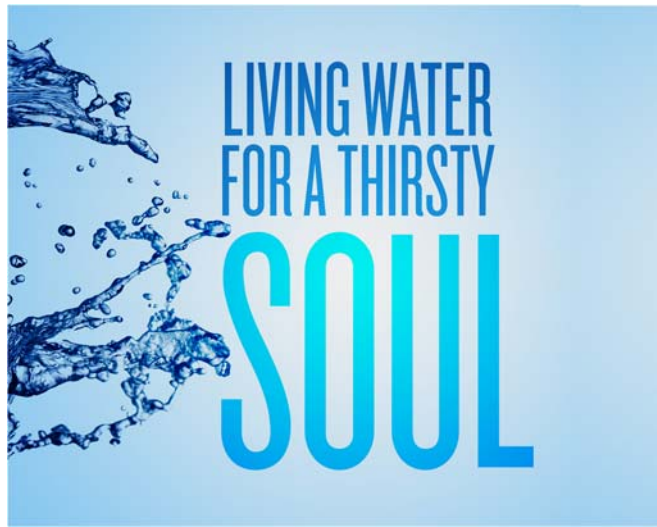




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Third Sunday of Lent

March 19, 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:

As you know, **The Blessing Box** food pantry opened in Elkhart on January 26th at the Christian Church. As you also know and generously support, we take up second collections monthly in support of 3 different local food pantries, 2 homeless shelters in Des Moines operated by Catholic Charities, and the needs of our own SMHC parishioners. Two collections are taken up annually for each of these causes. The Finance Council has discussed different ways we might add **The Blessing Box** to our parish support list, while maintaining support for the other services we help. What we think will work best is to redirect the two annual collections designated for parishioner support to support of **The Blessing Box**, and take up a special collection for our parishioner assistance fund when the need arises. While requests for help from that fund are received, they are not frequent, and there is a good balance in it at this time. The pantry is open on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 5:30-7:30pm, and by appointment by calling the Christian Church at 515-367-5125. Nonperishable food and cash donations are welcome, with checks payable to **The Blessing Box** and sent c/o Elkhart Christian Church, P.O. Box 97, Elkhart, IA 50073. Tim Kautza serves as our parish contact person for the pantry. Thank you Tim! And thanks to all for your continued generosity to all our food pantry collections.

Fr. Dan

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	tmclain@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

Wednesday, March 22

5:30pm Holy Cross †Jim Shaw

Thursday, March 23

8:00am St. Mary †Harold Brune

Friday, March 24

6:00pm St. Mary Stations of the Cross and
Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Saturday, March 25

5:00pm St. Mary †Msgr. Dan Tarrant

Sunday, March 26

8:00am Holy Cross For the Parish
10:00am St. Mary †Amby Steinkamp

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

Meditative Prayer Time
Saturday, March 25, 8:00-9:00am, Office

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, April 20, 7:00pm, St. Mary

Pastoral Council
Meeting: To be announced

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

Stewardship Committee
Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 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!

RSVP by Tuesday, March 21

Join us next Sunday, March 26 for our intergenerational event, *One Earth, One Chance*. Matt Halbach, St. Joseph's Educational Center, will introduce us to *On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis' letter to all people; Hannah Landgraf, Iowa Interfaith Power & Light, will lead an interactive dialogue about how we can address care of creation issues raised in the Pope's letter; and Educator Tammi McClain will help children experience and express the wonders of God's creation. We begin at 11:15am and conclude at 1:30pm. Lunch is provided. FREE. RSVP by March 21 to smhc@saintmaryhc.org; 515-367-2685.



Care & Share

Where can you find ...

- how to turn wasteland to prairie?
- deepening the practice of your faith?
- Our Parish practicing what Pope Francis preaches?
- where to reduce-recycle-reuse?
- ways to reduce your carbon footprint?
- free trees for your home and our common home?
- ways to personally serve poor and vulnerable people?

At **Care and Share** tables at our *One Earth, One Chance* event Sunday, March 26. RSVP to the office by March 21.

Stations of the Cross & Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Please join us at 6:00pm for a short version of the Stations of the Cross; then the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. This sung meditative prayer using rosary beads, reflects on the Lord's mercy in His sorrowful passion. Following this, join us for a Lenten meal in the Social Hall.

Lenten Reconciliation Service

You are encouraged to attend our service on Sunday, April 2, 2:00pm at St. Mary. Lent is a time of purification and to seek the Lord's forgiveness for our sins. We will have additional priests here to assist with individual confession.

Come experience the healing power of Christ!



Coming Events

✚ **Sundays, March 19, April 2, 9:** Adult Choir practice, 11:00am — Men's Choir practice, 12:30pm St. Mary

✚ **Monday, March 20:** Friends of St. Francis meeting, 6:30pm, Social Hall

✚ **Tuesday, March 21:** RSVP deadline for *One Earth, One Chance* on Sunday, March 26, 11:15am, Social Hall

✚ **Friday, March 24:** Stations of the Cross & Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 6:00pm, St. Mary, followed by Lenten meal, Social Hall

✚ **Sunday, March 26:** Coffee & donuts after 8am Mass — *One Earth, One Chance* event, 11:15am, Hall. For all ages!

✚ **Tuesday, March 28:** *Let's Chat*, 7:00pm, Social Hall

✚ **Sunday, April 2:** Reconciliation Service, 2:00pm, SM

Music News

Music Coordinator: Celeste Muehlenthaler
515-577-9394 or celestemu@msn.com

We will rehearse for First Eucharist on Wednesdays beginning March 29, 6:00-6:45pm in St. Mary. Right now, we have 4 singers. If there are any older kids or adults who'd like to join us, please contact me and I will get folders ready.

Do you play piano or organ or feel comfortable leading our weekend music with another instrument? At this point we really need some help; we have only a very few people to lead our music. We are at the point if someone is sick, we might have to have Mass without accompaniment. Please pray on this! If not you, then who?

Let's Read a Book!

A Long Walk to Water is based on the true story of Salva, one of some 3,800 Sudanese "Lost Boys" airlifted to the U.S. beginning in the mid 1990s. Before leaving Africa, his life is one of harrowing tragedy. Separated from his family by war and forced to travel on foot through hundreds of miles of hostile territory, he survives starvation, animal attacks, and disease and ultimately leads a group of about 150 boys to safety in Kenya. Relocated to upstate New York, Salva resourcefully learns English and continues on to college. Eventually he returns to his home region in southern Sudan to establish a foundation that installs deep-water wells in remote villages in dire need of clean water. This poignant story of Salva's life is told side-by-side with the story of Nya, a young girl who lives today in one of those villages. *If interested in joining this book club, contact Tammi McClain, tmcclain@saintmaryhc.org/515-290-3904. We begin in April.*

Religious Education

PreK-6: Co-Catechetical Leaders

Tammi McClain, tmccclain@saintmaryhc.org, 515-290-3904
Sonya Staudt, sstaudt@saintmaryhc.org, 515-710-4583

No class March 22 due to Catechists meeting.

Thank you to those that donated desserts for the Fish Fry!! Your support is greatly appreciated!

2nd graders and Parents: First Eucharist Learning Centers will be available Friday, April 8 (8:00am - 8:00pm) and Saturday, April 9 (8:00am - 5:00pm). These will take about 45 minutes to complete and will be set up similar to First Reconciliation Learning Centers.

In April, the classes are having a contest to create a recycled sculpture of some kind. A biblical verse will be the source of inspiration, and shown in the sculpture. The sculptures will be on display for parishioners to vote on. We are collecting paper towel tubes and toilet paper tubes!

VBS is going to be EPIC!!! At *Maker Fun Factory* kids will experience incredible Bible learning experiences where they will get to see, hear, touch, and even taste! Let faith flow into real life! VBS is June 19 - 22; meals begins at 5:30pm and the factory doors open each night at 6:00pm! More information including registration will be coming soon!

RE Fees: Reminder letters were sent to those who opted to make payments; please submit your payment as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have made their payment.

Catholic Youth Camp registration is open. Visit <https://stmcenter.com/catholic-youth-camp>. *Our Parish contributes \$100 of the fee for each child of our Parish who attends. Please notify Barb in the office when your child is registered.*

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

Teen-Parent Workshop: Sunday, March 19 after 10:00am Mass. *This workshop is open to all teens in our Parish.*

C1 & C 2 Sessions: Sunday, April 2, 5:30-7:30pm.

Are you interested in assisting with the next generation of parishioners?? The end of our Confirmation year is almost upon us! I am looking to add many exciting things for next year to the existing Confirmation program and am in need of a Confirmation Core Team. Join me for an informational meeting on Monday, April 3, 7:00pm in the Social Hall. Responsibilities would be based on how much YOU are able to commit yourself! I am looking for assistance in these areas: small group leaders/co-leaders, chaperones, transportation as needed, and feedback on program itself.

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

EDGE & High School teens: You are invited to attend the first rehearsal for Silhouette Stations of the Cross on Sunday, March 19 in the Ed Center, following 10:00am Mass. We present these Stations to the Parish on Friday, April 7 at 6:00pm. Please text or call Melissa, 515-290-2830, with questions about this powerful experience.

EDGE & Life Night/Life Teen: No sessions March 22; we meet next on March 29.

Mark Your Calendar!

Our Clothing Drive is April 8 - 20. It's time to start gathering your good used clothing for Hope Ministries!

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

March 12 Week 37

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$7,551	\$5,469

Year-to-Date

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$191,493	\$202,362	\$202,644

2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Balance Due</u>
\$ 56,442	\$ 19,630	\$ 15,455	\$ 40,897

Annual Diocesan Appeal

Bishop Pates has sent information and a pledge card to each household. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give and drop your pledge in the collection basket at Mass or mail it to the Parish Office. If you need a pledge card, you can find them in the pews. Every gift, no matter the size, is vital to the success of the Appeal. Please help us continue the work of spirituality, charity, and education. Thank you.

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.

Monthly Financial Update

	February, 2017			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Last Year	Actual	Budget	Last Year
OPERATING INCOME	\$ 22,197	\$ 26,547	\$ 24,075	\$ 220,806	\$ 225,355	\$ 251,229
Operating Expenses	\$ 26,291	\$ 27,337	\$ 22,139	\$ 223,806	\$ 238,213	\$ 226,099
Net operating income (expense)	\$ (4,094)	\$ (790)	\$ 1,936	\$ (3,000)	\$ (12,858)	\$ 25,130
Cash Balance of General Fund	\$ 111,763	N/A	\$ 113,597			

Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday, March 25, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Announcer: Sonya Staudt
 Lector: Cory Schoening
 Cup Bearers: Delila Roberts, Kris Sexton
 Host Distributor: Bill Sexton
 Altar Servers: Julia Fisher, Mary Staudt, Grace Fisher
 Ushers: Bill Schmitt, Mark Lengel, Drew Hanlon, Mark Birchmier

Sunday, March 26, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Announcer: Sheri Fogarty
 Lector: Lowell Crouse
 Cup Bearer: Tony Kuehn
 Altar Server: Isabella Kuehn
 Ushers: Sandra Hunter, Tracy Irwin

Sunday, March 26, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Announcer: Garrett McClain
 Lector: Tracy Kangas
 Cup Bearers: Mike Nehring, Tom Ausman
 Host Distributor: Jacki Ausman
 Altar Server: Christianne Ledet, Cael Tollefson
 Ushers: Merle Olberding, Dennis Schmidt, Brian, Will & Mya Pottebaum, Andrew Cory, Doug Zehr

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Money Counters

March 19: Tracy Havener, Dona Cowman
March 26: Carol Weber, Kathy Daup

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New Parish Time and Talent Survey!!

This survey will be emailed to parishioners on Monday, March 20. It will take 5 to 10 minutes to complete and provides options for how you can get involved in various groups and activities. Selections you make in this survey are not a commitment; it's an indication of interest or more information. Please respond to the survey to share your talents with our St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish!



Let's Chat!

This got off to a flying start on March 7 and is scheduled again Tuesday, March 28. It was an enjoyable meeting with lots of issues discussed both in depth as well as in brief passing. It was just as the name implies! YOU are invited to join us on the 28th at 7:00pm in the Social Hall. Bring any questions or concerns you may have about the Popes, the teachings of the Catholic Church, who are the new members of the parish, or whatever. We would love to have you join us whether you participate in the conversations or just listen and learn. As usual, free popcorn to the first 300 through the door! Ya'll Come!



Please recycle plastic bags! Thousands of marine creatures die by mistakenly swallowing plastic bags that resemble jellyfish.

Each year, Americans throw out enough soda cans and bottles to reach the moon and back 20 times.

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.*

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 channels 5, 8, or 13, and WHO radio or KWKY Radio.

Home Faith

This magazine helps families grow together in their faith! Pick up an issue in the vestibule! Share it with another family when you are done. Visit www.sjeciowa and click on the *Home Faith* box for a four question feedback survey.

Lenten Vespers Prayer Service

Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, takes place as dusk begins to fall. The service includes praying psalms, a reading from Scripture, a homily, music and reflection. Join us Sunday, March 26, 6:30pm at Ss. John and Paul in Altoona. Presider is Fr. Tim Fitzgerald. Homilist is Rev. Dwight DuBois, ELCA pastor, author and instructor at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. *This service is part of the Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. All are invited!*

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday of Lent, March 19

Theme: Jesus is the Living Water

Reading I: Exodus 17:3-7 • Is the Lord in our midst or not?

Reading II: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 • We are at peace with God through Christ.

Gospel: John 4:5-42 • Whoever drinks the water I give, will never thirst again.

Question for Children: How do you experience Jesus helping and loving you?

Question for Youth: Jesus revealed himself to an outcast of society. How can you be "living water" to the outcasts of your school? Society? The world?

Question for Adults: When you are tempted to try to satisfy your "thirst for meaning" through some other means, what keeps you coming back to the living water of intimacy with Christ? Through what means do you experience Christ's power in your life: Sacraments? Scripture? Prayer? Others?