



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



First Sunday of Lent

March 1, 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,

Lent has begun and if you are still trying to figure out what to do for a penance, here are a couple suggestions.

1. Probably the most important thing to do among others is to reconcile with our God! Reconciliation services in the Des Moines area are noted on the parish calendar. Our service will be on Sunday, March 29 at 1 PM.

2. Tend to a daily Mass and further prayer. The following are words from a parishioner who has been attending the Tuesday evening Mass and adoration: "Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a wonderful opportunity to experience God's grace, it's a true gift for yourself! I had no idea how much Adoration would bring to my life."

3. Pick up a baby bottle next weekend and fill it with change, paper money, or check (make it payable to InnerVisions HealthCare). The funds will provide free, caring, and confidential pregnancy care with a pro-life approach.

Of course, there are many other options; usually those that are more challenging bear more fruit. ~ 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, March 3

6:00pm St. Mary †Fr. Tan Tran
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, March 4

5:30pm Holy Cross †Tom Bellis

Thursday, March 5

8:00am St. Mary †Dorothy Gannon

First Friday, March 6

9:00am St. Mary †Albert & Helen Schmidt

Saturday, March 7

5:00pm St. Mary †Howard & Delores Staber

Sunday, March 8

8:00am Holy Cross †Stephen Carpenter
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, March 24, 6:30pm, Ed Center

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 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, March 15, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 2

Cody Coffelt, Michele Hand, Shanana Roling

Upcoming Events

†**Easter Vigil Choir practices:** Sundays, March 1 - April 5 immediately after 10:00am Mass, lasting one hour.

†**Fridays during Lent, Stations of the Cross:** 6:00pm, St. Mary. Lenten meal on March 6, 20 & April 3. Fish fry on March 13 & 27

†**Wednesday, March 4:** Office closed 10:00am-11:00am for Staff meeting

†**Saturday, March 7:** Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass

New Birth by Water and the Holy Spirit

Celebrate with us in welcoming into our Faith these little ones who have been baptized:

Oliver Lawrence

Son of Michael and Ashley Young

Everett McBride

Son of Shaymus and Kirsten Smith

Wallace Budden

Son of Jacob and Macy Crouse



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, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit.

Sponsor a Bible!

Help us put the Word of God into the hands of our First Communicants. Cost is \$30 to sponsor one Bible. Genevieve and Tracy will be available after Mass this weekend, with envelopes for those who wish to contribute. Thank you for prayerfully considering this lifelong gift to the children.

Lenten Resources

Please take advantage of the Lenten reflection resources for all ages that are 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.



Stations of the Cross

Retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary. We invite you to join us for these powerful Stations every Friday of Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary. Come walk with Jesus on his way to Calvary. *Following the stations we will have a meal and fellowship.*

Music News

Sue Schmidt, coordinator

515-689-9949 / sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org

Easter Vigil Choir: Our first practice is today after 10:00am Mass for one hour. We will practice each Sunday through April 5. All ages welcome! So, if you like to sing, and be part of this choir, come join us! Please contact me if you would like additional information.

EDGE & High School Teens!

Silhouette Stations of the Cross "actors" needed! We are looking for 4 - 10 teens willing to lead and participate in this moving presentation of the Station of the Cross. No need to be nervous or shy about the acting, we have plenty of time to rehearse and you are behind a screen. We will meet 5 times to rehearse: Sundays, March 1, 8, 22 & 29 following 10:00am Mass until 1:00pm in the Youth Area and/or Social Hall, and on Friday, April 3 we have our final rehearsal right after school, then present the Silhouette Stations to the parish at 6:00pm. Please text or call Melissa Kahler, 515-290-2830, or Andrea Fisher, 515-240-5059, soon to sign up to help with this powerful experience.

Can You Help Feed the Hungry?

We're still 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, although the shelter prefers that no more than five people actually be present at the house at a time. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt that you can 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.*

The best math equation: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

Religious Education Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

One of the best ways to encourage our children in their faith is to participate and be active in it. The church teaches us 3 particular ways to participate during Lent - prayer, fasting and almsgiving (money or time). While sometimes it's hard to know how to choose, we have some opportunities here at the parish to help us grow closer to Christ during this time.

March 8, 3:00pm: Families can donate ingredients and/or help prepare food for those in need at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter. Sign up to help at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094faaaa2ca0f94-meal>.

March 20, 6:00pm: The Religious Education program will lead Stations of the Cross this evening. We have lots of reading opportunities for those children in 4th - 6th grade who would like to help. Sign up to read at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094faaaa2ca0f94-stations>.

March 3/4, 10/11 & 24/25: Regular Sessions

March 17/18: No sessions, Spring Break

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

EDGE, Grades 7 & 8

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

Sessions: March 4 & 11

No EDGE March 18 due to Spring Break for area schools

No EDGE March 25 due to Confirmation session

Confirmation, Grades 9 & 10

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

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

Wednesday, March 25: Confirmation Session 6:00-8:00pm, Social Hall

2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal

This Appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as a Diocesan family and support programs and services no single individual or parish can offer. Information and a pledge card are being sent to each household. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give and mail your pledge directly to the Diocese. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the Appeal. Please join us to continue God's work of spirituality, charity and education. Thank you.

Cards for Home-Bound and in Care Facilities

If you know someone who might like to receive cards from parishioners, please ask them if we may put their address in the bulletin so cards can be sent. Please contact the Parish Office with their address.

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 - mrsmathart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
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 - lshaw@tru-test.com
Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@yahoo.com

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

February 23 Budget Week 34

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$3,990	\$5,730

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$209,927	\$194,820	\$201,513

2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Numbers will be reported after we receive updated information from the Diocese.

Auto Debit for Tithing

If you don't use this type of tithing, please consider using it. 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 our parish bookkeeper at sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org.



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8
Spring ahead 1 hour!

Hello from Me and My House!

There are times when I think I can't hear God, and I don't know what He's trying to tell me. Then there are times that I'm practically tripping and falling over His plans. And even then, I feel like I'm walking around with a blindfold on. I can feel it, I know it's there and I just stubbed my toe on it. But since I can't see it right in front of me, I'm not ready to admit it yet. I think that we as humans like to make things much more difficult than they really have to be. Take a phrase like: "Trust in God and His timing for you". It's pretty simple, but when we actually consider handing over the controls, it becomes a very complicated process.

I really like to be in control, and I'm sure I'm not alone here. I don't like asking for help or accepting help. And even though I've gone through some humbling moments in my life that should have proven to me that assistance is safe, it's usually not long before I'm trying to take the reigns again. I know that I should try my best to be present in the moment, practice mindfulness, trust in God and His plan and timing. But it's safe to say that I'm terrible at all those things. I talk a good talk and then when it comes time to act, it's like I've forgotten all the wonderful advice I've given to other people. What can I say? I'm a sinner.

I think that trusting in God and His timing wholeheartedly is difficult because understanding that God is tangible hasn't always been easy for me. I've always had this notion of Him as a being that I can't see or touch. And how can I possibly give up so much control to someone I can't see or touch?

In the last year, my life could be summed up in two words: HELP NEEDED. I might as well be standing in the middle of the road waving my hands. Some of the things my family has been through are the hardest we've ever faced. There were times when I was so exhausted that my answer to any question was, "I don't know". There were days that I was just running on empty and it was hard to muster the courage and energy to accomplish anything. And this is when it happened. This is when I realized that God is the most tangible thing there is.

When we couldn't make it to the store or be home to cook dinner, it literally showed up at our door. In the form of smiling human faces with fully prepared meals and bags of groceries. When we were so tired and had nothing left to give, people came to us in flocks. They listened to me ramble because that's what I do when I'm nervous. They comforted us and gave any help they could. Our children were always taken care of, even if we couldn't be there to do it. We didn't even have to ask for help with our dogs, that was offered up as well. And if someone couldn't be there physically, they helped with financial support and prayers. People we had never met donated to us freely and prayed for us reverently.

We have faced life altering decisions with only hours to make them. We've had to adjust to new family dynamics more than once. And we've made choices that will dramatically change our lives forever. We've been through a lot. There were so many times that I wondered what was going to happen next. Hindsight is 20/20, so it's easy to look back at things and see that everything has happened exactly how it's supposed to. But it's hard to remember that when you're buried in the trenches.

God is everywhere. He is in every person who is, has ever, and will ever walk this earth. He made us in His image. He knew us by name before we came to be. God will make Himself known in our time of need through the people around us or by working through us for the sake of others. No act of kindness is too small. Either way, He is all around us and that is something we can count on.



Please share your ideas by sending an email to joshua2415smhc@gmail.com.

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, March 7, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Announcer	Jack McDermott
Lector	John Roberts
Cup Bearers	JoAnn Meusburger, Drew Hanlon
Host Distributor	Tony Kuehn
Altar Servers	Isabella Kuehn, Abigail Devereux, Emily Devereux
Ushers	Dawn & Mason Reynolds, Mike and Joseph Devereux
Cantor	Lisa Jones
Accompanist	Mary Schmelzer

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

Announcer	Celia Shedd
Lector	Sheri Fogarty
Cup Bearer	Laurie Phelan
Altar Server	Natalie Shedd
Ushers	Mike & Mary Winders
Cantor	Drew Hanlon
Accompanist	Stacey Rooney

Sunday, March 8, 10:00am, St. Mary

Announcer	Susan Genalo
Lector	Tim Loraditch
Cup Bearers	Mike Nehring, <i>1 volunteer needed</i>
Host Distributor	Kelly Hoffmeier
Altar Servers	Peyton & Justice Loraditch
Ushers	Bill & Kelly Dunbar, Andrew Cory, Jerry McClain, Doug Zehr
Cantors	Christine Muehlenthaler Garrett McClain
Accompanist	Celeste Muehlenthaler

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Money Counters

March 1: Lisa Kautza, Brenda Nehring

March 8: Carol Weber, Sue White

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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.*

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.

Seminary Visits

Men 16 to 24 years of age are invited to experience the real world of seminary. A trip is planned for March 28-30 to Conception Seminary in Missouri. If you know someone who might be interested please have them contact Father Ross Parker at vocations@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5050.



100,000 sea creatures and 1 million seabirds die each year from being tangled in plastic.

Old Palms

There is a container at each Church if you would like us to dispose of your blessed palms from last year.

Baby Bottle Campaign

Our parish is holding this campaign for InnerVisions HealthCare, a local unplanned pregnancy and STD medical clinic. Their mission is to empower women in vulnerable situations to choose parenting or adoption. Next weekend, you'll find baby bottles in the gathering space; please take one, fill it with change, cash, or checks (made out to InnerVisions) and return it the following weekend (March 14/15). If you have any questions, please contact Bryan Gonzalez at 515-280-4706. To learn more about the life-affirming work of InnerVisions HealthCare, please visit their website at www.ivhcare.org.

No God, No Peace! Know God, Know Peace!

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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

This is a Catholic Faith based marriage enrichment program which has been providing couples with better communication skills and tools for over 50 years. Start a new chapter in your marriage by attending one of these upcoming weekends: April 24-26 in Ankeny; May 29-31 in Dubuque or November 6-8 in Coralville. For more information or to register go to iowa-wwme.org or call 563-608-3305.

See Diocesan events, Parish Lenten events and job openings at www.dmdiocese.org

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

First Sunday of Lent, March 1

Theme: Temptation - What would Jesus do?

Reading I: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 • God formed us from the clay.

Reading II: Romans 5:12-19 • A single righteous act has saved us!

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11 • Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit.

Question for Children: What do you plan to do during Lent this year as a way of showing you want to grow closer to Jesus?

Question for Youth: Jesus was tempted by the devil. How are you tempted? What helps you resist these temptations?

Question for Adults: When you yourself pause to be alone with God, what distracts and prevents you from dwelling in that? Busyness? The demands of life? TV? The internet?