



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



The Epiphany of the Lord

January 6/7, 2024

Dear Good People,

A very happy New Year to all of you and your families. Also, Merry Christmas. We continue to celebrate Christmas through the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We are grateful to be joined by Fr. Hurley this weekend. Just a little note on my schedule. I will plan on returning on January 11th. I am certainly looking forward to some vacation time.

Just on a personal note, I want to thank so many of you who offered prayers for my grandmother or attended her wake or funeral. The outpouring of support was truly humbling. Thank you so much for that and for everyone who helped during those days as well. I am truly humbled and grateful. So, a very Merry Christmas, Happy Feast of the Epiphany, and a Happy New Year to all of you! 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
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

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

No Mass Monday-Thursday this week

Friday, January 12

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †*Mary Ann Cory*

Saturday, January 13

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †*Bill Devereux*

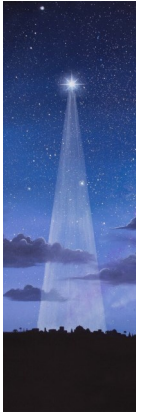
Sunday, January 14

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †*Doc Birchmier*

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

A Prayer for the Feast of the Epiphany

Father God,
the star that led the Magi to the stable
announced to the world
that its Savior was born.
Today we live in a world
that is still covered by darkness,
and still needing to make that journey
to the stable door.
May our lives reflect your light day by day,
as we seek to serve
where you have placed us.
That we might be the means through which
others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen.



New Birth by Water and the Holy Spirit



Celebrate with us in welcoming into our Faith

Jax Martin

Son of Casey and Shelby Meeker

Sacrament of Marriage



Congratulations to Anna Baldwin and Daniel Poduska who were united in Marriage on Sunday, December 31 at St. Mary.



Welcome To Our New Members!

Michelle Anderson, who lives in Ankeny

Returning members *Jack and Debbie Schulte*
and their children *Palmer and Sadie, who live in Ankeny*

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

Fr. Ross is away through Thursday. In case of emergency please contact Fr. Ken Halbur of St. Luke's Parish at 515-964-1278 Ext 3.

Serve Homeless Children

Families of St. Mary – Holy Cross parish have been preparing a meal for homeless children and their families at the Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter on the second Sunday of each month for more than twenty years. Volunteers are needed for March, June, July, August, September and December. One or more families or groups can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal (about 10 families up to 34 people) to the shelter in Des Moines. Up to 3 people can now prepare the meal on-site. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt that can be used for a tax deduction. This is the only homeless shelter in the Des Moines area that accepts complete families, both parents and children. To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza at kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687.

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!

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. 14, 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 is away through Thursday.

When here at the office he does not have set hours.

To reach him, please email, call or text:
rparker@dmdiocese.org or 515-720-3434.

Coming Events

- † **This Weekend:** Building Fund collection — Wine & Cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8:00am and 10:00am Masses
- † **Friday, Jan. 12:** *Hall in use 1:00-5:00pm, St. Mary Church in use 6:30pm*
- † **Saturday, Jan. 13:** *Hall in use 9:00am 3:30pm*
- † **Weekend of Jan 20/21:** Collection for Huxley Food Pantry
- † **Saturday, Jan. 20:** Chili cook off and Cinnamon Roll baking contest after 5:00pm Mass, Social Hall
- † **Thursday Jan. 25:** Blood Drive, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall



Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic or just learning more? RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is forming soon. Please join us on Sundays after 10:00am Mass (location to be determined). All are welcome! Gatherings will be held from 11:00am-12:30pm beginning January 14 and through April 28. Please contact Nicole Cory for more information, ncory@saintmaryhc.org, 515-313-3014.

Church Sign

Happy New Year!

Resolve to lose the "wait" and gain the Faith!

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Dennis Schmidt, grandfather of Kim Liske, who passed away December 21

Key Ross, grandmother of Fr. Parker, who passed away December 24

and for their families that they know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

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

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 had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Classes resume this Wednesday at their regular times. We will continue to ponder the mystery of Christ's birth this week before we return to Ordinary Time and look forward to Lent. If you have any interest in observing in the atrium, let us know. This is open to all parishioners.

Upcoming Dates

January 10- Sessions Resume

January 17- Regular Sessions

January 24- Regular Sessions

January 31- 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



Blood Drive

Thursday, January 25, 3:00 - 7:00pm in the Social Hall. Your vital donation of life-saving blood is needed by people just like you who will undergo planned or emergency surgery, suffer serious accidents, or need frequent transfusions for other reasons. Appointments are required; no walk ins. Schedule at: www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/. Volunteers and treats are needed; please contact Larry Sauer, sauerld@outlook.com / 515-710-2421.

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 print/mail your statement. In an effort to save money, we do not automatically mail out these statements to everyone.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
Tithes/Plate/	\$3,460	\$6,114	Dec. 24
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$8,422	\$6,114	Dec. 31

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$134,448	\$165,070	\$140,148

Mass Attendance: Dec. 23/24: 168 (2 Masses)
Dec 24/25: 410 Dec 30/31: 260

December Food Pantry Collection: \$791.83
Retirement for Religious Collection: \$1315.00

We received a one time donation of \$14,000 from a parishioner for the Building Fund.

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

Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com

Lisa Schoening - lisa.schoening@cbdsd.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

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

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

Mike and Mary Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Mike Devereux - devoducks@msn.com

Laudato Si

Calculate the carbon footprint for your household at www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator, then consider some of the steps suggested by the calculator to lower your carbon footprint. You might be surprised at the potential savings in carbon emissions, and cash. 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, don't hesitate to contact us so members of our Parish may offer prayers for those in need. *If the request is not for you, please ask permission of the one it is for, to be on our prayer chain.* To request prayers or to participate in our prayer chain, please contact the parish office, bliske@saintmaryhc.org.



The Snow Is Coming

We have the equipment, but need people power at St. Mary! A list of activities will be emailed to you. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-46550958-sidewalk>. Contact Bill Schmitt, 515-291-8005/ isucui@isualum.com with questions. Thank you in advance!

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit: Please consider using this type of tithing. You designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on the 15th or the 30th. For questions or to begin ACH, contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org or find the form on the table on the home page of our website.

Online Giving: This is available through the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa: <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. On the drop down choose *St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart* to make your tithe donation. No fees! The Foundation sends receipts.

Thank you for considering one of these for your tithing.

Liturgical Ministers January 13/14

Saturday, January 13, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Susan Selby
Host Distributor Drew Hanlon
Cup Bearers Bob & Susan Selby
Altar Servers Jack & Tommy Selby
Ushers Jim Hudson, Drew Hanlon
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, January 14, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Anne Davis
Cup Bearer Michele Hand
Altar Servers Claire & Oliver Hand
Ushers Mike Veasman
Music Drew Hanlon, Maggie Bruce

Sunday, January 14, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Kris LeRoy
Host Distributor Tom Ausman
Cup Bearers Jacki Ausman, Tracy Miller
Altar Servers Isaac, Jonah & Gabriel Miller
Ushers Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music Christine Muehlenthaler, Karon Lacey, Celeste Muehlenthaler

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Money Counters

January 7: Kathy Daup, Sharon Morris
January 14: Sue White, Dona Cowman



Thousands of marine creatures die by mistakenly swallowing plastic bags that resemble jellyfish.

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 TV channels 5, 8 and 17.

Healing Service

On Saturday, January 13, all are invited to attend a Healing Service at St. Ambrose Cathedral beginning with Mass at 4:00pm followed by the Healing Service at 5:30pm.

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."*

Young Catholic Singles Game Night

Join us for a game night on Friday, January 26 from 7:00-9:00pm at Sacred Heart parish hall. Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be provided. Check out our Facebook page or email ydcatholiccatholicsingles@gmail.com for questions/details.

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.

Take a Fresh Look at Your Marriage

Consider making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and enrich your lives together. This is a unique approach aimed at revitalizing Christian Marriage. For more information call 563-920-9419. Iowa dates: April 12-14 in Epworth; Sept. 27-29 in Dubuque; and Nov. 8-10 in Holstein.

Find events and resources offered by the Diocese and other parishes at www.dmdiocese.org, then scroll to the end of the page.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

The Epiphany of the Lord, January 6/7

*Theme: The mystery of the incarnation -
Jesus is a gift to all humanity.*

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6 • Your light has come!

Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 • We all share the same promise!

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 • They opened their coffers and presented him with gifts.

For Children: In your life, who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend?

For Youth: Life can sometimes be rough: losing your home, moving, feeling fear or danger. How do you experience God being and staying with you in such times?

For Adults: How this past week did you demonstrate God's love at home and at work?