



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023



The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2023



The Holy Family

December 31, 2023

Dear Good People,

A very blessed and Merry Christmas to all of you and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Just on a personal note, I want to thank all of you for the prayers for my Grandmother Kay Ross. Your many prayers have brought comfort to me and my family.

Just a little update on the schedule coming up for the next couple of weeks. For the weekend of January 30th/31st, we will just have our regular weekend schedule. This year the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God falls on a Monday, so it is not a holy day of obligation, but I cannot think of a better way to begin our New Year than by praying for the intercession of Our Lady. We will have Mass at 9 AM at St. Mary's. I will be gone for some vacation beginning on Friday, January 5th, and returning on the 11th. I am going to Florida with some priest friends of mine. So looking forward to that.

I will leave you with some final words from Pope Francis for the Christmas Season: Brothers and sisters, let us turn our eyes to Bethlehem, and listen to the first faint cries of the Prince of Peace. For truly Jesus is our peace. The peace that the world cannot give, the peace that God the Father has bestowed on humanity by sending his Son into the world. Saint Leo the Great summed up the message of this day in a concise Latin phrase: *Natalis Domini, natalis est pacis*: "the Lord's birth is the birth of peace" (Serm. 26, 5). 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
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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

See inside for special Mass schedule

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

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

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

7:00pm Mass, Holy Cross †Lyle Carpenter

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

9:00am Mass, St. Mary *People of the Parish*

Tuesday, December 26 — No Mass today —

Wednesday, December 27

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

Thursday, December 28

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

Friday, December 29

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mary Ann Cory

Weekend of Dec. 30/31 — Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30

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

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

Sunday, December 31

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

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mark Schmidt

Monday, January 1 — Solemnity of Mary, Holy Day

9:00am Mass, St. Mary †Edward & Lorraine Polansky

Tuesday, January 2

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Deacon Dave Bartemes

Wednesday, January 3

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Will & Mikey Carpenter

Thursday, January 4

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †John and Mildred Flaherty

First Friday, January 5 — No Mass today

Weekend of January 6/7 — Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 6

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Patricia Schmitt

Sunday, January 7

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

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Marion Nehring

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.

Ladies of SMHC

Thank you for attending the Christmas Party. We value your fellowship! The personal care items were divided up between The Huxley Pantry, Maxwell Pantry, and The Blessing Box and were a special surprise to the clients. Merry Christmas!

~ The Stewardship Committee

Christmas Prayer



Dear Jesus,
On this holy Christmas,
we adore you in the manger,
helpless and small.
You, who are God,
became a humble child for our sake.
Teach us to embrace simplicity
and love as you did.
May we see you
in every person we encounter,
especially the lonely and marginalized.
Fill our hearts with your divine light,
dispelling darkness and hatred.
Grant us the grace to be instruments
of your peace and kindness.
We offer this prayer in your holy name.
Amen. ~ St. Teresa of Calcutta

Parish Council

Meeting: January 16, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting, January 23, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

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

Knights of Columbus

Jan. 15, Rosary, 6:40pm SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

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

*Parish Office: Dec. 25 & 26 closed,
Dec. 29 closes at Noon, Jan. 1 closed.*

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

Coming Events

- † **Sunday, Dec. 24 after 9am Mass:** Decorate St. Mary for Christmas — help is needed!
- † **Saturday, Dec. 30:** 9:00am St. Mary Church in use — Social Hall in use 6:00-8:00pm
- † **Tuesday, Jan. 2:** 7:00pm RCIA Core Team Informational meeting, Social Hall
- † **Weekend of January 6/7:** Building Fund collection — Wine and Cheese after 5pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8:00am and 10:00am Masses
- † **Friday, Jan. 12:** Hall in use 1-5pm, St. Mary in use 6:30pm

Join Our Team!

We are forming a core team at our parish for the benefit of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). We are looking for other members of our parish to be part of this core team. The responsibilities would vary but would not be time consuming. Please join us for an informational meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 7:00pm in the Social Hall at St. Mary. Please contact Nicole Cory with any questions you may have, ncory@saintmaryhc.org, 515-313-3014.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

We hope you are enjoying your Christmas break. This is a reminder that we have a parent meeting January 3, 6:30pm in the Social Hall for all those with children interested in receiving their first Holy Communion in the spring.

When we return from break on January 10, many of our sessions will be synthesizing the infancy narratives as we continue to celebrate the miracle of Christmas. Even though the stores have turned back on regular music and the Christmas merchandise is clearanced and traded out for Valentine goodies, our children are still reveling in this great mystery of Christ's birth!

Upcoming Dates

December 27- No Sessions
January 3- No Sessions. First Communion parent meeting, 6:30pm, Social Hall
January 10- Regular Sessions Resume
January 17- Regular Sessions

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

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)

Sessions: Jan. 10, 17 & 24, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Sunday, Jan. 14, 11:00am (after Mass) - 12:30pm: 9th grade Teen/Parent Workshop, Social Hall

Sunday, Jan. 28, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 10th Grade only session, Youth Room at St. Mary

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 6:00-7:30pm: 9th & 10th Grade family session, Social Hall

STORM Youth Group (9th - 12th Grades)

Gatherings: Jan. 10, 17 & 24, 7:30-9:00pm, Hall



Snow Removal

Sign up here to help at St. Mary: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-46550958-sidewalk>. A list of activities will be emailed to you. If you have any questions please contact Bill Schmitt, isucui@isualum.com / 515-291-8005. Thank you!!

Donations for 2023

If you wish to have any donation included on your 2023 contribution statement, it must reach the Parish Office by Sunday, December 31 at 10:00am Mass. Monies received after this time, even if dated December 2023, will be credited as 2024 donations. **The office will be open Wednesday, and Thursday December 27 & 28 and until Noon on Friday, December 29 to drop off those much appreciated last minute donations.** Thank you.

2024 Youth Tithes

Children are encouraged to take a tithe packet located on the table, and on the paper provided, write their name by the number of the packet they have taken. Thank you!

Weekly Collection Financial Update

December 16/17 Budget Week 25

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$17,262	\$6,114

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$122,596	\$152,842	\$128,653

Mass Attendance: Dec. 16/17: 263

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Assessed	Pledged	Paid	Unpaid	Amt. Due
\$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@mercyconeiowa.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 - heidimittmer@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
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Bill Schmitt - isucui@isualum.com
Lynn Schreurs - Ischreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
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Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
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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

