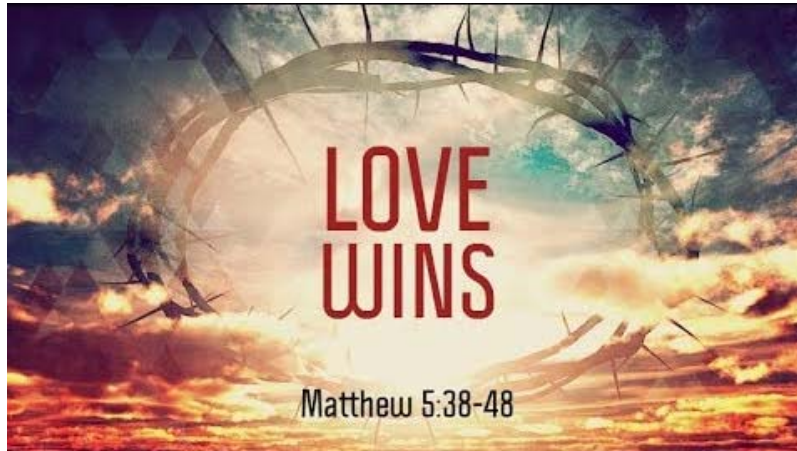




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 18/19, 2023

Dear Good People,

I hope this message finds you well as we begin our Lenten journey together beginning on Ash Wednesday, this upcoming Wednesday Feb. 22nd. We will have mass at 7AM (I am aware of time and will try to get you to work in good shape), then that evening we will have mass at 6:30. Both of these masses are at St. Mary. I hope you are able to attend one of those masses. I love Lent. I always find it a time to get serious about the most important things. Pope Francis has some concrete suggestions for making this Lent meaningful:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. GET RID OF THE LAZY ADDICTION TO EVIL | 6. PRAYER |
| 2. DO SOMETHING THAT HURTS | 7. FASTING |
| 3. DON'T REMAIN INDIFFERENT | 8. ALMSGIVING |
| 4. PRAY: MAKE OUR HEARTS LIKE YOURS! | 9. HELP THE POOR |
| 5. TAKE PART IN THE SACRAMENTS | 10. EVANGELIZE |

Here is a link for more details about these 10 suggestions: <https://focusequip.org/what-should-i-do-for-lent-pope-francis-10-tips/>.

A.M.D.G. ~ Fr. Ross Parker

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	7am & 6:30pm	St. Mary
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, Reconciliation and Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, February 21

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Bernard Hanlon

Ash Wednesday, February 22

7:00am Mass, St. Mary †Jean Hurd

6:30pm Mass, St. Mary †Ron Koeppel

Thursday, February 23

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Victoria & Clarence Becker

Friday, February 24

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Helen Koch

6:00pm Stations of the Cross, St. Mary

Saturday, February 25

4:00-4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Donnie & Rita Smith

Sunday, February 26

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Lyle Carpenter

10:00am Mass, St. Mary People of 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 card found in the vestibule of St. Mary or Holy Cross or on our website. We are glad you are here!

† Pastoral Assistance

In case of emergency contact Fr. Ross Parker at 515-720-3434. If you or a family member is in a care facility, homebound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit please contact Fr. Parker at rparker@dmdiocese.org or 515-367-2685.

Bibles for Our First Communicants

If you wish to sponsor a child's Bible please mail or drop off a check with "Bible" written in the memo to St. Mary's. The cost is \$30. Geneveve and Tracy will be available after Masses this weekend with envelopes for those who wish to contribute in person. Thank you for prayerfully considering this lifelong gift to the children.

Ash Wednesday

Join us as we begin our Lenten journey this Wednesday, with Masses at 7:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary.

Fasting & Abstaining From Meat

Everyone 14 years and older are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.

Everyone 18 years old and under 59 years old are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

On these days, only one full meatless meal is allowed.

Two other meatless meals together should not equal a full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juice are allowed.

When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, this does not apply.

Try Something New!

We hope you will consider forming your personal faith by participating in our Lenten offerings... Stations of the Cross... Sacrament of Reconciliation... attending weekday Mass... making use of the reflection resources available in the vestibule. Welcome Jesus more fully into your life and let him be the anchor of your soul.

Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Be with us Lord, keep us strong as we enter into the desert of Lent. Our sins come forth as shadows across the landscape of our lives. Today, we acknowledge our humanity and know that this marking of sign and symbol on our body is what calls us into further relationship with you, our God. We accept the mark. Made of earth-grown, harvested, burned, blessed, and placed on our bodies. Be with us as we spend the next 40 days calling to mind our thoughts and actions. May all our prayers, silence, pauses and actions call us into further relationship with you. Amen.

Parish Council

Meeting: Feb. 21, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting, Feb. 28, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: March 13, 6:00pm, Ed Center

Knights of Columbus

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

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations:

Team 5 from Elkhart and Cambridge

Coming Events

†**This Weekend:** Collection for Catholic Charities Food Pantry — First Communion Bible Fundraiser after Masses

†**Friday, Feb. 24:** Social Hall in use all day — Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary — Fish Fry served 5:00-7:00pm, Social Hall



Stations of the Cross

These Stations began with pilgrims to Jerusalem who would retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary. Later, for those who wanted to pass along the same route, but couldn't make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed that eventually took the form of our current fourteen Stations.

Come pray these powerful Stations every Friday of Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary, and follow Jesus on his way to Calvary.

Fish Frys

The Knights of Columbus are looking forward to serving their Lenten Fish Frys again this year. Please join them to eat or help this Friday, February 24 and also on March 10, and March 24. Serving from 5:00 to 7:00pm; free will donation. Please contact Jon Hand if you would like to help, 515-291-8814 or jon79hand@gmail.com.

Looking To Do Something Different This Lent?

How about leading the Stations of the Cross one Friday? We have a choice of booklets from which to read. For more information, please call the office. To volunteer please sign up in the vestibule at St. Mary, or call the office. Thank you!!

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

As the children prepare for First Holy Communion we are focusing on different parts of the Mass in our presentations. Gestures are an important part of the Mass and it is so satisfying to explain them to the children. The first gesture we explain is the Epiclesis. This gesture happens when Father lowers his hands over the bread and the wine and calls down the Holy Spirit to change them into the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. In our parish, a single solitary bell rings to set this moment apart.

Upcoming Sessions

No Class on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, please attend Mass
February 24 Regular Session
March 1/3 Regular Sessions
March 8/11- Regular Sessions

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
Nicole Cory, ncory@saintmaryhc.org, 515-313-3014

EDGE Dates (7th & 8th Graders)

Sessions: March 1, 8 & 22, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group (9th - 12th Graders)

Gatherings: March 1, 8 & 22, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area

Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

We have a lot of important dates coming up for Confirmation Prep, please watch your email for sign ups.

Lenten Resources

Please take advantage of these booklets available in the vestibule. They will help God's presence in you become more evident, more of a reality in your everyday life, and they may help God's light shine through you to others in need of love.

One Lenten Meal Still Needs Hosting

We are in need of hosts for our meal on Friday, March 17. Please consider getting involved in your parish in this way. Sign up at St. Mary or email the office, to volunteer or if you have questions. Thank you.

Old Palms

There is a container in the vestibule if you would like us to dispose of your blessed palms from last year.

60th Wedding Anniversary Card Shower

Congratulations to Richard (Butch) and Mary Doerhoff who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this Thursday!! Our prayers that the wonderful life they have made together will continue to be filled with God's richest blessings.

*If you would like to send them a card their address is:
301 E Hall Acres Rd, Unit 74, Pharr, TX 78577.*

Change of Information?

Moved? Had a baby? Dropped your landline? New email?
Please email the parish office with any changes so our records can be as accurate as possible. *Thank you!*

Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 12 Budget Week 33

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$3,809	\$5,944

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$169,736	\$196,156	\$182,048

Church Sign

The Life we Live is the Lesson we Teach.

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 - thamm@mercydesmoines.org
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tammi McClain - tammimccclair71@gmail.com
Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com
Lisa Schoening - lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@commonspirit.org
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.com
Kris Sturtz - klsturtz@gmail.com
Jen Linderblood - jlinderb@yahoo.com
Tammi McClain - tammimccclair71@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
Karen Bellis - puzzlenuts@aol.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@mid Iowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com
Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - shawcattle77@gmail.com
Mary Winders - mefothergill@yahoo.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

Garrett McClain - gjmccclair69@gmail.com

Laudato Si

Engage in forthright and honest discussions about environmental problems and policies, understanding that issues cannot be dealt with once and for all. Ongoing discussion will allow issues to be continually reframed and enriched with a variety of valid viewpoints and possible solutions. See more at:

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

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, 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.*

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit: Designate a monthly amount for withdrawal from your account on the 15th or 30th. If you have questions or would like to begin ACH, please contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org or find the form on the table at church or on the home page of our website.

Online Giving: Offered by 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 donation. No fees! The Foundation sends gift receipt.

Winter Weather Cancellations

Whenever North Polk School is cancelled, dismissed early, or evening school activities are cancelled due to weather, classes, meetings and activities here at the Parish will be cancelled as well. In most instances, Masses - both daily and weekend - will not be cancelled, so please use your own judgment. **If the need arises to cancel weekend activities, it will be on TV channels 5, 8 and 17.**

Liturgical Ministers February 25/26

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Susan Selby
Host Lisa Jones
Cup Bearers Bob & Susan Selby
Ushers Doug Jones, Drew Hanlon
Music Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Jacki Crouse
Cup Bearer Michele Hand
Altar Servers Claire & Oliver Hand
Usher Mike Veasman
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Jill Swanson
Host Distributor Garrett McClain
Cup Bearers Greg Feldmann, Jacki Ausman
Ushers Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music Karon Lacey, Terri Hamm
Mary Ortmann

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

Money Counters

February 19: Kathy Daup, Dona Cowman
February 26: Sue White, Brenda Nehring



Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to listen to a full album on your iPod.

Please Consider Helping Your Parish By...

Removing snow on the weekend and/or week day at St. Mary. We need people power! Currently we have no volunteers. Please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094ea4a722a2fb6-snow1#/> to sign up or contact Bill Schmitt with questions, 515-291-8005.

Hosting any of the following:

- Wine & Cheese after Mass on the first Saturday of April, May or June
- Coffee and donuts after 8:00am Mass on the first Sunday of April, May or June
- Coffee and donuts after 10:00am Mass on the first Sunday of March, April, May or June

If you have not hosted before, we can pair you up with someone who has.

Please contact the parish office with questions or if willing to help. Thank you.

End of Year Statements

To receive your year end statement, please email Candy, bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org or contact the office, 515-367-2685, with a request to email or print/mail your statement. In an effort to save money, we do not automatically mail out these statements to everyone.

Travel to Italy with Bishop Pates

All are invited to join Bishop Richard Pates on an unforgettable pilgrimage to Italy this May 3 - 12. The itinerary includes some of Bishop Pates' favorite locations, as well as some unique experiences. Discover Florence, the living museum of Italian Renaissance, including a guided tour of the Uffizi Gallery. Soak in the Italian culture with wine tasting and a rich Tuscan dinner at ancient cellars in the Chianti region, plus a hands-on pasta cooking class in the Sabina region. Attend a Papal Audience in St. Peter's Square. Tour the Colosseum, Catacombs, and the "Scavi" tour. Enjoy a special private tour of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel without the crowds! And so much more! For more information, visit www.majitravelinc.com. Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to register soon to reserve their spot. Questions? Call Magi Travel at 952-949-0065.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 18/19

Theme: God's love invites us to wholeness.

Reading I: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18 • To be like God is to be loving.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 • To love one another is to live.

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48 • Forgive and love to conquer evil.

Question for Children: What can you do at home or at school to show that you follow Jesus' Commandments?

Question for Youth: Do you think Jesus was serious when he said to love your enemies? Why or why not?

Question for Adults: Have you ever told someone to do something for his/her own well being? Do you accept God's laws in the same spirit of love and concern?