



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



First Sunday of Lent

March 4 & 5, 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:

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced. This quote from the civil rights activist James Baldwin speaks to me of Jesus' journey into the desert as recounted in the gospel for this first Sunday of Lent. After his baptism by John, but before he could begin his work of showing us the way out of the many temptations and traps that lead us away from the fullness and freedom of life God wills for us, Jesus had to face them himself. As Baldwin learned from his struggle against racism and prejudice in the United States, there is much pain and brokenness in life that we can not change, it's simply part of our human condition. But there is also a lot that can be changed if we will do the hard work of facing and dealing with it head on, rather than avoiding it, after the example of Jesus doing contest with the Tempter in the desert. During this season of Lent may we answer the call and challenge to face and change the things that keep us from experiencing the fullness and freedom of life God intends for us. 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	tmcclain@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 8

5:30pm Holy Cross †*La Mont Schreurs*

Thursday, March 9

8:00am St. Mary †*Mary Wilson*

Friday, March 10

6:00pm St. Mary Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 11

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

Sunday, March 12

8:00am Holy Cross †*John Iliff*

10:00am St. Mary †*Gus Schwaderer*

Welcome To Our New Members!



We welcome to our Parish family
Rob and Shanen Roling who live in Maxwell.

New Birth by Water and the Holy Spirit

Celebrate with us in welcoming into our Faith



Emmaleah Patricia

Daughter of Joel and Melissa Kahler

who was baptized at our Parish.

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. 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.

Elementary Religious Education Director Position Opening

After 5 years of generous and effective leadership of our parish Elementary Religious Education Program, Tammi McClain and Sonya Staudt will retire from their position as co-directors of the program following this year's Vacation Bible School in June. With their retirement, the position of Director of our Parish Elementary Religious Education Program will be open. The position is for 30 hours a week, which Tammi and Sonya have divided between them at 15 hours apiece. A new Director could assume the full 30 hours alone, or continue a co-directorship with some division of hours and responsibilities with another. If you are interested in more information about the position, please visit with Tammi or Sonya or contact Barb in the Office.

Lenten Resources †

Please take advantage of the 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. We have resources for adults, families, children, teen-agers and young adults — something for everyone!

Sunday Scripture Prayer and Study
Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22 & 29, 7:00pm, Conf. Room

Meditative Prayer Time

Saturdays, March 18 & 25, 8:00-9:00am, Office

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, March 16, 7:00pm, St. Mary

Pastoral Council

Meeting: To be announced

Finance Council

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

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 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

Coming Events

- †**Sundays, March 5, 12, 19:** Adult Choir practice, 11:00am — Men's Choir practice 2:30pm, St. Mary
- †**Tuesday, March 7:** *Let's Chat*, 7:00pm, Social Hall
- †**Friday, March 10:** Stations of the Cross, 6pm, followed by Lenten meal, St. Mary
- †**Saturday, March 11:** Social Hall is use 2:30-4:30pm
- †**Thursday, March 16:** Crafts, Games & Social Time, 9:30am, Social Hall
- †**Sunday, March 26:** *One Earth, One Chance* event, after 10:00am Mass, Social Hall. All ages invited!

Music News

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

We are beginning rehearsals for Easter Vigil! We practice after Mass (about 11:00am) on Sundays, March 5, 12, 19, April 2 & 9. I'll have folders ready for those who let me know they're coming! Everyone is welcome!!

Our men are singing for Holy Thursday! We rehearse on Sundays, 2:30pm beginning Sunday, March 5. Are you interested in joining us? We hope you can!



Let's Chat!

Do you have any questions about your Catholic faith? How have you seen God BEING God in YOUR life? What is your understanding of annulment and how that comes about? Been on any noteworthy retreats? What made them noteworthy? Any questions about any of the seven sacraments? Anything in your own faith life that you would care to share with others? Why do Popes write encyclicals? Why do we use incense? What is the reason for the various liturgical colors? What is Adoration? If you have ever wondered about the answers to any of these or any other faith based questions, join us at our *Let's Chat!* session this Tuesday, 7:00pm in the Social Hall. Informal discussions about faith and life. All are invited to speak but it is not required. Free popcorn to the first 300 people!

Stations of the Cross Leaders and Meal Hosts

We are looking for volunteers to lead Stations of the Cross on March 10 or 31 and hosts for the meal on March 24. Sign up in the vestibule or for details on the how and what, contact Barb at the office, 515-367-2685 / bliske@saintmaryhc.org. Thanks for considering it!



Religious Education

PreK-6: Co-Catechetical Leaders

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

Kudos to all the RE kids who led the Stations of the Cross last Friday! They did a fabulous job! And thanks to all the families who brought desserts for the Knight of Columbus Fish Fry!

Parents of 2nd grade students: We will have a brief meeting on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:00pm, to talk about your child's upcoming Sacrament of First Eucharist. We will hand out materials, discuss the learning centers, and give you information about Sunday, April 23.

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 and will be set up similar to First Reconciliation Learning Centers.

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.

VBS Save the Date! We are ready to spark kids' creativity and transform our parish into a place buzzing with excitement! This year's theme, *Maker Fun Factory*, will help our kids discover they're lovingly crafted by God for a purpose! VBS will take place June 19 - 22. Dinner will begin at 5:30pm and the factory doors will open each night at 6:00pm! Keep watching for registration information!

Catholic Youth Camp registration is open. Please visit <https://stmcenter.com/catholic-youth-camp>.

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

C1 & C2 Sessions: Sunday, March 5, 5:30-7:30pm, Hall

For any 10th graders who missed the Student/Sponsor Prayer stations in November, they will be set up again on Saturday March 11 in the Ed Center (downstairs) at St. Mary from 1:00-4:00pm.

For anyone who missed the teen-parent workshop in October, we have another scheduled on Sunday March 19th after Mass at St. Mary. This workshop is open to all teens in our Parish.

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

EDGE & High School teens: Silhouette Stations of the Cross "actors" needed! We need 4-10 teens who are willing to lead and participate in this moving presentation of the Stations 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! Our tentative practice schedule is Sunday, March 19 after 10:00am Mass, Sunday, March 26 from 6:00-9:00pm, Sunday, April 2 after 10:00am Mass and Wednesday, April 5 from 6:00-9:00pm. All rehearsals take place in the Ed Center. We present the Silhouette Stations to the parish on Friday, April 7 at 6:00pm. Please text or call Melissa, 515-290-2830 soon to sign up to help with this powerful experience.

EDGE: March 8: Meet 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall
March 15 & March 22: NO EDGE Sessions

Life Night/Life Teen:

March 8: Meet 7:45pm-9:30pm in Youth Area
March 15 & March 22: NO LIFE TEEN Gathering

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Garrett McClain - 515-685-2314 -Alleman- gmcclain@iowatelecom.net
Lori McQuiston - 515-249-7663 - Maxwell - mcquiston@midiaowa.net
Sheri Olson - 515-967-5663 - Bondurant - lowasher1@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 - mccclairnj@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

February 26 Week 35

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$5,463	\$5,469

Year-to-Date

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$179,501	\$191,423	\$189,809

8th Grade Parents and Any Other Parish "Art Admirers"

You are invited and encouraged to take a look at our God's Masterpiece Gallery located in the Ed Center. We will have various retreat team leaders available to greet you following the 5:00pm and 10:00am Masses this weekend. Besides celebrating God's greatest masterpiece in one another, the retreatants worked on various art pieces throughout their day of retreat. We welcome you to come down to the Ed Center to look at these beautiful pieces. We also invite you to take part in our silent auction of some of these art pieces. The 8th graders will vote on a local charity to give all the proceeds they earn from our silent auction. Thank you for your prayers and continued support!



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 12
Spring ahead 1 hour!

Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday, March 11, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Announcer	Arlene Anderson
Lector	Olivia Jones
Cup Bearers	Lisa Jones, Susan Stillmunkes
Host Distributor	Debi Stokka
Altar Servers	Bennett Bruns, Riley Anderson Justin Anderson
Ushers	Doug, Patrick & Thomas Jones Mark Birchmier

Sunday, March 12, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Announcer	Anne Davis
Lector	Sheri Fogarty
Cup Bearer	Dawn Beukema
Altar Server	Valeria Beukema
Ushers	Lynn & Chris Schreurs

Sunday, March 12, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Announcer	Kris Sturtz
Lector	Lisa Gonnerman
Cup Bearers	Dan Gonnerman, Mike Nehring
Host Distributor	Garrett McClain
Altar Server	Julia Fisher, Andrew Ausman
Ushers	Jackson & Tammi McClain, Jacki & Tom Ausman, Dave Pottebaum

+ +

Money Counters

March 5: Brenda Nehring, Sue White
March 12: Dawn Reynolds, Lisa Kautza

~ ~

Thank You!!

As many of you know we held the 8th Grade **God's Masterpiece #nofilter Retreat** last Sunday. We had a fantastic team made up of many teenagers, college kids and adults from St. Mary-Holy Cross. They worked several hours preparing for this retreat! I am grateful for the time and talent the team put into such a special Spirit filled day. The following parishioners are those I am blessed to have had the pleasure of working with on the 2017 Retreat Team. Melanie Stoner, Andrea & Julia Fisher, Bridget, Perry & Austin Smith, Jennifer & Amy Theulen, Sue Relyea, Nicole Cory, Taylor & Haleigh Penton, Joel, Abbey, Ella & Emma Kahler, Kyle Muehlenthaler, Elizabeth Schmeiser, Nora Aschoff, Matt & Angie Miller, Andrew Ausman, Karley Bartleson, Jennie Moore and Chad Ihnken. You are all a blessing to the young Church of St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish! THANK YOU!

One Book, Everybody at Church Reads!

Our Friends of St. Francis have chosen a book to read as a parish. Based on a true story, *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. More information about this parish wide book club will be coming out soon. If you think you will be interested in participating, please let Tammi McClain know (515-290-3904/tmccclain@saintmaryhc.org) as she is hunting down copies to read.



SAYWHAT? The average household throws away 13,000 separate pieces of paper each year. Most is packaging and junk mail.

Approximately 1 billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.

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.*

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.

Bishop Pates has sent information and a pledge card to each household. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give and mail your pledge directly to the Diocese.

Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of the Appeal. Please join our Parish and the Diocese to continue God's work of spirituality, charity and education. Thank you.

Winter Weather Cancellations

Whenever North Polk School is cancelled, dismissed early, or evening school activities are cancelled due to weather; events here at the Parish will also be cancelled. If there is a need to cancel weekend activities, it will be on TV channels, 5, 8, & 13, and on WHO radio and KWKY Catholic Radio.

New Faith-Filled Magazine for Families!

Saint Joseph Educational Center (SJEC) is excited to bring you *Home Faith*. This magazine is an evangelical tool to help families grow their faith in Christ together through featured interviews with local Catholic pastors and families, and select resources from the SJEC website (sjeciowa.org). The pilot issue will be coming to our parish this week! Make sure to pick up a copy, enjoy the family-focused resources inside, and share it with one other family when you are done. Also, let SJEC know what you think about *Home Faith*. Visit www.sjeciowa.org and click on the *Home Faith* box to take a four question survey. Your feedback is greatly appreciated!

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

First Sunday of Lent, March 5

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?