

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	Mass Schedule
Parish General Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org	Tuesday 8:00am St. Mary
Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor	515-367-2685/rparker@dmdiocese.org	Wednesday 5:30pm Holy Cross
Deacon Terry Schleisman	515-669-6158/digiterrry@netscape.net	Thursday 8:00am St. Mary
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org	Friday 8:00am St. Mary Saturday 5:00pm St. Mary
Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry	afisher@saintmaryhc.org	Sunday 8:00am Holy Cross
Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org	10:00am St. Mary
Barb Liske - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org	Personallisticas Caturday 4:00 4:20mm
Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE	gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org	Reconciliation: Saturday 4:00 - 4:30pm, St. Mary or by appointment with Fr. Parker
Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE	tmiller@saintmaryhc.org	Baptism : Please contact the office.
Sue Schmidt - Music	sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org	Rite of Christian Initiation: Please contact
Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org	Fr. Parker
Parish Web Site	www.saintmaryhc.org	Marriage: Contact the office at least six
Parish Facebook Site	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart	months prior to the proposed wedding date.
Parish Fax	515-367-7028	Priesthood/Religious: <u>www.vocationsonline.org</u>

Masses and Reconciliation

Tuesday, April 25 8:00am Mass, St. Mary



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

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 <u>rparker@dmdiocese.org</u> 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 <u>www.dmdiocese.org/Easter2023</u>.

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 you 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.

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.

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 <u>bliske@saintmaryhc.org</u> 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 🛛 💦 🍾	Addi
Joseph Clarey	Gian
Elizabeth Geistkemper	Rex
Thomas Hollister	And
William Kovacevich	Ruth
Glenn Laake	Lilia
Titus Loraditch	Ellie
Mary Margaret Manley	Pipe
Audrey Miller	Nats
Amelia Muehlenthaler	

Addison Overturff Gianna Rafferty Rex Roberts Anderson Segal Ruthie Shipley Lilian Shuler Ellie Simpson Piper Streit Natsumi Van Pelt

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

S.T.O.R.M. Report

Grades 7-12 Coordinators

Melissa Kahler, <u>mkahler@saintmaryhc.org</u>, 515-290-2830 Andrea Fisher, <u>afisher@saintmaryhc.org</u>, 515-240-5059 Nicole Cory, <u>ncory@saintmaryhc.org</u>, 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 that 12:50pm.

EDGE (7th & 8th Graders) No activities

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



Make an appointment (required) to donate your valuable and much needed blood at <u>www.lifeservebloodcenter.org</u>, in the vestibule of St. Mary or through the parish Facebook page at <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/smhcelkhart/</u>. 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 checkin to check-out and you get to enjoy beverages and homemade treats! Parish contact: Larry Sauer, 515-710-2421/ <u>sauerld@outlook.com</u>.

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 <u>dmdiocese.org/giving</u> 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 Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund Received Budget Last Year \$252,257 \$222,320 \$249.653 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

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 Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@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@hrtInd.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 Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiowa.net Lowell Crouse - I3jl@windstream.net Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net Stacey Rooney - rooneyslg17@gmail.com Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com 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 - sauerId@outlook.com - 515-710-2421 **PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES** Mike and Mary Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

Mike and Mary Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT** Garrett McClain - gjmcclain69@gmail.com

Prayer at Planting Time

Adapted from the Rural Life Committee, Diocese of Sioux Falls Thank you, God of generosity, Creator of all things, for everything that grows on the earth. Thank you for the people who tend the land and who make it fruitful. In our age we may forget our dependence on wind and weather, on sun and rain, without which nothing would grow. In this seedtime of the year. make bright in us an appreciation for farmers and all who help bring forth the fruits of the earth. Keep us always in mind of the things that matter most. Help us to bring rural America together, and to fulfill our responsibilities in glorifying your earth, that this world may fulfill your will for the land to sustain your creation until the end of time.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Laudato Si

When preparing your recycling, make sure materials are not soiled or contaminated with food, and make sure only items acceptable for recycling are included (for example, not all plastic is acceptable). Quality problems have some large buyers considering no longer accepting our recycling and it could end up in landfills. Learn more about the recycling rules in your area at www.earth911.com. See more at:

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

Catholic Youth Camp

CYC Sessions are filling up for this summer! Register today at <u>stmcenter.com</u> to ensure your preferred week and avoid the waitlist. Volunteer counselor applications are also open; visit <u>stmcenter.com/counselors</u> for more information.

Our parish pays \$100 of each of our student's fee to attend CYC. Please contact the office after registering your child.

Liturgical Ministers April 29/30

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary		
Lector	Lisa Jones	
Host	Mary Thomas	
Cup Bearers	Lisa Schoening, Tony Kuehn	
Altar Servers	Volunteers needed	
Ushers	Doug Jones, Jim Hudson	
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon	

Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

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

Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Kris LeRoy
Host Distributor	Tom Ausman
Cup Bearers	Jacki Ausman, Tracy Miller
Altar Servers	Isaac, Gabriel, Jonah Miller
Ushers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music	Garrett McClain, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

April 23: Sue White, Dona Cowman **April 30:** Sue White, Kathy Daup

A ton of paper made from recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water, between 17 - 31 trees and 60 pounds of air pollutants.

St. Damien, Priest, 1840-1889

Joseph De Veuster was born at Tremelo, Belgium. He began his novitiate with the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary at the beginning of 1859 and took the name Damien. He would pray every day before a picture of St Francis Xavier, patron of missionaries, to be sent on a mission. In 1863 his brother, who was to leave for a mission in the Hawaiian Islands, fell ill. Since preparations for the voyage had already been made, Damien obtained permission from the Superior General to take his brother's place. He landed in Honolulu on 19 March 1864. He was ordained to the priesthood on the following 21 May.

At that time, the Hawaiian Government decided on the harsh measure of quarantine aimed at preventing the spread of leprosy: the deportation to the neighboring Island of Molokai of all those infected by what was then thought to be an incurable disease. The entire mission was concerned about the abandoned lepers and Bishop Louis Maigret, felt sure they needed priests. He did not want to send anyone "in the name of obedience" because he was aware such an assignment was a potential death sentence. Of the four brothers who volunteered, Damien was the first to leave on May 10, 1873 for Kalaupapa.

At his own request and that of the lepers, he remained on Molokai. Having contracted leprosy himself, he died on April 15, 1889 at the age of 49, after serving 16 years among the lepers. He was buried in the local cemetery under the same Pandanus tree where he had first slept upon his arrival in Molokai. His remains were exhumed in 1936 at the request of the Belgian Government and translated to a crypt of the Church of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts at Louvain.

Fr Damien is known as a hero of charity as he identified so closely with the victims of leprosy. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1995 and he is honored on May 10.

Leprosy (Hanson's Disease) is curable and no longer the scourge that it was in the nineteenth century. Today, there are other sufferings that afflict the human race: hostilities, hunger, and homelessness to name but a few. Each of us is called upon to do whatever we can do to alleviate the pain of others. What are you doing to ease the hurting in your family? ...your town? ...your world?

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday of Easter, April 22/23

Theme: When we share meals, Christ sits among us.

Reading I: Acts 2:14, 22-33 • My heart has been glad.

Reading II: 1 Peter 1:17-21 • It is through him that you are believers.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 • Were not our hearts burning within us as he spoke?

Question for Children: What is your favorite time to share a meal with your family?

Question for Youth: The disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread. How have you experienced Jesus at Mass, in the breaking of the Eucharistic bread? How have you experienced Jesus at meals and with friends and family?

Question for Adults: Share about great meals you've been part of, ones which are still memorable to you.