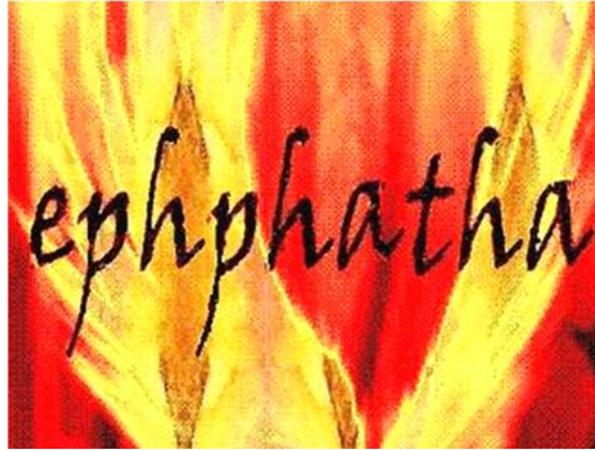




# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



## Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 9, 2018

*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,

In the first chapter of Genesis, we're told multiple times, "God saw that it was good," referring to His creation. Then in the gospel for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, people recognize that Jesus "has done all things well." Because Jesus is divine, it makes sense that he who has created everything good also does all things well. *He'll always be the best example we have of not just being good but also doing good works.* It seems so simple. Yet sometimes, perhaps at this particular moment in the Church, when we hear about terrible, disgusting, maddening, and sinful acts committed by bishops and priests, we benefit from this reminder. Let not the sin of someone else become an occasion for us to sin. The Evil One and sin are not defeated by more sin. We're the ones who will lose if we take that approach. Instead, let's strive for holiness, of which Jesus is the best model.

Even though I've mentioned it a couple Sundays in a row, it's still prudent to go on the record here. First, abuse here at St. Mary - Holy Cross will not be tolerated. Whether you notice it here or elsewhere, contact law enforcement immediately then me. Secondly, even if we're not guilty of abuse, let's still do our part to grow in holiness. Granted, there's nothing we can do to earn God's love and grace, but we can respond to it, for example participating in Mass, praying, and doing acts of charity. Thankfully we have a lot of opportunities to grow in holiness and conform ourselves to Jesus Christ in our Catholic faith. Therefore, please continue to give me input about good activities, specifically, but not necessarily limited to, more Masses, adoration, and reconciliation. ~ Fr. Andrew

### Parish Information

<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Deacon Terry Schleisman</b>	515-669-6158
<b>Parish General Email</b>	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Parish Fax</b>	515-367-7028
<b>Parish Web Site</b>	www.saintmaryhc.org
<b>Parish Facebook Site</b>	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
<b>Fr. Andrew Windschitl</b>	Fr.Andrew@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Deacon Terry Schleisman</b>	tschleisman@saintmaryhc.org
Adult Faith Sharing	
<b>Nicole Cory</b> - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Andrea Fisher</b> - RE, 7th-12th	afisher@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Stacie Hergenreter</b> - PreK-6	shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Melissa Kahler</b> - RE, 7th-12th	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Barb Liske</b> - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Celeste Muehlenthaler</b> - Music	cmuehlenthaler@saintmaryhc.org
<b>Peter Relyea</b> - Bookkeeper	prelyea@saintmaryhc.org

<b>Mass Schedule</b>	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 [www.dmdiocese.org/vocations.cfm](http://www.dmdiocese.org/vocations.cfm)

## Masses

### Wednesday, September 12

5:30pm Holy Cross † *Victims of Violence*

### Thursday, September 13

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

### Friday, September 14 **Feast of the Holy Cross**

5:30pm Holy Cross † *Michael Carpenter*

### Saturday, September 15

5:00pm St. Mary † *For the Parish*

### Sunday, September 16

8:00am Holy Cross † *Stephen Carpenter*

10:00am St. Mary † *Bill Garoutte*

Children's Liturgy of the Word during this Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Thursday, September 20, 7:00pm, Holy Cross

Cross Ministry  
Next meeting to be decided.

Finance Council  
Meeting: Tuesday, September 18, 7:00pm, Conference Rm

Stewardship Committee  
Meeting: Tuesday, September 11, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Friends of St. Francis  
Meeting: Wednesday, October 24, 6:30pm, Conference Rm

Knights of Columbus  
Meeting: Sunday, September 16, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Call Leaders, Team 2  
Tara Huntrods, Melissa Robinson, Jessica Ward

## Welcome To Our Parish Family!



*Larry and Cindy Davis*, from Collins

*Danielle Mumford*, and children *Jaxson, Maddox & Brenton*  
who live in Elkhart

*Austin and Jordyn Wiser*, and daughter *Bennett*,  
from Ankeny

*Sherman Doyle and Monica Kennebeck-Doyle*,  
and children *Marcus and Maleaha*, from Bondurant

*John and Erika Kiley* and daughters *Brooke and Courtney*,  
who live in Bondurant

## 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 Windschitl, 515-367-2685, 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. *Fr. Andrew is gone Sunday afternoon through Wednesday afternoon.*

## Thank You's!

Thanks to Father Andrew and to the many parishioners who attended and contributed food and kitchen help for Father's welcome event. Remember to continue to support Father Andrew and Deacon Terry's efforts to get to know parishioners -- mention your name.

~ Stewardship Committee

We would like to say thank you to everyone who called, sent a card or gift or attended the open house to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. Special thanks to our wonderful daughters, grandchildren and their families for planning and hosting our party. We are very blessed to have such great family and friends. God Bless you all!!

~ Joe and Jean Rumbaugh

## Food Pantry Collection

Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass next weekend; we also take up a monetary collection. Thank you for your continued generosity towards those in need. Your donation this month will assist the Maxwell Food Pantry.

## Upcoming Events

- † **Sept. 15/16 Weekend:** Maxwell Food Pantry collection
- † **Sunday, Sept. 16:** Pancakes after 8am Mass, Holy Cross
- † **Thursday, Sept. 20:** Crafts, games & Social Time, 9:30am, Social Hall
- † **Saturday, Sept. 22:** Parish Picnic after 5:00pm Mass
- † **Tuesday, Sept. 25:** *Let's Chat*, 7:00pm, Social Hall
- † **Wednesday, Sept. 26: Evening With a Lost Boy of Sudan** presentation, 6:30pm, Social Hall
- † **Sept. 29 & 30 Weekend:** Olive Wood Art sales before/after Masses — Christ Our Life Conference, Wells Fargo
- † **Sunday, Sept. 30:** Blessing of Pets, 1:00pm, Holy Cross

## Music News

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

We would like bring our Liturgy Committee to life again! We are looking for people who love our sacred liturgies and want to help plan and evaluate them. We all have busy, busy lives - but please take the time to really consider this. We can be creative in setting this committee up as far as meeting "virtually" or in person, sharing resources and anything else we want the committee to look like. I pray you'll open your heart to the Holy Spirit and take an enthusiastic role in this vital ministry!

## Parish Picnic RSVP and Contributions

Our Italian-themed picnic is Saturday, September 22 at 6:00pm. To effectively plan for food, RSVP's are available in pews and may be dropped in the collection basket. We also request your help with bingo prize donations which can be left in boxes in the church vestibule or entry. Watch for upcoming food sign-up options including cakes and cookies for the popular Cake Walk game, start testing recipes for our Italian dessert contest and get ready to ham it up at the photo booth. MOST importantly reserve the date and join us for a taste of Italy, fellowship and fun. 

## Are YOU Being Called?

Our PreK thru 6th grade Religious Education Program is seeking five additional catechists; two for the 5:15pm session and three for the 6:30pm session. If interested please contact Stacie Hergenreter, shergenreter@saintmaryhc.org/ 515-491-3876. Our Confirmation program is looking for one more group leader. Please come to the Social Hall on Sunday, September 9 at 5:00pm if you are interested. Thank you for considering these requests.



**We ask that all PreK-10th grade students be registered as soon as possible and prior to the start of their program.**

Forms are available in the vestibule and on the website. Please return form with \$50 minimum payment to the Parish Office.

## Religious Education PreK-6

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

Fall is upon us and our first RE session is just around the corner. It is a time for harvest as well as the continued cultivation of our children's faith. We are looking forward to having kids back in class and look forward to seeing all of you on opening night.

**We are still short five volunteers for classes, please contact me if you are interested.**

### Key Dates:

Sept. 12 - Catechist Kick-Off Meeting, in St. Mary's Church  
 Sept. 19 - First RE Classes for PreK-6th, location TBD  
 Sept. 26 - Class

## 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 (7th & 8th Grades)

Wednesday, Sept. 12: Mandatory Parent and 7th & 8th grade Students meeting, 6:00-7:30pm in the Social Hall. During this meeting we will introduce the team and share with you this year's schedule, review the class rules and expectations, and sign up for meals. It's important that ALL attend. Light snacks will be served. Please contact Melissa or Andrea with any questions!

Sessions: Wednesday, Sept. 19, 6:00 - 7:30pm, Social Hall  
 Wednesday, Sept. 26: Attend *Lost Boys of Sudan* presentation, 6:30pm, Social Hall.

### C1 & C2 (9th & 10th Grades)

We are still in need of 1 small group leader for 9th grade. If you are interested in this, please come to the Social Hall on Sunday, September 9 at 5:00pm.

### Sessions

Sunday Sept. 9: 6:00 - 7:30pm  
 9th Grade: Lesson 1      10th Grade: Lesson 13  
 Sunday Sept. 22: 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
 9th Grade: Lesson 2      10th Grade: Lesson 14

Confirmation Core Team meeting: Tuesday, October 2, 6:30pm in the Social Hall.

## Pancake Breakfast

Please join us for pancakes outside after Mass at Holy Cross next Sunday. Please pray for good weather that morning!

## A Child's Letter to God

Dear GOD,

You don't have to worry about me. I always look both ways. ~ Dean

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Garrett McClain - 515-685-2314 - Alleman- *gjmccclain69@gmail.com*  
 Sheri Olson - 515-967-5663 - Bondurant - *lowasher@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*  
 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 - *mcclainrj@hotmail.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*  
 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*  
 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 - 515-967-7477 - *annedavis06@gmail.com*

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
Tithes/Plate/	\$2,648	\$5,157	<b>August 25/26</b>
Youth/Guests	\$7,507	\$5,157	<b>Sept. 1/2</b>

### Year-to-Date

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$50,912	\$51,567	\$52,309

## Annual Diocesan Appeal

Pledge cards are in the vestibule and can be returned in the collection basket at Mass, to the Parish Office, or you may donate on the Diocesan website: [www.dmdiocese.org/ada-online-giving-instructions.cfm](http://www.dmdiocese.org/ada-online-giving-instructions.cfm).

Everyone's participation is need! Thank you.

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Balance Due</u>
\$53,806	\$45,675	\$42,327.75	\$11,478.25

## Auto Debit for Tithing

You are encouraged to use the convenient service of automatic withdrawal from your bank account for your tithing; You designate a dollar amount to be automatically withdrawn from your account on a monthly basis on a pre-determined date. Questions? Contact Peter Relyea, parish bookkeeper, Tuesday-Thursday mornings, at [prelyea@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:prelyea@saintmaryhc.org) or 515-367-2685.

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

This is geared towards children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Next Sunday during 10:00am Mass after the Opening Prayer, Father Andrew will invite the children to come forward for a blessing and then accompany the Prayer Leader (Catechist) to the Social Hall where they will experience the readings on their level of understanding. They return to Mass after the Prayers of the Faithful. If kids are hesitant to go the first time, parents or grandparents are welcome to come with them. Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10:00am Mass on the first and third Sunday of each month during the school year.

## Becoming Catholic

Would you like to learn more about the Catholic way of life? Have you been Catholic all your life, but have not celebrated all of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) and want to do so? All are welcome to ask questions and discover more about who we are as Catholic people. If you or someone you know would like to find out how we can help you on your faith journey, contact Deacon Terry Schleisman, 515-669-6158 / [tshleisman@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tshleisman@saintmaryhc.org). Participation does not require you to commit to joining the Church; we ask only that you be open to learning more about God and the Catholic tradition.

## Join the Novena For Life

The U.S. Bishops urge our participation each Friday through September 28, to pray and fast that a change in the U.S. Supreme Court will move our nation closer to the day when every human being is protected in law and welcomed in life. Join at [www.usccb.org/pray](http://www.usccb.org/pray)!

## Thoughts From Me & My House

The Religious Education year is right around the corner. We have wonderful faith formation programs here at SMHC and here are 5 benefits to sending your children to RE classes.

- Sometimes it's difficult for children to understand what is happening at Mass. RE can help them to understand what is going on at Mass and in the Church in a fun way that is specific to their age and level of understanding.
- Our Parish is made up of so many communities and school systems. The kids get to come and see friends who they may not see otherwise, not to mention they get to meet in a positive and loving environment!
- Growing closer to God is never a bad thing. The earlier in life the bond with God is formed the better. When a person develops that connection young, it is likely to last a lifetime.
- Parents are the first Catechists in their child's life, but there is so much to know about the Catholic Church and our faith—it can seem daunting. But, you are not alone. Your Parish is here to help!
- And the best part?? It's FUN! Just stop by on a Wednesday evening to see all the smiling faces. The kids and the Catechists are excited to be here. Parents are ALWAYS welcome to come on in and check it out, so don't hesitate.

*I look forward to hearing from you! The intention of 'Thoughts from Me & My House' is to be a collaborative column within our parish. Email me at [joshua2415smhc@gmail.com](mailto:joshua2415smhc@gmail.com) with any thoughts, ideas, and opinions you have!*

## Bucket Vote Results

The SMHC Bucket Vote winner is...IOWA STATE! Congratulations all you Cyclone fans and thank you for your \$129 worth of votes! "I DON'T CARE" came in 2nd at a grand total of \$82.43 and UNIVERSITY OF IOWA votes brought in \$45. Thank you for voting and supporting the S.T.O.R.M. Youth — together your votes totaled \$256.43 that we will use for retreats, lock-ins, materials and events. THANK YOU!

## Work Of Our Hands

Members of the Parish who are service providers, hobbyists, or willing to provide their services or goods for a fee or barter are welcomed to join Work Of Our Hands (WOOH). Our WOOH Festival is scheduled for December 1 & 2. Please contact Lisa Kautza, [kautza@netins.net](mailto:kautza@netins.net)/515-964-7687, if you are interested in joining us or if you would like more information. To be added to the new directory of WOOH participants or to make changes from the previous years, please contact Lisa by October 2.

## 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](mailto: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.*

## Catholic Movie Reviews

See [www.catholicnews.com/movies.cfm](http://www.catholicnews.com/movies.cfm).



# Parish Picnic

*Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
after 5:00pm Mass*

**I T A L I A N**



Join fellow parishioners for an evening of Italian-themed fun for all!  
A spaghetti meal, Italian dessert contest (yum!), trivia, bingo, dessert-walk game, bocce ball and more. You can even bring a bottle of wine to share – no corking fee!

**Sign up by Sunday, September 16th**

# Confirmation/KOC Parish Work Day

The St. Mary-Holy Cross Confirmation Students and the Knights of Columbus are partnering up on Saturday, October 20th to provide a parish wide service day and we need your help finding some projects! If you or someone you know in your community needs a little extra help with anything from yard work to cleaning out the basement, please fill out the form below and drop it in the box in the vestibule. This is a great opportunity for all those involved, so please sign up and get some help with your fall chores!

## *Examples of projects:*

- Raking leaves/general yardwork
- Moving furniture
- Cleaning
- Winterizing
- Pulling weeds
- Garden clean-up
- Light tree trimming (from the ground)



Name:

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Phone:

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Address:

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Project Description:

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You will be contacted prior to the work day to confirm our visit on 10/20. Rain date is Saturday 10/27. Feel free to contact Doug Jones, 515-238-4745, or Nicole Cory, 515-313-3014, with questions

# THANK YOU!

## Monthly Financial Update

	July, 2018			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Last Year	Actual	Budget	Last Year
OPERATING INCOME	\$ 31,178	\$ 26,528	\$ 27,404	\$ 31,178	\$ 26,528	\$ 27,404
Operating Expenses	\$ 25,998	\$ 29,706	\$ 26,787	\$ 25,998	\$ 29,706	\$ 26,787
Net operating income (expense)	\$ 5,180	\$ (3,178)	\$ 617	\$ 5,180	\$ (3,178)	\$ 617
Cash Balance of General Fund	\$ 99,780	N/A	\$ 125,839			

### Liturgical Ministers

#### Saturday, September 15, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Announcer                 Di Schleisman  
 Lector                     Cory Schoening  
 Cup Bearers             JoAnn Meusburger, John Zidon  
 Host Distributor       *Volunteer needed*  
 Servers                   Hunter Halligan, Olivia Naragon,  
                                   Bennett Bruns  
 Ushers                    Mason & Dawn Reynolds,  
                                   Jim Hudson

#### Sunday, September 16, 8:00am, Holy Cross

Announcer                 Sheri Fogarty  
 Lector                     Heidi Ackerman  
 Cup Bearer               *Volunteer needed*  
 Altar Server             Kelcie Shedd  
 Ushers                    Sandra Hunter, Tracy Irwin

#### Sunday, September 16, 10:00am, St. Mary

Announcer                 Tracy Kangas  
 Lector                     Kris Sturtz  
 Cup Bearers             Marion Panyan, Mike Nehring  
 Host Distributor       *Volunteer needed*  
 Altar Server             Sawyer Smeltzer  
 Ushers                    Brian, Will, Mya Pottebaum,  
                                   Doug Zehr, Gregg Richwine

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### Money Counters

**Sept. 9:** Sharon Morris, Lisa Kautza  
**Sept. 16:** Carol Weber, Dona Cowman

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### Olive Wood Art

Holy Land Olive Wood Art carvings will be available for purchase the weekend of September 29/30 at St. Mary and Holy Cross. Generation after generation of families have taught their children to carve religious figures from olive wood by hand. The olive tree is an ancient symbol of peace, wisdom, glory, power and pureness. In purchasing items, you help these artists to support their families and their presence in the Holy Land.

### Tired of the Divisiveness Spreading in Our World?

Come to a gathering Friday, October 5 from 10:30am to 12:30pm at the Franklin Public Library, 5000 Franklin Ave. Des Moines, and hear from featured national speaker Deepa Iyer, a South Asian American activist, writer, and lawyer. You'll gain an understanding of what a world of equity, inclusion and solidarity can look like and learn what you can do to shape equitable and inclusive communities. Questions? Contact [events@iowajfon.org](mailto:events@iowajfon.org). RSVP by October 3 to <http://bit.ly/2o4Kd5r>.



It requires 95% less energy and water to recycle a can than it does to create a can from virgin materials.

### Blood Drive Update

Another outpouring of love for an estimated 114 persons unknown who will soon be in need of blood!! Thirty-three people, including first time donor William Trimnell, donated 38 units of blood at our last community blood drive, tying the total units collected at our previous drive. The following registered to donate but were deferred, donated, volunteered or provided treats for the canteen: Craig Ellyson, Kevin Goering, Tara Goering, Scott Schaffer, William Trimnell, Mary Jo Ward, Jill Swanson, Daron Beukema, David Whitney, Tawna Kerr, Kathy Daup, Pat Hand, Nicholas Swanson, Jerry Sorenson, Doug Jones, Susan Stillmunkes, Gary Sesker, Jack McDermott, Lori Churchill, Katie Johnson, Roger Bender, Doug Heger, Darren Struthers, Matt Miller, Karen Stafford, Ron Stafford, Andrea Fisher, Suzette Bartleson, Paula Garoutte, Eric Argotsinger, Kathy Petersen, Lisa Kautza, Tim Kautza, Jean Miller, Dona Cowman, Sharon Dunbar, and Bill Dunbar.

Please consider sharing your life-giving blood at our next drive November 8, 3:00 – 7:00pm. Find out more or sign-up online at [LifeServeBloodCenter.org](http://LifeServeBloodCenter.org) or on the bulletin board in the vestibule at St. Mary Church, or call Lisa and Tim Kautza at 515-964-7687. Thank you all!!

### Christ Our Life Catholic Conference

Come enjoying this inspiring celebration of faith amid enlightening and entertaining speakers, storytellers and musicians on September 29 & 30 at Wells Fargo Arena. Feel your spirit rejoice at this event! It's a way to search your soul in a fun and mindful way. You will listen, learn, laugh and feel the love of this glorious gathering. Attending all or part of this unique gathering can prove life-transforming. Cost is \$25/person, \$15 for 6 years through college (\$5 more at the door) and children under 5 years are free. Vendors will be represented with their unique items.

### Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

#### Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sept. 9

*Theme: Opening up to the power of Jesus.*

*Reading I:* Isaiah 35:4-7a • Be strong! Fear not!

*Reading II:* James 2:1-5 • Did not God choose the poor to become rich in faith?

*Gospel:* Mark 7:31-37 • He makes the deaf hear!

*For Children:* How do you shun others whom you don't like?

*For Youth:* Who are the people in our world today who sometimes go unnoticed? What could you do to help them?

*For Adults:* In what ways do you discriminate in your heart against those whom you judge less than fully worthy?