



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

St. Mary: 460 NW Washington Avenue, Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street, Maxwell Iowa 50161



Baptism of the Lord

January 10 & 11, 2026

It is customary at our Parish that 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 passes away. Parishioners near death have expressed the comfort they experience knowing the Parish Community is praying for them. Please join us in this sacred prayer.

This feast, signifies Jesus’s acceptance of his mission as God’s suffering Servant, who allows himself to be numbered among sinful men, although he is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. By his baptism, he is coming to “fulfill all righteousness,” that is, completely submitting himself out of love for us to the Father’s will (cf. CCC, 536).

His birth on Christmas is a preparation of his death on Good Friday, his baptism today points to his baptism of death for the remission of our sins. Hence, at that moment of his baptism, the heavens open and the Father proclaims his delight in his Son (cf. Lk 3:22).

This Feast concludes the celebration of the Christmas season.

Parish Phone	515-367-2685
Parish General Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor	515-367-2685/ rparker@dmdioocese.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
Tracy Miller - Preschool - 6th RE	tmiller@saintmaryhc.org
Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org
Music Coordinator -Position Open	
Parish Web Site	www.saintmaryhc.org
Parish Facebook Site	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart

<i>See inside for varied Mass schedule.</i>	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.

Marriage: Please contact the Office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: Please contact Fr. Parker or Nicole Cory

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationonline.org

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, January 13 — No Mass today

Wednesday, January 14 — No Mass today

Thursday, January 15

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † JoAnn Meusburger

Friday, January 16

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Leo & Rosemary Overmohle

Saturday, January 17

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Lawrence & Beverlee Stokka

Sunday, January 18

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross People of the Parish

10:00am Mass, St. Mary † Kenny Stevens, Mark Schmidt,
Mary Harrington

Prayer



Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed Him to be Your Son,
anointing Him with the Holy Spirit:
grant that we may be faithful
to our call as Children of God,
listening to you, guided by Your Spirit,
to fulfil our unique and definite purpose.
Amen.

Welcome To Our New Members!



We welcome the following folks who have joined our Parish:

Ken & Sherry Nieland, *who live in Ankeny*

Samuel Baker, *who lives in Huxley*

New Birth by Water and the Holy Spirit

Celebrate with us in welcoming into our Faith

Isaac Joseph

Son of Andrew and Sheldon Brown



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, <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/membership>. We are glad you are here!



Pastoral Assistance

Father Parker is away through January 14. In case of a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact Fr. Ken Halbur of St. Luke's Parish at 515-964-1278 Ext. 3 or Fr. James Ahenkora of OLIH at 515-964-3038. A Catholic Chaplain is available 24/7 at Mercy and Unity Point Hospitals.



Opening for a Parish Music Coordinator

This is a paid and very flexible job—work some from home! Average of 10 hours most weeks, though more around Easter and Christmas. For more information or if interested, contact Fr. Ross at rparker@dmdioocese.org.

Two Immediate Vacancies on Our Parish Council

If you know of anyone you would like to nominate (including yourself) or would like more information, please contact Father Ross, rparker@dmdioocese.org or 515-720-3434. Thank you for considering serving your Parish in this way!

Food Pantry Collection



Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass next weekend; we will also take up a monetary collection. Thank you for your continued generosity to those in need. Your donation this month will assist the Huxley Food Pantry.

Parish Council

Meeting: February 17, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: February 24, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: January 12, 6:00pm, Social Hall

OCIA / Grow in Your Catholic Faith

January 12 & 19, 6:15pm Youth Room

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: January 19, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 3: Ankeny

Father Parker is away through January 14.

The Parish Office is closed January 19-27 and opens at Noon on January 28.

Fr. Parker does not have set office hours at the Parish.

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

Coming Events

- ✚ **Weekend of Jan. 17/18:** Collection for Huxley Food Pantry
- ✚ **Thursday, January 22:** Blood Drive, 3:00-7:00pm, Hall
- ✚ **Weekend of Jan. 25/26 & Jan. 31/Feb. 1:** S.T.O.R.M. taking order for Super Bowl Snack Packs
- ✚ **Saturday, February 7:** Chili Cook-off and Cinnamon Roll contest following 5:00pm Mass, Social Hall.
- ✚ **Weekend of February 7/8:** Pick up Snack Packs after Masses

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.

Snack Time

The Super Bowl just wouldn't be the same without our S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group's snack packs! Order forms will be available in the pews next weekend, January 24/25 and the following weekend, January 31/February 1. Snack Packs will be distributed after Masses on February 7/8.

Thank you for supporting the young Church!

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

Tracy Miller, tmiller@saintmaryhc.org, 515-520-7981

RE classes resume this week. Hope everyone had a nice break with your families.

Upcoming Sessions

Jan. 14- Regular Sessions
Jan. 21- Regular Sessions
Jan. 28- 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 — Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall, 7th & 8th Jan. 14 & 21: EDGE sessions

Confirmation 9th & 10th Graders, Sessions in Youth Room
Sunday, Jan. 11: 11am-12:30pm, 9th grade only session
Sunday, Jan. 25: 11am-12:30pm, 10th grade only session .
Wednesday, Jan. 28: 6-7:30pm, Family session, Social Hall

S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group — Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm,
Youth Area, 9th-12th graders
Jan. 14 & 21: Youth Gatherings

2026 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. We thank the children for their involvement in the Parish!



Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions are a cherished tradition of the Church, allowing us to unite our prayers for the living or the deceased with Christ's perfect offering in the Eucharist.

In accordance with a decree from Archbishop Zinkula, effective January 1, 2026, the customary stipend for Mass Intentions has increased to \$10 for all Iowa Dioceses.



Tis the Season



Winter is here, and we need your assistance to keep the sidewalks and steps at St. Mary safe and accessible. Could you help with weekend and/or weekday snow removal? Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-60961940-sidewalk> or use this QR code. Please contact Bill Schmitt with questions, isucui@isualum.com / 515-291-8005.

Bulletin Deadline

The next bulletin will be for two weeks, January 18 & 25. If you would like to submit something for this bulletin, please email it to bliske@saintmaryhc.org by this Wednesday, 9:00am. Thank you.



Blood Drive

Thursday, January 22, 3:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. More than 100,000 units of blood are needed yearly—donate and save lives! Go to www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/ to schedule an appointment. **Walk-ins are welcome!** Volunteers and treats are needed the day of the Drive. Please contact the Parish Office; bliske@saintmaryhc.org or 515-367-2685.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	\$6,704	\$5,536	Dec. 25 & 28
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$8,214	\$5,536	Jan. 4
Year-to-Date			
	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$164,712	149,460	\$152,496
January Building Fund Collection: \$3535.00			
Mass Attendance: Dec 24/25: 484 Dec. 27/28: 260			
Jan. 3/4: 428			

Jesus is for life, not just for Christmas.

Councils and Committees

PARISH COUNCIL

Anne Davis - annedavis06@gmail.com
Terri Hamm - Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com
Kim Heger - hegerkim91@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Bill Kyle - bill@northiowaair.com
Tim Miller - millertimothyg@gmail.com
Lisa Schoening - lisa@liskaschoening.com

FINANCE COUNCIL

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com
Craig Johnson - dad.craig@gmail.com
Anne Power - powerhouse57049@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com
Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks1@hotmail.com
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kris LeRoy - 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

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

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiaowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com
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

John & Peg Evans - evansp3@yahoo.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net



Prayer Chain

If illness or crisis strikes your family or friends, please don't hesitate to contact us so members of our Parish can offer prayers for them. *If the request is not for you, please ask permission from the one it is, to be on our prayer chain.* For requests or to participate in our prayer chain, please contact the Office at bliske@saintmaryhc.org or 515-367-2685.

Chili and Cinnamon Rolls!



Calling all Chefs...SMHC will be having their annual chili and cinnamon roll tasting contest on Saturday, February 7 after 5:00pm Mass. Everyone is invited to attend/vote, but we need entries!! If you have a knack for making chili or baking cinnamon rolls, please plan to prepare a pot of chili or a dozen cinnamon rolls to share. Let Tammi McClain know of your entry by emailing her at tammimccclain71@gmail.com. Prizes will be awarded and FUN will be had. Come share fellowship and a meal together with us.

Thank You

Thank you for your generous donations to help support Pack 163's service project. With donations from St. Mary-Holy Cross and others in the community, we were able to put together 54 birthday cake kits to donate to the Slater, Ballard and Cambridge Food Pantries. Each kit contained a birthday cake mix, frosting container, birthday candles, a can of Sprite, a cake pan, instructions and a decorated birthday card from our scouts. We appreciate your support.

Many blessings, *Pack 163*

Give a Gift to Yourself in the New Year!

A CEW (Christian Experience Weekend) is a beautiful opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life and focus on faith, renewal, and personal growth. Women's Weekend is February 6-8 and Men's Weekend is February 20-22 at OLIH Church in Ankeny. For more information or to register, please go to <https://www.olih.org/adult-ff/97-cew>.

Ministers for January 17 & 18

Saturday, January 17, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	John Roberts
Host Distributor	Drew Hanlon
Cup Bearers	Mike Devereux, Lisa Merten
Ushers	Mike D., Bill K., Bill S., Drew H.
Music	Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, January 18, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Jackie Crouse
Cup Bearer	Michele Hand
Altar Servers	Claire & Oliver Hand
Usher	Mike Veasman
Music	Drew Hanlon, Mary Snyder

Sunday, January 18, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Jill Swanson
Host Distributor	Tom Ausman
Cup Bearers	Jacki Ausman, Jill Swanson
Altar Servers	Cora & Kate Swanson
	<i>Cross Bearer: Emma Swanson</i>
Ushers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music	Garrett McClain, Karon Lacey, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

January 11: Dona Cowman, Kathy Petersen
January 18: Kathy Daup, Trish Morris



Styrofoam breaks down into smaller particles that marine animals can easily mistake for food.

Keep the Christmas Spirit Alive in 2026



Our Parish families provide a meal at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter in Des Moines for up to 34 people on the second Sunday of each month. Volunteers are needed for April, June, July, September and December. For more information or to volunteer, contact Stacey Rooney, rooneyslg17@gmail.com / 515-490-5034.

Grow in Your Catholic Faith through OCIA

All adults in our parish are invited to join us Monday, January 12 and 19 at 6:15pm in the Youth Room downstairs at St. Mary's. This is a wonderful opportunity for lifelong Catholics to deepen their understanding of the faith. Come and journey with us.

YOUTH 2000 Retreat - February 13-15, 2026

This Retreat is a weekend experience that includes celebration of Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, talks, music, workshops, and fellowship and is open to all youth aged 13-18 years old. This Retreat is held at St. Pius X in Urbandale. The schedule is Friday, Feb. 13, 6:30pm-10:30pm; Saturday, Feb. 14, 9:00am-10:00pm and Sunday, Feb. 15, 8:30am to 12:30pm.

The registration fee is \$60 per person and includes Saturday lunch and dinner. All participants must complete a Liability Release Form. If the participant is under 18, a parent or legal guardian must sign. Registration closes on February 1 at 11:55pm. If your youth is interested in attending this amazing opportunity, please contact Andrea Fisher, 515-240-5059. Here is the link for more information and registration through the diocese: <https://www.dmdiocese.org/events/youth-2000-2026?event=403aa4ed-e9bc-477a-83a2-f8b526d03052&category=Youth+Ministry>.



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 Channel 8 TV and online only. (Holy Cross may be under "Maxwell" and not "Elkhart").

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

The Baptism of the Lord, January 10 & 11

Theme: We must do what God wants, even when we don't understand it fully.

Reading I: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 • I, the Lord, have called you.

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

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17 • We must do what God wants.

Question for Children: What does God want you to do? To forgive? Be generous? To love?

Question for Youth: As you grow, how do you know what God wants you to do? How do you hear the voice of God saying, "you are one of mine, of my chosen?"

Question for Adults: As you follow God and do what he wants, how do you experience his loving words: "You are my own. My favor is upon you."?