



# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



## The Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2021

*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,

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord closes out the Christmas season. Like his presentation in the temple, it is yet another act of humility by Jesus. Elsewhere in scripture we are told that John the Baptist baptized for the remission of sin. If Jesus is sinless, then why does he need to be baptized? The answer is that he does not. But by submitting to it, he sanctifies the water so that we are baptized with it and as a result our sins are forgiven. Another wonderful result is indicated in the Gospel for this Sunday: we are made children of God. Even though Jesus was, is, and always will be the Son of God, that is not always the case with us. We need to be baptized to enjoy that privilege and hear directed to us those sweet words the Father proclaims, "You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased."

After this Sunday, Ordinary Time begins and proceeds for about five and a half weeks until Lent begins.

~ Fr. Andrew

## Parish Information

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

<b>Mass Schedule</b>	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 4:00-4:30pm in **Cry Room**, 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, January 12

6:00pm St. Mary *The Lebon Family*  
~ followed by Adoration and Reconciliation

### Wednesday, January 13

5:30pm Holy Cross †*Jim & Margaret Shaw*

### Thursday, January 14

8:00am St. Mary †*Leo & Rosemary Overmohle*

### Saturday, January 16

5:00pm St. Mary †*Cecelia Morton and Son, Mike*

### Sunday, January 17

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

## 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 or Holy Cross or on our website. We are glad you are here!

## Masks Required at Mass

Bishop Joensen requires masks to be worn by everyone (unless medically exempt) at all Masses in every parish. This shows our love for others by protecting them. Our faith calls us to be Good Samaritans and to be mindful of the common good.

For Diocesan updates, livestream Masses and resources, please go to <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>

✠ For Pastoral assistance, please contact Fr. Andrew at 515-367-2685 or [Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org).

## YOU Are Needed!

We are looking for additional people to lector at our Masses. Please contact Fr. Andrew or Barb Liske if you are interested. Thank you for helping!!

## Snow Removal



We need help with snow removal of sidewalks, etc. at St. Mary. We only have one weekend covered for the rest of winter! We are asking for volunteers for weekend and/or week time frames. Please help out by signing up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094ea4a722a2fb6-snow> for a time slot or slots. For more information please contact Bill Schmitt, 515-291-8005.

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult (RCIA)

Are you yourself and/or do you know someone who would like to become Catholic and/or would like to know more about the faith? "The rite of Christian initiation [...] is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. By God's help they will be strengthened spiritually during their preparation and at the proper time will receive the sacraments fruitfully." For further information please contact Fr. Andrew at [fr.andrew@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:fr.andrew@saintmaryhc.org) or 515-367-2685.

What you thought was a coincidence,  
may have been a God incident.

## A Prayer of Hope

Almighty and all-merciful God,  
lover of the human race,  
healer of all our wounds,  
be with us during difficult times;  
grant wisdom and courage  
to our leaders;  
stir in us a sense of solidarity  
beyond all isolation;  
if our doors are closed,  
let our hearts be open.

By the power of your love  
destroy the virus of fear,  
that hope may never die  
and the light of Jesus,  
the triumph of life,  
may shine upon us  
and the whole world.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Stewardship Committee  
Meeting: January 11, 6:00pm, Social Hall  
Finance Council  
Meeting: January 19, 6:30pm, Social Hall  
Parish Council  
Meeting: January 26, 6:30pm, Social Hall

## Food Pantry Collection

Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass next weekend; we will also have a basket available for monetary donations. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing with those in need. Your donation this month will assist the Huxley Food Pantry.

## Thank You

Parish Family,

It is with a heavy heart that I want to thank you all (including the Stewardship Committee) for saying prayers for Karen Dunne, my classmate and very good friend. Karen passed away December 19th and had her funeral December 28th. Rest in Peace Karen! ~ *Delila Roberts*

St. Mary-Holy Cross,

Words cannot express our sincere gratitude for your cash donation. Thank you very much for your generosity as we begin 2021! Happy Holidays! ~ *The Blessing Box*

## End-of-Year Statements

In order to save on postage, paper and printing expense, we will not be mailing year end donation statements to everyone. If you would like a statement, please email Sarah at [sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org) or contact the office, 515-367-2685 with a request to print and mail (or email) a statement to you. Thank you.

## In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rick Budden, uncle of Jackie Crouse who passed away January 1st, and for his family as they mourn his passing.

✠ *Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.* ✠

## Religious Education

### Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, [gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org), 515-556-4150  
Tracy Miller, [tmiller@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org), 515-520-7981

We hope you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Classes resume this week! We've missed you all and can't wait to continue sharing the faith with your families.

**Please note the diocese has required masks, unless physically or psychologically exempt, at all church functions (which includes RE Classes) until February 2, which at that time will be reevaluated by the Bishop.**

### Upcoming dates

January 12/13: Regular Sessions Resume  
January 19/20: Regular Sessions  
January 26/27: Regular Sessions  
February 2/3: Regular Sessions

## S.T.O.R.M. Report

### Grades 7-12 Coordinators

Melissa Kahler, [mkahler@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org), 515-290-2830  
Andrea Fisher, [afisher@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org), 515-240-5059

### Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

Nicole Cory, [ncory@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org), 515-313-3014

Hello EDGE family!

We have a plan to regather once again face to face Wednesday, January 13 from 6:00-7:30pm. **Bishop Joensen has put into practice a mask requirement for ALL parish functions (unless medically exempt); he will reevaluate this requirement on February 2.** That being said, all leaders and EDGE participants will need to wear a mask while in the building. Due to other Covid restrictions we will not be serving a meal during our sessions. However, we will have a prepacked sack "snack" for the teens if they come to EDGE hungry. We hope to have our full menu and meal back again before our EDGE sessions end in April. We added an extra EDGE session on January 20. We will have an updated schedule to hand out to your child on Wednesday. Thank you for your cooperation and please let us know if you have any questions. Blessings, Andrea & Melissa

**EDGE Sessions:** January 13 & 20, 6:00-7:30pm. **Masks are required per diocesan policy.** NO EDGE on January 27.

**YOUTH GROUP:** FINALLY we are gathering face to face on January 13 & 20, 7:45-9:00pm. Meet in youth area and invite a friend! **Masks are required per diocesan policy.**

### Purpose (Confirmation Program)

We will begin meeting back in person beginning this month. Our next session is Wednesday, January 27 from 6:00-8:00pm at St. Mary in the social hall. **Masks are required per diocesan policy.**

10th Grade Saint Displays are also due on Wednesday, January 27.

Please watch your email for more details.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doug Jones, *Chair* - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Will Bates - [a\\_k\\_bates@live.com](mailto:a_k_bates@live.com)  
John Fisher - [Johntfisher@sienafastener.com](mailto:Johntfisher@sienafastener.com)  
Tim Loraditch - [Tloraditch@gmail.com](mailto:Tloraditch@gmail.com)  
John Roberts - [jroberts@huxcomm.net](mailto:jroberts@huxcomm.net)  
Stacey Rooney - [Rooneysl17@gmail.com](mailto:Rooneysl17@gmail.com)

## FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - [arlene@4andersons.com](mailto:arlene@4andersons.com)  
Jacki Ausman - [jackiausman@gmail.com](mailto:jackiausman@gmail.com)  
Beth Hart - [mrsmatthart@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmatthart@gmail.com)  
Kelly Hoffmeier - [nkhoff@msn.com](mailto:nkhoff@msn.com)  
Tammi McClain - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)  
Kris Sturtz - [klsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:klsturtz@gmail.com)  
Sue White - [charylmyron@q.com](mailto:charylmyron@q.com)  
John Zidon - [jzidon@msn.com](mailto:jzidon@msn.com)

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Karen Bellis - [puzzlenuts@aol.com](mailto:puzzlenuts@aol.com)  
Pat Bishop - [pjbishop@midiaowa.net](mailto:pjbishop@midiaowa.net)  
Lowell Crouse - [l3jl@windstream.net](mailto:l3jl@windstream.net)  
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Larry Shaw - [shawcattle13@gmail.com](mailto:shawcattle13@gmail.com)  
Mike and Mary Winders - [Mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:Mwinde59@yahoo.com)

## PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - [fogarty929@gmail.com](mailto:fogarty929@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)

## PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - [Mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:Mwinde59@yahoo.com)

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
Tithes/Plate/	\$2,086	\$4,860	<b>Dec. 27</b>
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$5,499	\$4,860	<b>Jan. 3</b>

Christmas Collection: \$2,268

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$147,728	\$131,220	\$167,181

## 2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Information and a pledge card have been mailed to each household. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give and mail your pledge to the parish or donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving/annual-diocesan-appeal-giving>, being sure to designate our parish for proper credit. Each gift is vital to reaching our assessment. Thank you.

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$49,556	\$46,477	\$45,577	<b>\$3,979</b>

*Considering switching over to automatic withdrawal from your bank account for your tithing? Please contact Sarah Baumberger, [sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org), for additional information or find the form in the vestibule or on our website's home page, <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/>.*



## 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, please contact Barb, [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.*

## Save Lives while Savoring Homemade Soup!!



Our blood drive is Thursday, January 28, 3:00 to 7:00p.m. in the Social Hall. What safer and easier way to serve others than to donate your life-supporting blood that will help save or sustain the life of three others. LifeServe Blood Center provides a disinfected and sanitized environment. Blood is always in short supply and especially now. The whole process (registration, confidential health history interview, donation, and post-donation rest in our canteen) will take less than an hour with the actual donation taking only about 10 minutes. LifeServe personnel and donors are required to wear a mask. Appointments are required for added safety. To schedule your appointment sign up in the vestibule of St. Mary or use this link [https://donor.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/169798](https://donor.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/169798) to choose your donation time and then log in or create an account. If you have difficulties or questions, please call LifeServe Blood Center at 800-287-4903 and mention you would like to sign up for the Elkhart Community Blood Drive on January 28. **AND** for this particular blood drive we're offering "a pint for a pint" so come donate a pint and enjoy homemade soups at the canteen! Contact Lisa or Tim Kautza ([kautza@netins.net](mailto:kautza@netins.net) or 515-964-7687) if you would like to volunteer to help in the canteen or can provide cookies, bars or other snacks.

## Winter Weather Cancellations



If North Polk School is in session and cancel, dismiss early, or cancel evening activities due to weather, events here at the parish are cancelled. In most instances, Masses - both daily and weekend - will not be cancelled, so please use your own judgment. If we need to cancel weekend activities it will be on the three major TV networks and WHO radio.

## CYC Registration Open



Campers will see new cabins, a renovated Dingman Lodge and increased number of staff for enhanced safety precautions. We're planning for the most amazing summer ever! Camp is open to 3rd-12th graders. For more information and to register, please go to [stmcenter.com](http://stmcenter.com).

*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.*

## St. Joseph Catholic School

**Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is open.** Please call or email and schedule your tour today! For more information please contact Jodi Halligan, [jhalligan@stjosephcatholicdsm.org](mailto:jhalligan@stjosephcatholicdsm.org), 515-266-3433, or [www.stjosephcatholicdsm.org](http://www.stjosephcatholicdsm.org).

**Preschool and Kindergarten Round Up is Tuesday, February 2;** Preschool at 6:00pm and Kindergarten at 6:30pm. Please contact the School Office for additional information, [schooloffice@stjosephcatholicdsm.org](mailto:schooloffice@stjosephcatholicdsm.org) or 515-266-3433.



The world produces 381 million tons in plastic waste yearly – this is set to double by 2034.

## Saint Brigid, Religious, c. 450-525

Brigid (sometimes Bridget or Bridie) is one of many legendary Irish saints. Her father was Dubhthach, an Irish chieftain, and her mother, Brocca, was a slave at his court. Brigid's parents were baptized by St. Patrick, and Brigid herself developed a close friendship with that saint.

As a young girl, Brigid became interested in the religious life and probably professed her vows while in her early teens. About 470, she founded a double monastery at Cill-Dara and became abbess of the convent, the first in Ireland. The monastery developed into a great center of learning and spirituality, and around it grew up the cathedral city of Kildare. Brigid also founded a school of art at Kildare and the illuminated manuscripts produced there became famous.

Brigid was one of the most remarkable women of her times, This is a beautiful legend about her indicating the love and compassion she held for her sisters: One evening, as the sun went down, Brigid sat with Sister Dara, a holy nun who was blind. They talked of the love of Jesus Christ and the joys of paradise. Their hearts were so full of joy that the night fled while they spoke together, and neither knew that so many hours had passed. Then the sun came up from behind the Wicklow Mountains, and the pure white light made the earth bright and gay. Brigid sighed, when she saw how lovely were the earth and sky, as she knew that Dara's eyes were closed to all this beauty. So Brigid bowed her head and prayed, extended her hand, and signed the dark orbs of the gentle sister. Then the darkness passed away from Dara's eyes, and she saw the golden ball in the east and all the trees and flowers glittering with dew in the morning light. Dara looked a little while, and then, turning to the abbess, said, "Close my eyes again, dear Mother, for when the world is so visible to the eyes, God is seen less clearly to the soul." So Brigid prayed once more, and Dara's eyes grew dark again.

Called the "Mary of the Gael," St. Brigid is buried at Downpatrick with Saints Columba and Patrick. She is also honored in Scotland, Wales, and Australia. She is the patron of scholars, dairy workers, and along with St. Patrick, is a patron of Ireland, where she is honored on February 1.

*The legend of Sister Dara teaches us about Brigid's compassion, but also offers a lesson in the distractions of the world. Do you try to spend a little time in prayer each day? A good way to begin each day is to ask God's help and thank God for blessings received as you end each day.*

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Baptism of the Lord, January 10

*Theme: Baptism gives us new life.*

*Reading I:* Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 • I have called you for the victory of justice.

*Reading II:* Acts 10:34-38 • He went about doing good works.

*Gospel:* Mark 1:7-11 • On you my favor rests.

*For Children:* Why does Baptism make you special?

*For Youth:* You were baptized as a member of the Christian community. What does it mean to you to belong to this community? How is it a support in your life?

*For Adults:* What meaning does your Baptism have for your everyday life?