



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Third Sunday of Lent

March 24, 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,

I'm sure by now that everyone has heard about the devastating flooding being experienced by our brother and sisters in Nebraska and various parts of Iowa. The reports on the news are there are thousands of acres of farm land that will be unable to be planted this year, which will add to the property losses experienced already. This comes at a time when many farmers are already struggling due to the trade tariffs and low grain prices.

It was less than a year ago that we here in Central Iowa experienced the devastation of flooding. Our church rectory, offices, RE and youth areas were all flooded. Many of our parishioners and neighbors experienced flooding of their homes and land. We understand and can relate to what is being experienced this time around.

Due to ice and snow damming the natural flow of the melt-off, the youth area of St. Mary-Holy Cross had water coming in through the door on the north end of the building. The blessing for us is that there were people here when it happened. Thanks to the hard work and efforts of many, they were able to remedy the problem and keep the lower level from flooding again. I hesitate to mention all those involved by name for fear of leaving anyone out, but just want all to know the appreciation we have for their efforts.

Let us keep our brothers and sisters in our minds and prayers and contemplate any other ways each of us individually may feel called to help in these circumstances. 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 26

6:00pm St. Mary †*Albert & Helen Schmidt*
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, March 27

5:30pm Holy Cross †*Dennis Grulke*

Thursday, March 28

8:00am St. Mary †*Bernard Hanlon*

Friday, March 29 Stations of the Cross

6:00pm St. Mary

Saturday, March 30

5:00pm St. Mary †*Cecilia Morton*

Sunday, March 31

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)
Holy Thursday, April 18, following 7:00pm Mass til 11:00pm, Social Hall

RCIA Gatherings

Sundays following 10am Mass: March 24 & 31 (Conf. Rm)

Cross Ministry

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

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 7:00pm, Ed Center

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: Monday, April 8, 6:00pm, Ed Center

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Sunday, April 14, 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!

How's Your Lenten Transformation?

We are starting the third week of Lent. How are you doing with your Lenten commitments you began on Ash Wednesday? Are you going strong or easing up? Are you struggling? Talk to God about it!

Take advantage of the reflection resources and Rice Bowl in the vestibule.



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 29 and April 12 we gather in the Social Hall to share a Lenten meal.

Lenten Reconciliation Service

You are encouraged to attend this Service on Sunday, April 7, 2:00pm at St. Mary. Additional priests will assist with individual confessions.

Come experience the healing power of Christ!



Liturgical Ministers

You are invited to assist us with our Palm Sunday Masses, Holy Week Services and Easter Sunday Masses. A sign up is in the vestibule at St. Mary and at Holy Cross or call the Parish Office to volunteer. Thank you for lending us your time and talents to enhance our Liturgies!

7th - 12th Grade Volunteers Needed!

Choral Reading of the Passion. There is no singing involved, it is read from a script. Practice schedule: Monday, April 15, 6:30pm, Wednesday, April 17, 7:30pm (after EDGE). The reading is on Good Friday, April 19 at the 7:00pm Service at St. Mary. Please contact Nicole Cory if interested, ncory@saintmaryhc.org/515-313-3014.

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

Upcoming Events

†**Fridays during Lent: Stations of the Cross**, 6:00pm, St. Mary. Lenten meals March 29 & April 12; Fish fry April 5

†**Totally Catholic Jewelry Fundraiser by Youth:** After weekend Masses at St. Mary on March 30/31 & April 6/7

†**Sunday, March 31:** Coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass

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

†**Jesus Christ Superstar Movie:** Palm Sunday, April 14, 2:00pm, Social Hall, with potluck snacks at 1:30pm

Music News

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

March 24 Rehearsals: Men, 11am to Noon in the Social Hall and Easter Vigil choir, 12:30 to 1:30pm in the Church.

As we notice more silence in our Mass during Lent....We are silent after the readings of scripture and after the homily. How else can God speak to us? How else are we to hear the divine voice, not only echoing from long ago in ancient words brought back to life, but speaking now, in this time, in the quiet that we provide here? After the readings and the homily, we are silent together because we are listening together for the voice on which our very lives depend, the voice that bids us to come out of our dumb tombs to live and to love again.

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Cantors and Liturgical Song Leaders: Please join us on Saturday, April 6 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 7075 Ashworth Rd, WDM, for a workshop to develop and enhance your cantor skills. Check-in and refreshments, 8:30am; program 9:00am-3:00pm. Free-will donation. Lunch provided. Program includes guidance on leading liturgical song, musicality, voice techniques, and "master class" skills enhancement. RSVP and pre-register to Dodie Bauman, dotesmuse@aol.com or 515-988-4302.

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.

Religious Education PreK-6

Stacie Hergenreter, Catechetical Leader

shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org, 515-491-3876

Lent Activities: We ask RE families to provide desserts for the Knights of Columbus fish fry on April 5. They are planning to serve 500+ people. Your generosity is much appreciated! Some of the funds raised at the fish fry go to activities for our youth. Please drop off desserts by 3:00pm.

Up Coming Dates: **March 27-** Class

April 3 - Class

April 10 - No class

April 17 - Last Class

First Eucharist Dates:

March 29 (4-8pm) & March 30 (8am-5pm) - Self Guided Learning Stations set up in the Ed Center. Families can come any time during this time frame that works for them.

April 6/7 weekend: Blessing of students at Mass

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*

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 27: EDGE Session- *Lenten Prayer Stations*

C1 & C2 (9th & 10th Grades)

Sunday, March 24 - Confirmation Prep Session, **6-7:30pm**, Social Hall. *9th Grade:* Lesson 10 - *10th Grade:* Lesson 22

Saturday, April 6: Spring Community Service Day

Sunday, April 7: Confirmation students to attend Lenten Reconciliation Service, 2:00pm, St. Mary

Did You Know....

that our Parish has a scholarship available for high school seniors planning on attending college next fall? This year the Stewardship Committee is teaming up with the Knights of Columbus to offer (2) \$200.00 scholarships to teens that have been directly involved in our parish. The application is available on the parish website.

After all Masses next weekend, the Stewardship Committee will be handing out cookies and collecting donations for these scholarships. We thank you for your support and generosity.

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 - *mcclainrj@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*
Kris Sturtz - 515-238-1362 - *klisturtz@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*

Collection Update is not available this week.

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

Widowed, Divorced, or Separated?

The loss of a loved one through separation, divorce, or death is one of life's most traumatic experiences. Many people who have suffered this loss feel uncertain about their futures. Beginning Experience® is a program intended for those suffering the loss of a love relationship who are ready to come to terms with that loss and begin to move forward with their lives. The program is presented by a team of people who are willing to share their own experiences to help others. To learn more about Beginning Experience, please come to one of our Open Houses on March 29, April 5, or April 12 from 7:00-8:30pm at St. Augustin's Catholic Church, 42nd & Grand or contact Father Bob Schoemann at 515-418-1938, Daryl Stahl at 515-480-6617, or Dana Reed at 515-975-3745.

Dear Parishioners,

It is our privilege to offer you an opportunity to purchase beautiful imported hand-made Italian and Bethlehem rosaries, as well as a large variety of Catholic medals, crucifix necklaces, bracelets and other faith inspired jewelry all at reasonable prices.



Wearing Catholic jewelry, medals, crucifixes, is an outward sign of faith and hope. We have traditional articles, as well as contemporary pieces that are very popular across the country. You will find we truly have something for everyone!

An assortment of First Holy Communion and Confirmation gift items will be included.



Please stop at our display in the Social Hall after Masses on March 30/31 and April 6/7 and see what we are offering. Whether you need a new rosary for yourself or as a gift, or want a crucifix to wear, saint medal, bracelet, necklace or other expressive reminder of your faith, we have a variety to meet your needs.

Your purchase of these quality items supports our youth activities and programs; 50% of all proceeds go directly to our ministry needs!



Thank you for your support!

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, March 30, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Announcer	Lisa Schoening
Lector	John Roberts
Cup Bearers	Cory & Lisa Schoening
Host Distributor	Di Schleisman
Altar Servers	Bennett Bruns, Jessica Schoening, Daniel Schoening
Ushers	Dawn & Mason Reynolds, Bill Schmitt, Tom Bowman

Sunday, March 31, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Announcer	Kathy Daup
Lector	Doug Heger
Cup Bearer	Tony Kuehn
Altar Server	Natalie Shedd
Ushers	Bill & Shirley Jorgensen

Sunday, March 31, 10:00am, St. Mary

Announcer	Kris Sturtz
Lector	Matt Miller
Cup Bearers	Mike Nehring, Carol Weber
Host Distributor	Marion Panyan
Altar Servers	Lauren Feldmann, Leah Muth Griffen Muth
Ushers	Dennis Schmidt, Jerry McClain, Gregg Richwine, Doug Zehr, Andrew Cory

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Money Counters

March 24: Sharon Morris, Lisa Kautza

March 31: Dawn Reynolds, Carol Weber

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Encounter: First Fridays

Encounter is a night of Adoration, music, and witness created to build a culture of prayer in the Des Moines area. Adoration is paired with live music, a speaker, and time for private reflection to give people multiple ways to grow in their relationship with God. *Encounter* is the first Friday of every month starting at 7:00pm at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Urbandale. Families of all ages are welcome. For more information please email firstencounterdsm@gmail.com.

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

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday of Lent, March 24

Theme: Lent calls us to conversion.

Reading I: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 • God's name is: "I AM WHO AM".

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 • What is written about Moses is to help us.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9 • Jesus tells us to repent.

Children: God wants your faith to result in good living. What steps can you take during Lent to make sure that happens?

Youth: What needs changing in your life right now? How will you invite God into that change?

Adults: What steps are you taking this Lent to make sure that your faith bears fruit in good works?



Recycling 100 aluminum cans could light your bedroom for two whole weeks!

Hello From Me & My House!

"I love you. I don't always like you but, I'll always love you." This is a favorite line at our house. It reminds us that in our marriage we are called to love each other and it's something we choose to do everyday. It's also a good reminder that our relationship will never be perfect. We are committed to being fully present to each other for the rest of our lives. When something great happens and when something not so great happens—we call each other first. We must be able to step outside of ourselves and be the one the other goes to for everything: the good, the bad and the ugly.

Relationships Part 4: Marriage

Have you ever heard of the "honeymoon period"? This is a real thing. It's the period at the beginning of a relationship where things are really exciting. You spend a lot of time trying to impress the other person and they do the same for you. You are learning what they like and don't like. You are little more patient and accepting of differences. This period leads up to a wedding. It can be stressful planning a wedding, but the day is truly magical. It brings back all those feelings that you had when you first realized you were in love. Then with the newness of marriage comes the second honeymoon period but it doesn't last long.

Marriage can get boring. Every day isn't a romantic walk on the beach or a celebration of your love. And on top of this, it can be hard. There isn't much that can prepare you for what it's like to live every single day with someone else, manage your finances with someone else, and raise a family with someone else. You have your own way of doing things and to compromise and do it someone else's way may not be easy. You wake up, go to work, come home, go to sleep and do it all over again the next day. This is it. This is where being married becomes mundane. But don't worry you don't have to look far to find beauty in everyday things.

One of the best ways to keep the flame burning is to be mindful of each other. A smile and a kiss can be a game changer after a hard time at work. Cleaning up after dinner can feel lifesaving after an exhausting day. A few words of affirmation can change your mood in an instant: I love you, I appreciate you, thank you for... etc. In the same way, unkind words can change a mood just as quickly. You know the person you married better than anyone else. This means that you know exactly how to make them happy, and how to make them feel their worst. Part of marriage is remembering that we are called to build each other up, not break each other down.

Make time to cultivate your marriage. Leave the work and every day things behind often to enjoy each other alone. Go on vacations together, take day trips, go shopping together. Can't leave the house? Have a date night at home. Set the table for dinner and watch a movie or play a game after. The mistake that many couples make is focusing all their time and attention on their children and/or careers. One day the children will begin their own families and retirement will come. Eventually your relationship will circle back to where it began: just the two of you. It can either be blissful for you both or it can be so distant that you must get to know each other all over again. The most important thing to realize is that your marriage is only as good as you make it. The odds will be in your favor if you choose to see the beauty instead of the mess and when you remember as often as possible, the love that started it all.

