



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



First Sunday of Lent

March 10, 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,

Here we are again at the beginning of Lent. Lent is a period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We should do these activities without looking grumpy about doing them, nor should we complain about doing them. For those giving up something like chocolate or coffee or some other caffeinated beverage, that could be a tall order because of the addictive nature of them. So much the better reason to live without, or at least cut back on our intake. But remember, the underlying reason for all of these Lenten practices is to root out sin in our lives, and not just during Lent. For those who have let time slip by without participation in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, it is never too late to start.

The Church teaches that Sundays in Lent are not considered a mandatory day of the Lenten observance because each Sunday we continue to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. I think it is probably appropriate for each of us individually to decide whether we will take a "time out" from whatever Lenten practices we are doing.

Lent is the time for final preparation of Catechumens and Candidates who will come into full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. That is a very powerful and Spirit-filled occasion! As you know, we have two Candidates going through RCIA. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

It had always been my understanding that Baptisms were not to take place during Lent. I found out I was wrong again! Baptisms and Holy Water in the font at the entrance of church are appropriate during Lent. Blessings, 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, Adoration and Stations of the Cross

Tuesday, March 12

6:00pm St. Mary †Zac Yeggy
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, March 13

5:30pm Holy Cross †Jim & Margaret Shaw

Thursday, March 14

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

Friday, March 15 Stations of the Cross

6:00pm St. Mary

Saturday, March 16

5:00pm St. Mary For the Parish

Sunday, March 17

8:00am Holy Cross †Michael Carpenter

10:00am St. Mary †Ken Cowman

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: March 10, 17, 24 & 31
(Conf. Room)

Cross Ministry

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

Finance Council

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

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: Monday, March 11, 6:00pm, 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!

Lenten Resources

Please take advantage of the various reflection resources for your Lenten Journey 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 and Fellowship

Join us to 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.

FREE Reusable Grocery Bags

Some of you have requested additional information about recycling, reusing, and reducing use of your household waste materials. So, Friends of St. Francis have put together a flyer with that information and will be handing them out after Masses next weekend along with reusable grocery bags donated by HyVee. They'll be available until they're gone. Recycle, reuse, and reduce in accord with Pope Francis' encyclical On Care for Our Common Home.

Parish Directories Available!

Parishioners who had their picture taken or submitted a photo for our new directory, have a complimentary directory on the table in the Social Hall or in the entryway at Holy Cross. 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.

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.*

Upcoming Events

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

†**Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service:** Sunday, April 7 2:00pm, St. Mary

Music News

Music Coordinator: Celeste Muehlenthaler

515-577-9394 / celestemu@msn.com

As we notice more silence in our Mass during Lent...

"God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer." – Mother Theresa

Although it seems early, we are thinking about music for First Eucharist and Confirmation! Please be open to give of your talents to bless these young people with the gift of music! Please contact me or Barb, and we'll be in touch! We look forward to hearing from you! We would like to add some bell music if we have interested ringers!!

Save The Dates!

March 30-31 and April 6-7 for our **Totally Catholic Jewelry Fundraiser!** S.T.O.R.M. youth will be hosting this jewelry sale in the social hall following 5:00pm and 10:00am Mass. We are partnering with a wonderful company called Totally Catholic Fundraising. We will have beautiful and affordable Catholic sacramentals and jewelry that you can purchase and take home the day of the sale. Please plan to shop for your Confirmation, First Eucharist and Easter gifts AND remember money you spend will support the youth of our parish! Money raised from this event will go toward the cost for our teens to attend NCYC, Retreats and other youth events. We hope to see you at the sale!

Pastoral Assistance

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

The Snow and Ice WILL End....

but until then, would you be willing to shovel the walks and steps at St. Mary for a two-week shift? Contact Drew Hanlon, dlhanlon@windstream.net or 515-367-3367. Thank you!

Religious Education PreK-6

Stacie Hergenreter, Catechetical Leader

shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org, 515-491-3876

Lent Activities: The Knights of Columbus will be hosting 2 more Fish Frys (March 22 & April 5, 5:00-7:00pm). Each year RE families help support the them by providing desserts. We are planning on serving 500+ people each night. Your past generosity is much appreciated and a great deal of the funds raised at the fish fry go to activities for our youth. Please have desserts dropped off by 3:00pm.

In addition, RE students will lead Stations of the Cross on March 22 at 6:00pm, during the fish fry. We'll be gathering volunteers and will practice during RE on March 13.

Up Coming Dates:

March 13 - Class **March 22** - RE Lead Stations, 6pm

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 any time during this time frame that work for them.

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

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*

ATTENTION EDGE & High School teens:

Silhouette Stations of the Cross "actors" needed! We need 4 to 10 teens who are 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 will have plenty of time to rehearse and you are behind the screen so shy people are welcome! We will meet 5 times to rehearse: Sunday, March 24, 4:00-6:00pm in the Youth Area; Sundays March 31 & April 7, 4:00-6:00pm in the Ed Center, and Wednesday, April 10, 6:00-9:00pm in the Church. Our final rehearsal is Friday, April 12 right after school and then we present the Silhouette Stations to the Parish at 6:00pm. Please text or call Melissa, 515-290-2830, or Andrea, 515-240-5059, soon to sign up to help with this powerful experience.

EDGE (7th/8th) Sessions: 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

March 13: EDGE Session- *Desert Wonderer; The Season of Lent*

March 20: No EDGE, Spring Break for many area schools

March 27: EDGE Session- *Lenten Prayer Stations*

C1 & C2 (9th & 10th Grades)

We have lots of parish volunteer opportunities coming up, please watch for emails!

Sunday, March 10 - Confirmation Prep Session, **6-7:30pm**, Social Hall. 9th Grade: Lesson 9
10th Grade: Lesson 21

What is a Prayer Shawl?

A prayer shawl is a soft warm reminder for people going through a rough time that you are not alone and that we are praying for you. If you know someone that could use the comfort of a prayer shawl or are interested in helping make them, please contact Dona Cowman at 515-383-4482 or *racefans@iowatelecom.net*.

CROSS MINISTRY TEAM

This team functions as the Pastoral Council for the parish. It consists of members from each ministry (e.g. RE, Stewardship, K of C, Liturgy, Finance Council, etc.), as well as others from the parish. For more information, please contact Fr. Andrew

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 - *mccclairnj@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*
Kathy Gass - 515-419-8569 - *k.gass@mchsi.com*
Beth Hart - 515-515-306-4916 - *mrsmatthart@gmail.com*
Kelly Hoffmeier - 515-975-7865 - *nkhoff@msn.com*
Tammi McClain - 515-290-3904 - *tammimcclain71@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

Week ending March 3 Budget Week 36

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/ Youth/Guests	\$8,066	\$5,157

Year-to-Date

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$202,894	\$185,652	\$181,724

2018 ADA Second Collections to Date: \$5,221.61

Thank you to all who have so generously given to these second collections! If you made a pledge to the 2018 ADA but have not paid in full, please do so as soon as possible.

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.

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

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, March 16, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Announcer	Lisa Schoening
Lector	Jack McDermott
Cup Bearers	Tony Kuehn, Susan Stillmunkes
Host Distributor	Deacon Terry
Altar Servers	Isabella Kuehn, Abby Devereux, Emily Devereux
Ushers	Mike & Joseph Devereux, Jim Hudson, Tom Bowman

Sunday, March 17, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Announcer	Dawn Beukema
Lector	Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer	Deacon Terry
Altar Server	Aiden Phelan-Ruden
Ushers	Tracy Irwin Family

Sunday, March 17, 10:00am, St. Mary

Announcer	Lori Dunham
Lector	Joe Dunham
Cup Bearers	Carol Weber, Matt Miller
Host Distributor	Deacon Terry
Altar Servers	Jackson Waters, Sawyer Smeltzer Joel Waters
Ushers	Gregg Richwine, Andrew Cory, Brian, Will & Mya Pottebaum, Doug Zehr

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Money Counters

March 10: Carol Weber, Dona Cowman

March 17: Lisa Kautza, Sue White

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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!

See Diocesan events at www.dmdiocese.org and offerings by St. Joseph Ed Center at www.sjeciowa.org

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

First Sunday of Lent, March 10

Theme: Lent is time to open our hearts more fully to Jesus.

Reading I: Deuteronomy 26:4-10 • Worship the Lord your God.

Reading II: Romans 10:8-13 • There is only one God.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13 • Jesus is led into the desert and tempted.

Children: When you feel tempted to do wrong, how do you remain strong in your faith?

Youth: What is one thing you will do during Lent to become more open to God in your life?

Adults: As you come to understand the temptation of Jesus in the desert, which one of the devil's offerings is hardest for you to resist?

SAY WHAT? More aluminum goes into beverage cans than any other product. 350,000 cans are produced every minute!

Winter Weather Cancellations

If North Polk School or activities are cancelled or dismissed early due to weather, events here at the Parish are also cancelled. If weekend activities need to be cancelled, find it on TV Channel 8.

Hello From Me & My House!

Lent is upon us! I am taking a break from the relationship series to talk about this wonderful time of year! Why am I calling a time of penance and self-sacrificing wonderful you ask? I'll get to that. First let's talk about some ways that you can observe Lent that don't have to do with giving up chocolate, caffeine or junk food.

Giving up an unhealthy food or habit is not a bad thing, but how meaningful is it to you? "We must be careful not to practice a formal fast, or one which in truth 'satisfies' us because it makes us feel good about ourselves. Fasting makes sense if it questions our security, and if it also leads to some benefit for others, if it helps us to cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him." Pope Francis, Homily March 5, 2014. Here are 10 great ideas for Lent!

1) *Do something that's not easy. This could be anything from an exercise routine or activity to having a conversation with someone.*

2) *Replace 30 minutes of time spent on electronics with 30 minutes of prayer. You'd be surprised how much time the average person spends on a phone, tablet, computer or watching TV each day.*

3) *Do not complain. You never realize how much you make small complaints or whine about things until you intentionally try not to. "Do all things without grumbling or questioning..." Philippians 2:14*

4) *Say 3 nice things to your spouse and kids daily. This might seem easy, but try to not count normal things like: thanks, good job or you look nice.*

5) *No gossip. If someone says something bad about another person just don't say anything at all.*

6) *Do one thing each day that you don't want to do, for the sake of another. This could be extra chores at home, or helping a friend at work or school with a task they need to complete.*

7) *Take part in the sacraments. What better time is there to grow closer to Jesus through the sacraments than during Lent? Don't skip Mass, try going to reconciliation.*

8) *Don't go out to eat for 40 days.*

9) *Consider going through your house and donating things that you don't use or wear.*

10) *Delete some time sucking apps from your phone.*

Don't forget about prayer and almsgiving. It's through this that we can grow deeper in our relationship with Christ and become more used to freely giving. Lent should be a somber and quiet time. Take your Lenten journey offline. Remember, we are not to be like the Pharisees. It's not supposed to be fun, and if it's not a little painful then you're not doing it right. It is through suffering that we can become closest to Jesus, so take this opportunity to do just that. From Me & My House to yours, make Lent wonderful this year SMHC!

