



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



**Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe**
November 25/26, 2023



First Sunday of Advent
December 2/3, 2023

Dear Good People,

A very happy and Blessed Thanksgiving to all of you! This Sunday we celebrate Christ the King Sunday. The last Sunday of Ordinary Time. We are reminded that Christ is our true King. Governments and civil leaders come and go, but we remember that no matter what we believe politically, Christ is our sovereign and our head and we are all on a journey to meet Him one day; he is our just judge.

The weekend after Christ the King will be the beginning of Advent. This will begin our new liturgical year. This year it will be quite abbreviated because Christmas falls on a Monday. Information about this schedule is included in this bulletin. Advent means coming to. We are preparing to meet Christ at Christmas. With all the busyness of the season, I would challenge all of us to try and slow down and take some time to prepare for the coming of Christ in our lives. A great way to do that is to go to the sacrament of reconciliation. A thorough examination of our conscience and sacramental reconciliation is a tremendous way for us to prepare ourselves to meet Christ. Blessings to all of you and let us enjoy this wonderful season! A.M.D.G. - Fr. Ross

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
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

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, November 28

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †*Elsbeth Noel*

Wednesday, November 29

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

Thursday, November 30

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †*Lawrence Hanlon*

First Friday, December 1

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

Saturday, December 2

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †*People of Israel*

Sunday, December 3 First Sunday of Advent

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †*Bill Jorgensen*

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

Tuesday, December 5

8:00am Mass, Social Hall †*Mary Ann Cory*

Wednesday, December 6

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †*Doc Birchmier*

Thursday, December 7

8:00am Mass, Social Hall †*Deacon Dave Bartemes*

Friday, Dec. 8 Holy Day, Immaculate Conception of Mary

7:00am Mass, Social Hall †*Leo & Rosemary Overmohle*

6:30pm Mass, Social Hall †*Harry & Mary Fisher*

Saturday, December 9

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

5:00pm Mass, Social Hall †*Bill Devereux*

Sunday, December 10

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †*Patrick Phelan*

10:00am Mass, Social Hall †*People of the Parish*

A Prayer to Christ the King

Lord, Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King

The beginning and end of all things,

You have made your Church to be a people

that bears witness to the goodness and beauty
of your kingdom.

By your Holy Spirit, you have united us as one body,
called to live as one family of God.

Fill our hearts with your grace,

that we would be close to you by being close
to the vulnerable and marginalized.

Give us the patience to share one another's burdens,

And give us the courage

to always be friends of the truth.

May we remain with you always. Amen.

Parish Council

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

Finance Council

Meeting: January 23, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

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

Knights of Columbus

Dec. 18, Rosary, 6:40pm SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 6, Alleman, Baxter, Des Moines, Mingo,
Mitchellville, Prairie City, Sheldahl, Slater

The Parish Office is closed Nov. 27 through Dec. 1

Fr. Parker doesn't have set office hours at the parish.

Reach him at rparker@dmdioocese.org/515-720-3434.

New Birth by Water and the Holy Spirit



Celebrate with us in welcoming into our Faith

David Perseus

Son of David and Aubrey Sigmund

Welcome To Our New Member!

Anna Prince, who lives in rural Maxwell



† Pastoral Assistance

Emergency contact: Fr. Ross Parker, 515-720-3434. If a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit please contact Fr. Parker at rparker@dmdioocese.org

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!

† Blessing For Mothers-To-Be

At our Masses the weekend of December 2 & 3, we invite all Mothers-To-Be to receive a blessing; that they know of God's presence and strength as they await the birth of their child, for a safe delivery for mom and baby and for a healthy baby.

Coming Events

- † **Choir Practice:** Nov. 28-6:30pm, Dec. 3-after 10am Mass, Dec 12-6:30pm, Dec 17-after 10am Mass & Dec 21-7:10pm
- † **Weekend of Dec. 2 & 3:** Blessing of Mothers-To-Be — Buildings & Grounds collection — Wine & cheese after 5pm Mass, Coffee & donuts after 8am & 10am Masses
- † **Dec. 4-15:** Ceiling repair in St. Mary's Church
- † **Saturday, Dec. 9:** Social hall in use 8:30am-1:30pm
- † **Monday, Dec. 11:** Ladies Christmas gathering, 6:00pm Mass followed by food, fun and fellowship, St. Mary

Christmas Eve Choir

Join us to bring the joy of music to this very special Mass. Practices are Tuesday, Nov. 28, 6:30pm; Sunday, Dec. 3 after 10am Mass; Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6:30pm; Sunday, Dec. 17 after 10am Mass and Tuesday, Dec. 21, 7:10pm. For additional information please contact Sue Schmidt, sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary



Join us to celebrate Blessed Virgin Mary and her important role in the celebration of our Faith! Masses for this Holy Day of Obligation are Friday, December 8, 7:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary. Masses will be in the Social Hall due to the work being done in the Church.

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Masses

Dec. 23/24 Sunday Obligation Masses

Saturday, Dec. 23, 5:00pm, St. Mary

Sunday, Dec. 24, **9:00am**, St. Mary

- **No morning Mass at Holy Cross** -

Sunday Christmas Eve Masses

5:00pm, St. Mary

7:00pm, Holy Cross

Monday Christmas Day Mass

9:00am, St. Mary



Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org, 515-556-4150

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

Our last session of 2023 is December 13. We will have Confession and Adoration on this day for all sessions. If your child is interested in First Communion in 2024, please attend the parent meeting on January 3, 6:30pm in the Social Hall. Please RSVP by emailing Geneveve. We've emailed links for helpful Advent resources, feel free to reach out to us if you would like more suggestions about how to make Advent a prayerful preparation for the feast of Christmas. We have also emailed the information for the Christmas Ornament contest, the Ladies Christmas event and the Christmas Eve choir. There are lots of ways for your children to participate in the life of the parish at this time of year, we hope you take advantage of some of them!

November 29- Regular Sessions

December 6 & 13- Regular Sessions

December 20 & 27- No Sessions, Christmas break

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 (7th & 8th Grades)

No Session Nov. 29 — **Sessions** Dec. 6 & 13

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

No November Sessions

Sunday, Dec. 10, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 9th grade only session, youth room

Sunday, Dec. 17, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 10th grade only session, youth room

STORM Youth Group (9th - 12th Grades)

No gathering Nov. 29 — **Gatherings** Dec. 6 & 13

Thank You!

Thank you to all who supported our youth on their NCYC pilgrimage Nov. 16-19. We had an AWESOME trip and a WONDERFUL time filled with so many encounters with the Holy Spirit. It is always a joy to watch the teens grow as Catholic youth and in their walk with Christ. The teens were granted floor seating and front and center for the For King & Country concert opening night. They went to bed late and awoke early most every day. They had 3 full days filled with inspiring Catholic speakers, Adoration, Reconciliation, and most importantly, they were blessed to attend holy mass with 17 different Bishops, one hundred plus clergy, Deacons, Religious Sisters and 17,000 other Catholic teens. The young church is FULLY ALIVE! Thank you again for your financial and spiritual support! Blessings, Melissa, Andrea & Nicole

Weekly Collection Financial Update

November 19 Budget Week 21

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$8,726	\$6,114

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$92,109	\$128,287	\$102,820

Food Pantry Collection: \$702

Mass Attendance: Nov. 18/19: 274

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Assessed	Pledged	Paid	Unpaid	Amt. Due
\$55,196	\$52,825	\$50,445	\$2,380	\$4,751

Councils and Committees

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 - Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org

Drew Hanlon - drewsmhpcp@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

Mike Winders - *President* - mwinde59@yahoo.com

Heidi Ackerman - heidimdittmer@gmail.com

John Fisher - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com

Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com

Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@commonspirit.org

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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

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Bill Schmitt - isucui@isualum.com

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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PARISH HISTORIAN

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PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Mike Devereux - devoducks@msn.com

