



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 16/17, 2024

Dear Good People,

The feast of our salvation draws ever closer as we are getting to the most important time of the Lenten season. This time of purification leads us to Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. If you are able, please sign up to help with the varied ministries that we need filled for all the great liturgies of Holy Week and the Triduum. As a Church nerd, I love the Triduum. It is like the Super Bowl of our faith.

As we know, a great way to prepare for Easter is to go to the sacrament of reconciliation. I will be having extended hours of confessions from 6 PM-7:30 PM on Wednesday and Thursday, March 20th and 21st. On that Wednesday only, we will also have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during that reconciliation time. Just a reminder that we have confessions on Saturday at 4 PM as well. There are also many parishes around that have communal penance services as well.

Let us continue to keep one another in prayer during this time. Please pray especially for those who will be entering the Holy Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil! 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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Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry afisher@saintmaryhc.org
Sue Harrington - Music sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org
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Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org
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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, Wed. March 20 & Thurs. March 21, 6:00-7:30pm, St. Mary or by appointment with Fr. Parker

Baptism: Please contact the office.

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, March 19

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Kay Ross

Wednesday, March 20

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Scott Bailey

6:00 - 7:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

Thursday, March 21

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mary Ann Cory

6:00 - 7:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

Friday, March 22

— Abstain from meat

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

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

Palm Sunday (St. Mary Masses begin in Social Hall)

Saturday, March 23

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Naomi Molinari

Sunday, March 24

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Doc Birchmier

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 an 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.

Lenten Reconciliation





Father Parker will have additional individual times for Reconciliation on **Wednesday, March 20, 6:00-7:30pm & Thursday, March 21, 6:00-7:30pm** at St. Mary, or contact him to make an appointment.

Holy Week

The central days of our life as Catholic Christians are Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil/Easter. Why not make it a priority this year to attend all our services to commemorate the journey from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, to the Cross and to the Resurrection accomplished by Jesus on our behalf. These are sacred days which give purpose and meaning to all we do as Catholics.

Holy Thursday Washing of Feet & Adoration

We invite 12 individuals to have their foot washed during this Mass on March 28. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows this Mass until 10:00pm in the Social Hall. A sign up for these is at St. Mary and Holy Cross or contact the Office.  

Palm Sunday Procession

Next weekend our Masses at St. Mary begin with everyone gathering in the Social Hall for the blessing of palms and then we will process into Church.

Lenten Prayer



Lord,

All I want is to be faithful
to you in my life,
but so often I fail.

Free me from my many sins
and guide me to the life
I will share with you.

I wait for your promise to be fulfilled
with great hope in my heart
and your praise on my lips. Amen.

Parish Council

Meeting: March 19, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: March 26, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: March 18, 6:00pm, Ed Center

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Gatherings: Sundays, 11:00am-1:00pm, location varies

Knights of Columbus

March 18, Rosary, 6:40pm SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

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

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

Coming Events

- † **This Weekend:** Collection for Maxwell Food Pantry
- † **Choir Practice for Easter Vigil Mass:** March 19 & 26, 6:30pm & March 24, 11am, St. Mary
- † **Thursday, March 21:** Crafts, Games & Conversation, 9:00am, Social Hall
- † **Stations of the Cross:** Friday, March 22, 6:00pm, St. Mary, followed by a Lenten meal, Social Hall

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of reaching our assessment of \$51,458. Please prayerfully consider how you can support our Diocese which supports our parish. Please mail your gift (check made out to Diocese of Des Moines) to the Diocese or drop in the collection basket at Mass. You can donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Thank you to those who have already made a gift!

Eagle Scout Project

Jack Selby, whom you may recognize as an altar server for the Saturday evening Mass, is working on his Eagle Scout project. Jack has chosen to make improvements to the Marian Garden at St. Mary. He will be refurbishing the garden with new landscaping, lighting, and doing a thorough cleaning. Jack is seeking support to assist with his efforts and will be accepting donations after Masses at St. Mary this weekend. Thank you.



TRIDUUM SERVICES

Holy Thursday, March 28

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, St. Mary
Adoration after Mass until 10:00pm, Social Hall

Good Friday, March 29

3:00pm Stations and Veneration of the Cross
Holy Cross
7:00pm Commemoration of the Passion of Jesus
St. Mary

Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30

8:00pm Mass, St. Mary (no 5:00pm Mass)

Easter Sunday, March 31

Masses: 8:00am, Holy Cross
10:00am, St. Mary

Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 10 Budget Week 37

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$15,330	\$6,114
<i>Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund</i>		
	Received	Budget
	\$191,3684	\$226,207
		Last Year
		\$189,783

Mass Attendance: March 9/10: 225

2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Amt. Due
\$51,458	\$5,965	\$5,565	\$45,893

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

We hope you enjoyed your spring break! We look forward to journeying these final weeks of Lent with your children. Many of the children just pondered that mystery of life and death, and how the kingdom couldn't grow without Jesus dying. Now, we'll look into the last days of His life and enter into that time and space and suffering, and hopefully come to know even more deeply how much Jesus loves us to this day. Specifically, by how he leaves us all of himself for all time in the Last Supper, what we celebrate each Holy Thursday and really, every day at Mass.

If you haven't paid your fee for this year, please do so as soon as you can! Thank you.

Upcoming Dates

March 20- Regular Sessions-Adoration and Confession
March 27- Regular Sessions
April 3- Regular Sessions
April 7- First Communion Special Session #1

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: March 20, April 3, 10 & 17, 6-7:30pm, Social Hall

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Please see the signup sent to your email to volunteer to read the Passion on Good Friday.

-Sunday, March 24: 11:00am (after Mass) - 12:00pm, 10th grade only session, Youth Room

-Wednesday, March 27: 6:00-7:30pm, 9th & 10th grade family session, Social Hall

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

Gatherings: March 20, April 3, 10 & 17, 7:30-9pm, Youth Rm



Crafts, Games & Conversation!

YOU are invited to join us this Thursday, March 21 at 9:00am in the Social Hall to work on your crafts or play games and enjoy conversation!

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

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
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
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Lisa Schoening - lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Fisher, *Chair* - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com
Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@mercyoneiowa.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
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@midiowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.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

John & Peg Evans - evansp3@yahoo.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Mike Devereux - devoducks@msn.com

Laudato Si

If you regularly take baths, consider switching to a shower at least occasionally. A full bathtub uses about 70 gallons of water, compared with 10 to 25 gallons for a 5-minute shower. A low-flow showerhead saves the most water. See more at: <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>.



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 March 25. Thank you.*

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. **Host wine & cheese:** First Saturday in May, June or July. **Host coffee & donuts at Holy Cross:** First Sunday in April, May, June or July. **Host coffee & donuts at St. Mary:** First Sunday in April, June or July. Thank you for considering this opportunity!

Church Sign

**God sent his Son,
he made the offer, we make the choice.**

Liturgical Ministers Needed Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday

A sign up is in the vestibule at St. Mary and at Holy Cross or call the Parish Office to volunteer. Thank you for sharing your time and talents for our Liturgies!

March 23, Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary
2 Passion Readers ~ 3 Altar servers ~ 3 Ushers

March 24, Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross
Lector ~ 2 Passion Readers ~ Cup Bearer
~ 2 Altar Servers ~ 2 Ushers

March 24, Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary
2 Passion Readers ~ 4 Ushers

Holy Thursday, March 28, 7:00pm Mass, St. Mary
Lector ~ Cup Bearer ~ Host Distributor
3 Altar servers ~ 3 Ushers

Good Friday, March 29, 7:00pm Service, St. Mary
Lector ~ Host Distributor ~ 4 Ushers

Easter Vigil, March 30, Saturday, 8:00pm Mass, St. Mary
3 Readers ~ 2 Cup Bearers ~ Host Distributor
~ 3 Servers ~ 4 Ushers

Easter Sunday, March 31, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross
Cup Bearer ~ 2 Altar Servers ~ 2 Ushers

Easter Sunday, March 31, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary
Lector ~ 2 Cup Bearers ~ 3 Host Distributors
~ 3 Servers ~ 4 Ushers

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Money Counters

March 17: Sharon Morris, Sue White
March 24: Brenda Nehring, Dona Cowman



The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.

Lenten Reconciliation at Other Parishes

Sunday, March 17, 4:00pm, St. Pius X, Urbandale
Wednesday, March 20, 6:30pm, St. Theresa, Des Moines
Thursday, March 21, 7:00pm OLIH, Ankeny
Thursday, March 21, 7:00pm, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona

Chrism Mass

Bishop William Joensen will bless oils and Sacred Chrism at the Chrism Mass at 5:00pm on Friday, March 22 at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines. Everyone is invited to this special Mass. The oils and Chrism will be used for sacraments throughout the Diocese in the coming year.

Removal of Decorations at Cemetery

In preparation for Spring, please plan to have all gravesite decorations at Holy Cross Cemetery removed no later than April 1. Any that remain after this date will be picked up by the committee. Thank you!

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.

Please email the office if your adult children have moved away and/or joined another parish or with any other family changes so we can update our records. Thanks!

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" and not "Elkhart").

Find events and resources offered by the Diocese and other parishes at www.dmdiocese.org. Scroll towards end of page.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 16/17

Theme: Death and New Life

Reading I: Jeremiah 31:31-34 • I will make a new covenant with Israel.

Reading II: Hebrews 5:7-9 • Jesus learned to obey God.

Gospel: John 12:20-33 • If it dies, it produces much grain.

For Children: Name one thing you can do or stop doing that will help you have a better friendship with Jesus.

For Youth: Sometimes one thing needs to die in order for something new to be born. When have you experienced this in your own life? What do you need to let go of now for something new to grow?

For Adults: Name one area in your life that you need to let go of, to die to, in order to rise with new life.