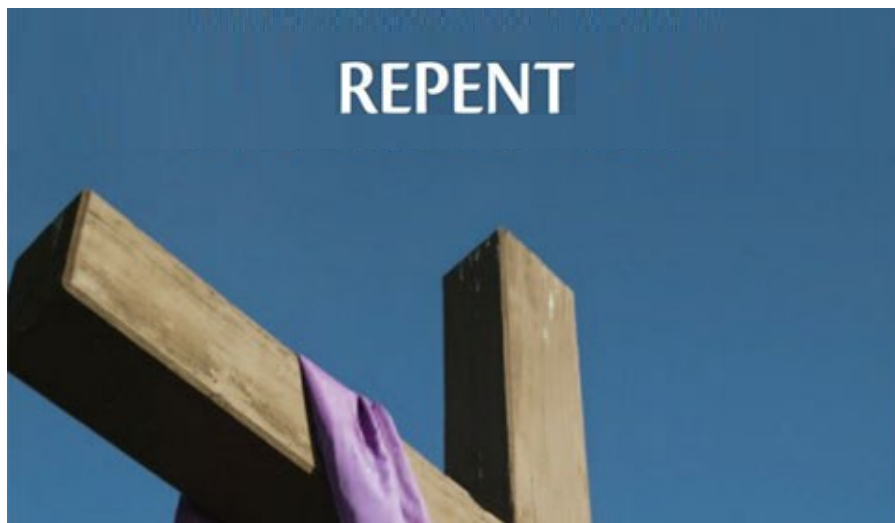


St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Third Sunday of Lent

March 23, 2025

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 passes away. Parishioners near death have expressed the comfort they experience knowing the Parish Community is praying for them. Please join us in this sacred prayer.

Dear Good People,

Today we mark the third Sunday of Lent. I thought I would share the Collect Prayer (opening prayer) for mass. It is really quite beautiful: O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. During Lent most especially we are reminded of our lowliness so that we can be raised to new life. That may be a good thing for us to reflect on during these days of our Lenten journey.

Just a reminder again as I received a flurry of texts and calls on Monday. I will never call you and ask you for money personally or call or text you that I am in trouble. I will call law enforcement or the Vicar General for the diocese if something like that happens. I do appreciate people following up though. Scammers use my information and then they try to contact all of you. I am sorry that this happens all the time and I pray for the people who do the scamming that they may repent and turn to the Lord. It is so frustrating. But just a reminder to ignore and block these people.

May we continue to keep one another in prayer during these forty days of Lenten Journey! ~ A.M.D.G. Fr. Ross

Parish Phone	515-367-2685	Mass Schedule	
Parish General Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org	Tuesday	8:00am St. Mary
Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor	515-367-2685/ rparker@dmdiocese.org	Wednesday	5:30pm Holy Cross
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org	Thursday	8:00am St. Mary
Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry	afisher@saintmaryhc.org	Friday	8:00am St. Mary
Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org	Saturday	5:00pm St. Mary
Barb Liske - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org	Sunday	8:00am Holy Cross
Tracy Miller - Preschool - 6th RE	tmiller@saintmaryhc.org		10:00am St. Mary
Aubrey Sigmund - Music	asigmund@saintmaryhc.org	Reconciliation: Saturday 4:00 - 4:30pm, St. Mary or by appointment with Fr. Parker	
Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org	Baptism: Please contact the office.	
Parish Web Site	www.saintmaryhc.org	Marriage: Please contact the office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.	
Parish Facebook Site	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart	Order of Christian Initiation: Please contact Fr. Parker or Nicole Cory	
		Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org	

Mass and Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, March 25

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Delila Roberts*

Wednesday, March 26

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross *Healing for JoAnn Meusburger and Tim Miller*

Thursday, March 27

8:00am Masas, St. Mary † *Delores Markfort Goche*

6:00 - 7:00pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

Friday, March 28 *Abstain from meat*

8:00am Mass, St. Mary *Special Intention*

5:00 - 6:00pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

6:00pm Stations of the Cross & Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Saturday, March 29

3:00 - 4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Lawrence & Beverlee Stokka*

Sunday, March 30

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

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, <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/membership>. We are glad you are here!



Pastoral Assistance

In case of an emergency please contact Fr. Ross Parker, 515-720-3434. To schedule a visit with Father, or if a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit, please contact him at rparker@dmdioocese.org.

Additional Lenten Reconciliation at St. Mary

Thursday, March 27, 6:00-7:00pm

Friday, March 28, 5:00-6:00pm

Saturday, March 29, 3:00-4:30pm



Stations of the Cross

Come follow Jesus on his way to Calvary by praying these powerful Stations of the Cross each Friday of Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary. We will have a meatless meal and fellowship in the Social Hall following the Stations on March 28 and April 11.

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

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!

Grow your personal faith and deepen your understanding of Jesus by participating in Stations of the Cross...Sacrament of Reconciliation...attending weekday Mass...quiet prayer time in church...use of reflection booklets...fasting...almsgiving. Check out the Diocesan *Living Lent* ideas for prayers, projects and more at dmdioocese.org/living-lent.

Lenten Prayer



Loving Father,
So many times I turn away from you
and always you welcome me back.
Your mercy and love gives me confidence.
Thank you for the invitation to share, fast and pray
so that you can form a new heart within me.
Your powerful compassion for my weaknesses
leads me to ask for mercy and await with great hope
the Easter joy you share with us. Amen.

Parish Council

Meeting: April 15, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: March 25, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: April 14, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Adult Faith Formation

No upcoming events

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: April 21, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 5: Elkhart & Cambridge

Fr. Parker does not have set office hours here at the Parish.

To reach him please email, call or text:

rparker@dmdioocese.org or 515-720-3434.

Coming Events

- † **Choir Practice:** Sundays, March 23 & 30, 11am, Thursdays, April 3 & 10, 6:30pm; Sunday, April 13, 11am
- † **Friday, March 28:** Stations of the Cross and Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 6:00pm, SM, followed by Lenten meal, Hall
- † **Ed Center in use:** CGS Training, March 28, 4-8:30pm, March 29, 8am-4:30pm, March 30, 9am-4:30pm

Catholic Relief Services Collection

This Diocesan collection supports agencies providing relief to suffering people worldwide as well as pastoral outreach and advocacy to improve lives. *Donation envelopes are on the table at St. Mary and in the entryway at Holy Cross. Please return your donation in the collection basket or mail to the parish office.* Thank you for your support of this collection.

Silhouette Stations of the Cross "Actors" Needed

We need 4-8 Middle or High School Youth who are willing to lead and participate in this moving presentation of the Stations of the Cross. No need to be nervous or shy about the acting, we will have plenty of time to rehearse and you are behind the screen so shy people are welcome! We meet five times to rehearse beginning Sunday, March 30, 6:30-8:00pm in the Youth Area. We also practice in the Youth Area on Wed. April 2 & 9, 7:30-8:30pm and Sunday, April 6, 6:30-8:00pm. Friday, April 11 is our final rehearsal right after school, then we present the Silhouette Stations to the Parish at 6:00pm. Please text/call Melissa, 515-290-2830, or Andrea, 515-240-5059, soon to help with this powerful experience.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

Tracy Miller, tmiller@saintmaryhc.org, 515-520-7981

First Communion preparation begins Sunday after 10:00am Mass. Please pray for the 11 children preparing to receive Jesus this year.

Hope everyone had a good spring break. Sessions resume this week.

Upcoming Sessions

March 26 - Regular sessions

April 2 - Regular sessions

April 6 - First Communion special Session 11:00am -12:00pm

April 9 - 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), 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Sessions: Wednesdays March 26, April 2 & 9

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Friday, April 4: KofC Fish Fry, check email to volunteer



STORM Youth Group (9th-12th): 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room

Gatherings: Wednesdays, March 26, April 2 & 9

Easter Vigil Choir

Join us to sing at the 8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass on April 19. We practice Sundays, March 23 & 30, 11:00am, Thursdays, April 3 & 10, 6:30pm and Sunday, April 13, 11:00am. For more information, please contact Aubrey Sigmund, Music Coordinator, asigmund@saintmaryhc.org/515-451-0635.

Holy Thursday Washing of Feet & Adoration

 We invite individuals to have their foot washed during our Holy Thursday Mass on April 17.  Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will follow this Mass until 10:00pm in the Social Hall. A sign up for both of these are posted or call the office to volunteer.

Liturgical Ministers!

You are invited to assist at our Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday Masses. A sign up is posted at St. Mary and Holy Cross or call the Parish Office to volunteer. Thank you for sharing your time and talents for our Liturgies!



A Memorial Gift

We offer you the opportunity to remember a loved one by donating towards the flowers that will decorate St. Mary and Holy Cross Churches this Easter Season. A memorial list will be printed in a future bulletin. *Donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes and are also available on the table at St. Mary and in the entryway at Holy Cross. Please return your donation by Monday, April 14. Thank you.*

Removal of Decorations at Cemetery

In preparation for Spring, please plan to have all gravesite decorations at Holy Cross Cemetery removed no later than Tuesday, April 1. Any remaining decorations after this date will be collected and disposed of by the Cemetery Committee. Thank you.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 9 Budget Week 37

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$8,800	\$5,511

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

	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$211,505	\$209,405	\$196,816

Food Pantry Collection: \$1,016.85

Mass Attendance March 8 & 9: 298

2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Goal	Pledged	Payments	Outstanding	Due
\$47,320	\$15,010	\$14,350	\$660	\$32,970

Councils and Committees

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Anne Davis - annedavis06@gmail.com

Terri Hamm - Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org

Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com

Kim Heger - hegerkim91@gmail.com

Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

Bill Kyle - bill@northiowaair.com

Tim Miller - millertimothyg@gmail.com

Lisa Schoening - lisa@lisschoening.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com

Craig Johnson - dad.craig@gmail.com

Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com

Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks1@hotmail.com

Kathy Gocke - Gocke@aol.com

Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com

Kris LeRoy - 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@midiova.net

Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net

John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com

Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net

Stacey Rooney - rooneyslg17@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

John & Peg Evans - evansp3@yahoo.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Mike Devereux - devoducks@msn.com

Laudato Si

Take steps to ensure that your home is properly insulated. This will help you to use less energy to stay warm in the winter and cooler in the summer, which also will reduce heating and cooling costs. See more at:

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

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of reaching our assessment of \$47,320. Please prayerfully consider how you can support our Diocese which supports our parish and Father Ross! Please mail your pledge card and gift (check made out to Diocese of Des Moines) to the Diocese. You can also donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; and choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Thank you for your support and thank you to those who have already made a gift! See our progress update in this bulletin.

Area Churches Reconciliation Services

Sunday, March 23, 2:00pm, St. Mary of Nazareth, DSM
Sunday, March 30, 3:00pm, St. John, Adel
Sunday, March 30, 4:00pm, St. Pius X, Urbandale
Tuesday, April 1, 6:00pm, St. Boniface, Waukee
Wednesday, April 2, 6:30pm, Assumption, Granger
Wednesday, April 2, 6:30pm, St. Theresa, Des Moines
Thursday, April 3, 6:30pm, OLIH, Ankeny
Thursday, April 10, 7:00pm, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona



Prayer Chain

If illness or crisis strikes your family or friends, please don't hesitate to contact us so members of our Parish can offer prayers for them. *If the request is not for you, please ask permission from the one it is, to be on our prayer chain.* For requests or to participate in our prayer chain, please contact the Office at bliske@saintmaryhc.org or 515-367-2685.

Liturgical Ministers for March 29 & 30

Saturday, March 29, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Bill Sexton
Host Distributor Bill Sexton
Cup Bearers Kris Sexton, Susan Stillmunkes
Ushers Bill Schmitt, Bill Kyle
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, March 30, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer Michele Hand
Altar Servers Claire & Oliver Hand
Usher Jerry & Deb Zenkner
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, March 30, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Kris LeRoy
Host Distributor Julia Coash
Cup Bearers Bob Coash, Greg Feldmann
Altar Servers Jackson Cory, Amelia Muehlenthaler
Cross Bearer: Rex Roberts
Ushers Andrew Cory, Dan Harrington
Music Sue Harrinton, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

March 23: Kathy Daup, Kathy Petersen
March 30: Kathy Petersen, Sue White



Enough plastic is thrown away each year to circle the earth four times.

Parish Scholarship

This Scholarship has been awarded to 20 of our High School Seniors since it started in 2018! Money collected from desserts at the fish fries has been our biggest source of donations. Please consider donating dessert items OR money to help build our scholarship campaign. The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your generosity.

Fish Fry Friday

Join the Knight of Columbus April 4 for their final fish fry. Serving from 5:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. Free will donation. Please contact Jon Hand, jon79hand@gmail.com / 515-291-8814 if you'd like to help. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4AA8A62DA5FD0-54890380-desserts#/> to donate a dessert.

Iowa Catholic Radio Events An Evening with Fr. Mike Schmitz

Iowa Catholic Radio is sponsoring *Encounter the Eucharist: An Evening with Fr. Mike Schmitz*. Wednesday, April 2 at the Community Choice Convention Center in Des Moines. A special night of Sacred Music, Eucharistic Adoration, and the host of *Bible in a Year* and *Catechism in a Year*. Get tickets at IowaCatholicRadio.com.



Married Couples

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is like Springtime. It's a weekend of fresh air, the rebirth of romance and new beginnings. If you'd like to make your marriage even more special than it already is - call now. Contact Denise and Greg at 563-920-9419 or sign up at wwme.org. Upcoming dates: April 25-27 in Epworth and September 12-14 in Dubuque.

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 Masses or activities, it will be on Channel 8 TV and online only. Holy Cross may be under "Maxwell" or "Elkhart".**

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday of Lent, March 23

Theme: Lent calls us to conversion.

Reading I: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 • God's name is: "I AM WHO AM".

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 • What is written about Moses is to help us.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9 • Jesus says to repent.

For Children: God wants your faith to result in good living. What steps can you take during Lent to make sure that happens?

For Youth: What needs changing in your life? How will you invite God into that change?

For Adults: What steps are you taking this Lent to make sure that your faith bears fruit in good works?