



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 25/26, 2023

See inside this bulletin for an extended article from Father Parker in regards to Safe Haven Sunday.

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 Information

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
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

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

Dear Good People,

In the midst of moving and trying to get everything figured out I inadvertently missed Safe Haven Sunday this last Sunday. This was an oversight on my part. Below you will find some resources to help make your home a safe haven especially as we deal with new technologies that can be very good, but also very destructive. I know this can be a sensitive topic, but it is important for us to bring those things that can sometimes be in the darkness into the light.

Safe Haven Sunday in the Diocese of Des Moines

Last weekend the diocese has asked the parishes to address something that seriously harms us and steals away joy from us, our vocations, our families, and our community. It's the use and addiction to pornography. What used to be a little more difficult to access is now accidentally and easily accessed by children and teens using the internet.

The Diocese of Des Moines is cooperating with a nationwide initiative called Safe Haven Sunday. If you've heard of a resource from Covenant Eyes called *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture* which we hope you will make use of in your homes and lives. It's software that can be downloaded on internet devices that reports any "internet foul play" to a trusted monitor.

Equipped is a resource which uses the image of a house with its foundation, walls, windows, and roof to inform you about how you can make your actual house a place of safety and light. There is substantial teaching about the kinds of conversations and relationships which are helpful to have in the home. It details how to talk about God, our dignity, and our destiny, how to recover from past sins, and the role of sexuality and its goodness in God's plan. It also includes sections on the ways which sin and inappropriate content move us to the darkness of isolation, shame, and blame, and especially how to find remedies for when these things have occurred. Practically, *Equipped* speaks about screen accountability software, supports and structures in the home, and how to have the Christian message speak louder than the various dark messages of society.

There are also programs called: *Integrity Restored*, *Reclaim Sexual Health*, *Road to Purity* and more on the diocesan website for those who want to get serious about being healed. You don't have to settle with feeling disqualified or ashamed of your sins. Change for good is possible and God wants you to be healed. Whether you realize it or not, that place of healing and the safe haven you seek, is closer than you think.

Not all parishioners have children in the home, nor do all parishioners struggle with pornography. However, the Church is the Body of Christ and the whole community can help bring this wound to the light to heal, and so Safe Haven Sunday is relevant for all families.

- Safe Haven Sunday is an opportunity to discuss internet safety, and how to avoid and address pornography.

- Safe Havens: This weekend is about providing resources for creating "safe havens" in our home, through education, conversations, filtering and accountability software. This battle must be fought in the home, and parents have an obligation to help their children navigate this issue.
- Hope, not fear: Christians ought to have the confidence that "Grace always overcomes evil!"
- Healing is possible: last Sunday's gospel involves a man born blind, and while others are concerned with who is to blame, Jesus is concerned with healing the wound. So too, does Jesus want to heal a person wounded by the sin of pornography. It is not about guilt, it is about freedom. Healing is possible.
- Willful blindness: An irony of the gospel is that by the end of this passage, we learn that the Pharisees are the truly blind ones, which comes from their pride. Sometimes when it comes to pornography we can be willfully blind, whether it is by ignoring the issue, imagining that it is "no big deal" or by despairing of freedom. Humility and honesty are what helps set the blind man free, and, so too, this can help us be free.
- Participation in healing: In today's gospel, while Jesus is the primary actor in the man's healing, Jesus also asks the man to participate. So too, Jesus wants us to be free but he asks for our participation, our action.
- Available Resources: Resources are being provided by the diocese to help our families, parents, and individuals navigate this issue. Please utilize these resources, and know that while this can feel like a very big, and heavy issue, you are not alone, grace will always overcome evil, and freedom is possible.

A.M.D.G.

Rev. Ross A. Parker



Mass and Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, March 28

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Joe & Sally Kresse
5:30-6:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

Wednesday, March 29

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † Ashley Carpenter
6:00pm Rosary, St. Mary
6:30-7:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

Thursday, March 30

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Marge Cory
5:30-6:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

Friday, March 31

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Edward & Jessie Ross
6:00pm Silhouette Stations of the Cross, St. Mary

Palm Sunday

(Masses at St. Mary begin in the Social Hall)

Saturday, April 1

4:00-4:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Irene Anderson

Sunday, April 2

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



TRIDUUM SERVICES

Holy Thursday, April 6

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

Good Friday, April 7

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

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 8

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

Easter Sunday, April 9

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

Lenten Prayer



Loving Creator of mine,
I feel the pace quicken, the time draw near.
I am filled with joy as I move toward Easter
and the promised reconciliation with you.
Teach me to follow the example of your Son,
to be worthy of being called one his:
a Christ-ian.
Help me to live each day as he did
turning hatred to love and conflict to peace.
I await the new life with eagerness,
Faith and a deep gratitude. 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@dmdiocese.org or 515-367-2685.

Lenten Reconciliation

Father Parker has scheduled these additional individual times for Reconciliation at St. Mary, or contact him to make an appointment:

Tuesday, March 28, 5:30-6:30pm
Wednesday, March 29, 6:30-7:30pm
Thursday, March 30, 5:30-6:30pm



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.

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.

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

Parish Council

Meeting: April 18, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

Meeting: April 10, 6:00pm, Ed Center

Knights of Columbus

April 17, Rosary, 6:40pm SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations:

Team 5 from Elkhart and Cambridge

Coming Events

- † **Choir Practice for Easter Vigil:** Sundays, March 26 & April 2 after 10:00am Mass until 12:30pm; Thursday, March 30 and Tuesday, April 4 at 6:30pm.
- † **Friday, March 31:** Silhouette Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary, followed by Lenten meal.
- † **Weekend of April 1/2:** Buildings and Grounds collection — Wine and cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8:00am and 10:00am Masses
- † **Monday, April 3:** 6:30pm Choir practice for Holy Thursday Mass, St. Mary

Removal of Decorations at Cemetery

In preparation for Spring, please plan to have all grave site 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!

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

Another important gesture of the Mass we focus on is The Offering. This gesture is done toward the end of the Liturgy of the Eucharist and it is where Father lifts the paten and the chalice and raises them up to heaven. This gesture isn't just giving the Eucharist back to God, but it's a collection of all of us, our gifts, our works, our offerings, it's our way of saying thank you to all the gifts he gives us, by offering ourselves up to him in return. After Father prays the Doxology we respond with The Great Amen. Our way of saying we believe everything Father has said and done.

March 26: First Communion Special Session 1, 11:00am
March 29/31: Regular Sessions
April 2: First Communion Special Session 2, 11:00am
April 5: Regular Sessions / April 7: No Session Good Friday

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: April 5 & 12, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

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



Gatherings: April 5, 12 & 26, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area

Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

Parents: Please check your email regularly for volunteer opportunities and important information.

Wednesday, March 29: 6-8pm Confirmation Session, Hall
Wednesday, April 19: 6-8pm last Confirmation Session, Hall
Friday, April 28, 6:00pm: Liturgy Rehearsal Dinner
Saturday, April 29, 2:00pm: Confirmation Liturgy

Holy Thursday Washing of Feet & Adoration

 We invite individuals to have their feet washed during our Holy Thursday Mass on April 6.  Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is after this Mass until 10:00pm in the Social Hall. A sign up for both of these are in the vestibule at St. Mary and at Holy Cross.



Silhouette Stations of the Cross

S.T.O.R.M. Youth Ministry invites you to journey through the Stations of the Cross with us this Friday, 6:00pm at St. Mary. The teens have been preparing a unique and powerful prayer experience. Each year these Stations are presented we receive moving testimonies about them. We invite you to come, sit back, pray and reflect as the Stations come alive right before your eyes. *Following the Stations, join us for a meal prepared/served by our Confirmation students.*

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 April 3. Thank you.*

Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 19 Budget Week 38

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$8,585	\$5,944

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$201,008	\$225,877	\$226,202

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal

<u>Assessed</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$55,196	\$25,125	\$24,655	\$470	\$30,541

Weekend Mass attendance March 18/19: 256

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 - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
Mike Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@commonspirit.org
Beth Hart - mrsmathart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.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 - Ischreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Karen Bellis - puzzlenuts@aol.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Lynn Schreurs - Ischreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - shawcattle77@gmail.com
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

Pray with and for creation in your daily prayers: Include a prayer of thankfulness for creation, a prayer for protection of our common home, or perhaps a prayer for people suffering impacts of climate or ecological issues. Take time periodically to pray outdoors. See more at:

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

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Each and every person's gift brings us closer to our assessment of \$55,196. If you have not made a gift, please join us in supporting the Diocese's programs and services. Simply fill out the contribution card from Bishop Joensen and place it in the offertory basket or drop it in the mail. *If paying by check, please make it out to Diocese of Des Moines.* Gifts can also be made at dmdiocese.org/giving and choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Thank you for your generosity and your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

Bridge Replacement on NE 126th Avenue

Bridge replacement project over Interstate 35 (exit 96) east of Elkhart begins at 7:00am on Wednesday, March 29, until November 2023, weather permitting. Detours will use routes east and west of I-35 from NE 36th Street in Ankeny to Iowa 210. A south detour will use NE 38th Street, NE 36th Street and U.S. 69. A north detour route will use County Road R-70, Iowa 210, and U.S. 69. The north and southbound I-35 ramps at Exit 96 may be open at times depending on the work taking place. Go to 511ia.org for current detour route information or call 511 (within Iowa) or 800-288-1047 (nationwide); stay connected with 511 on Facebook or Twitter (links at <https://iowadot.gov/511/511-social-media-site>); or download the free app. Subscribe to *Your 511* and receive email/text alerts. Visit <https://new.511ia.org/#login>.

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!

April 1, Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary
Passion Reader ~ 1 Altar server ~ 3 Ushers

April 2, Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross
Lector ~ 1 Usher

April 2, Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary
Passion Reader ~ Cup Bearer ~ Host Distributor
~ 3 Altar servers ~ 4 Ushers

Holy Thursday, April 6, 7:00pm Mass, St. Mary
Cup Bearer ~ 3 Altar servers ~ 3 Ushers

Good Friday, April 7, 7:00pm Service, St. Mary
Lector ~ 4 Ushers

Easter Vigil, April 8, Saturday, 8:00pm Mass, St. Mary
Fourth Reader ~ Cup Bearer ~ 2 Servers ~ 4 Ushers

Easter Sunday, April 9, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross
Lector ~ 2 Altar servers ~ 2 Ushers

Easter Sunday, April 9, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary
2 Cup Bearers ~ 3 Host Distributors ~ 3 Servers ~ 6 Ushers
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Money Counters

March 27: Sharon Morris, Brenda Nehring

April 2: Kathy Daup, Dona Cowman



The Container Recycling Institute (CRI) estimates that the 36 billion aluminum cans landfilled last year had a scrap value of more than \$600 million.

Thank You

SMHC Parish,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. They were a blessing. Thank you also for your kind words, it's nice to know other people understand. Blessings.

~ Geneveve (Burke) Loraditch

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:* Saturday, May 6. *Host coffee & donuts at Holy Cross:* Sunday, July 2. *Host coffee & donuts at St. Mary:* Sunday, June 4. Thank you for considering!

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. To request prayers or to participate in our prayer chain, please contact the office, 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.*

Catholic Relief Services Collection

This Diocesan collection supports agencies providing relief to suffering people as well pastoral outreach and advocacy to improve lives. *Collection envelopes are on the table. Please return in the collection basket or mail to the parish office. Thank you for your continued generosity.*



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.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 25/26

Theme: New life in Christ Jesus.

Reading I: Ezekiel 37:12-14 • I will put my spirit in you.

Reading II: Romans 8:8-11 • You are in the Spirit.

Gospel: John 11:1-45 • I am the resurrection and the life.

Question for Children: How do your actions show that you put your faith and trust in Jesus?

Question for Youth: Lazarus received a second chance at life through Jesus. How have you experienced second chances in your own life?

Question for Adults: The death from which we are called is healing from those things which bind us and hold us back: memories, fears, rejection... What binds you? What keeps you from fully being your own most true self in Christ?