



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Third Sunday of Easter

April 22/23, 2023

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.

Dear Good People,

I hope this letter finds you well during this most joyous Easter season. We have much to be grateful for, even in the midst of difficult or trying situations that we all face. For we are an Easter people, people of hope and of expectation. In the midst of the Easter Season we are celebrating significant liturgies with our young people. We are very proud of our children who will be receiving their first Holy Communion this weekend. First Communion is one of my favorite events of the year. The young people are very excited, and that is exciting to see. We pray that the excitement of receiving our Lord in Holy Communion never goes away. Secondly, we are also gearing up for Confirmation that will take place on Saturday afternoon. The young people and their sponsors have spent time reflecting on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and they seem to be ready to receive them and share them with others. Please keep all these young people and their families in your prayers. I also just want to take a moment to thank all of our catechist's and volunteers who have spent many hours helping all of our young people learn about their faith. There is no greater gift than the gift of faith. So a giant thank you to all those who are involved in any way with religious education at the parish.

Also, as I mentioned this last weekend at mass I think it is a good time to formally re-institute the sign of peace. The coronavirus and the flu seem to be leveling off as the weather has tried to get a littler nicer. We unfortunately will probably have to deal with allergies, but they are not contagious. It also seems like people really enjoy exchanging the sign of peace, and that is beautiful. That being said please again be respectful if someone does not feel comfortable exchanging the sign of peace, especially if they are immunocompromised etc. Maybe just acknowledging your neighbors with a bow or similar gesture would be fine in that case. Easter blessings to all of you! A.M.D.G. ~ Fr. Ross Parker

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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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.vocationonline.org

Masses and Reconciliation



Tuesday, April 25

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Mary Maxwell*

Wednesday, April 26

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Will & Mikey Carpenter*

Thursday, April 27

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Marj and Brian Rohlf*

Friday, April 28

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Edward & Jessie Ross*

Saturday, April 29

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *George Meusburger*

Sunday, April 30

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

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

Prayer for the Third Sunday of Easter

Loving God,

We rejoice now in the glory of your resurrection, celebrating your life with Easter joy.

We are filled with confident hope and feel our spirits renewed within us.

Our hearts burn with a new depth of love as we see your light shine in the darkness. Lead us, Lord. We are your people.

May we spend this day praising your glory and being filled with confident hope as you hold out your wounded hands to us with joy.

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, homebound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit please contact Fr. Parker at rparker@dmdiocese.org or 515-367-2685.

50 Days of the Easter Season



The resurrection of Jesus is such overwhelmingly Good News that a single day is not enough to celebrate it! The Lord's resurrection is meant to be celebrated for the whole Liturgical Season of Easter until Pentecost (June 5).

We have two reflections books to help you celebrate this Season; *The Little White Book* and *The Word Among Us* which are available on the table at St. Mary and in the entryway at Holy Cross.

Diocesan family friendly resources and activities to truly celebrate the Easter season can be found at www.dmdiocese.org/Easter2023.

Thank You

St. Mary-Holy Cross,

Thank you for your card and kind contribution to Holy Cross Cemetery in memory of Doc. You all meant so much to him. We appreciate your kindness.

Love, Ginie and Family



Graduating Seniors!

Our parish is pleased to announce a scholarship to be granted to a high school senior pursuing higher education! If interested in applying for this scholarship, please go to: https://docs.google.com/document/d/188f_slJAQh9LGHJpwbxL1CVqsJSYcN5WlksB44iBubl/edit?usp=sharing or contact the parish office.

The scholarship application is due by May 5.

Parish Council

Meeting: May 16, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting, April 25, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: May 8, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

May 15, Rosary, 6:40pm SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations:

Team 5 from Elkhart and Cambridge

The parish office is closed

Friday, April 28 through Friday, May 5.

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

To reach Candy, please email her at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org

Coming Events

- ✚ **Weekend of May 6/7:** Blessing of High School Seniors during Masses — Buildings and Grounds Collection — Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8:00am and 10:00am Masses
- ✚ **Thursday, May 25:** Blood Drive, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall

Mark Your Calendar for a Celebration!

We will be celebrating Fr. Parker's TEN year Ordination (along with a volunteer/staff appreciation dinner) on Saturday, June 10, after the 5:00pm Mass. Join us to celebrate Fr. Parker and to enjoy good food and fun! More information to come. We look forward to seeing YOU there!

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. *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 at bliske@saintmaryhc.org or 515-367-2685.

Congratulations

to these students who will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time Sunday afternoon.

Please keep them in your prayers.

Ivy Blunt	Addison Overturff
Joseph Clarey	Gianna Rafferty
Elizabeth Geistkemper	Rex Roberts
Thomas Hollister	Anderson Segal
William Kovacevich	Ruthie Shipley
Glenn Laake	Lilian Shuler
Titus Loraditch	Ellie Simpson
Mary Margaret Manley	Piper Streit
Audrey Miller	Natsumi Van Pelt
Amelia Muehlenthaler	

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

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

Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

Friday, April 28, 6:00pm: Liturgy Rehearsal Dinner at St. Mary for 10th graders and their Sponsors.
Saturday, April 29, 2:00pm: Confirmation Liturgy. All 10th graders should arrive no later than 12:50pm.

EDGE (7th & 8th Graders) No activities

S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group (9th - 12th Graders) No activities

Blood Drive



Make an appointment (required) to donate your valuable and much needed blood at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org, in the vestibule of St. Mary or through the parish Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/smhcelkhart/>. We have 25 appointments available for our Drive on Thursday, May 25, 3:00 – 7:00pm in the Social Hall. There's no substitute for YOUR blood. It only takes about 30 – 45 minutes from check-in to check-out and you get to enjoy beverages and homemade treats! Parish contact: Larry Sauer, 515-710-2421/ sauerld@outlook.com.

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

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. **Pledge cards are also available at St. Mary and Holy Cross. 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.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

April 16 Budget Week 42

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$9,277	\$5,944
<i>Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund</i>		
Received	Budget	Last Year
\$222,320	\$249,653	\$252,257

Food Pantry Collection: \$767.83

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Assessed	Pledged	Paid	Unpaid	Amt. Due
\$55,196	\$29,805	\$29,335	\$470	\$25,861

Weekend Mass attendance April 15/16: 226

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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@commonspirit.org
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Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Sue White - charylmyron@q.com

BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
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PARISH TRUSTEES

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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

