



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



The Nativity of the Lord

December 24/25, 2022



Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

December 31, 2022 / January 1, 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.

Parish Information

Parish Phone	515-367-2685
Parish General Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
Fr. Michael Amadeo, Admin.	515-249-5015 / frmichael@olih.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

Wednesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
Thursday	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

Baptism: Please contact the office.

Rite of Christian Initiation: Please contact the office.

Marriage: Contact the office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Mass and Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 28

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

Thursday, December 29

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Clifford & Sarah Sueferer

Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God

Saturday, December 31

4:00-4:30pm, Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Irene Anderson

Sunday, January 1

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

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †Bernardine Gorman

Wednesday, January 4

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Nolan Clewell

Thursday, January 5

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †John & Mildred Flaherty

Saturday, January 7

4:00-4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Harry and Mary Johnson

Sunday, January 8

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Lyle Carpenter

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

Please contact Fr. Dan Krettek, 515-423-2888, or Deacon Terry Schleisman, 515-669-6158, for pastoral emergencies or if a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit.

Save the Date!!

Please join us for "An Evening of Peacemaking and Reconciliation." The session is open to everyone and will include prayer, discussion, and a look at what helps individuals, families, and parishioners move toward peace together. We will learn practices we can apply immediately in our minds, hearts, speech, and relationships.

The session is intended to help us grow and move forward as a more compassionate, merciful, and unified parish community during the Christmas season and New Year to more fully live out the teaching of the Prince of Peace.

Date: Thursday, January 12

Time: 6:30 – 8:00pm

Location: St. Mary in Elkhart Social Hall

Facilitated by Tom Green, a spiritual director, conflict mediator, and peacemaking professional

Distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass

Our parish is in need of additional Ministers of the Eucharist for our Masses to be able to distribute the Precious Blood again. Students who have been confirmed are invited to become a minister. Training provided. Our greatest need is for 10:00am Mass. Once we have enough ministers for all Masses, we will resume offering the Cup. If you are interested, please contact the office. Thank you.

Christmas Prayer

*Lord, on this Christmas Day,
in the midst of the joy of our celebrations,
help us recall what is truly important about this day.*

*In the midst of opening presents,
help us remember the love that each gift represents.*

*In the midst of Christmas dinner,
help us remember that you are the source of all life.*

*In the midst of family gatherings,
help us remember that you are the fullness of all joy.*

*And in the midst of Christmas Mass,
help us remember the supreme act of love, sacrifice,
and humility that we celebrate on this Christmas Day
when your Son came as a helpless, unknown baby
and grew to be the life and light of the world.*

Amen.

Parish Council

Meeting: Jan. 24, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: Jan. 17, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: Jan. 9, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Mon. Jan. 16, Rosary, 6:40 SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations:

Team 4 from Bondurant and Altoona

*Parish office: Dec. 26 closed,
Dec. 27 open 9:00am to Noon, Dec. 28 & 29 closed
Dec. 30 open 9:00am to Noon, Jan. 2 closed*

Coming Events

- †**Sunday, Jan. 1:** Coffee and donuts after 8:00am & 10:00am Masses
- †**Weekend of Jan. 7/8:** Buildings and Grounds Collection
- †**Saturday, Jan. 7:** Wine & cheese after 5pm Mass
- †**Sunday, Jan. 8:** Parish provides a meal at Emergency Shelter — **Volunteer needed**
- †**Thursday, Jan. 12:** Evening of Peacemaking and Reconciliation, 6:30-8:00pm, Social Hall & Church
- †**Saturday, Jan. 21:** Chili Cook off and Cinnamon Roll Baking contest after 5:00pm Mass
- †**Thursday, Jan. 26:** Blood Drive, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall

Ignite! Update

Next Steps: We will conclude the Ignite! Campaign at the end of January. A new year is always a time when we approach personal and professional goals with great enthusiasm. As we enter the homestretch, may we infuse our campaign efforts with that same level of enthusiasm. The unwavering generosity, prayers and good will of each parish family is helping us drive this campaign to success! *You can mail your pledge to the parish office or pledge online at: dmdiocese.org/giving/ignite/give-now. Thank you!*

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

Merry Christmas! We are on break until January 11! We hope you enjoy this Christmas season with your family. The ornaments for the Knights of Columbus contest are due by January 8 to the tree in the Social Hall! We hope you get a chance to participate in this fun event!

There will be a First Communion parent meeting January 4 at 6:30pm in the Ed Center. This is for any parent who has a child interested in receiving their First Communion this school year. Please plan to attend.

We look forward to seeing the children again January 11/13!
Please contact us if you have any questions!

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: Jan. 4, 11 & 18, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

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

Gatherings: January 4, 11 & 18, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area

Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

Wednesday, Jan. 25: 6:00-8:00pm, Session, Social Hall

Donations for 2022 / End of Year Statements

If you wish to have any donation included on your 2022 contribution statement, it must reach the Parish Office no later than **Noon on Friday, December 30**, through collections at Mass, mailed or personally delivered to the Parish Office. Monies received after this date, even if dated December 2022, will be credited as 2023 donations. **The office will only be open Tuesday, December 27 and Friday the 30th from 9:00am to Noon to drop off those much appreciated last minute donations.** Thank you.

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. We do not automatically mail out these statements to everyone. Thank you.

2023 Youth Tithes

Children are encouraged to take a tithe packet located in the vestibule, and on the paper provided, write their name by the number of the packet they have taken.

Packets are a little different this year; we have these dated by first Sunday of January, 2nd Sunday of January and so forth. If there is a 5th Sunday of the month, an envelope for that is in the back of the book.

Thank You

Saint Mary-Holy Cross.

We cannot thank you enough for your continued support and generosity. The community is so blessed to have the support of your parish. Thank you for helping us feed the community.

~ The Blessing Box

Weekly Collection Financial Update

December 18 Budget Week 25

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$9,623	\$5,944	
<i>Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund</i>			
	Received	Budget	Last Year
	\$131,456	\$148,603	\$139,003

Ignite! Campaign

Goal	Pledged	Collected
\$360,000	\$221,905	\$87,908

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, *Co-President* - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
Sue Tollefson, *Co-President* - suet@iowacubs.com
John Fisher - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.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 - 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, *Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com
Bill Schmitt - isucui@isualum.com
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Scott Turczynski - ScottT@hrtlnd.us

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
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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

Instead of buying bottled water, buy reusable water bottles and fill them from the tap at home, work or school. You can also carry empty water bottles (even metal ones) through airport security and fill them once you have passed security. This will help remove non-biodegradable plastic from the waste stream and help keep it out of our waterways.

See *On Care for Our Common Home* at:

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

Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!



Snow Removal

Can you help with weekend and/or week day snow removal of sidewalks, etc., at St. Mary? We have the equipment, but need the people power. Thank you! Sign up at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094ea4a722a2fb6-snow1#.

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 three major TV networks and WHO radio.

Dec. 31/Jan. 1 Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, Dec. 31, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Needed: Lector, Host Distributor, Altar Servers, Ushers

Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, Jan. 1, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Needed: Lector, Usher

Altar Servers Titus & Zeke Weber

Music Jen Linderblood, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, Jan. 1, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Needed: 4 Ushers

Lector Tom Froehlich

Host Distributor Linda Froehlich

Altar Servers Isaac & Gabriel Miller

Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

January 7/8 Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Di Schleisman

Host Distributor Deacon Terry

Ushers Brodie Gilligan Family

Music Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Lowell Crouse

Usher Todd & Jill Beukema

Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Di Schleisman

Host Distributor Deacon Terry

Ushers Bill & Kelly Dunbar

Music Garrett McClain, Karon Lacey, Celeste Muehlenthaler

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Money Counters

December 27: Dona Cowman, Sue White

January 3: Kathy Daup, Brenda Nehring



Once an aluminum can is recycled, it can be part of a new can within six weeks.

Chili Cook-Off and Cinnamon Roll Bake-Off

Calling all Chefs...SMHC will be having its first ever chili and cinnamon roll tasting contest on Saturday, January 21 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 to share or a dozen cinnamon rolls to share. Let Tammi McClain know of your entry by emailing her at tammimcclain71@gmail.com. Prizes will be awarded and FUN will be had. We hope to make this an annual event. Come share fellowship and a meal together with us.

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.*

Blood Drive

Our next blood drive is Thursday, January 26 from 3:00 to 7:00p.m. in the social hall. ***It is not too early to sign up!!!*** Did you know each blood donation saves up to three lives and more than 100,000 units of blood are needed yearly. ***May we count on you to donate blood?*** Please schedule an appointment (required, no walk-ins yet) by signing up on the bulletin board in the vestibule at St. Mary or visiting www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/. If you have difficulties or questions, please call LifeServe Blood Center, 800-287-4903, and tell them you wish to sign up to donate at the Elkhart Community Blood Drive. Volunteers and treats for the canteen are also needed. Please contact Larry Sauer if you wish to help. sauerld@outlook.com / 515-710-2421.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

The Nativity of the Lord, December 25

Theme: We have been saved.

Reading I: Isaiah 9: 1-6 • A light has shone.

Reading II: Titus 2:11-14 • Transformation of Life

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14 • The Birth of Jesus

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, January 1

Theme: We have been saved.

Reading I: Numbers 6: 22-27 • The priestly benediction.

Reading II: Galatians 4: 4-7 • We are heirs through God.

Gospel: Luke 2: 16-21 • The shepherds visit the child lying in the manger.

Question for Children: Mary pondered. That means to think quietly and deeply about something. Take time to ponder the message of the Gospel reading today.

Question for Youth: How would you feel if you were Joseph or Mary and in a stable? Would you be content to have shelter, or angry because you were in a stable? Why do you think this happened in this way? Do you think Joseph and Mary were disappointed in their circumstances?

Question for Adults: Mary treasured and pondered in her heart the praise given to God for the newborn King. How often do you treasure and ponder God's glorious creation?