



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 19, 2020



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 26, 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,

Like the gospel reading of the previous Sunday, over the next two weeks Jesus continues to teach the crowds about the kingdom of heaven using parables. He uses imagery that is meant to challenge our minds to better comprehend what the kingdom is like and how we can cooperate with God's grace to enter it. How often do we look for an easy solution to a problem instead of accepting the one that is more challenging? While not presuming to speak for anyone, if we always take the easy way out, surely we do ourselves no favor in the long term because to do so neglects the opportunity for us to grow in trust in God and perhaps even ourselves. In his book *What's Wrong with the World*, Catholic convert G.K. Chesterton wrote, "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried."

A parishioner has pointed me to an idea about how to pray for the Church and the nation. It is called "Let Freedom Ring: 40 Days to Freedom from the Devil." More information can be found here: <https://usgraceforce.com/let-freedom-ring-40-days-to-freedom-from-the-devil/>.

The finance committee is still looking for new members to serve the parish. While it is not required for all members to have knowledge of finances, we would like especially to leverage the expertise of someone with such a background. If you are interested and/or know someone who fits this description, please contact me. ~ 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
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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 4:00-4:30pm 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, July 21

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

Wednesday, July 22

5:30pm Holy Cross †*Bill & Betty Cook*

Thursday, July 23

8:00am St. Mary †*Doris Olson*

Saturday, July 25

5:00pm St. Mary †*Lowell Brendeland*

Sunday, July 26

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

Tuesday, July 28

6:00pm St. Mary †*Gene & Evelyn Dyer*
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, July 29

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

Thursday, July 30

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

Saturday, August 1

5:00pm St. Mary *For the Parish*

Sunday, August 2

8:00am Holy Cross †*Lyle Carpenter*
10:00am St. Mary †*Mike Lacey*

Wear Your Mask!

When you come to Mass, please bring your mask. While you may not fear getting sick, it's an act of charity and love to do what we can to prevent others from getting sick. Thank you for doing all you can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Mass Schedule at Holy Cross

July 19: Families with J - Z last names

July 26: Families with A - I last names

August 2: Families with J - Z last names

August 9: Families with A - I last names

You are invited to attend Mass at St. Mary on your off week at Holy Cross.

We Are Here to Help!

If you are homebound, at high risk, caring for family, or know someone who is, and are in need of help with errands, picking up prescriptions or groceries, etc., please contact Fr. Andrew. Also, if you are willing to help in some way, please contact the parish office.

✝ For Pastoral assistance, please contact Fr. Andrew at 515-367-2685 or Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org.

Change in Parish Practice

If you need to come to the parish office, please contact Fr. Andrew or staff ahead of time to be sure someone is here, or make an appointment. Phone messages and email are checked frequently.

See <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>

For updates, livestream Masses and resources.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Doris Olson, wife of Darrell and daughter of Clifford and Sarah Seufferer, who passed away Friday, July 3.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Scott Mitchell, husband of Elizabeth, who passed away Saturday, July 4.

May they be at peace with our Lord and their families know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

✝ *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord,* ✝
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

A Coronavirus Prayer

Loving God, Your desire is for our wholeness and well being.

We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.

We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.

We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.

We pray: may love, not fear, go viral.

Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.

Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways

to come together in spirit and in solidarity.

Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence, You, the God who does not abandon. Amen.

- Sister Christine Koelhoeffer, IHM

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Parish Council

Meeting: Tuesday, July 28, 6:30pm, Social Hall

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 form found in the vestibule of St. Mary or Holy Cross and on our website. We are glad you are here!

Where's the Music?

Like many of you, I and the musicians at SMHC are anxious to bring back singing to our weekend Masses. However, we're erring on the side of safety for both musicians and parishioners and have decided to continue with only instrumental music until further notice. With all of the precautions that Fr. Andrew, Barb and the Parish Council have taken since Masses resumed, we don't want to add any unnecessary risks. Since cantors can't wear masks when singing, our concern is spreading aerosol droplets to the congregation while they sing. We also are respectful of the same exposure to our cantors and accompanists. At their discretion, you may see accompanists playing from the choir loft as a precaution to them. Thanks for your patience with the limited music during Mass - we all look forward to the day when we can bring back prayer in song!

~ Sue Schmidt - Music Coordinator

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

Registration for the 2020/2021 Religious Education Year will begin in August. In collaboration with the Diocese, we are putting into practice safety measures that will bring peace of mind to our families and keep our catechists and children safe as we continue to ponder the mysteries of our faith with the next generation. We look forward to serving your families in the fall. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to discuss different options for the upcoming year, please do not hesitate to reach out to us via email or phone.

We are happy to hear from you!

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

Confirmation 1 & 2: Looking ahead to next year: We are still finalizing the plans for Confirmation Preparation. I will let everyone know as soon as we have the details.

The final lesson for this year was sent to your email on July 6. Please take as much time as needed and let me know when its been completed.

Our Confirmation Liturgies will be Sundays, August 16 & 23 at 2:00pm at St. Mary. We will split into the groups below and social distancing measures will be practiced. Please watch for an email with further details.

August 16

Grace Fisher
Haley Volz
Garrett Jones
Emily Devereux
Ellie DeCosta
Marcus Doyle
Brett Beukema
Valerie Beukema
Lucy Schaffer
Nathan Hines

August 23

Brooke Kiley
Weston Kahler
Brayden Bartleson
Grace Johnson
Avery Fricke
Jacob Feldmann
Sadie Kuehn
Martin Shugar
Veronica Loraditch

Hello S.T.O.R.M families! We wanted to touch base and let you know that the Youth Ministry staff is currently brainstorming ideas on what youth ministry will look like and how we will operate this coming fall during the Covid-19 situation. We are visiting with our team, Diocesan Youth Ministers and Diocesan leaders to help us make the best choice for our SMHC families. We are also taking into consideration what the various area public schools have planned for their "return to learn". We will continue to plan for another wonderful 2020-21 S.T.O.R.M. program with the awesome youth of St. Mary-Holy Cross and we will continue pray for the health and safety for you during this time of uncertainty and chaos. We hope to have a better idea of what our upcoming ministry programs will look like by the next bulletin. Please feel free to reach out to any of us with any ideas, questions, or concerns you would like to share with us.

Peace and Blessings,

~ Andrea Fisher, Nicole Cory and Melissa Kahler

Share the Gospel – use words if needed.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doug Jones, *Chair* - djones@bossard.com
Will Bates - a_k_bates@live.com
John Fisher - Johnfisher@sienafastener.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
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STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
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CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - fogarty929@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget (est.)</u>	
Tithes/Plate/	\$2,090	\$4,520	July 5
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$6,528	\$4,520	July 12

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$8,618	\$8,500	\$4,300

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	\$37,497	\$34,372	\$15,184

Considering switching over to automatic withdrawal from your bank account for your tithing? Please contact Sarah Baumberger, sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org, for additional information or find the form in the vestibule or on our website home page in the lower right hand corner.



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 at 515-367-2685 or bliske@saintmaryhc.org.

If the request is not for you, please ask permission of the one it is for to be on our prayer chain.

Blood Drive in August



Our next Elkhart Community Blood Drive will be held **Thursday, August 27 from 3:00–7:00pm** in the social hall. Safety measures to be taken: LifeServe has doubled their disinfecting and sanitizing routines; they will disinfect all surfaces in the social hall that they will use before, during, and at the conclusion of the drive. All team members will wear face masks and donors are asked to wear their own. LifeServe will practice social distancing and they have implemented new donor screening questions. They are monitoring the health of every team member.

All blood donors are to schedule appointments (see below if you don't already have an appointment). Walk-in donations are not accepted. Donors are asked to pre-screen their temperatures. Donors should refrain from giving blood for 28 days if in the past 28 days:

- Donor has traveled to a country in which the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified outbreaks.
- Donor has been diagnosed with or is suspected of having COVID-19
- Donor has lived with an individual or individuals diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19

No volunteers are needed to assist with the blood drive. LifeServe will provide all snacks.

Schedule an Appointment: Visit <https://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/>. Select "Donate;" then "Schedule Your Donation;" then "Schedule a Donation Now;" then "Sponsor Name Search;" enter "Elkhart;" then "Search;" Elkhart Community should show up, then select "Schedule;" and pick an available time and either log in or create an account. If you have difficulties or questions, please call LifeServe Blood Center, 800-287-4903, and mention our Drive and they will assist you.

Online Giving

Thank you to those who have used this type of tithing!

We have online giving available through the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa. Use this secure link: <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>; and on the drop down menu and choose St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart to make your tithe donation. No fees! The Foundation will send gift acknowledgement letters. Your donation will be included on your year end statement. Thank you for considering using this for your method of tithing.

Campus Ministry

We can help your college student connect with his or her campus Catholic community. Our Campus Ministry program will share that information with the college Catholic community at the school your student attends. Please send your college student's name, school and contact information to campusminister@stcatherinedrake.org.



Americans throw away enough office paper each year to build a 12 foot high wall from Seattle to New York. (a new wall every year).

Collection for Catholic Charities

During this pandemic the need for the most essential services have greatly increased. Catholic Charities provides family and school-based counseling, two family shelters, a food pantry, refugee resettlement and programming in a nine-county area focused on domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. These programs have continued uninterrupted services to our diocesan communities. Your prayers and financial support are most appreciated. *A basket is available in the vestibule this weekend and next for your donation or you may mail it to the parish office. Thank you.*

Provide a Meal!

We are looking for three volunteers to provide a Sunday evening meal for guests at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter on the second Sunday of September, November and December. One or more families can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal. Currently because of COVID - 19, although we hope it won't be the case come September, the shelter does not allow meal providers into the shelter and accepts the meal at the front door. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt to use for a tax deduction. To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza at kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687. Peace of Christ to all during this unsettling time.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 19

Theme: The reign of God is like ...

Reading I: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 • Your might is the source of justice.

Reading II: Romans 8:26-27 • The Spirit helps us pray.

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43 • The Reign of God is among us.

Question for Children: What are the things that keep you from being a friend of Jesus?

Question for Youth: The good and the bad have the same opportunity to rule our life. What are you doing (bad habits, poor choices, etc.) that you need to weed out? Who can help you with that?

Question for Adults: How would you describe "the weeds" which have polluted your own faith?

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 26

Theme: The kingdom of God is a treasure beyond price.

Reading I: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 • Give your servant an understanding heart.

Reading II: : Romans 8:28-30 • God makes all things work together for good.

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52 • The reign of God is a treasure.

Question for Children: If you could be with Jesus, what would you trade from your own things for that?

Question for Youth: God's kingdom is worth sacrifice. What do you need to sacrifice in order to follow God in your own life? Why are you willing to make that sacrifice?

Question for Adults: What is the Reign of God like for you personally? Use a parable to describe it.