



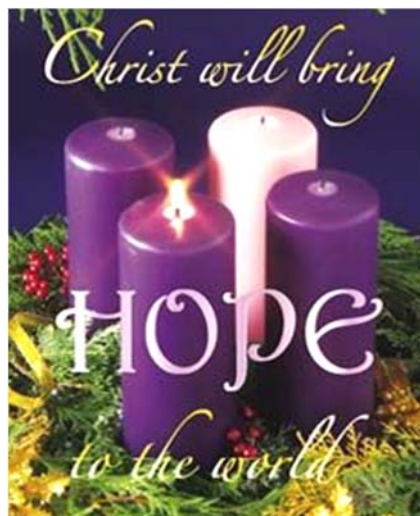
St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe

November 23/24, 2019



First Sunday of Advent

Nov. 30/Dec. 1, 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,

As Catholics, giving thanks is something that we do whenever the Mass is celebrated. A meaning for the word Eucharist is thanksgiving. Therefore, Thanksgiving for us is *every day*, not just once per year. Perhaps people can handle only so much turkey and stuffing that we celebrate it on one day every year as a nation! Thankfully, God consistently endows us with His love and grace, so we owe Him gratitude by celebrating Mass and receiving Jesus' body and blood as the Eucharist, the greatest gift he gives us in this life.

Apologies to Doug Jones, who somehow slipped by me in the formation of the parish council. With him there are seven members, not six, as was previously reported. His biographical information was not printed in the previous bulletin, but you can find it later in this issue.

Another correction to make is that Mark Schmidt will not be on the council because as I failed to recall, he offered to serve if enough people did not sign up.

Lastly, December 1 is the first day of Advent and the new liturgical year. This means that most of the Sunday Gospel readings will come from St. Matthew. ~ 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
Sarah Baumberger - Bookkeeper	sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry	afisher@saintmaryhc.org
Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
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

Mass Schedule	Tuesday	6:00pm	St. Mary
	Wednesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
<i>See inside for Mass time on Nov. 28</i>	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, or by appointment with Fr. Andrew.

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>.

Mass and Adoration

Tuesday, November 26

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

Wednesday, November 27

5:30pm Holy Cross †Bill & Betty Cook

Thanksgiving Day, November 28

9:00am St. Mary †Lawrence Hanlon

Saturday, November 30

5:00pm St. Mary For the Parish

Sunday, December 1

8:00am Holy Cross †Stephen Carpenter

10:00am St. Mary †Ron Hamm

Tuesday, December 3

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

Wednesday, December 4

5:30pm Holy Cross †Jim & Margaret Shaw

Thursday, December 5

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

First Friday, December 6

9:00am St. Mary †LeRoy Peterson

Saturday, December 7

5:00pm St. Mary †Cecelia & Mike Morton

Sunday, December 8

8:00am Holy Cross †Bill Davis

10:00am St. Mary For the Parish

Monday, December 9

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00am St. Mary †Rosemary & Leo Overmohle

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesdays, 6:30pm, St. Mary (following 6:00pm Mass)

Parish Council

Meeting: Tuesday, November 26, 6:30pm, Ed Center

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 7:00pm, Ed Center

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: Monday, December 9, 6:00pm, Ed Center

Friends of St. Francis

Meeting: Date to be announced

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Sunday, December 15, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 5

Mary Cory, Kelly Muth, Karen Stafford

The Parish Office is closed November 28 & 29

Upcoming Events

†**Adult Christmas Choir practice** (6th graders and up):
Sundays after 10:00am Mass for one hour Nov. 24, Dec. 8, 15 & 22

†**Children's Choir practice** (1st - 5th graders): Sundays
9:25 - 9:55am, Nov. 24, Dec. 8, 15 & 22, Social Hall

†**Sunday, Dec. 1:** Coffee & donuts after 10:00am Mass

†**Poster Contest: Keep Christ in Christmas**, for grades
Preschool-6th grade, December 3 - 11

†**Friday, Dec. 6:** Breakfast for Senior Citizens following
9:00am Mass, Social Hall

†**Weekend of Dec. 7/8:** Capital Improvements collection

†**Saturday, Dec. 7:** Wine & cheese after Mass, Hall

Music News

Sue Schmidt, coordinator

515-689-9949 / sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org

Our Children's Choir (1st - 5th graders) is singing at Christmas Eve 5:00pm Mass. Practices are Sundays 9:25 to 9:55am in the Social Hall on Nov. 24, Dec. 8, 15 & 22. Come sing and play the bells!

Our Adult Choir (6th graders to Adults) will also sing at this Mass. Practices are Sundays right after 10:00am Mass for one hour, on Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 8, 15 & 22.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This Feast is transferred from Sunday the 8th to Monday the 9th. Our Mass is 9:00am at St. Mary. Please join us to celebrate Mary and her important role in our Faith!

Meet Our Newest Parish Council Member!

Doug Jones (5 PM at St. Mary)

Married to Lisa for 26 years and has three children, Patrick, Olivia and Thomas. Lives in Elkhart and have been parishioners for 24 years. Works as an engineer and enjoys spending time with family and fixing and restoring cars.

*Thank you Doug for volunteering to be
a member of this Council.*

Auto Debit for Tithing

Use this safe and convenient service to automatically withdrawal from your bank account for your tithing. Please contact Sarah Baumberger, parish bookkeeper, for more information (sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org).

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. Andrew, 515-367-2685, for pastoral assistance or if a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit.

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Please join us for 9:00am Mass at St. Mary, to give thanks to God for all we have been given in His name!

Honoring Our Wise and Wonderful

All Senior Citizens of our Parish are invited for breakfast on Friday, December 6. We gather in the Social Hall for food, fellowship and prizes following 9:00am Mass. Hope you are able to join us! RSVP to the parish office December 3.

We Are In Need of Your Assistance!

We are looking for volunteers to do one or two-week shifts of snow removal at St. Mary through mid April. Many hands make light work! For more information or to volunteer, please email Drew Hanlon at dlhanlon@windstream.net. Thank you for considering this request.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary, sister of Kathy Daup, who passed away November 11 and for her family as they mourn her passing.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Pat Irwin, sister of Tracy Irwin, who passed away November 14. May her family find peace and strength at this most difficult time.

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

Religious Education Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org, 515-556-4150
Tracy Miller, tmiller@saintmaryhc.org, 515-520-7981

If you have a child who is preparing for their First Communion, please note in your calendar the upcoming mandatory parent meeting January 8, 6:00 - 7:00pm.

Sessions:

Nov. 26/27 no sessions - Happy Thanksgiving!

Dec. 3/4

Dec. 10/11

Dec. 17/18 with Reconciliation Service from 5:15-

5:45pm on the 17th and from 5:45-6:15pm and 6:30-

7:00pm on the 18th.

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, Grades 7 & 8

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Nov 27: No EDGE

Sessions: Dec. 4 & 11

Confirmation, Grades 9 & 10

Watch the bulletin and emails for upcoming events.

Confirmation Session: Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6:00-8:00pm
in the Social Hall

High School Students

Save the Date! December 11 is our Advent Party, 7:30-9:00pm in the Youth Area. More details to come!

Poster Contest

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring this contest with the theme *Keep Christ In Christmas* for students in grades Preschool through 6th. Contest information and poster paper will be available in Ed Center on December 3 and entries area due back by class time on December 11. Awards will be granted to the winners of each grade.

Diocesan Collection

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development assists community leaders who work to expand access to affordable housing, health care and education. It also supports the development of worker-owned businesses, and advocates for changes to structures that keep people in poverty. Thank you for helping those in need. *Please return the donation envelope in this bulletin next weekend.*

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Will Bates - 630-470-8271 - a_k_bates@live.com
John Fisher - 515-240-2293 - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Doug Jones - 515-367-4402 - djones@bossard.com
Tim Loraditch - 515-556-4390 - Tloraditch@gmail.com
John Roberts - 515-460-2093 - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Stacey Rooney

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dave Pottebaum, *President* - 515-710-8932—pottebaum5@msn.com
Heidi Ackerman - 641-203-5322 - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
Doug Jones - 515-367-4402 - djones@bossard.com
Rita McClain - 515-249-6841 - mccclairnj@hotmail.com
Laurie Phelan - 515-201-6111 - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Sue Tollefson - 515 208-0536 - suet@iowacubs.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - 515-967-6770 - arlene@4andersons.com
Jacki Ausman - 515-441-3739 - jackiausman@gmail.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 - klsturtz@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

Seeking a volunteer; contact the Parish Office for more information.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

November 17 Budget Week 20

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$9,149	\$5,730

Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$118,516	\$114,600	\$117,904

Food Pantry Collection: 733.61

2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$48,797	\$37,815	\$35,615	\$13,182

Pledge cards are available at each Church. Please consider making a pledge if you haven't done so. Any amount will be gratefully received and appreciated. Please return to the parish office or place in the offertory basket at Mass. Or donate online at dmidiocese.thankyou4caring.org/. Thank you to those who have already made a gift.

Catholic Movie Reviews

See www.catholicnews.com/movies.cfm.



Advent Reflection Resources

We have various booklets for you and your family's use during Advent; a time of looking forward and waiting for something greater; both for the annual celebration of the event of Christ's birth, and Christ's second coming. A description of each is below. You'll find them in the vestibule.

Understanding Advent: This booklet is designed for anyone who may benefit from a fuller understanding of the meaning of Advent. Including historical background on the season along with an overview of its symbols, prayers and rituals, this diverse resource will help Catholics understand the Church's celebration of "God's time" through the liturgical calendar and the special place of Advent in the Church Year.

The Magnificat: This page-a-day resource helps you prepare your heart for the spiritual renewal of Advent. Inspiration abounds throughout its pages, featuring original essays and meditations on the daily Gospel.

Little Blue Book: One page will walk you through Matthew's Gospel, a few verses at a time with explanations and reflections along the way; you will also read about angels. The other page is a variety of thoughts about the Advent and Christmas seasons, the feast of the day, and various traditions and customs. Simply let God speak to you through the words, guiding you to reflections that sometimes seem to come from nowhere. It can change your day...change your life.

You Are Near! Advent is the time to prepare for the Christmas celebration of Christ's presence with us. We reflect back on His coming at the first Christmas, and look forward to His second coming at the end of time, we watch and wait because we believe that He is also with us right now. Use this booklet to spend time each day with Christ during Advents; there is a prayer chosen from one of the saints--persons who like us wanted to grow in their relationship with Christ by spending time with Him--and a verse from Scripture to invite you to discover Christ alive and eager to be in a relationship with you.

The Word Among Us: Daily meditations, inspirational stories with the theme "Come, Let Us Adore Him". Be eager like the shepherds who heard "good news of great joy". Be humble, like the Magi, who "were overjoyed" and who "did him homage". Be trusting like Mary who said, "May it be done according to your word". With special features about Saint Stephen, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and being Pro-Life.

Booklets For Children:

God Is With Us, Advent Chain Booklet: An Advent Chain is a way of counting the days until Christmas...but this Advent Chain does much more! Each day a person, place or event is presented from the Nativity story. There is an activity, puzzle or thought for the day plus a Bible verse that complements the theme of the day. Each day a strip of the page is trimmed to continue building the chain.

Holy Friends of Jesus, Saints of the Advent Season:

"Saints" are persons who help us know how loving Jesus can change our lives. These men and women we remember during Advent were just like us, but when they learned about Jesus, they wanted to be like him. In this booklet, children learn about the 15 saints that the Church celebrates during the Advent/Christmas season. A colorful illustration, brief biography and a thought starter question highlight each saint.

Advent Reconciliation Service



You are invited to celebrate God's love and forgiveness at our Advent Reconciliation Service on Sunday, December 15, 1:00pm at St. Mary. We will have additional priests here to assist with individual confession.

Stations of the Nativity



The children of our parish will again be performing the *Stations of the Nativity* at Holy Cross. Practice will be Sunday, December 8 after 8:00am Mass and the performance is Sunday, December 15 right after 8:00am Mass. All children of the parish are invited to take part. Please contact Michele Hand with names and ages of children wanting to participate, at handjm06@msn.com or 515-387-1417.



Christmas Memorials

We offer you the opportunity to memorialize a loved one by making a donation toward flowers that will decorate St. Mary and Holy Cross this Christmas season. A memorial list with the names of your loved ones will be printed in a future bulletin. *Flower donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes; additional flower envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please return your donation by December 15.*

Winter Weather Cancellations



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

Catholic Youth Camp Registration is Open!

Registration is conducted on a "first come, first serve" basis and is only online at stmcenter.com. Camp is open to 3rd-12th graders. *Our Parish will contribute \$100 towards the fee for CYC for each child of our Parish who attends. Please notify Barb in the office when you have registered your child.*

Pilgrimage to Germany and Austria

Join Father Andrew for this incredible Journey of Faith and Adventure July 24 - August 2, 2020.

Some of the things we will do: *In Germany*, watch the world-renowned "Passion Play", explore historic Munich city center, visit Dachau Concentration Camp, tour Neuschwanstein Castle and experience famous Hofbrauhaus. *In Austria*: Eucharistic Miracle location in Seefeld, ride to majestic alps mountaintop, explore gorgeous resort town of Seefeld, exciting tour of Salzburg salt mine, nostalgic Sound of Music tour and discover the unique and beautiful Salzburg. This trip includes daily Mass, confession and time for shopping and relaxation! Cost is \$4,699. Includes round-trip coach airfare, transportation in Europe, breakfast, lunch and dinner, museum fees and local guides. Sign up by December 31 for \$100 discount. View www.CollinsTravel.biz for full itinerary. Questions? Email Jason@CollinsTravel.biz or call 515-850-6133.

Liturgical Ministers

Minsters for our Thanksgiving Day Mass and for our Masses the weekend following are by sign up. Please volunteer at Church or contact the office by Wednesday Noon, Nov. 27. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 9:00am, St. Mary

Needed: Altar Servers, 2 Ushers

Lector Heidi Ackerman
Cup Bearer/Usher Drew Hanlon

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

Needed: Announcer, 2 Cup Bearers, 3 Servers, 3 Ushers

Lector Lorrie Hanlon
Host/Usher Drew Hanlon
Cantors Mark & Sue Schmidt
Accompanist Mary Ortmann

Sunday, December 1, 8:00am, Holy Cross

No volunteers at this time.

Sunday, December 1, 10:00am, St. Mary

*Needed: 1 Cup Bearer, Host Distributor,
3 Altar Servers, 5 Ushers*

Announcer Lori Dunham
Lector Joe Dunham
Cup Bearer Carol Weber
Cantors Shirley Robertson
Accompanist Mary Ortmann

Saturday, December 7, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Announcer Arlene Anderson
Lector Olivia Jones
Cup Bearers Susan Stillmunkes, Lisa Jones
Host Distributor JoAnn Meusbarger
Altar Servers Bennett Bruns, Tommy Selby,
Jack Selby
Ushers Doug, Patrick & Thomas Jones,
Tom Bowman
Cantor Keaton Denker
Accompanist Dan Scheetz

Sunday, December 8, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Announcer Anne Davis
Lector Jeff Ruden
Cup Bearer Jon Hand
Altar Server Brock Phelan-Ruden
Ushers Mike & Mary Winders

Sunday, December 8, 10:00am, St. Mary

Announcer Tracy Kangas
Lector Kris Sturtz
Cup Bearers Garrett McClain, Carol Weber
Host Distributor Tim Loraditch
Altar Servers Lauren Feldmann, Caleb Coffelt
Ushers Merle Oiberding, Gregg Richwine,
Brian, Will & Mya Pottebaum
Cantors Mark & Sue Schmidt
Accompanist Mary Schmelzer

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Money Counters

Nov. 24 Dawn Reynolds, Kathy Claussen

Dec. 1 Carol Weber, Sue White

Dec. 8 Lisa Kautza, Dona Cowman

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One drip a second from a leaky faucet wastes 540 gallons of water a year.

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. The weekend program is held at St. Thomas More Center January 17-19. To learn more about Beginning Experience, come to one of our open houses on Dec. 13, 20, or Jan. 3 from 7:00-8:30pm at St. Augustin Catholic Church in Des Moines, or contact Father Bob Schoemann, 515-418-1938, Daryl Stahl, 515-480-6617, or Dana Reed, 515-975-3745.

See Diocesan sponsored events and job openings,
and parish events at www.dmdiocese.org

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe, Nov. 24

Theme: In Christ, everything continues in being.

Reading I: 2 Samuel 5:1-3 • David is anointed King.

Reading II: Colossians 1:12-20 • Give thanks to the Father.

Gospel: Luke 23:25-43 • You will be with me in paradise.

Question for Children: Jesus is always kind to those who love him. How do you show your love for Jesus?

Question for Youth: In the best sense, *King* means someone who cares for the people under his reign, and also has authority over them. When have you felt Jesus' care for you? How do you allow Jesus to have authority over you?

Question for Adults: As you think about Jesus on the cross, having compassion on the "good thief," what lesson do you draw from it for your own life?

First Sunday of Advent, December 1

Theme: Waiting, hoping, and preparing.

Reading I: Isaiah 2:1-5 • Walk in the light of the Lord!

Reading II: Romans 13:11-14 • It is now the hour to awake from your sleep.

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44 • You must be prepared.

Question for Children: What can you do to be ready for God to come into your heart and your life?

Question for Youth: We don't know when the Son of Man will return. If he were to arrive today, would you be ready for him? What is one thing you can do during Advent to prepare for his coming?

Question for Adults: As you prepare to re-welcome Christ into your heart while you prepare for Christmas, what does Isaiah call you to do, and us as a people to do?