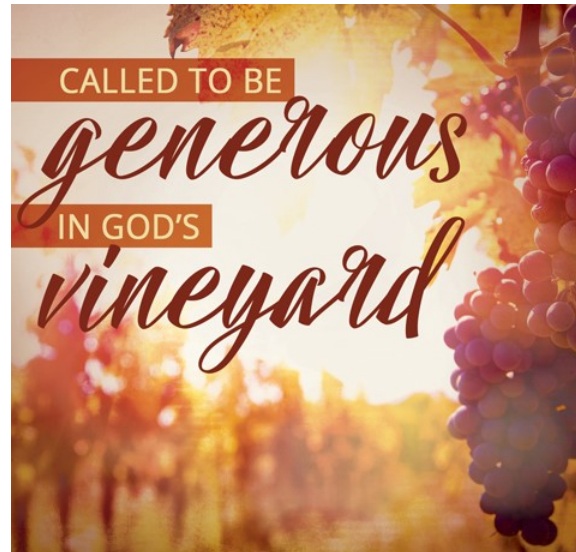




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 20, 2020

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,

One way that we can waste a lot of time, energy, and effort is by comparing ourselves to others. It does no good because it is God who will judge us, no one else. He reminds us in the first reading this weekend through the prophet Isaiah, "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts." Surely, we can see many unfortunate and realistic examples in this world and maybe even our personal lives of what happens when we neglect, purposely or not, His thoughts. Thankfully, like the landowner with the laborers in the Gospel, God is patient by constantly approaching and drawing us in. Regardless of what others do, we need to do our part by cooperating with Him. Then we will enjoy the wage of eternal life.

The finance committee is still looking for new members to serve the parish. While it is not required for all members to have knowledge of finances, we would like especially to leverage the expertise of someone with such a background. If you are interested and/or know someone who fits this description, please contact me.

- Fr. Andrew

Parish Information

Parish Phone	315-367-2685
Fr. Andrew Windschitl	315-367-2685
Parish General Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
Parish Fax	315-367-7028
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
	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 4:00-4:30pm in **Cry Room**, or by appointment with Fr. Andrew.

Baptism: Contact Fr. Andrew for a preparation program

Marriage: Contact Fr. Andrew 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, September 22

6:00pm St. Mary †Cecilia Morton & Mike Morton
~ followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, September 23

5:30pm Holy Cross †Jim & Margaret Shaw

Thursday, September 24

8:00am St. Mary †Nydia Claussen

Saturday, September 26

5:00pm St. Mary †Doris Olson

Sunday, September 27

8:00am Holy Cross †Tom Bellis
10:00am St. Mary For the 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 form found in the vestibule of St. Mary or Holy Cross and on our website. We are glad you are here!

Please Wear Your Mask!

When you come to Mass, please wear your mask. While you may not fear getting sick, it's an act of charity and love to do what we can to prevent others from getting sick. Thank you for doing all you can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Mass at Holy Cross, Sunday, Sept. 27

Families attending with last names of J - Z.

Please join us at St. Mary if unable to attend at Holy Cross.

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

We Are Here to Help!

If you are homebound, at high risk, caring for family, or know someone who is, and are in need of help with errands, picking up prescriptions or groceries, etc., please contact Fr. Andrew for assistance.

For Diocesan updates, livestream Masses and resources, see <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult (RCIA)

Are you yourself and/or do you know someone who would like to become Catholic and/or would like to know more about the faith? "The rite of Christian initiation [...] is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. By God's help they will be strengthened spiritually during their preparation and at the proper time will receive the sacraments fruitfully." For further information please contact Fr. Andrew at 515-367-2685 or fr.andrew@saintmaryhc.org.

On The Radio

Tune in to Iowa Catholic Radio (1150 AM, 88.5 FM or 94.5 FM) most Fridays around 7:15pm to hear Fr. Andrew discuss that coming Sunday's Gospel. At 9:00am every Friday tune in for the Bishop's weekly radio show, "Making it Personal With Bishop Joensen".

Prayer for Returning to School Safety

Father please hear us as we pray to You of our concerns in sending our children and educators back to school.

Know that we are striving to make all of the right decisions and need Your love and power to help us overcome any difficulties.

Please watch over everyone as times and routines are changing once again.

We know that we can do anything through You, so please help us ensure health and semi-normalcy in the coming months.

We give our hearts to You, now and forever.
Amen.

~Author Unknown

Parish Council

Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 22, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship Committee

Monday, Oct. 12, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Priesthood Sunday

Next Sunday, September 27, is Priesthood Sunday. This is a special day nationwide to set aside to honor the priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priest in the life of the Church and gives us a special opportunity to honor Fr. Andrew and to express our support and appreciation for his service to the Church, and in particular to our parish.

Thank you Fr. Andrew for answering God's call to the vocation of priesthood!



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 at 515-367-2685 or bliske@saintmaryhc.org. *If the request is not for you, please ask permission the one it is for to be on our prayer chain.*

SMHC High School/College Students & Adults

We are in need of volunteers to assist with our EDGE program. If you are interested in helping and could spare 3-6 hours a month we would LOVE your help! If you are interested in learning more or want to help, please contact Melissa, 515-290-2830 or Andrea 515-240-5059. We will be happy to share information about our EDGE program with you. We have had a wonderful EDGE core team in the past and look forward to adding new people. Thank you for considering helping grow our young church!

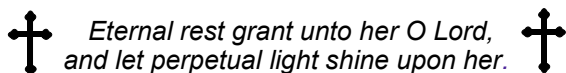
Blessing of Pets



To celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of ecology and animals; we will have a blessing for your pets and animals on Sunday, October 4, at 1:00pm in the parking lot at St. Mary.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rita Smith, sister of Kay Ross, sister-in-law of Jack Newell and great-aunt of Fr. Ross Parker. Rita passed away peacefully last Tuesday and is now in the arms of our loving Father. May her family know of Christ's compassionate presence and find strength and comfort as they mourn her passing.



Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

It has been so wonderful having the children back in the Ed Center and we are so excited about what this year will hold! Thank you for bearing with us as we have sort of an unconventional calendar to start the year. Please email, call or text if you have any questions, concerns or have any suggestions to help the year run even more smoothly!

The first At Home Packet can be picked up at the opening Mass this Thursday, Sept. 24, 6:00pm at St. Mary or in the vestibule through Sept. 27.

Upcoming Schedule

Sept. 22: Session A: Regular Session, all classes meet!
Sept. 23: Sessions B & C: Good Starts, Toddler through 3rd Grades (see calendar for times)
Sept. 24: 6:00pm **Home Program** opening Mass
Sept. 29/30: Sessions A, B & C: Regular Sessions, all classes meet!
October 6/7- Regular Sessions

Calendars: [https://www.saintmaryhc.org/Religious%20Education%20Calendar%202020-2021%20\(3\).pdf](https://www.saintmaryhc.org/Religious%20Education%20Calendar%202020-2021%20(3).pdf)

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 DATE CHANGE: Our first EDGE session with the students will be Wednesday, October 7 from 6:00-7:30pm. Please contact one of us if you have questions.

Youth Group: We will have our first youth gathering on October 7 from 7:45-9:00pm in the youth room. If you are a high school teen please plan to join us for a bonfire and s'mores! Bring a friend or 2. Hope to see you there!

Blessings, Melissa and Andrea

C 1 & C 2 - PURPOSE (Grades 9 & 10)

If you have not registered your child, please do so as soon as possible.

We are looking for program volunteers.

First Session: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 6:00 - 8:00pm in the Social Hall at St. Mary.

October is the Month of the Rosary

Please join us in praying the Rosary twenty minutes before each weekend Mass in October. If you'd like to lead the Rosary, please email Anne Davis, annedavis06@gmail.com.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doug Jones, *Chair* - djones@bossard.com
Will Bates - a_k_bates@live.com
John Fisher - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
Tim Loraditch - Tloraditch@gmail.com
John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Stacey Rooney - Rooneyslg17@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dave Pottebaum, *President* - pottebaum5@msn.com
Heidi Ackerman - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Sue Tollefson - suet@iowacubs.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Jacki Ausman - jackiausman@gmail.com
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
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
Karen Bellis - puzzlenuts@aol.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiaowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com
Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - lshaw@tru-test.com
Mike and Mary Winders - Mwinde59@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

Weekly Collection Financial Update

September 13 Budget Week 11

Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$3,274	\$4,520

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$55,565	\$46,750	\$54,732

2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Information and a pledge card have been mailed to each household. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give and mail your pledge to the parish or donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving/annual-diocesan-appeal-giving>, being sure to designate our parish for proper credit. Each gift is vital to reaching our assessment. Thank you.

<u>Parish Goal</u>	<u>Pledge Total</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$49,556	\$42,777	\$39,432	\$10,124

Considering switching over to automatic withdrawal from your bank account for your tithing? Please contact Sarah Baumberger, sbaumberger@saintmaryhc.org, for additional information or find the form in the vestibule or on our website home page in the lower right hand corner.

Holy Land Collection Letter from Bishop Joensen

Dear Friends in Christ,
As you recall, the pandemic brought our observance of the Sacred Triduum to a halt earlier this year. With Good Friday services in our churches not open to the public, there was no opportunity for the traditional Holy Land Collection to be gathered. However, the need for support of Christians in the Holy Land remains great. It is my hope that you will respond to that need as we focus on a collection on September 26-27, 2020. This is the opportunity when we respond to the direction of the Holy Father and reach out to assist our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land.

The Franciscans have been in the Holy Land since 1209, walking in Jesus' footsteps, caring for the poor, educating young people, providing scholarships, protecting the holy shrines, conducting pastoral ministries and keeping Christianity alive. In countless ways, their ministry gives voice to the voiceless.

Through this collection, we are united in a special way to the land that was made sacred by Our Savior's redemptive mission. The flourishing of Franciscan ministries in the Holy Land depends on the support they receive from each of us. The daily news reminds us of the violence and instability plaguing the Middle East, but we rarely hear of the shrinking Christian community there, a tenacious community that strives to provide unbroken witness to apostolic faith.

I urge you to be generous in your support of the Holy Land Collection. May God bless you as you respond with generous hearts to this special appeal.

~Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.

Annual Life Chain

On Sunday, October 4, from 2:00 - 3:30pm, LIFE CHAIN invites us to stand along Merle Hay Road from University to Douglas Avenues and pray for 90 minutes, while holding a sign with an approved pro-life messages. Signs are available for pick up at St. Theresa Catholic Church (1230 Merle Hay Road). For additional information please contact Ruth Kabitzke at 515-965-1343. *Join us to help protect those who cannot protect themselves.*

The only time you should look down on someone,
is when you are helping them up!

Counseling Available

Catholic Charities has licensed, professional therapists working with clients of all faiths and backgrounds who are addressing depression, anxiety, stress, marital issues, relationship problems, child behavior problems, trauma, abuse and more. Therapy is available in Des Moines, and Ankeny. Set up an appointment by calling 515-237-5045 or emailing sfister@catholiccharitiesdm.org.

The Third Option

Meet some great people while spending some time with your spouse at The Third Option. This is a program for couples that are hurting and for couples that want to make a good thing better! We go through 14 skill-based workshops that help couples develop better understanding, sensitivity and trust. We meet each second and fourth Monday of the month, from 7:00-9:00pm at All Saints Church, 650 NE 52nd Avenue, Des Moines.

SAYWHAT? Over 90% of all products shipped in the US are shipped in corrugated boxes, which totals more than 400 billion square feet of cardboard.

Christ Our Life Conference

This legendary Catholic conference is next weekend Sept. 26 & 27! You can purchase a ticket to attend in person at Wells Fargo or a ticket to livestream the conference. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. If you have purchased an in-person ticket, you can switch it to an online ticket. Contact parishioner Dona Cowman for more information or for tickets, 515-383-4482 or racefans@iowatelecom.net. For conference details go to <https://www.christourlifeiowa.com/>.

We are unable to livestream this conference at St. Mary.

Online Giving

This is available through the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa with this secure link: <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. On the drop down choose *St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart* to make your tithe donation. No fees! The Foundation will send gift receipts and amounts will be included on your parish year end statement. Thank you for considering using this for your tithing and thank those who are currently using it!

Today's Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Matthew was probably born in Galilee and was a publican tax collector at Capernaum at the time that Jesus called him. While a tax collector was a rich man, he was no more admired in ancient times than an IRS agent is admired today. The fact that Jesus chose a tax collector as a disciple shows us that he was bringing the Good News not just to the Pharisees and other self-righteous Jews, but also to the rejected people of society. Matthew was one of the twelve Apostles, and the second Gospel is attributed to him. His Gospel was written sometime between the years 60 and 90, most likely in Aramaic. No traces have ever been found of his original writings. According to Tradition, Matthew preached in Judea and then went to the East and to Ethiopia, where he suffered martyrdom.

Matthew, probably the best educated of the Apostles, builds a logical case for Jesus as the Messiah to the Jewish people. In writing this Gospel, he shows a broad knowledge of what we today call the Old Testament. We all need to develop a familiarity with the Scripture if we are to understand the basics of our faith.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sept. 20

Theme: It is never too late to enter the reign of God.

Reading I: Isaiah 55:6-9 • Seek the Lord while he may be found.

Reading II: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a • Life means Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a • The parable of the vineyard.

For Children: How do you experience God being generous to you: through your family, friends, school, or parish?

For Youth: God is always seeking us out and welcoming us into his generous love. Through whom has God reached out to you? Who is always encouraging you to say "yes" to God?

For Adults: Describe how God will treat those who come to be part of the church, even those who come late.