



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073
Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



First Sunday of Lent

February 25/26, 2023

Dear Good People,

I hope this letter finds you well. I apologize about last week as I had a bad cough. I have not been sleeping well with it. A good opportunity to offer something up! I did test negative for Covid-19 so I just wanted to make sure I let you know that. With cold/flu/coronavirus season I have been mostly foregoing the sign of peace. It is not something that you have to do liturgically. I also want to be sensitive with people who are immunocompromised. It sort of feels out of place at a part of mass where we have just consecrated Eucharist and then we go and shake hands. Again, just my personal deal. Totally open to changing. I was surprised in Council Bluffs how many people felt strongly about bringing back the Precious Blood after I was kind of indifferent. They let me know that! So, if you have a strong opinion about the sign of peace just let me know. We can for sure change that. I hope that makes sense. I in no way want to deprive you of anything, and you are totally free to offer the sign of peace even if I do not say anything.

As the people of God we come to the 1st Sunday of Lent. The 1st Sunday of Lent is the account of Jesus' temptation in the desert. It is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God. 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
Deacon Terry Schleisman	515-669-6158/ digiterry@netscape.net
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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

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, Rosary, and Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, February 28

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Sue & Ryan Reding

Wednesday, March 1

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Will & Mikey Carpenter
-Rosary prayed at 6:00pm, St. Mary

Thursday, March 2

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Reed Benenate

First Friday, March 3

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Charles & Helen Liske
6:00pm Stations of the Cross, St. Mary
— followed by Lenten meal

Saturday, March 4

4:00-4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Bill Devereux

Sunday, March 5

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Aiden Phelan Ruden
10:00am Mass, St. Mary People of the Parish

Lenten Prayer



O gracious Master,
infuse in our hearts the spotless light
of Your Divine Wisdom
and open the eyes of our mind that we may
understand the teachings of Your Gospel.
Instill in us also the fear of
Your blessed commandments,
so that having curbed all desires,
we may lead a spiritual life,
both thinking and doing everything to please You.
For You, O Christ, our God,
are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies;
and to You we render glory,
together with Your eternal Father,
and with Your all holy, life-creating Spirit,
now and ever, and forever. Amen

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 emergency contact Fr. Ross Parker at 515-720-3434. If you or a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit please contact Fr. Parker at rparker@dmdioocese.org or 515-367-2685.

Earthquake Relief for Turkey and Syria:

A strong earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria on February 6 has prompted worldwide calls for prayers and financial assistance. Recent reports indicate the death toll exceeds 47,000 as survivors try to salvage their belongings and seek shelter in freezing conditions. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is asking the faithful to contribute to Catholic Relief Services to aid in the areas recovery. We will take up a second collection for this the weekend of March 11/12 or gifts may be made online at www.dmdioocese.org/giving. The Diocese will then pass along the contributions to the Catholic Relief Services.

Try Something New!

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... 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.



Stations of the Cross

These Stations began with pilgrims to Jerusalem who would retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary. Later, for those who wanted to pass along the same route, but couldn't make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed that eventually took the form of our current fourteen Stations.

Come pray these powerful Stations every Friday of Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary, and follow Jesus on his way to Calvary.

Parish Council

Meeting: March 21, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: March 28, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: March 13, 6:00pm, Ed Center

Knights of Columbus

March 20, Rosary, 6:40pm SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations:

Team 5 from Elkhart and Cambridge

Coming Events

- †**Friday, March 3:** Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary, followed by a Lenten meal
- †**Weekend of March 4/5:** Buildings & Grounds Fund Collection — Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8:00am & 10:00am Masses

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 of love.

Be Involved 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.

We are in need of hosts for our meal on Friday, March 17.

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 Fish Frys again this year. Please join them to eat and/or help on Fridays, March 10 and March 24. 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.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mark Burke, father of Geneveve Loraditch who passed away Monday. May he rest in peace with our Lord, and his family find peace and strength at this most difficult time.

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

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

As we enter into this time of preparation during Lent we start to focus on the Paschal Mystery of Christ's life during this time. We ponder how this great mystery can help the children discover His deep love for them. We talk about how we can take the church's teaching of prayer, fasting, and alms giving to unite with Him in His suffering.

March 1/3: Regular Sessions
March 8/11: Regular Sessions
March 15/17: No Sessions- Spring Break

S.T.O.R.M. Report

Grades 7-12 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 Dates (7th & 8th Graders)

Sessions: March 1, 8 & 22, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

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

Gatherings: March 1, 8 & 22, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area

Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

We have a lot of volunteer opportunities coming up, please check your email for sign ups.

Saturday, March 25: 9:00-11:00am, 10th grade only Teen/
Sponsor Session, Social Hall

Wednesday, March 29: 6:00-8:00pm, Confirmation Session,
Social Hall

Old Palms

There is a container in the vestibule if you would like us to dispose of your blessed palms from last year.

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal

This Appeal, which begins next weekend, is a unified effort in which all Catholics in the Diocese of Des Moines join together to further the mission and ministry of our Diocesan Church. It provides more than \$4.7 million in essential support and almost 75% of ministry and operational needs on an annual basis. You will be receiving a letter from Bishop Joenson asking you to give a gift to the ADA. Please prayerfully consider how you, as an individual and a family, can support our Diocese as we Invite and Welcome People into Communion, Prepare Disciples for the Domestic Church, Draw Young People into Deeper Communion and Cultivate a Culture of Servant Leadership.

You can also donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; and choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Thank you.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 19 Budget Week 34

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$7,338	\$5,944

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$177,074	\$202,100	\$205,911

Food Pantry Collection: \$759

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

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 - thamm@mercydesmoines.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

Heidi Ackerman, - *President* - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
John Fisher - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
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Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
Mike Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@commonspirit.org
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Jen Linderblood - jlinderb@yahoo.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Sue White - charylmyron@q.com

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Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
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Mary Winders - mefothergill@yahoo.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

Garrett McClain - gjmccclain69@gmail.com

Laudato Si

“Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us.” 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, please don't hesitate to contact us so members of our Parish may offer prayers for those in need. For requests or to participate in our Prayer Chain, please contact Barb, bliske@saintmaryhc.org / 515-367-2685. *If the request is not for you, please ask permission of the one it is for to be on our prayer chain.*

Lenten Reconciliation

Father Parker has scheduled additional Reconciliation times in March for Lent; we will not re not having a service. See below for Lenten Reconciliation Services in other parishes:

- Tuesday, Feb. 28, 7:00pm, St. Francis of Assisi, WDM
- Wednesday, March 1, 6:00pm, St. Augustin, DSM
- Thursday, March 2, 7:00pm, Holy Trinity, DSM
- Tuesday, March 7, 6:00pm, St. Boniface, Waukee
- Tuesday, March 7, 7:00pm, St. Pius X, Urbandale
- Wednesday, March 22, 7:00pm, St. Theresa, DSM
- Sunday, March 19, 3:00pm, St. Mary of Nazareth, DSM
- Wednesday, March 29, 6:30pm, Assumption, Granger
- Wednesday, March 22, 7:00pm, Sacred Heart, WDM
- Thursday, March 30, 7:00pm, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona
- Sunday, March 19, 4:00pm, St. John, Adel
- Saturday, March 18, 10:00am, St. Anthony, DSM
- Tuesday, March 28, 6:00pm, St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlisle

Liturgical Ministers March 4/5

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Di Schleisman
Host	Tom Froehlich
Cup Bearers	Deacon Terry, Linda Froehlich
Altar Servers	Drew Gilligan, Callahan Coffelt
Ushers	Brodie Gilligan Family
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Anne Davis
Cup Bearer	Deacon Terry
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Usher	Sandra Hunter
Music	Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Kris LeRoy
Host Distributor	Di Schleisman
Cup Bearers	Deacon Terry, Tim Loraditch
Altar Servers	Peyton & Justice Loraditch
Ushers	Gregg Richwine, Andrew Cory
Music	Karon Lacey, Garrett McClain, Celeste Muehlenthaler

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Money Counters

February 26: Sue White, Brenda Nehring
March 5: Sharon Morris, Sue White



Recycling 100 aluminum cans could light your bedroom for two whole weeks.

Thank You

Thank you for the beautiful wreath. Thanks to all who helped with the luncheon and furnished the food. Your kindness and sympathy is deeply appreciated.

~ The Family of Tom Morris

Please Consider Helping Your Parish By....

Removing snow on the weekend and/or week day at St. Mary. We need people power! Currently we have no volunteers. Please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094ea4a722a2fb6-snow1#/> to sign up or contact Bill Schmitt with questions, 515-291-8005.

Hosting any of the following:

- Wine & Cheese after Mass on the first Saturday of April, May or June
- Coffee and donuts after 10:00am Mass on the first Sunday of April, May or June

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. Thank you.

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.

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 activities, it will be on TV channels 5, 8 and 17.

If you currently do not receive parish emails, but your spouse does, and you would like to receive them, please call the office and we will add your name to the distribution list.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

First Sunday of Lent, February 25/26

Theme: Temptation - What would Jesus do?

Reading I: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 • God formed us from the clay.

Reading II: Romans 5:12-19 • A single righteous act has saved us!

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11 • Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit.

Question for Children: What do you plan to do during Lent this year as a way of showing you want to grow closer to Jesus?

Question for Youth: Jesus was tempted by the devil. How are you tempted? What helps you resist these temptations?

Question for Adults: When you yourself pause to be alone with God, what distracts and prevents you from dwelling in that? Busyness? The demands of life? TV? The internet?