



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 26, 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:

St. Mary-Holy Cross hosted a beautiful service of first reconciliation for the second graders last Saturday, Nov. 18. What made it beautiful? A lot of things, especially the eagerness of the children receiving the sacrament. Usually reconciliation brings on feelings of apprehension or outright fear. I didn't see that so it must have been that the fear thing had been diminished through the excellent training by the RE teachers involved. Thank you teachers for making this sacrament of initiation so pleasant!

And thank you parents for your part in this sacrament. That "part" included many of the parents participating in the sacrament themselves. It was very encouraging to me to see so many of the parents going to reconciliation with their children. I'm sure the kids picked up on that too! As taught at Baptism, the parents are to be the first teachers of the faith and there is no better way to do that than to lead by example. Thank you parents.

Hats off to Caleb Coffelt, Tenley Fried, Tanner Heaps, Jaslyn Rasmussen, Gus Schaffer, Austin Shugar, Sydney Veasman, Brooklyn Volz, Weston Walmsley, Tyler Weber, and Macey Welch. Thanks to you for your participation in your faith, our faith! May they and their parents continue to grow in each's faith.

Thank you to Father Dan who led the service and rendered the sacrament and to Fr. Steve Orr who also rendered the sacrament.

The service ended with a rousing singing of "This Little Light of Mine". The singing was helped by the joyful choreography of the "kids" holding their candle lights high above their heads as they moved to the music.

Beautiful!

Blessings, Deacon Terry

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
Stacie Hergenreter - PreK-6	shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org
Melissa Kahler - RE, 7th-12th	mkahler@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

Wednesday, November 29

5:30pm Holy Cross †Jim Shaw

Thursday, November 30

8:00am St. Mary †Theresa Kaltenheuser

First Friday, December 1

8:00am St. Mary †Roberta Angel

Saturday, December 2

5:00pm St. Mary †Butch Moody

Sunday, December 3

8:00am Holy Cross *For the Parish*

10:00am St. Mary †Robert Nemeth, Sr.

Children's Liturgy of the Word during this Mass.

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!

Just Married!!



Congratulations to Heidi Dittmer and Jacob Ackerman who were united in Marriage on Saturday, November 11 at Holy Cross Church. Our blessing and prayers for them that their lives always be filled with God's presence, and they grow stronger day by day in the bonds of love and fidelity.

Book of Remembrance

During November this Book will be in the Sanctuary. You are invited to write in the names of your deceased loved ones to be remembered at our Masses.

† Pastoral Assistance

Please contact Fr. Dan Krettek, 515-423-2888, or Deacon Terry Schleisman, 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.

Parish & Friends Bereavement Group

The "Mourning Coffee Club" continues to meet Mondays at 10:00am in St. Mary's Conference Room. *(If you would like to participate, but this is not a good day/time for you, please let Paula know, meeting time can be changed to better fit everyone's schedule.)*

As we approach the holiday season, we will focus on learning and sharing ways to cope with what can be a bittersweet time when we may WANT to feel joy amid the cheer of the season but we FEEL 'alone in the crowd.' Grief is always a personal issue, but it's often amazing to find that bereavement can also offer ways we can learn to travel THROUGH life's valleys of shadows that haunt our happiness.

"Mourning Coffee Club" offers a supportive community where we not only share fellowship with others who are in this new stage of life, but also learn about the process of grieving and how to become more comfortable during this difficult period of readjustments. Come discover where you are in your journey and in your ability to cope ... and ... if you've successfully closed that window, we welcome you to also come and share the tools you've used in times of crisis.

Call or text your interest and questions to Paula Garoutte at 515-306-6633 or email paulasongbird@msn.com.

Sunday Scripture Prayer and Study
Wednesdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 13, 20 & 27, 7:00pm, Conf. Rm

Meditative Prayer Time

Saturdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 8:00-9:00am, Office

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, December 21, 7:00pm, Holy Cross

Pastoral Council

Next meeting to be announced.

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 7:00pm, Conference Room

Stewardship Committee

Meeting: Tuesday, December 12, 6:00pm, Office Area

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Sunday, December 10, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 1

Jean Bruns, Kristi Edleman, Kim Remsburg

Coming Events

- †**Month of November:** Clothing Drive for Catholic Charities sponsored by Religious Ed and K of C — Raffle For Life by K of C, proceeds for Dorothy's House.
- †**Monday, Nov. 27** "Mourning Coffee Club", 10-11am, Conference Room. Meets every Monday, except holidays.
- †**Thursday, Nov. 30:** Friends of St. Francis meeting, 6:30pm, Social Hall
- †**Friday, Dec. 1:** Senior Citizen Breakfast after 8am Mass, Social Hall
- †**Weekend of Dec. 2/3:** Wine and cheese after 5pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 10am Mass, Social Hall
- †**Wednesday, Dec. 6:** Ladies Party after 6pm Mass, Hall
- †**Weekend of Dec. 9/10:** Blessing of Mothers-To-Be at Masses.

Music News



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

We are looking for a guitarist and an accompanist for Christmas Eve. Are YOU being called? We would LOVE to hear from you! Please contact me to get details. Thanks!

Deo Gratias Choir (adult's) practices are Sundays after 10:00am Mass Dec. 3, 10 & 17 and practices for **Good News Singers (children)** are Wednesday, 6:00pm in the church on Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 17 & 20.

Help Bring Peace to Migrants & Refugees

Bishop Pates, with Pope Francis and in Christ, reminds us to love our neighbors; the migrants and refugees sadly and desperately fleeing their homelands today not unlike many of our grandparents or great-grandparents. Join Friends of St. Francis in a Spirit-led conversation to envision how we can help bring peace to those in flight today. We meet at 6:30pm on Thursday, Nov. 30 in the Social Hall. Come, share, listen, question, just be present. For more about *Share the Journey*, visit www.sharejourney.org

Senior Citizen's Breakfast



You are invited to breakfast this Friday, December 1. We will gather in the Social Hall for food and fellowship following 8:00am Mass. RSVP to the Office by Tuesday, Nov. 28. Please come for breakfast even if unable to attend Mass.

Religious Education

PreK-6, Stacie Hergenreter, Catechetical Leader
shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org, 515-491-3876

Looking forward as we head into the Advent Season! We will have class on November 29 and at this time the Knights of Columbus will kick off the poster contest, with judging on December 13. All participants will be receiving a treat!

We will NOT have class on December 6 due to the Ladies Christmas Party.

We will have class on December 13.

On December 20 we will have only one class, 6-7pm to Celebrate the Birth of Jesus with a Birthday Party for Jesus. Please come early to pick up the kids to enjoy a few Christmas songs they will be singing.

Thank you to everyone who has dropped off so many things for the food drive for *The Blessing Box* and the clothing drive for Catholic Charities, we will continue to collect through next week.

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

C1 & C2: All students should be ready to report their service hours up to this point to their small group leaders on Sunday December 3rd.

Session, Sunday, November 26, 6:00 - 7:30pm
 9th Grade - Lesson 4 — 10th Grade - Lesson 15

Session, Sunday December 3, 6:00 - 7:30pm
 9th Grade - Lesson 5 — 10th Grade - Lesson 16

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

No EDGE or S.T.O.R.M. sessions on December 6.

EDGE 7th & 8th graders, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Nov. 29 Session: *Noah- Fortitude in the Storm*

Dec 13: *Abraham- Our Hope and Our Promise*

Dec 20: EDGE Christmas Party

S.T.O.R.M. 9th-12th graders, 7:45-9:00pm, Youth Room

Nov. 29: Youth Group gathering

Dec 13: *Youth Group Game Night*

Dec 20: *"Ugliest or Most Festive Christmas Sweater" Party*

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Mass for this Holy Day of Obligation is Friday, December 8, 6:30pm at St. Mary. Please join us to celebrate Mary and her important role in the celebration of our Faith!

~ Liturgical Ministers are needed for this Mass; please sign up in the vestibule or contact the Parish Office. Thank you!

† Blessing For Mothers-To-Be

At Masses the weekend of December 9/10, we invite all Mothers-To-Be to receive a blessing; that they know of God's presence and strength as they await the birth of their child, have a safe delivery and a healthy baby.

Advent Reconciliation Service



You are invited to celebrate God's love and forgiveness at our Advent Reconciliation Service on Sunday, December 17, 2:00pm at St. Mary. We will have additional priests here to assist with individual confession.

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 - lowasheri@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
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 Rita McClain - 515-249-6841 - Bondurant - mcclainrj@hotmail.com
 Sue Tollefson - 515 208-0536 - Cambridge - suet@iowacubs.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - 515-967-6770 - arlene@4andersons.com
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 Tammi McClain - 515-290-3904 - tammimccclain71@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
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 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

November 19 Week 21

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$8,301	\$5,234

Year-to-Date

	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$107,206	\$109,907	\$109,512

Annual Diocesan Appeal

Pledge cards are available in the vestibule or donate on the Diocesan website: <http://www.dmdiocese.org/ada-online-giving-instructions.cfm>. Thanks to those who have pledged!

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Balance Due
\$ 56,442	52,041.64	\$ 51,091.64	\$ 5,350.36

Missing!!

We are missing a Christmas tree skirt at Holy Cross. If you've seen it, please call Chris Schreurs, 515-681-1351. Thank you!!

Dear GOD,

Who draws the lines around the countries? ~ Nan

