



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 10/11, 2024

Dear Good People,

It is hard to believe but Lent is now upon us! I love the season of Lent. I think it really gives us an opportunity to get serious about our faith. Just a couple of things, remember that we have Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary at 7AM and 6:30PM on Wednesday February 14th. We will also have Stations of the Cross on Friday's during Lent. Please consider volunteering to lead the Stations. I thought I would share some of what Pope Francis has said about this upcoming Lent.

It is time to act, and in Lent, *to act also means to pause*. To pause *in prayer*, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan *in the presence of a wounded brother or sister*. Love of God and love of neighbor are one love. Not to have other gods is to pause in the presence of God beside the flesh of our neighbor. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us. Then the atrophied and isolated heart will revive. Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover will release new energies. In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another: in place of threats and enemies, we discover companions and fellow travelers. This is God's dream, the promised land to which we journey once we have left our slavery behind.

To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope. Allow me to repeat what I told the young people whom I met in Lisbon last summer: "Keep seeking and be ready to take risks. At this moment in time, we face enormous risks; we hear the painful plea of so many people. Indeed, we are experiencing a third world war fought piecemeal. Yet let us find the courage to see our world, not as being in its death throes but in a process of giving birth, not at the end but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history. We need courage to think like this" (*Address to University Students, 3 August 2023*). Such is the courage of conversion, born of coming up from slavery. For faith and charity take hope, this small child, by the hand. They teach her to walk, and at the same time, she leads them forward.[1]

I bless all of you and your Lenten journey (<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/02/01/240201c.html>)
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
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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 Ash Wednesday 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, Reconciliation and Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, February 13

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Kay Ross

Ash Wednesday, February 14

— Fast and Abstain from meat

7:00am Mass, St. Mary †John, Robert & Larry Richardson

6:30pm Mass, St. Mary †Mary Ann Cory

Thursday, February 15

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Msgr. Frank Chido

Friday, February 16

— Abstain from meat

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Gwen Ward

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

Saturday, February 17

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


5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Bob & Julie Sexton

Sunday, February 18

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Bill Jorgensen

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.

Game Time Snacks!

Thank you to those who pre-ordered our Youth's snack packs. Please pick them up after Mass this weekend. We will also have "cash & carry" snack packs available. Thank you for supporting our youth!



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.

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.

God believes in you!

Prayer for Ash Wednesday

God of goodness and mercy,
Hear my prayer as I begin
this Lenten journey with you.
Let me be honest with myself
as I look into my heart and soul,
noticing the times I turn away from you.
Guide me as I humbly seek
to repent and return to your love.
May humility guide my efforts
to be reconciled with you
and live forever in your abundant grace.
Transform me this Lent, heavenly Father.
Give me the strength to commit myself
to grow closer to you each day. Amen.

Parish Council

Meeting: February 20, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting, February 27, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: Feb. 12, 6:00pm, Social Hall

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Gatherings: Sundays now through April 28, 11:00am-12:30pm, location varies

Knights of Columbus

Feb. 19, 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

- † **Fridays of Lent:** Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary.
 - Lenten meals February 23 (need host!), March 8 & 22.
 - Fish fry February 16, March 1 & 15
- † **Weekend of Feb. 17/18:** Collection for Catholic Charities Food Pantry

Your Lenten Journey

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... quiet prayer time in the church... 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.

Try 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!

For movie reviews see www.catholicnews.com/movies.cfm.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Heger, mother of Doug Heger, who passed away Monday afternoon and for her family that they find strength and comfort in our Lord as they mourn her passing.

✠ *Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.* ✠

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

We don't meet this week, please attend Ash Wednesday Mass with your families. On February 28, we will be having an enrollment Mass for First Communion. This Mass will be at 6:00pm. The early session will run late that evening and the late session needs to arrive for Mass at 6:00pm. If you have any conflicts please let us know as soon as possible and we will make other arrangements.

Upcoming Dates

Feb. 14- Ash Wednesday, please attend Mass with family.
February 21- Regular Sessions
February 28- Regular Sessions, Enrollment Mass at 6:00pm
March 6- Regular Sessions
March 13- No Sessions, Spring Break!

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)

No session on Ash Wednesday, please attend Mass with your family.

Sessions: Feb. 21 & 28, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Sunday, Feb. 11, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 9th Grade only session, Youth Room downstairs at St. Mary

Sunday, Feb. 25, 11:00am (after Mass) - 2:00pm: 10th Grade Teen/Sponsor Retreat, Social Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 6:00 - 7:30pm: 9th & 10th grade family session, Social Hall

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

No session on Ash Wednesday, please attend Mass with your family.

Gatherings: Feb. 21 & 28, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room

Lenten Meal after Stations of the Cross

We are in need of hosts for our meal after Stations of the Cross on Friday, Feb. 23. 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.

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 16 and also on March 1, and March 15. 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.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 4 Budget Week 32

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$8,467	\$6,114

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$158,231	\$195,638	\$162,352

Building Fund : \$1,193

Mass Attendance: February 3/4: 320

Jesus - God's Gift to all.

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
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FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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PARISH TRUSTEES

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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

