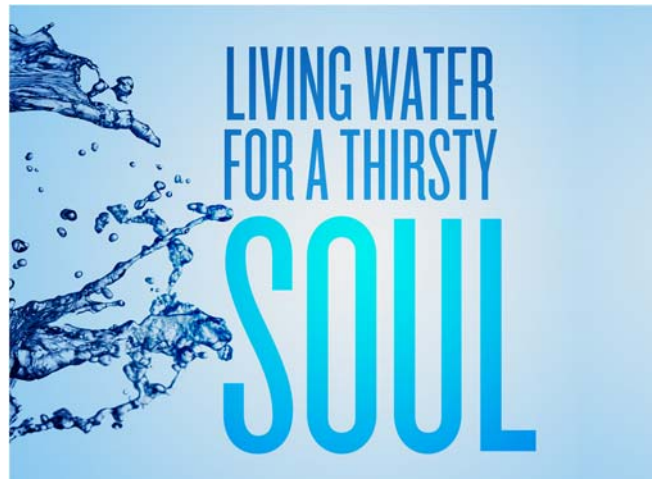




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Third Sunday of Lent

March 11/12, 2023

Dear Good People,

We are moving quickly through the Holy Season of Lent. These next three weeks we have three very important gospel passages. These readings will help prepare us for Easter. Please be attentive to these readings as there is great wisdom contained in them. A good practice is to read the readings before you attend mass. It is also good to read along during mass as well. I think the more senses we engage the easier it is for us to keep our attention on what is going on.

Secondly I just want to take a moment to thank all of you for all the great work you do. I have been very impressed to see so many people volunteer to do so much. At smaller parishes we really need to rely on volunteers. You all are integral in keeping things moving forward. I just wanted to take a moment and recognize that. Keep up the good work.

Finally, I spoke last week about the Annual Diocesan Appeal. I am grateful for your generosity. One good method for your tithing that works for me is something I learned from my first pastor. It is called the 5/4/1 model. So if we look at our tithing we would tithe 5 % to our parish, 4 % to another worthy cause or causes, and 1 % to the diocese. I think that is a good method. Just something to consider. Obviously I realize that not everyone is in a position to do this and the cost of things has really gone up. I know there is much uncertainty around our personal finances. Again, talking about money is something that none of us really likes to do. This is simply a suggestion and a helpful idea.

I wish all of the students, teachers, and staff (maybe not so much parents) a very happy Spring Break. If you are going out of town make sure you find out where the nearest mass is; and prayers for a safe journey for those who are traveling.

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

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 and Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, March 14

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

Wednesday, March 15

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

Thursday, March 16

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Sharon Dunbar

Friday, March 17

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †John Krettek

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

Saturday, March 18

4:00-4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Harry & Mary Fisher

Sunday, March 19

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Tom Morris

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

Lenten Prayer



Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given the human race
Jesus Christ our Savior
as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man
and giving His life on the Cross.
Help us to bear witness to You
by following His example
and make us worthy
to share in His Resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
Your Son. 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

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.

Earthquake Disaster Aid

The death toll from the earthquake in Turkey and Syria has surpassed a staggering 51,000. Those who survived face freezing conditions as they try to salvage their belongings and seek shelter. Our parish is taking up a second collection to help our brothers and sisters in need. You can contribute during the second collection this weekend, send a check directly to the Diocese with "Earthquake Relief" in the memo, or give online at dmdiocese.org/giving. Thank you for your assistance for those in need.

How's Your Lenten Transformation?

We are starting the third week of Lent. How are you doing with your Lenten commitments you began on Ash Wednesday? Are you going strong or easing up? Are you struggling? Talk to God about it!

We have a few Lenten booklets still available. *Diocesan Resources*: From toddlers to teenagers, we've got ideas for helping your family live Lent more fully. Go to dmdiocese.org/Lent2023 to find prayers, ways to fast (and good meatless soup recipes!) and a planner for the whole family for almsgiving. Find creative activities for children, conversation topics for teens, a list of feast days during Lent, and more.

Join Our Easter Choir!

All ages and skill levels are welcome! We will sing for Holy Saturday, April 8th Mass. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Sue Schmidt at sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org. Practice schedule: Sundays after 10:00am Mass on March 12, 19, 26 & April 2; and at 6:30pm on March 14, 30 & April 4.

Parish Council

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

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

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

Knights of Columbus

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

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations:

Team 5 from Elkhart and Cambridge

Coming Events

- †**This weekend**: Collection for earthquake disaster aid
- †**This Sunday**: Choir practice after 10am Mass
- †**Thursday, March 16**: Crafts, Games & Conversation, 9:00am, Social Hall
- †**Fridays of Lent**: Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, SM, Lenten meal after Stations on March 17 (hopefully) & 31
- †**March 18/19 Weekend**: Maxwell Food Pantry Collection

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Thank you to everyone who has already given a gift to this appeal. Each and every person's gift brings us closer to our assessment of \$55,196. For those who have not made their gift, please join us in supporting the vital programs and services throughout the Diocese. Simply fill out the contribution card you received from Bishop Joensen and place it in the offertory basket or drop it in the mail. *If paying by check, please make it out to Diocese of Des Moines.* Gifts can also be made at dmdiocese.org/giving and choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Thank you for your generosity and your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal.



This Thursday

YOU are invited to join us at 9:00am in the Social Hall to play games or work on your crafts and enjoy conversation!

Your Help is Requested!

We would like to have a Lenten meal after the Stations of the Cross this Friday, but need a few folks to host it. You can make your favorite non-meat dish, or we can provide the main dish for you to cook/bake. Contact the office with questions or to volunteer. Thank you!

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

Some of our older children have been diving into the Old Testament this semester. Doing Bible studies on creation, the fall of man, and the flood of Noah. These powerful scriptures lead the children into making connections with the New Testament and what we look forward to when Jesus comes again. They also draw in the connections these have with our sacraments and the gifts and graces these provide to us.

No class this week- enjoy your spring break.
March 22/24: Regular Sessions
March 26: First Communion session 11:00am
March 29/31: 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 22, April 5 & 12, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

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

Gatherings: March 22, April 5, 12 & 26, 7:30-9:00pm,
Youth Area

Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

*We have a lot of volunteer opportunities coming up,
please check your email for sign ups.*

Saturday, March 25: 9:00-11:00am, 10th grade only Teen/
Sponsor Session, Social Hall

Wednesday, March 29: 6:00-8:00pm, Confirmation
Session, Social Hall



Stations of the Cross

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

Lenten Reconciliation

Father Parker has scheduled additional individual time for Reconciliation at St. Mary:

Tuesday, March 28, 5:30-6:30pm
Wednesday, March 29, 6:30-7:30pm
Thursday, March 30, 5:30-6:30pm

Reconciliation Services at other parishes:

Saturday, March 18, 10:00am, St. Anthony, DSM
Sunday, March 19, 3:00pm, St. Mary of Nazareth, DSM
Wednesday, March 22, 7:00pm, St. Theresa, DSM
Wednesday, March 22, 7:00pm, Sacred Heart, WDM
Wednesday, March 29, 6:30pm, Assumption, Granger
Thursday, March 30, 7:00pm, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona

Fish Fry

K of C final Fish Fry Friday is March 24, serving 5:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall; free-will donation. Take-out available. Join us! Contact Jon Hand if you would like to help, jon79hand@gmail.com or 515-291-8814.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 5 Budget Week 36

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$8,036	\$5,944

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$189,783	\$213,988	\$214,326

2022 ADA Update: Amount due: \$699

Weekend Mass attendance March 4/5: 277

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 - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com
Lisa Schoening - lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heidi Ackerman, - *President* - heidimdittmer@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

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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 - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Sue White - charylmyron@q.com

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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@midiowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
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 - gjmccclain69@gmail.com

Laudato Si

Try to limit the use of disposable wet wipes, which are sold for a variety of purposes. Many are made with plastics or synthetic fibers that can disintegrate into micro-plastics that become harmful to wildlife in aquatic environments. Some wipes also have been shown to damage sewer systems. Search the internet for instructions on making reusable wet wipes for various purposes around your home. 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.*

Thank You!

Thank you to those who sponsored a Bible for the children receiving their first communion. We have all the Bibles sponsored. This is such a treasure to the children and we appreciate your generosity.

~ Tracy Miller and Geneveve Loraditch

Thank you so much for supporting us our first NCYC 2023 fundraiser. With the super snack packs we earned a profit of \$742.61. Thanks again.

~ Melissa, Andrea and Nicole

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 mail your statement. To minimize costs (and thus maximize your contributions), we do not automatically mail these statements to everyone.

Liturgical Ministers March 18/19

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Bill Sexton
Host	Drew Hanlon
Cup Bearers	Bill Sexton, Kris Sexton
Altar Servers	Jack & Tommy Selby
Ushers	Drew Hanlon, Jim Hudson
Music	Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

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

Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Garrett McClain
Host Distributor	Tracy Miller
Cup Bearers	Mike Nehring, Garrett McClain
Altar Servers	Isaac, Gabriel & Jonah Miller
Ushers	Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music	Karon Lacey, Jen Linderblood, Celeste Muehlenthaler

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Money Counters

March 12: Kathy Daup, Dona Cowman

March 19: Sue White, Trish Morris



Aluminum can manufacturers have been making cans lighter -- in 1972 each pound of aluminum produced 22 cans; today it yields 29.

An Opportunity To Meet Other Parishioners!

Hosting wine & cheese or coffee & donuts is a great way to meet and get to know other parishioners! 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. Dates open to host wine & cheese: First Saturday in May, June and beyond! Dates open to host coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass: First Sunday in July and beyond! Dates open to host coffee & donuts after 10:00am Mass: First Sunday in April, June and beyond! Thank you for considering these opportunities!

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.

Healing Service

All are invited to attend a healing service at St. Ambrose Cathedral this Wednesday 5:30pm. *"Come to me, all you are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

Church Sign

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

How to Make Health Care Decisions

Do you need help making health care decisions that are in alignment with Catholic moral teaching? The Iowa Catholic Conference can help. They released a new webinar for its project called Supportive Care Iowa. You can find it at the Iowa Catholic Conference YouTube channel. To be connected with a trained person who can assist in completing advance care directive documents, email Tom Chapman at tom@iowacatholicconference.org.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday of Lent, March 11/12

Theme: Jesus is the Living Water

Reading I: Exodus 17:3-7 • Is the Lord in our midst or not?

Reading II: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 • We are at peace with God through Christ.

Gospel: John 4:5-42 • Whoever drinks the water I give, will never thirst again.

Question for Children: How do you experience Jesus helping and loving you?

Question for Youth: Jesus revealed himself to an outcast of society. How can you be "living water" to the outcasts of your school? Society? The world?

Question for Adults: When you are tempted to try to satisfy your "thirst for meaning" through some other means, what keeps you coming back to the living water of intimacy with Christ? Through what means do you experience Christ's power in your life: Sacraments? Scripture? Prayer? Others?