



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 25/26, 2017

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,

Let's chat! Chat about what, you might ask? Well, we could chat about just about anything and be okay, but let's try to include matters of our Faith.

Frequently, when we have had the video presentations for our adult faith sharing, we have followed those presentations with a time of discussion about what we just saw and heard. We would start out talking about whatever subject the video presentation encompassed, but after a while the conversation would drift away from the video presentation to personal matters in people's lives as it pertained to faith. Those discussions would go on for quite a while with most people actively engaged in either talking or listening, or both. It would sometimes be a letdown to return from whatever subject we had been talking about to the teachings brought out by the video.

So let's start out that way, with an open-ended discussion about whatever faith matters are on people's minds. The gathering could evolve into a Bible study, a study of the Catechism, a teaching about the sacraments, a book study, an audio lesson, or just going to whatever direction we, the group, feel comfortable with. We can allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit and trust me, he will lead us somewhere interesting! If anyone has a favorite subject matter or faith issue that they would like to discuss, we could go in that direction under their guidance. Of course there will be sharing of kid's stories, the health and well-being of our parishioners, the weather and the crop situation, and on and on. No gossip! It is also encouraging and uplifting to hear another person's witness, the story of their own growth in faith.

So we picked a night, Tuesday, March 7, at 7:00PM in the Social Hall to get this wagon train rolling. Let's shoot for an hour to hour-and-a-half commitment, with the understanding that in succeeding weeks anyone can drop in, or not. If you believe that you have an alternative to this format for adult faith sharing, please call me at 515-669-6158. 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
Melissa Kahler - RE, 7th-12th	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
Barb Liske - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
Tammi McClain - RE, PreK-6	tmcclain@saintmaryhc.org
Celeste Muehlenthaler - Music	cmuehlenthaler@saintmaryhc.org
Peter Relyea - Bookkeeper	prelyea@saintmaryhc.org
Sonya Staudt - RE, PreK-6	sstaudt@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 Lenten Events

Ash Wednesday, March 1

8:00am St. Mary †Paul & Helen Koch
6:30pm St. Mary For the Parish

Thursday, March 2

5:00pm Holy Cross †Ashley Carpenter

First Friday, March 3

8:00am St. Mary †Mary Newell
6:00pm St. Mary Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 4

5:00pm St. Mary †Rita Mae Staber

Sunday, March 5

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word during this Mass.

Sunday Scripture Prayer and Study
Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22 & 29, 7:00pm, Conf. Room

Meditative Prayer Time

Saturdays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25, 8:00-9:00am, Office

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, March 16, 7:00pm, St. Mary

Pastoral Council

Meeting: To be announced

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, 7:00pm, Conference Rm.

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 6:00pm, Office Area

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Sunday, March 19, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 6

Jenny Koudelka, Kate Rutledge, Karla Seeman

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. Dan Krettek, 515-423-2888 or Deacon Terry, 515-669-6158, 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 this Wednesday. Our Masses are 8:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary.

Lenten Resources

Please take advantage of the Lenten reflection resources 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.

—**Additional resource available on Ash Wednesday:** "Caring for Our Common Home: Lenten Reflections for Iowans" has been developed through the Iowa Catholic Conference with local Iowa contributors and thus is "Iowa green." Inspired by Pope Francis' Encyclical providing daily Lenten reflections from a uniquely Iowa perspective in order to deepen appreciation for the preservation of Creation. It is intended for personal, individual use.

Holy Cross Mass change:
Mass this week is Thursday at 5:00pm.

Fish Fry this Friday

The Knights of Columbus invite you to their fish fry in the Social Hall, serving from 5:00 - 7:00pm. The menu of freshly prepared food is the same as last year. Take out containers are available. Anyone is welcome to help for any amount of time from 8:00am-8:00pm. Proceeds go to our Parish, other Catholic organizations, and our nearby community.

You are invited to pray the Stations of the Cross that evening at 6:00pm in the Church.

Fish fry's will also be held on March 17 and 31.

Coming Events

- †**Friday, March 3:** Stations of the Cross, 6pm, St Mary — Fish fry, 5:00-7:00pm, Social Hall
- †**Saturday March 4:** Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass
- †**Sunday, March 5:** Coffee & donuts after 10:00am Mass — Adult Choir practice, 11:00am — Men's Choir practice 2:30pm, St. Mary
- †**Tuesday, March 7:** *Let's Chat*, 7:00pm, Social Hall
- †**Sunday, March 26:** *One Earth, One Chance* event, after 10:00am Mass, Social Hall. All ages invited!

Music News

Music Coordinator: Celeste Muehlenthaler

We are beginning rehearsals for Easter Vigil! We practice after Mass (about 11:00am) on Sundays, March 5, 12, 19, April 2 & 9. I'll have folders ready for those who let me know they're coming! Everyone is welcome!!

Our men are singing for Holy Thursday! We rehearse on Sundays, 2:30pm beginning March 5. Are you interested in joining? We hope you can!

We already have a few people signed up to sing for First Eucharist on April 23 at 2:00pm! The children rehearse on Wednesdays, 6:00-6:45pm beginning March 29. If there are any older kids or adults who'd be able to sing as well, we'd really appreciate it! We'll get everything all set up for you!

We are looking for musicians for Confirmation on Saturday, May 6 at 10:00am. Rehearsal times can be determined when we find out who is interested.

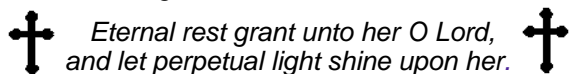
For more information or to sign up, contact me at 515-577-9394 or celestemu@msn.com

Elementary Religious Education Director Position Opening

After 5 years of generous and effective leadership of our parish Elementary Religious Education Program, Tammi McClain and Sonya Staudt will retire from their position as co-directors of the program following this year's Vacation Bible School in June. With their retirement, the position of Director of our Parish Elementary Religious Education Program will be open. The position is for 30 hours a week, which Tammi and Sonya have divided between them at 15 hours apiece. A new Director could assume the full 30 hours alone, or continue a co-directorship with some division of hours and responsibilities with another. If you are interested in more information about the position, please visit with Tammi or Sonya or contact Barb in the Office.

In Sympathy and Compassion

For the repose of the soul of Jean Wagoner, mother of Norm Wagoner, who passed away February 20. May she find peace with God in Heaven and her family be comforted during their time of grief.



Religious Education

PreK-6: Co-Catechetical Leaders

Tammi McClain, tmcclain@saintmaryhc.org, 515-290-3904
Sonya Staudt, ssaudt@saintmaryhc.org, 515-710-4583

**We do not have class on Wednesday, March 1st.
Please plan on attending Ash Wednesday services.**

The RE students are leading The Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 3. Please join us as the students tell the story in a child-friendly language as a means to deepen their love for Jesus and all God's people.

Parents of 2nd grade students: We will have a brief meeting on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:00 pm, to talk about your child's upcoming Sacrament of First Eucharist. We will hand out materials, discuss the learning centers, and give you information about Sunday, April 23.

Thank you for all the donations of colored pencils, crayons, and coloring books. We will be taking them down to the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines.

VBS Save the Date! We are ready to spark kids' creativity and transform our parish into a place buzzing with excitement! This year's theme, *Maker Fun Factory*, will help our kids discover they're lovingly crafted by God for a purpose! VBS will take place June 19 - 22. Dinner will begin at 5:30pm and the factory doors will open each night at 6:00pm! Keep watching for registration information!

Catholic Youth Camp registration is open. Please visit <https://stmcenter.com/catholic-youth-camp>.

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

C1 & C2 Sessions: Sunday, March 5, 5:30-7:30pm, Hall

All candidates being confirmed this year need to fill out the informational form they received and return it as soon as possible to the orange Confirmation box in the vestibule.

Parents: If your child is in need of service hours, they can assist at the K of C's fish fries March 3, 17, &/or 31. I'll be there to sign for their hours for Confirmation or school!

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

EDGE & High School teens: Silhouette Stations of the Cross "actors" needed! We need 4-10 teens who are willing to lead and participate in this moving presentation of the Stations of the Cross. No need to be nervous or shy about the acting; we will have plenty of time to rehearse and you are behind the screen! Our tentative practice schedule is Sunday, March 19 after 10:00am Mass, Sunday, March 26 from 6:00-9:00pm, Sunday, April 2 after 10:00am Mass and Wednesday, April 5 from 6:00-9:00pm. All rehearsals take place in the Ed Center. We present the Silhouette Stations to the parish Friday, April 7 at 6:00pm. Please text or call Melissa, 515-290-2830 soon to sign up to help with this powerful experience. *Grades 7-12 continued*

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Garrett McClain - 515-685-2314 -Alleman- gmcclain@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

Shaun Magill, *Co-President* - 515-205-3934 - shaunkrismagill@gmail.com
Dave Pottebaum, *Co-President* - 515-710-8932 - pottebaum5@msn.com
Karen Bellis - 515-360-1465 - Ankeny - puzzlenuts@aol.com
Doug Jones - 515-367-4402 - Elkhart - 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

Arlene Anderson - 515-967-6770 - Bondurant - arlene@4andersons.com
Susan Genalo - 515-367-3033 - Elkhart - sagenalo@yahoo.com
Beth Hart - 515-515-306-4916 - Maxwell - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Bill Sexton - 515-829-8995 - Ankeny - billsxtn@gmail.com
Sue White - 515-967-2996 - Bondurant - charylmyron@q.com
John Zidon - 515-967-3367 - Bondurant - jzidon@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan - *Chair* - 515-201-6111 - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
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Mike and Mary Winders - 641-227-3346 - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

PARISH TRUSTEES

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 19 Week 34

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$2,514	\$5,469	
	<i>Year-to-Date</i>		
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$174,039	\$185,954	\$183,182
Food Pantry Collection:	\$637.65		

EDGE: We will NOT meet March 1; we meet next March 8.

Sunday, February 26, is our MANDATORY 8th grade Retreat; begins with 10am Mass at SM, ends at 5:00pm.

Life Night/Life Teen: We will NOT meet for Life Teen/Life nights on March 1. We meet next on Wednesday, March 8.

Retreat Team: Meet at 9:15am on Sunday, Feb. 26 in the Ed Center; attend Mass as a team. Will wrap up by 6:00pm.

Stations of the Cross and Fellowship

We pray the Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm on Fridays during Lent at St. Mary, followed by a meatless meal in the Social Hall. **We are in need of three volunteers to lead the Stations of the Cross and hosts for two meals.** A sign up is in the vestibule at St. Mary or contact the Parish Office for more information or to volunteer.

Monthly Financial Update

	January, 2017			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Last Year	Actual	Budget	Last Year
OPERATING INCOME	\$ 26,453	\$ 26,289	\$ 28,788	\$ 197,204	\$ 197,349	\$ 225,362
Operating Expenses	\$ 25,349	\$ 28,017	\$ 25,125	\$ 197,485	\$ 210,906	\$ 203,994
Net operating income (expense)	\$ 1,104	\$ (1,728)	\$ 3,663	\$ (281)	\$ (13,557)	\$ 21,368
Cash Balance of General Fund	\$ 158,140	N/A	\$ 151,369			

Liturgical Ministers for Ash Wednesday

We are in need of additional ministers, please sign up at St. Mary or contact the Office by Monday to volunteer.

March 1, 8:00am Mass, St. Mary, Volunteers needed
Announcer, 2 Servers, 1 Usher

March 1, 6:30pm Mass, St. Mary, Volunteers needed
Announcer, 6 Ushers

Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday, March 4, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Announcer Sonya Staudt
Lector John Roberts
Cup Bearers Delila Roberts, Tony Kuehn
Host Distributor John Zidon
Altar Servers Isabella Kuehn, Mary Staudt
Tyler Naragon
Ushers Mark Lengel, Drew Hanlon,
Dawn & Mason Reynolds

Sunday, March 5, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Announcer Kathy Daup
Lector Jeff Ruden
Cup Bearer Tom Morris
Altar Server Brock Lewis
Ushers Bill & Shirley Jorgensen

Sunday, March 5, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Announcer Tracy Kangas
Lector Jenn Linderblood
Cup Bearers Joe & Lori Dunham
Host Distributor Matt Miller
Altar Server Christianne Ledet
Ushers Thom Hamm, Merle Olberding
Brian, Will & Mya Pottebaum,
Dennis Schmidt, Andrew Cory

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Money Counters

February 26: Dona Cowman, Sharon Morris
March 5: Brenda Nehring, Sue White

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One Earth, One Chance

Join Matthew Halbach from St. Joseph's Educational Center and discover Pope Francis' thoughts about caring for God's creation Sunday, March 26 after 10:00am Mass. Activities for all ages! Watch for more information in the bulletin, display boards, and our website <http://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-carefor-our-common-home>.



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

SAYWHAT? Each ton (2000 pounds) of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4000 kilowatts of energy, and 7000 gallons of water. This represents a 64% energy savings, a 58% water savings, and 60 pounds less of air pollution! These 17 trees saved can absorb a total of 250 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air each year. Burning that same ton of paper would create 1500 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Join Bishop Pates at Prayer Service

Bishop Richard Pates invites you to join him in prayer on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at St. Ambrose Cathedral, 607 High St. in Des Moines. Beginning at 6:00pm, we will *Pray for our communities, Pray in solidarity and support for immigrants and refugees and Pray for our government leaders.* "There is no doubt in the broader picture that our immigration system is broken. But there is an orderly, constructive way to repair it," said Bishop Pates. "The words of Jesus reverberate in our hearts: 'I was a stranger (*aka refugee and immigrant*) and you welcomed me.'" (Mt. 25:35)

Welcome to the Idea of One Book, Everybody at Church Reads!!

Our Friends of St. Francis group has selected a book title and asks that you consider participating in various events that explore this book and its themes. The book study will take place in the spring and will culminate when we have a guest speaker share his insight on the topic. The book that has been chosen is titled **A Long Walk to Water** by Linda Sue Park. More information to come!

Prayer Chain

If illness or a crisis strikes your family or friends, don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office, 515-367-2685 or bliske@saintmaryhc.org, so members of our Parish may offer prayers for your needs. *If the request is for someone else, please ask their permission to be on our prayer chain.*

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 26

Theme: God is always present in our life.

Reading I: Isaiah 49:14-15 • I will never forget.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 • Christ will bring to light what is hidden in darkness.

Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34 • No one can serve two masters.

Question for Children: What do you worry about? What can you do to stop worrying and rely on God?

Question for Youth: Do you serve two masters? If so, what can you do to stop and serve only God?

Question for Adults: Who really is the master of your life?