



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



First Sunday of Lent

March 6, 2022

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:

The number forty figures prominently in Scripture. It occurs multiple times, mostly in the Old Testament. Its most pertinent occurrence for us during Lent describes Israel wandering in the desert for forty years. That this penitential season is about forty days is no mistake: our journey through it corresponds to that event and that of the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus' fast and temptation for forty days. Pope Benedict summarized this dynamic well:

"It is as if Jesus were reliving the chaotic meanderings of history in general; the forty days of fasting embrace the drama of history, which Jesus takes into himself and bears all the way through to the end."

Toward the end of the reading, it is noted that "the devil had finished every temptation." So whatever penance we choose or that is thrust upon us (for example trials that we do not choose), we can have faith and trust that Jesus has not only been through it, he has successfully resisted it and offers us the grace to do the same.

~ Father 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
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry	afisher@saintmaryhc.org
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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
Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org

Mass Schedule	Tuesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
	Wednesday	5:30pm	St. Mary
	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
	4th Sunday	12:00pm	St. Mary

Reconciliation: St. Mary: Wednesdays 4:45 - 5:15pm; after 9:00am First Friday Mass and Saturdays 4:00 - 4:30pm; or by appointment.

Baptism: Contact Fr. Andrew

Marriage: Contact Fr. Andrew at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Mass and Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, March 8

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Nolan Clewell

Wednesday, March 9

4:45 - 5:15pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

5:30pm Mass, St. Mary †Dorothy Gannon
~ followed by Adoration

Thursday, March 10

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Rita Smith

Friday, March 11

6:00pm Stations of the Cross, St. Mary

Saturday, March 12

4:00 - 4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Lawrence Stokka

Sunday, March 13

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Lyle Carpenter

10:00am Mass, St. Mary People of the Parish

The Fast Life

*Fast from judging others;
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.*

*Fast from fear of illness;
Feast on the healing power of God.*

*Fast from words that pollute;
Feast on speech that purifies.*

*Fast from discontent;
Feast on gratitude.*

*Fast from anger;
Feast on patience.*

*Fast from pessimism;
Feast on hope.*

*Fast from negatives;
Feast on encouragement.*

*Fast from bitterness;
Feast on forgiveness.*

*Fast from self-concern;
Feast on compassion.*

*Fast from suspicion;
Feast on truth.*

*Fast from gossip;
Feast on purposeful silence.*

*Fast from problems that overwhelm;
Feast on prayer that sustains.*

*Fast from anxiety;
Feast on faith.*



Welcome To Our New Members!

Jacob Broderick who lives in Elkhart

Adam and Jade Sporrer

and children Taylie, Trice and Trinity, who live in Huxley

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 or Holy Cross or on our website. We are glad you are here!

Try Something New this Lent

We hope you will consider forming your personal faith by participating in our offerings...Stations of the Cross... Reconciliation... Eucharistic Adoration... weekday Mass... Welcome Jesus more fully into your life!

How about leading the Stations of the Cross one Friday? We have a choice of booklets from which to read. For more information, please call the office. To volunteer please sign up in the vestibule at St. Mary or call the office. Thank you!!

Lenten Resources

Please take advantage of these booklets 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.

Covid Update on Masks

Based on the new CDC guidance, and in consultation with local medical experts, Bishop Joensen states that masks are optional for the faithful and clergy during Mass and other indoor activities. Masks are no longer required to be worn during the distribution of Holy Communion. Everyone is encouraged to discern the use of masks based on their own health and potential immunity to COVID-19.

If you wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please receive from Fr. Andrew (he sanitizes after each).

We will continue to have masks and hand sanitizer available.

For Diocesan updates please go to

<https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>

Parish Council

Meeting: March 8 & 22, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: March 15, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting, March 14, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Mar. 20: 6:40pm Rosary, Church, 7:00pm Meeting, Hall

Coming Events

†**This Weekend:** Special collection to benefit the Church in Eastern Europe, including the suffering people of Ukraine (Building & Grounds collection delayed to next weekend).

†**Stations of the Cross:** Fridays during Lent 6:00pm, St. Mary. Lenten meal on March 11, 25 & April 8. Fish fry on March 18 and April 1

†**Choir practice:** Sundays, March 6 - April 10, after 10am Mass for one hour.



Stations of the Cross

Come pray these powerful Stations every Friday of Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary, and follow Jesus on his way to Calvary.

Following the Stations on March 11, 25 & April 8 we will have a Lenten meal and fellowship.

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bonnie Arndorfer, sister of Tom Froehlich who passed away Thursday, and for her family that they know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

✠ *Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.* ✠

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 and our children grow closer to Christ during this time.

Save the date for VBS this summer June 21-23, 5:00-7:30pm. More details to come.

March 9/11 - regular sessions
March 16/18 - Spring Break - no sessions

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

Sessions: March 9 & 23, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

No Sessions: March 16 (Spring Break) and March 30 (Confirmation class)

Purpose Confirmation Program

Wednesday, March 30: Session, 6:00-8:00pm, Social Hall

Friday, April 15: 7:00pm, Reading of the Passion at Good Friday Service, St Mary. **Looking for volunteers.**

Saturday, April 9, 9:00-11:00am, Session for 10th graders and their sponsors only, AND Rite of Enrollment for the Sacrament of Confirmation at 10:30am (parents welcome for the Enrollment ceremony).

Youth Group

Gatherings: March 9 & 23, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area

No Gatherings: March 16 & 30

✠ **For Pastoral assistance, please contact Fr. Andrew at 515-367-2685 or Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org.**

Easter Vigil Choir

You are cordially invited to join this choir. Practices are Sundays, **March 13** through **April 10**, immediately after 10:00am Mass at St. Mary's Church and last one hour. This choir will sing at the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, **April 16**. All ages welcome! If you like to sing and want to be part of this choir, come check us out. For more information, contact Sue Schmidt, Music Coordinator, at 515-689-9949 or sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com
Celia Shedd - hoyhill@partnercom.net

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heidi Ackerman, *Co-President* - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
Sue Tollefson, *Co-President* - suet@iowacubs.com
John Fisher - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
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
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Larry Shaw - shawcattle77@gmail.com
Mary Winders - mefothergill@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

End-of-Year Statements

To minimize costs (and thus maximize your contributions), we do not automatically mail out statements to everyone. To receive yours, please email bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org or contact the office, 515-367-2685, with a request to email/mail your statement. Thank you.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 27	Budget Week 35	
	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$5,389	\$5,642
Year to Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund		
Received	Budget	Last Year
\$211,234	\$197,470	\$190,374

2022 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Bishop Joensen is sending a letter and pledge card to each family of the parish asking to support the work of the Diocese. Please consider how you are able to help. Pledge cards can be mailed to the parish office or dropped in the collection basket. If donating by check, please make out to the Diocese of Des Moines. You can also donate at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Our assessment is \$54,744.

Rice Bowls

During Lent we are called to give special attention to our relationship with God. Through opportunities to deepen our prayer, practice fasting and give alms, we meet our Lord and encounter our sisters and brothers around the world. Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl helps communities world wide to overcome hunger and malnutrition. Your almsgiving makes a difference for families trying to escape poverty and thrive. *Rice Bowls are available at St. Mary and Holy Cross.*

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, please contact Barb (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.

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit: You designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on the 15th or the 30th. For questions, contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org or find the form at church or on the home page of our website.

Online Giving: Available through Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa at <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. Choose *St. Mary-Holy Cross Elkhart* from the drop down to make your tithe donation. No fees! The Foundation sends gift receipts.

Free COVID-19 PCR Testing

Free COVID-19 testing will be available at the Catholic Pastoral Center (6th & Grand, Des Moines) on Sunday, March 20, 9:00am to 2:00pm. Free health screenings and vaccine education information will also be available. All are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity.



The U.S. produces approximately 34 million tons of food waste each year.

Old Palms

There is a container in the vestibule if you would like us to dispose of your blessed palms from last year.

Lenten Reconciliation Service

You are encouraged to attend our Service on Sunday, March 20, 1:00pm at St. Mary. Additional priests will be here to assist with individual confessions.

Come experience the healing power of Christ!



Area Reconciliation Services

Monday, March 7, 7:00pm, Holy Trinity, Des Moines
Tuesday, March 8, 7:00pm, St. Francis of Assisi, WDM
Wednesday, March 23, 6:00pm, St. Augustin, Des Moines
Wednesday, March 23, 7:00pm, St. Theresa, Des Moines
Thursday, March 24, 7:00pm, St. Pius X, Urbandale
Sunday, March 27, 3:00pm, St. Mary of Nazareth, DM
Tuesday, March 29, 6:30pm, St. Joseph, Des Moines
Wednesday, March 30, 6:30pm, Assumption, Granger
Wednesday, March 30, 7:00pm, Sacred Heart, WDM
Thursday, March 31, 7:00pm, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona
Sunday, April 3, 1:00pm, St. John the Apostle, Norwalk



Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday, March 13. Spring ahead one hour!

Winter Weather Cancellations

Whenever North Polk School is cancelled, dismissed early, or evening school activities are cancelled due to weather, classes, meetings and activities 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.

Faith Sharing

First Sunday of Lent, March 6

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'll 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?

Germany and Austria

Visit CollinsTravel.biz and click on "Pilgrimages"

or contact Jason at Jason@CollinsTravel.biz or call 309-781-5757

Space limited to 20 people



Cost: \$4,699 includes airfare, hotels, Passion Play tickets, all travel in Europe, entrance fees, breakfast, supper and tips

Hosted by Father Andrew Windschitl pastor of St. Mary / Holy Cross Parish, Elkhart
Celebrant of trip's daily Mass

Jason Collins, Founder of Collins Travel and Pilgrimages and member of St. Francis Parish, WDSM
Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus

Join us for this Incredible Journey of Faith and Adventure to Germany and Austria July 15-25, 2022!

Things we'll see in Germany:

- World-renowned "Passion Play" - held every 10 years
- Historic Munich city center named after the Blessed Mother
- Beautiful, ornate Catholic Churches, many of which survived WWII
- Dachau Concentration Camp and Hitler's Eagle's Nest
- Neuschwanstein Castle

Things we'll see in Austria:

- Eucharistic Miracle location, Seefeld
- Salzburg Cathedral, survived bombing during WWII, and other churches
- Ancient salt mine on tour
- Spots of filming and inspiration on "Sound of Music" Tour
- Take tram ride into Austrian Alps
- ... and much more!