



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 14/15, 2023

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 21/22, 2023

Dear Good People,

As I hope this letter finds you well. What a crazy, but blessed two weeks. Thank you for understanding my absence. All of you were prayed for at the major basilica's in Rome. The highlight of my trip was of course the transitional deacon ordinations of 18 young men who are giving their lives for the church. Among them was Deacon Mike Mahoney from West Des Moines. Please keep Deacon Mike and his classmates in your prayers.

I also wanted to touch briefly on the location of the tabernacle in the sanctuary of St. Mary's. I spoke about this at mass a couple of months ago and I think I also touched on this during one of my letters as well. Basically, this conversation was ongoing before I arrived and we have been discussing this with the Parish Council as well. I also wanted to make sure I got input from as many people as possible. The input has been very positive in terms of moving the tabernacle to the center of the sanctuary and then moving the statue of St. Joseph to the right of the sanctuary as you are facing the altar. The main reasons for this proposed move is first of all theological. Now, the priest is in the center of the sanctuary during mass. If we move the tabernacle to the center, it makes the statement that Christ is at the center of our worship. Secondly, aesthetically, with the musicians and the flow of everything it makes sense to move the tabernacle so that things are much more balanced. This is by no means a repudiation of former pastors or decisions that were made in the past. I am sure that there were good reasons to move the high altar and the tabernacle. Secondly, this is not some repudiation of the Second Vatican Council. I would argue that it fits nicely with the council's teaching that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. Also, it will help foster full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy that the council called for. This is also not a step in moving the altar back or installing communion rails and things like that. Again, this is simply meant to continue to challenge us to put Christ in the center of our worship. We would also move the presider's chair off to the side so that it would not obstruct the view of the tabernacle. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this. The Director of Worship in the diocese has approved of this change. I just want to make sure we kind of go slow with this as the current set-up has been in place since the late 80's. I know that some changes can be difficult as at least one generation has always known the set-up as it is. Sometimes these changes can be difficult and I totally get that. So, I think we just want to prudently proceed. 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
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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
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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

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.vocationsonline.org

Mass, Rosary & Reconciliation

Tuesday, October 17

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Elaine Barnwell

Wednesday, October 18

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † Doc Birchmier

Thursday, October 19

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

Friday, October 20

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Mark Hanlon

Saturday, October 21 Rosary 20 minutes before Mass

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Lee & Colleen Hindman

Sunday, October 22 Rosary 20 minutes before Masses

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † Pat Phelan

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

Tuesday, October 24

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Mary Ann Cory

Wednesday, October 25

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † Jim & Margaret Shaw

Thursday, October 26

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Marge Cory

Friday, October 27

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Joe Rubendall

Saturday, October 28 Rosary 20 minutes before Mass

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Adam Baumberger

Sunday, October 29 Rosary 20 minutes before Masses

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † Harry & Mary Fisher

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

The Memorare

Remember O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to your protection,
implored your help,
or sought your intercession,
was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence,
I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins,
my Mother.

To you do I come,
before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in your mercy,
hear and answer me. Amen.

Parish Council

Meeting: October 17, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting, October 24, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: November 13, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Oct. 16, Rosary, 6:40pm SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

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

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.

InnerVision Healthcare Baby Bottle Campaign

InnerVision empowers women in vulnerable situations to choose parenting or adoption. To donate to this campaign, please take a baby bottle, fill it with change, cash, or checks (made out to InnerVisions) and return it the following weekend. Thank you for supporting InnerVisions! Visit www.ivhcare.org to learn more. 

Note From the Cemetery Committee

In preparation for Winter, please plan to remove all your grave site decorations at Holy Cross Cemetery no later than October 31. Any remaining decorations after this date will be picked up by the committee. Thank you.



Food Pantry Collections

Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass the weekend of October 21/22; we will also take up a monetary collection. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing with those in need. Your donation helps Impact Community Action Partnership serving families in Central Iowa.

The Parish office is closed October 16-20
and opens at Noon on October 23.

Fr. Parker does not have set office hours when he is
at the parish. To reach him, please email, call or text:
rparker@dmdiocese.org/515-720-3434.

Coming Events

- † **Weekend of Oct. 14/15:** InnerVisions Baby Bottle Campaign
- † **Sunday, Oct. 15:** Omelet /Scramlette Bar after 10:00am Mass, Social Hall
- † **Oct. 21/22 weekend:** Food Pantry Collection for Impact Community Action Partnership in Ankeny — return of InnerVisions baby bottles
- † **Wednesday, Oct. 25:** Trunk or Treat, 6:00-7:00pm St. Mary
- † **Saturday, Oct. 28:** Confirmation's Community Service day
- † **Thursday, Nov. 2:** Blood Drive, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall
- † **Weekend of Nov. 4 & 5:** Work of Our Hands Festival, Saturday 3:00 - 4:45pm & after Mass until 7:30pm and Sunday after 10:00am Mass until 12:30pm. — See insert

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

The year is off to a great start. We enjoy having your children in Religious Education. If anyone is curious about what the children are experiencing, feel free to reach out to one of us. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about it or set up a time for you to observe in the classroom. Our evening sessions will not meet the last Wednesday of October and first Wednesday of November. We invite your families to come to the church and experience Trunk-or-Treat and celebrate the Holy Day of Obligation, All Saints Day.

Upcoming Sessions

October 18-Regular Sessions

October 25- No Evening Sessions- Trunk or Treat

Nov. 1- No Sessions, Please attend Mass with your family

Nov. 4- Children are Ministers at 10am Mass, Session C

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

Session: October 18, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

October 25: Trunk or Treat. Teens come as soon as able to set up and will be asked to stay a bit later to help clean up.

9th & 10th Confirmation:

Sunday, Oct. 22, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 10th grade only session, youth room, downstairs at St. Mary.

Saturday, Oct. 28, 8:00am - Noon: Community Service Day; rain date will be Saturday, Nov. 4.

No Wednesday Family Session for the month of October.

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.

STORM Youth Group (9th - 12th Graders)

Gathering: October 18, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room

Save the Date - Spread the Word!



S.T.O.R.M. Youth of our Parish invite you and your family to TRUNK OR TREAT on Wednesday, October 25, 6:00 to 7:00pm in the parking lot at St. Mary (if rains, in the Social Hall).

All Parish families, friends and surrounding community members are welcome to attend! Wear your costume (non-scary please) and "trunk or treat" at the different cars. Be sure to vote for your favorite decorated car. Games, candy and hot cocoa will all be FREE!

We will be collecting items for *Mary's Helping Hands* which provides hope, love and support for expecting mothers who need a helping hand with basic needs for their child's first year of life. Items needed are: formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, baby lotion, and diaper cream.

We need your help with this growing community outreach! Please consider donating 1-2 large bags of wrapped candy to hand out to the 200+ trunk or treaters! We are also collecting snacks, small toys and trinkets. There is a container by the cry room for your donations. We will be collecting through October 22. If you are interested in helping in any way or hosting a trunk, please contact Melissa Kahler, 515-290-2830 or Andrea Fisher, 515-240-5059. Thank You!

Weekly Collection Financial Update

October 8 Budget Week 15

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$3,122	\$6,114

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$64,409	\$91,705	\$68,524

Buildings & Grounds Collection: \$1495.00

Mass Attendance: Oct. 7/8: 231

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal

<u>Assessed</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$55,196	\$50,045	\$47,775	\$2,270	\$7,421

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@mercycioneiowa.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

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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@hrthnd.us

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Bill Schmitt - isucui@isualum.com

Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com

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Larry Shaw - shawcattle77@gmail.com

PARISH TRUSTEES

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PARISH HISTORIAN

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PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Mike Devereux - devoducks@msn.com

