursday, February 28

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

First Friday, March 1

8:00am St. Mary †Donnie Smith

Saturday, March 2

5:00pm St. Mary †Brad West

Sunday, March 3

8:00am Holy Cross For the Parish
10:00am St. Mary †Earl Stoner

Children's Liturgy of the Word during this Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Thursday, March 21, 7:00pm, Holy Cross

RCIA Gatherings

Sundays following 10am Mass: Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 (Conf. Room)

Cross Ministry

Meeting: Tuesday, February 26, 6:30 - 8:00pm, Ed Center

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday March 19, 7:00pm, Ed Center

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 6:30pm, Ed Center

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Sunday, March 17, 6:30pm, 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!

Pastoral Assistance

Please contact Fr. Andrew, 515-367-2685, or Deacon Terry, 515-669-6158 (after Tuesday), for pastoral assistance or if a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit.

Ash Wednesday

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

—We are in need of Liturgical Ministers for these Masses. A sign up is in St. Mary's vestibule, or contact the Parish Office to volunteer. Thank you.

Stations of the Cross and Fellowship

We will pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 6:00pm at St. Mary. Following Stations on March 15, 29 and April 12 we will have a Lenten meal in the Social Hall.

—We are looking for volunteers to lead the Stations of the Cross on March 15. A sign up is in the vestibule at St. Mary or contact the Parish Office to volunteer. Thank you.

Fish Fry Fridays

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join them for a Fish Fry in the Social Hall from 5:00-7:00pm on Fridays, March 8, 22, and April 5. The menu remains the same as last year. Price is a free-will offering. Take-out containers are available, or bring your own if you'd like. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Jon Hand at jon79hand@gmail.com or 515-460-0050.

Parish Directories Available Next Weekend!

Complimentary directories will be in the vestibule of St. Mary and in the entryway at Holy Cross for parishioners who had their pictures taken or submitted a photo for the new directory. They are labeled with family name and in alphabetical order. If you did not have your picture taken, a limited number of directories are available for \$10.

Upcoming Events

†**Sunday, Feb. 24:** 8th Grade Retreat begins with 10:00am Mass and concludes at 5:30pm, St. Mary

†**Weekend of March 2/3:** Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 10:00am Mass

†**Easter Choir Practices:** Sundays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 11:00-3:00pm, St. Mary

†**Stations of the Cross:** Fridays during Lent, 6:00pm, St. Mary. Lenten meal on March 15, 29 & April 12. Fish fries on March 8, 22 & April 12

Music News

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

Rehearsals for Holy Week begin in March. We are in need of choir members, instrumentalists and accompanists. Please consider joining in even if you've never tried it before! If you know someone that sings or plays, please let me know and I will contact them. We want to lift up our praise to God at this most holy time of year! We hope you answer the call to lend your talents to praising the Most High with your music! Sometimes God calls us to step out of our comfort zones and do something we've never done before! Yes, he's talking to you!!! Please contact me now at the phone number or email listed above.

Thank You

Dear Parish Family,

Thank you for the thoughts, prayers, cards and the Mass said for our brother LeRoy's intention after his death. It has been comforting to us during this difficult time to have such a caring parish family. ~ Diane Cronk and Delila Roberts

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.



During the time it takes you to read this sentence, 50,000 12-ounce aluminum cans are made.

Religious Education PreK-6

Stacie Hergenreter, Catechetical Leader

shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org, 515-491-3876

We will not have regular class on March 6 as that is Ash Wednesday. Mass will take place of class and all children should be in attendance at Mass.

Up Coming Dates:

***Feb. 27** - Combined sessions 6:00-7:00pm for Mardi Gras Party in the Social Hall

***March 6** - 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Mass replaces classes

March 13 - Class

March 20 - No Class

March 27 - Class

First Eucharist Dates:

March 29 (4-8pm) and March 30 (8am-5pm) - Self Guided Learning Stations set up in the Ed Center. Families can come during a time that works for them.

***April 28 - First Eucharist Mass, 2:00pm, St. Mary

Altar Server Refresher Training courses continue; times are being determined and communicated to each family.

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

Feb. 27 - EDGE teens host Mardi Gras Party for RE kids

Families, please sign up to help with meals. If you were not sent an email for the SignUpGenius, let Andrea know.

March 6 - Ash Wednesday: Mass will take the place of class; please attend Mass with your families.

C1 & C2 (9th & 10th Grades)

Sunday, March 3 - Confirmation Prep Session, **11:00am -**

12:30pm, Social Hall. 9th Grade: Lesson 8

10th Grade: Lesson 20

S.T.O.R.M. 9th-12th graders

Sunday, Feb. 24, RETREAT. Meet at 9:15am in Ed

Center; attend Mass as a team. We will wrap up by 6pm.

Winter Weather Cancellations

When North Polk School is cancelled, dismissed early, or evening 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.

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil — it has no point.

Steubenville 2019

Sign up now for this retreat held on July 26-28 in St. Paul, MN. Cost is \$307 (six meals, two T-shirt's, transportation, housing and retreat fee). See informational flyer on the bulletin board. An invoice form is on the table; to register please fill out this form, include a \$50 nonrefundable deposit with it 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 / 515-240-5059*.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Garrett McClain - 515-685-2314 - Alleman - *gjmccclain69@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

Heidi Ackerman - 641-203-5322 - Huxley - *heidimdittmer@gmail.com*
Doug Jones - 515-367-4402 - Elkhart - *djones@bossard.com*
Rita McClain - 515-249-6841 - Bondurant - *mcclainrj@hotmail.com*
Laurie Phelan - 515-201-6111 - Maxwell - *Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com*
Dave Pottebaum, *Co-President* - 515-710-8932 - *pottebaum5@msn.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 - *tammimccclain71@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

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
Tithes/Plate/	\$3,489	\$5,157	Feb. 9/10
Youth/Guests	\$1,945	\$5,157	Feb. 16/17

ADA 2nd Collections to date: \$2,038.91

Food Pantry Collection: \$550

2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal

If you made a pledge but have not paid in full, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued generosity to our Diocese and Parish.

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Balance Due</u>
\$53,806	\$46,675	\$48,114	\$5,692

Tithing

Thank you to those who have recently signed up for ACH and to those who have increased their monthly amount!! If you don't use this type of tithing, please consider it. Questions? Contact parish bookkeeper Dave Orgeta at *dortega@saintmaryhc.org*. ACH forms are available on the table by the stairs at St. Mary, in the entryway at Holy Cross and also on our website.

Movie Reviews: www.catholicnews.com/movies.cfm

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, March 2, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Announcer	Cory Schoening
Lector	Lorrie Lengel
Cup Bearers	Delila Roberts, JoAnn Meusburger
Host Distributor	Lisa Schoening
Altar Servers	Olivia Naragon, Daniel Schoening, Jessica Schoening
Ushers	Mark Lengel, Mark Birchmier, Dawn & Mason Reynolds

Sunday, March 3, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Announcer	Lynn Schreurs
Lector	Stacey Rooney
Cup Bearer	Dawn Beukema
Altar Server	Jill Beukema
Ushers	Mike Phelan & Mike Veasman

Sunday, March 3, 10:00am, St. Mary

Announcer	Susan Genalo
Lector	Kris Sturtz
Cup Bearers	Marion Panyan, Mike Nehring
Host Distributor	Tim Loraditch
Altar Servers	Leah & Griffen Muth, Peyton Loraditch
Ushers	Brian, Will & Mya Pottebaum, Merle Olberding, Thom Hamm, Dennis Schmidt

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Money Counters

Feb. 24: Dona Cowman, Kathy Daup

March 3: Sharon Morris, Dawn Reynolds

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Beat the Winter Blues!

Start thinking about the best week of your summer and register for Catholic Youth Camp! This is for anyone in 3rd grade to High School Seniors! Come and enjoy a week of adventuring in the outdoors while you grown in faith and friendship. Register NOW! More Information and registration at STMCENTER.com. *Financial aid is available.* Here's a link to a YouTube promotional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKBbBfKZEh0>.

Our parish pays \$100 towards the fee of each child of the parish who attends CYC!

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 24

Theme: Do unto others as you would have them do to you.

Reading I: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 • Though the Lord delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm you.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 • Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38 • Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Children: Jesus tells us to treat others as we would want others to treat us. How do you treat others as you want to be treated?

Youth: How do you follow Jesus' teaching to "bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you?"

Adults: Jesus says, "Give, and gifts will be given to you." When have you experienced your generosity coming back to you?

Hello Again From Me & My House!

I hope you are surviving this Midwest winter at its finest. Think happy thoughts...Spring!! So far in the relationship series I've talked about your relationship with God and your relationship with yourself. This week I'll be talking about the relationship that is next on my list: finding that special someone!

Relationships

Part 3: Finding Love

I certainly don't claim to be an expert on love but most of us become a bit wiser with age and experience, so I feel like I've learned enough to share some thoughts on the subject. Falling in love with someone is an experience that most people never forget. But, how do you know when you've found the "one"?

Many people have claimed to know the secret to finding that special someone. There are countless books, magazine and online articles with lists of attributes and feelings that you can check off to show you that you have found your soulmate. But I'll save you a lot of time and let you know the real secret. You don't know when you've found them. It's like taking a giant leap of faith because you're saying, "I really love the person you are today, and I have faith that in 40 years I will still love the person that you are." I hate to burst your bubble, but there is no sure way to know that you've chosen the right person to spend your life with. But I do have some tips for you if you're discerning the next step. Maybe you're already married. That's okay, we can all use a reminder every now and again!

When you decide to love someone, you love everything about them—even their flaws. We all yearn for a selfless kind of love. At the end of a really bad day, can you put your feelings aside to give attention to the person you love? Will they do that for you? Take 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and insert the name of the person you love in place of the word "love" in the verses. For example, "John is patient, John is kind... John does not seek his own interests, is not quick tempered." and so on. If you can answer yes to all of these—you may have just found the one!

There is work involved as well. We aren't all used to being loved in the same way. Sometimes it can take you out of your comfort zone to learn to love someone the way they want to be loved. Maybe you really need to hear words of affirmation and they really need to be showered with gifts to feel loved. Are you compatible? Do you have the same morals and values? Do you see eye to eye? Can you compromise when your opinions differ from each other? Can you talk about the hard stuff right along with the easy stuff? This is where the work comes in. To be able to love someone for better or for worse is not as easy as you would think.

Loving someone is a selfless act. You are going outside of yourself and giving yourself to another human being. It's something that cannot be taken for granted and must be freely given as well as received. It's choice that must be made, to love someone on their good and bad days. You may have to love them in a way that you aren't used to being loved. But when you find them, magic can happen. Being in love brings out the best in you and can have a powerful affect on your life and others around you. Have you found your special someone? Are you still looking? Rest easy, if there is one thing, I've learned in my years on this earth it's that everything happens in the exact order it's supposed to happen—and usually when you least expect it!

Email joshua2415smhc@gmail.com with any thoughts, ideas, and opinions you have.

