



# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



## Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 11/12, 2023

Dear Good People,

I hope this letter finds each of you well. I just wanted to give an update about some of our projects. You will notice that we have installed new gutters around St. Mary's church. We are hoping that this will help with some of our water leakage issues. The crew is finishing up as I write this. I want to thank David Liske for helping remove all the old gutters and dispose of them properly. I also want to thank Drew Hanlon and John Roberts for their help in replacing the lights in the parking lot. Drew and Doug Jones are also working to fix the leak in the bell tower. Unfortunately, the lift we have here now does not reach the bell tower, so that project may have to wait until we can get a lift that reaches higher. We have also been working with the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Finance Council, and Parish Council to get a plan going for our building needs. I think this is a work of hospitality as we want the buildings and grounds at both of our sites to look nice as it is inviting to others. We are also going to finish some plaster work at St. Mary's next month. Thank you to all who work at this, seen and unseen.

I also want to thank everyone for the great turnout for the Work of Our Hands festival. It was a lot of work for all the vendors to set up and I think all of you were very supportive of them. Great work all around! It is hard to believe that we are moving ever closer to Advent. We will send a schedule out soon that will include extra time for the sacrament of reconciliation and mass times. Christmas will be on a Monday this year (worst day) so we will have to adjust our weekend mass times. We will get that to you soon. A lot going on, so let's keep one another in prayer! A.M.D.G. ~ Fr. Ross

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*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.*

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<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Parish General Email</b>	<a href="mailto:smhc@saintmaryhc.org">smhc@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor</b>	515-367-2685/ <a href="mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org">rparker@dmdiocese.org</a>
<b>Deacon Terry Schleisman</b>	515-669-6158/ <a href="mailto:digiterry@netscape.net">digiterry@netscape.net</a>
<b>Nicole Cory - Confirmation</b>	<a href="mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org">ncory@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	<a href="mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org">afisher@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	<a href="mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org">mkahler@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Barb Liske - Secretary</b>	<a href="mailto:bliske@saintmaryhc.org">bliske@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE</b>	<a href="mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org">gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE</b>	<a href="mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org">tmiller@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Sue Schmidt - Music</b>	<a href="mailto:sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org">sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper</b>	<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org">bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Parish Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.saintmaryhc.org">www.saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Parish Facebook Site</b>	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
<b>Parish Fax</b>	515-367-7028

### Mass Schedule

Tuesday	8:00am	St. Mary
Wednesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
Thursday	8:00am	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.vocationonline.org](http://www.vocationonline.org)

## Mass and Reconciliation

### Tuesday, November 14

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mary Ellen Putman

### Wednesday, November 15

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Ashley Carpenter  
†Mary Beth Bump

### Thursday, November 16

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Edward & Jessie Ross

### Friday, November 17

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Susanne Campbell

### Saturday, November 18

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Bob & Julie Sexton

### Sunday, November 19

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross *People of the Parish*

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mark Schmidt

## 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](mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org) or 515-367-2685 or Deacon Schleisman at 515-669-6158 or [digiterry@netscape.net](mailto:digiterry@netscape.net).



## Book of Remembrance

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

## Come See Our Avenue of Flags

Take a drive through our *Avenue of Flags* at Holy Cross Cemetery this Veteran's weekend. The flags will fly from about 10:30am Saturday morning until 5:00pm Sunday evening.

## Huxley Clothes Pantry

This pantry is manned by volunteers from various churches all year long. Our parish is in charge of providing volunteers for December. **We still need a few more volunteers!** To help with a 2 hour shift, please contact the parish office, 515-367-2685 or [bliske@saintamryhc.org](mailto:bliske@saintamryhc.org). Many thanks to those who have volunteered already!



## A Get Together!

All are invited to come work on your crafts or play games and enjoy conversation with fellow parishioners! We gather this Thursday, November 16, 9:00am in the Social Hall. Join us!

## Food Pantry Collection

Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass next weekend; we will also take up a monetary collection. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing with those in need. Your donation assists *The Blessings Box* in Elkhart.

## Prayer for Veterans

Dear Lord,

We honor our veterans,  
worthy men and women who gave their best  
when they were called upon to serve  
and protect their country.

We pray that you will bless them for  
their unselfish service in the continual struggle  
to preserve our freedoms, our safety,  
and our country's heritage, for all of us.

Bless them abundantly for hardships they faced,  
for the sacrifices they made,  
for their many different contributions  
to America's victories over tyranny and oppression.

We respect them, we thank them,  
we honor them, we are proud of them.

Watch over these special people  
and bless them with peace and happiness. Amen.

### Parish Council

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

### Finance Council

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

### Stewardship

Meeting: November 13, 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

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

## Coming Events

- † **This Weekend:** Blessing of Veterans at Masses — NCYC *Move the Bus* fundraiser after Masses
- † **Thursday, Nov. 16:** Crafts, Games & Conversation, 9:00am, Social Hall
- † **Weekend of Nov. 18/19:** Food Pantry Collection for *The Blessing Box*, Elkhart

## Fundraiser for NCYC Pilgrimage!

Last chance to "Move the NCYC Bus"! Please consider donating to sponsor "miles along the trip to Indianapolis". Last weekend you donated almost enough to get the bus there; this weekend we hope to collect enough to get the bus back home! This Thursday 18 SM-HC teens and adults leave on this amazing pilgrimage to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference. They travel by charter bus 500+ miles to join 20,000 other Catholic teens and leaders. Thank you for your prayers and support! *God IS good, ALL the time!*

## 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](mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org), or Father Ross, [rparker@dmdiocese.org](mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org).

## In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Ellen Putman, Aunt of Drew Hanlon, who passed away Nov. 1, and for her family that they find strength and comfort as they mourn her passing.

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

## Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

### Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, [gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org), 515-556-4150  
Tracy Miller, [tmiller@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org), 515-520-7981

**Mark your calendars!** On January 3 we will have a First Communion meeting at 6:30pm. There will not be a regular session that evening. If you have a child that you think will be receiving their First Communion this school year, you will need to attend. Please RSVP to Geneveve.

### Upcoming Sessions

November 15- Regular Sessions  
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](mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org), 515-290-2830  
Andrea Fisher, [afisher@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org), 515-240-5059  
Nicole Cory, [ncory@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org), 515-313-3014

### EDGE 7th & 8th

**No Session** on Nov. 15, 22 or 29

### 9th & 10th Confirmation:

**Saturday, Nov. 11 & Sunday, Nov. 12:** 11:00am-2:00pm:  
10th Grade only Sponsor/Teen Prayer Stations, Social Hall  
**Sunday, Nov. 12,** 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 9th grade only session, youth room downstairs at St. Mary.  
**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

### STORM Youth Group (9th - 12th Graders)

**No gathering** on Nov. 15, 22 or 29

## Music Notes

The Christmas season is right around the corner. We would like to have a choir for the Sunday Christmas Eve Mass. Please help us to bring the joy of music to this very special Mass. All ages and musical ability are welcome to join! We would love to have some children join us this year; if you participated in the Children's Masses as a cantor or choir member and like to sing, please join us.

The first practice is after 10:00am Mass next Sunday; additional confirmed practice dates are Sundays, December 3 & 17 after 10:00am Mass and last approximately one hour. Additional evening practice dates will be determined by accompanist and choir member availability. For more information, please contact Sue Schmidt at [sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org).

## Church Sign

**"Well done" is better than "Well said".**

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

**November 5** Budget Week 19

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$3,283	\$6,114
Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund		
Received	Budget	Last Year
\$81,881	\$116,160	\$89,890

**Buildings & Grounds Collection: \$1095.50**

**Mass Attendance: Nov. 4/5: 351**

### 2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal

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

## 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@midiowa.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

## Laudato Si

When shopping, often you can choose to have a receipt emailed to you instead of receiving a printed copy. Digital receipts are easier to organize, save and search, and they reduce paper waste. See more at:

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

## 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!

## Ladies Christmas Potluck!

Please 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. If you would like to donate personal items, we will be collecting them for *The Blessing Box*. Thank you and hope to see YOU there!

## "Prosper the Work Of Our Hands!" (Ps 90)

Work Of Our Hands (WOOH) was initiated among the community of St. Mary – Holy Cross in 2002 to (1) give you another way to build community and solidarity, (2) introduce you to artisans, farmers, service providers, hobbyists, and others in our parish who are willing to provide their services or goods for a fee or barter, and (3) give those who would provide such services and goods a way of letting others know about it. We WOOH participants thank you who stopped by our tables last weekend to support our endeavors. If you weren't able to stop by, you can find us in the WOOH Directory that you may have received by email or in a bulletin. You can also find it in the "Get Involved" section under "Groups" on our parish website ([saintmaryhc.org](http://saintmaryhc.org)). Although the parish can't guarantee the quality of the products and services we provide, we hope you will consider contacting us when you are in need of our services or products. Thank you for buying local.

## Liturgical Ministers November 18 & 19

### Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Kris Sexton
Host Distributor	Bill Sexton
Cup Bearers	Kris Sexton, Mary Thomas
Altar Servers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Ushers	Drew Hanlon, Jim Hudson
Music	Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

### Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Jackie Crouse
Cup Bearer	Dawn Beukema
Altar Server	Claire & Oliver Hand
Usher	Todd & Jill Beukema
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

### Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Gregg Feldmann
Host Distributor	Jill Swanson
Cup Bearers	Greg Feldmann, Tracy Miller
Altar Servers	Isaac, Jonah & Gabriel Miller
Ushers	Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music	Sue Schmidt, Celeste Muehlenthaler

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## Money Counters

**November 12:** Brenda Nehring, Sharon Morris  
**November 19:** Dona Cowman, Kathy Daup  
**November 16:** Sue White, Sharon Morris



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

## Parish Council Nominations

As we look forward to 2024, the Parish Council wants to ensure the Council membership is representative of the parish community. Thus, the Council, in consultation with Father Parker, is beginning a discernment process for the appointment of new members. Attributes such as faithfulness, integrity, generosity, compassion, and actively deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ are desirable in all members of the Council. Skills for effective communication and listening, creative discernment and verbalization of a vision, and working collaboratively with others are essential elements. If you have anyone you would like to nominate (including yourself), please contact Father Ross or a Parish Council member at the parish office 515-367-2685. Application forms are posted on the parish website or available through Barb Liske in the parish office.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Discover Catholic Schools Week Nov. 12-18

Our Diocesan Schools offer a faith-based community where students grow and thrive, gain confidence, facilitate problem-solving, and develop critical thinking skills, all while building a strong foundation of gratitude, passion, empathy and a commitment to service. Application for enrollment begins Dec. 1 for the 2024-2025 school year. There are multiple tuition assistance opportunities and Education Savings Accounts available to qualifying families that make tuition more affordable than you think. You are invited to visit our schools Nov. 12-18. Learn more at [dmidiocese.org/grow](http://dmidiocese.org/grow).

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Nov. 11/12

*Theme: We must always be ready.*

*Reading I:* Wisdom 6:12-16 • Wisdom seeks those who seek her.

*Reading II:* 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 • The dead will participate in Jesus' return.

*Gospel:* Matthew 25:1-13 • Readiness is essential for the end time.

*Question for Children:* If Jesus came to your house today, what would you do to get ready for him?

*Question for Youth:* What strategy do you have to make sure you are "ready" for the inevitable moment when you will die?

*Question for Adults:* How are you preparing to be ready for that moment that no one escapes, the moment when you come to the end of your life as you know it now?