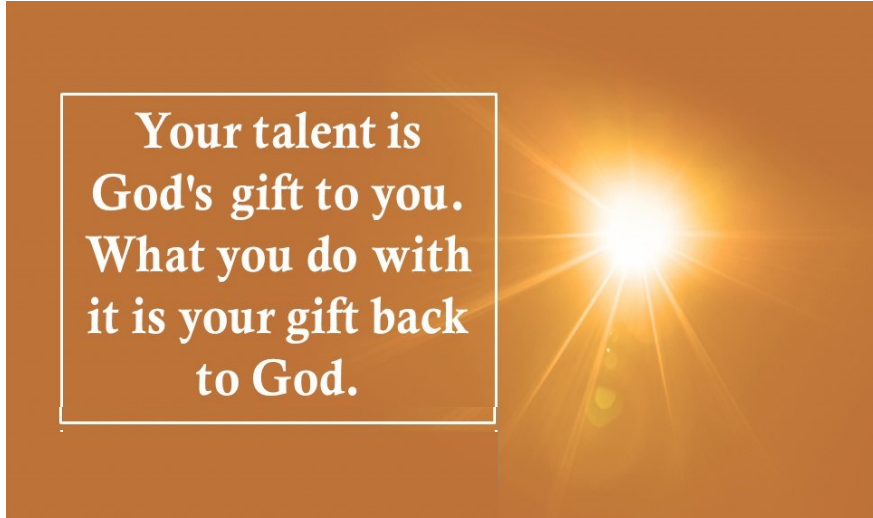


St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 18/19, 2023

Dear Good People,

I hope this letter finds you well. I cannot believe the absolutely beautiful weather we have had for mid-November. As we know this probably will not last, but we will enjoy it while we have it! It is hard to believe, but next week we will celebrate Thanksgiving. What a wonderful day to give thanks for all of our abundant blessings. Please enjoy the time celebrating with your family and friends. Just a reminder that we will have holy mass at 9 AM on Thanksgiving Day at St. Mary. What a wonderful opportunity to start our day with the ultimate expression of gratitude in the Eucharist.

I also just want to give you a heads-up about our schedule for Advent. We have a great opportunity to have some plaster work done in the Church at St. Mary's beginning on December 4th. Because of this, daily mass, Holy Day masses on December 8th and weekend masses on December 9/10 will be in the hall. I wanted to give you a heads-up and will keep you posted. These are certainly exciting times with all the good things happening. A very blessed Thanksgiving to all of you and let's keep one another in prayer. A.M.D.G. ~ Fr. Ross

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.

Parish Phone 515-367-2685
Parish General Email smhc@saintmaryhc.org
Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor 515-367-2685/rparker@dmdiocese.org
Deacon Terry Schleisman 515-669-6158/digiterry@netscape.net
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
Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org
Parish Web Site www.saintmaryhc.org
Parish Facebook Site St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
Parish Fax 515-367-7028

Mass Schedule This Week

Tuesday	8:00am	St. Mary
Wednesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
Thursday	9:00am	St. Mary
Friday	8:00am	St. Mary
Saturday	5:00pm	St. Mary
Sunday	8:00am	Holy Cross
	10:00am	St. Mary

Reconciliation: Saturday 4:00 - 4:30pm, St. Mary or by appointment with Fr. Parker

Baptism: Please contact the office.

Rite of Christian Initiation: Please contact Fr. Parker

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

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, November 21

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Jerry Hanlon

Wednesday, November 22

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Stephen & Michael Carpenter

Thursday, November 23 Thanksgiving Day

9:00am Mass, St. Mary †Julie Sexton

Friday, November 24

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Bernard Hanlon

Solemnity of Christ the King

Saturday, November 25

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Robert Richardson

Sunday, November 26

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Lyle Carpenter

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God,
On this day of thanks,
we humbly gather
To express out gratitude.
For the bounty that graces our table,
we offer thanks.
For the love that unites our hearts,
we offer thanks.
For the challenges that make us stronger,
we offer thanks.
Bless us with wisdom to cherish these gifts
and share with those in need.
May this spirit of thankfulness
resonate through our lives,
today and always.
Amen.

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!

Pastoral Assistance

Emergency contact: Fr. Ross Parker, 515-720-3434.

If a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit please contact Fr. Parker at rparker@dmdiocese.org or 515-367-2685 or Deacon Schleisman at 515-669-6158 or digiterry@netscape.net.



Thanksgiving Day Mass

Please join us on Thursday, November 23 for 9:00am Mass at St. Mary, to give thanks to our God for all his blessings!

Book of Remembrance

You are invited to write in the names of your deceased loved ones to be remembered at our Masses this month.

Huxley Clothes Pantry

We are looking for 1 more volunteer for Wednesday, Dec. 6. — if a different day works for you, it's great to have extra help! Please contact the parish office to help with a 2 hour shift, bliske@saintmaryhc.org or 515-367-2685.

Christmas Eve Choir

Join us to bring the joy of music to this very special Mass. All ages and musical ability are welcome! The first practice is after 10:00am Mass today; additional practice dates are Sundays, December 3 & 17 after 10:00am Mass and will last approximately one hour. Evening practice dates will be determined by accompanist and choir member availability. For more information, please contact Sue Schmidt at sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org.

Bulletin Deadline

The next bulletin will be for two weeks, Nov. 25/26 and Dec. 2/3. If you would like to submit something for this bulletin, please email the office by 9:00am this Tuesday. Thank you.

Parish Council

Meeting: November 21, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting, November 28, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: January 8, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Nov. 20, Rosary, 6:40pm SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 6, Alleman, Baxter, Des Moines, Mingo, Mitchellville, Prairie City, Sheldahl, Slater

*The Parish Office is closed
Nov. 23 & 24 and Nov. 27 through Dec. 1*

Fr. Parker doesn't have set office hours at the parish.
Reach him at rparker@dmdiocese.org/515-720-3434.

Coming Events

- † **Weekend of Nov. 18/19:** Food Pantry Collection for *The Blessing Box* in Elkhart
- † **Choir Practice:** Sundays after 10:00am Mass Nov. 19, Dec. 3 & 10. Additional practices to be announced
- † **Masses Dec. 2 & 3:** Blessing of Mothers-To-Be
- † **Monday, Dec. 11:** Ladies Christmas gathering, 6:00pm Mass followed by food, fun and fellowship, St. Mary

An Opportunity!

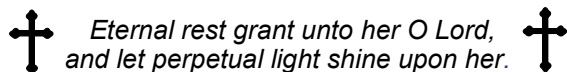
We are looking for volunteers to help with RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). If you are interested, please contact Nicole Cory, ncory@saintmaryhc.org, or Father Ross, rparker@dmdiocese.org.

Blessings Offered

If you would like a blessing for your fields, flocks, pets, house or another blessing, Fr. Parker is more than happy to come to your home for any of these. Please email him for more information at rparker@dmdiocese.org.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Gwen Ward, aunt of Dona Cowman, who passed away Nov. 11, and for her family that they know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.



Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

We do not meet this week. We hope your family has a wonderful Thanksgiving! We are excited about the upcoming season in the church year. Christmas is such an exciting time for children, we encourage you to tap into that excitement, while still keeping the children grounded in the faith this season, by observing Advent traditions in your home. Advent is a time of prayer and preparation for the birth of the Lord. A few ways to incorporate this idea into your home are: having an advent wreath, making a Jesse Tree and having a prayer table with a purple cloth on it. In fact, many families incorporate purple into their decorations at home, and then slowly add in more festive decorations. Whatever you do, making a distinction between the preparation and the feast is a great way to help children get the most out of this beautiful time of year! Watch your email for links to more ideas!

November 22- No Session, Happy Thanksgiving!

November 29- Regular Sessions

December 6- Regular Sessions

S.T.O.R.M. Report: 7th - 12th Grade

Grades 7-12 Coordinators

Melissa Kahler, mkahler@saintmaryhc.org, 515-290-2830
Andrea Fisher, afisher@saintmaryhc.org, 515-240-5059
Nicole Cory, ncory@saintmaryhc.org, 515-313-3014

EDGE (7th & 8th Grades)

No Session Nov. 22 or 29

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Sunday, Nov. 26, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 10th grade only session, youth room downstairs at St Mary

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 6:00-7:30pm: 9th & 10th grade family session, Social Hall

Sunday, Dec. 10, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 9th grade only session, youth room downstairs at St Mary

Sunday Dec. 17, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 10th grade only session, youth room downstairs at St Mary

STORM Youth Group (9th - 12th Grades)

No gathering Nov. 22 or 29

Serve Homeless Children

Our parish families have been preparing a meal for homeless children and their families at the Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter on the second Sunday of each month for more than twenty years. Volunteers are needed for every month in 2024 except May, October and November. One or more families or groups can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal (about 10 families up to 34 people) to the shelter in Des Moines. Up to 3 people can now prepare the meal on-site. This is the only homeless shelter in the Des Moines area that accepts complete families, both parents and children. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt for a tax deduction. To volunteer or to find out more, contact Lisa or Tim Kautza, kautza@netins.net /515-964-7687.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

November 12 Budget Week 20

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$1,502	\$6,114

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$83,383	\$122,274	\$92,900

Mass Attendance: Nov. 11/12: 279

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal

<u>Assessed</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$55,196	\$52,825	\$50,445	\$2,380	\$4,751

Councils and Committees

If you prefer to speak with one of our committee members instead of email, please contact the parish office for their phone number.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Celia Shedd, *Chair* - hoyhill@partnercom.net
Terri Hamm - Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com
Lisa Schoening - lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Winders - *President* - mwinde59@yahoo.com
Heidi Ackerman - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
John Fisher - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@commonspirit.org
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kris Sturtz - klsturtz@gmail.com
Jen Linderblood - jlinderb@yahoo.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Sue White - charylmyron@q.com

BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Roberts, Co-Chair - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Scott Turczynski, Co-Chair - ScottT@hrtlnd.us
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com
Tim Miller - millertimothyg@gmail.com
Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Bill Schmitt - isucui@isualum.com
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiaowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Stacey Rooney - rooneysl7@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - shawcattle77@gmail.com

PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - fogarty929@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

PARISH HISTORIAN

Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com - 515-710-2421

PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Mike Devereux - devoducks@msn.com



Advent Resources

You have various booklets to choose from to help prepare for the Christmas celebration of God among us. Determine ahead of time which might be best for you by reading the following brief descriptions. Booklets will be available next weekend.

Little Blue Book

Advent and Christmas Seasons

Each 24-hour day has 1,440 minutes; you are asked to give six of those 1,440 minutes to prayer for the next 37 days. This booklet will be your companion; make it a part of your daily schedule, not something you try to squeeze in whenever. The left hand page has a variety of thoughts about these seasons, the feast of the day or various traditions and customs. The key is the right-hand page; which reflects on the first part of Luke's Gospel a little bit at a time. Let God speak to you through the inspired words, guiding you to reflections that sometimes seem to come from nowhere.

*God's living Word
can change your day...
can change your life.*

The Word Among Us

Living as a Holy Family

This Advent Season is the perfect time to put Jesus first in our lives because that is exactly what he did for us when he chose to leave the beauty of heaven and take on human flesh and was born into a real family—the Holy Family. Set your family apart for the Lord; you will be helping them become a holy family. This booklet includes daily meditations and articles that can help you navigate the ups and downs of family life.

Journey to Joy

Family Booklet

True joy can rise up within us even when our Advents—or our lives—aren't glittery gold and even when we feel more broken than whole. A joyful heart is possible despite what is happening around us. With Bible-based reflections to ponder, prayers to pray and simple faith-based actions, families will share the joy of Jesus' birth throughout Advent.

Learning to Love Like Jesus

Activity Booklet For Children

During Advent, we wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. This booklet is filled with easy ideas and fun activities to help children find ways to love like Jesus throughout this time of holy and joyful waiting. These activities help them to look for ways to make their hearts more loving and caring and to follow Jesus today and every day.

A Time for Holy Listening

Daily Reflections, Practices and Prayers

The season of Advent gives us space for holy listening and calls us to reflect on the profound reality of who we are and whose we are. This booklet offers wonderfully reflective meditations for each day of this holy season and encourages us to pause, in the midst of our preparations, to remember that our God is a God Ever-Present.

Celebrate Advent like Mary!



Waiting in Joyful Hope

Daily Reflections

Prepare for the coming of Christ with this popular and inviting annual guide. During the especially busy Advent and Christmas seasons, this book offers brief, down-to-earth reflections that bring prayer and Scripture into everyday life in a thought-provoking and lasting way. Through these reflections on lectionary readings from the weekday and Sunday Masses, readers will grow in their understanding of the word of God. This book will help busy people achieve their goal of enriching their prayer life during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Parish Opportunities

Mass: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 8:00am St. Mary;
Wednesdays, 5:30pm Holy Cross

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturdays, 4:00-4:30pm, St. Mary
Additional times:

December 20, 21 & 22,
6:00 - 7:00pm, St. Mary

**Find Advent events and
resources offered by the Diocese
and other parishes at
www.dmdiocese.org.**

Laudato Si

Whenever possible, save up your errands and combine as many as you can into a single trip. This will mean much less vehicle exhaust than if you made separate trips, and it will save wear and tear on your vehicle. See more at:

<https://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>.

† Blessing For Mothers-To-Be

At Masses the weekend of December 2/3, 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, and for a safe delivery and healthy baby.

Ladies Christmas Potluck!



Join us Monday, December 11 for 6:00pm Mass followed by a potluck and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share. We'll enjoy each others company and sing a few carols. We will collect personal items for *The Blessing Box* if you wish to donate items. Thank you and hope to see YOU there!

🙏 Prayer Chain

If illness or a crisis strikes your family or friends, don't hesitate to contact us so members of our Parish may offer prayers for those in need. *If the request is not for you, please ask permission of the one it is for, to be on our prayer chain.* To request prayers or to participate in our prayer chain, please contact the parish office, bliske@saintmaryhc.org.

Catholic Youth Camp



Online registration is open! Spend a week growing in faith and discipleship, having fun, playing games and making friends! Find out more and register at <https://stmcenter.com/registration>. Our parish pays \$100 of this camp fee for each child of the parish; please notify the parish office when you have registered your child for CYC.

Liturgical Ministers November 25 & 26

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Linda Froehlich
Host Distributor **Volunteer needed**
Cup Bearers Tom & Linda Froehlich
Altar Servers **Volunteers needed**
Ushers **Volunteers needed**
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector **Volunteer needed**
Cup Bearer Laurie Phelan
Altar Server **Volunteer needed**
Usher **Volunteer needed**
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Jill Swanson
Host Distributor Jill Swanson
Cup Bearers Greg Feldmann, **1 volunteer needed**
Altar Servers Emma Swanson, **1 volunteer needed**
Ushers **Volunteers needed**
Music Christine Muehlenthaler, Karon Lacey, Maggie Bruce

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Money Counters

November 19: Dona Cowman, Kathy Daup
November 26: Sue White, Sharon Morris
December 3: Dona Cowman, Kathy Daup



It takes between 400 and 500 years for a Styrofoam cup to decompose. It takes an orange peel six months to decompose.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

This Diocesan collection assists community leaders who work to expand access to affordable housing, health care and education; development of worker-owned businesses and advocates for changes to structures that keep people in poverty. Thank you for your support. *Donation envelopes are on the table; please return in the next few weeks.*

Nourish for Caregivers

If you're caring for a parent, a spouse or a child and need prayerful support, consider coming to the next *Nourish for Caregivers* gathering on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 6:00pm at Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines. Questions? Contact Patty Origer at poriger@dmdiocese.org.

Saturday Retreats

Join us at Emmaus House for our new Saturday Retreat Day. In December we offer two retreats beginning with Lectio Divina with Father Dan Krettek on Saturday, Dec. 2. On Saturday, Dec. 9 April Young will facilitate a Blue Christmas Retreat, offered for anyone who has experienced loss, difficulty, major life change, or anything else that makes this Christmas "blue." Check out these and more offerings at www.TheEmmausHouse.org.

Advent Taize Service

Please join St. Catherine of Siena Parish (1150-28th St, DSM) for their Advent Taize Service on Wednesday evening, December 6 at 7:00pm. Advent Taize is a quiet reflection on the season featuring the melodic voices of the St. Catherine of Siena Choir, seasonal readings and quiet reflection in a peaceful, candlelight atmosphere.

Chesterton High School Academy

Their mission is to help parents raise up a new generation of joyful leaders and saints, educated in the classical tradition and the truths of the Catholic faith. A rigorous, integrated curriculum unlocks student's potential and prepares students to succeed in college and professional life, and to excel in service of family, country, and of Christ our Lord. For more information please go to <https://chestertondesmoines.org/>.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Nov. 18/19

Theme: Christ calls us to use our gifts for the Reign of God.
Reading I: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 • The wise woman receives her reward.
Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 • You are children of the light.
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30 • We must use the gifts we have been given!
Question for Children: Name one talent or gift that God has given you and tell how you have used it.
Question for Youth: Name three talents that you have. How can you use these talents in the next week to make someone's life better?
Question for Adults: Using Jesus' parable as your starting point, describe in your own words how you are using your own gifts to enrich the reign of God.