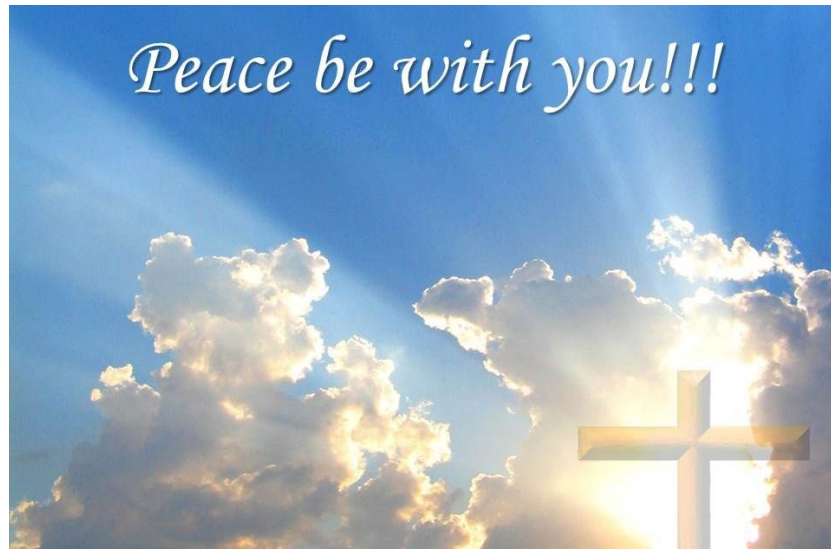




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Third Sunday of Easter

April 13/14, 2024

Dear Good People,

I hope this letter finds you well. A very Happy Easter to all of you! We continue to celebrate the Lord's resurrection for fifty days. I truly hope these are joy filled days for all of you.

That being said there are certainly a lot of things happening this time of year. This Saturday we celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep these young people in your prayers. We are certainly very proud of all of them. A big thank you to Nicole Cory for helping prepare the young people for the sacrament. Please also keep our young people in prayer who are preparing for their first holy communion on April 28th.

Finally, thank you again for your understanding with my travel schedule. I really do not like being gone, but it is part of my duties and I do enjoy visiting the seminarians. Please keep them and their formators in your prayers. Again, a giant thank you to all who contributed to our holy week liturgies. It was a special time and the graces are continuing to flow! 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 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
Sue Harrington - Music	sschmidt@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
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

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.

Rite of Christian Initiation: Please contact Fr. Parker

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, April 16

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Kay Ross

Wednesday, April 17

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Scott Bailey

Thursday, April 18

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Special Intention

Friday, April 19

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mary Ann Cory

Saturday, April 20

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Jack Sabol

Sunday, April 21

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

10:00am Mass, St. Mary *Andrew Ward*



Congratulations!

Congratulations to these young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday. Please continue to pray for them during the next steps in their faith journey.

Rylie Campbell Olivia Naragon Ava Barten
James Collum Jessica Schoening Brennon Morehead
Felicity Loraditch McKenna Welch Maizie Smith
Rose Manley

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 an 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@dmdiocese.org.

50 Days of the Easter Season

The Lord's resurrection is meant to be celebrated intensely for the whole liturgical Season of Easter; until Pentecost on May 19.


We have a few reflections booklets left to help you celebrate this Season. Diocesan family resources and activities can be found at www.dmdiocese.org/living-easter.



Friends & Fellowship

All are invited to join us Thursday, April 18, 9:00am in the Social Hall to gather with fellow parishioners for social time and treats!

Work Day at St. Mary

Our workday at St. Mary is this Saturday, April 20 from 9:00am to Noon. Please come to help us keep our buildings and grounds in good shape. Many hands make light work! The workday for Holy Cross is Saturday, May 18. 

Easter Season Prayer

Oh God,
who makes the faithful
to be of one mind and will,
grant that we, Your people;
may love what you command
and desire what You promise
so that, amid the changing things
of this world, our hearts may be fixed
where true joys are to be found.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Parish Council

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

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

Meeting: May 13, 6:00pm, Social Hall

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Gatherings: Sundays, 11:00am-1:00pm, location varies

Knights of Columbus

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

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

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

Fr. Parker does not have set office hours here at the parish.
To reach him please email, call or text:
rparker@dmdiocese.org or 515-720-3434.

Coming Events

- †**Thursday, April 18:** Friends & Fellowship gathering, 9:00am, Social Hall
- †**St. Mary Work Day:** Saturday, April 20, 9:00am to Noon
- †**Weekend of April 20/21:** Food Pantry Collection for Impact Community Action Partnership in Ankeny
- †**Thursday, May 16:** Blood Drive, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall

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. Your donation this month will assist *Impact Community Action Partnership* in Ankeny.



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. Paper applications are also available at St. Mary and Holy Cross. The application is due by April 26.

If interested in donating money for future scholarships, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Miriam McCoy of Maxwell who passed away March 28 at the age of 97 and for her family that they know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

Services: Saturday, April 20 at the Farrar Methodist Church.
Visitation at 10:00am, with the service at 11:00am.

✠ *Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord,* ✠
and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

This week is our final session. We will be diving deeply into what Pentecost is and the gifts of the Holy Spirit that were made available to us through this descent of the Holy Spirit. It has been such a blessing to journey with your children this year! Thank you for bringing them!! We have one more opportunity to get together with the children before next semester! Mark your calendars for June 18-20 for Vacation Bible School! We'll have fun learning from the Saints how to live our Catholic faith in the world. Join us!

If you haven't paid your fee for this year, please do so this week at class. Thank you.

Upcoming Dates

April 14- First Communion Special Session #2, 10:45-12:15
April 17- Final Session
April 21- First Communion Special Session #3, 10:45-12:15
April 25-26, Optional First Communion Retreat, 9am-3pm
April 27- First Communion Retreat with First Reconciliation, 9:00am-3:00pm
April 28- First Communion Liturgy, 2:00pm

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

If you haven't paid your fee for this year, please do so this week at our session. Thank you.

EDGE (7th & 8th Grades)

Sessions: April 17, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

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

Gatherings: April 17, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Thank you to everyone who has given a gift to this Appeal. We will need 100% participation to reach our assessment of \$51,458. Please mail your gift (check made out to Diocese of Des Moines) to the Diocese or drop in the collection basket at Mass. Pledge cards are also available at both Churches. You can also donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; and choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown.

Could You....

host wine & cheese after 5pm Mass on the first Saturday of **May**, June or August? Or host coffee & donuts after 8am Mass on the first Sunday of July, or after 10am Mass on the first Sunday of June or July? No expense to you. Contact the office for more information or to volunteer.



Weekly Collection Financial Update

April 7 Budget Week 41

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$3,069	\$6,114

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$211,174	\$250,661	\$208,948

Building Fund Collection: \$1104.00

April 6/7 Mass Attendance: 294

2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Amt. Due
\$51,458	\$23,795	\$23,075	\$29,415

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
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
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Lisa Schoening - lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Fisher, *Chair* - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com
Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@mercyoneiowa.org
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.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@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 MEMBERS

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

Mike Devereux - devoducks@msn.com

Laudato Si

When eating at a buffet restaurant, or even at wine & cheese or coffee and donuts after Mass, you can help conserve natural resources and reduce waste by taking just one plate, one napkin and only the utensils you need. Encourage others to do the same. See more at:

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



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.

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit: You designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on the 15th or 30th. Please contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org if you have questions or would like to begin ACH or find the form on the table at church or on the home page of our website.

Online Giving through the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa with this QR Code or this secure link: <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. On the drop down choose *St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart* to make your Tithe, Building Fund and/or Food Pantry donation. The Foundation sends gift receipts.



Thank you for considering one of these for your tithing.

Young Catholic Singles Social

Join Young Catholic Singles for a social event at Smash Park on Friday, April 26 from 7:00-9:00pm. Check out our website at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/ministries-and-formation/young-adult-ministry/young-single-catholic> to learn more about young Catholics in the Diocese of Des Moines.

Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday, April 20, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Lisa Jones
Host Distributor Lisa Jones
Cup Bearers Drew Hanlon, Susan Stillmunkes
Altar Servers *Volunteers needed*
Ushers Doug Jones, Drew Hanlon
Music Lisa Jones & Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, April 21, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Sheri Fogarty
Cup Bearer Laurie Phelan
Altar Servers Claire & Oliver Hand
Ushers Sandra Hunter
Music Drew Hanlon, Maggie Bruce

Sunday, April 21, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Garrett McClain
Host Distributor Tim Loraditch
Cup Bearers Garrett McClain, Mike Nehring
Altar Servers Peyton & Justice Loraditch
Ushers Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music Jen Linderblood, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

April 14: Sue White, Brenda Nehring
April 21: Sharon Morris, Sue White



During the time it takes you to read this sentence, 50,000 12-ounce aluminum cans are made.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations is Next Sunday

As Catholics, we firmly believe that God has a plan for our lives! He calls some to marriage, some to the priesthood, and others to religious life or to live as generous single people. Fully living our own vocations—and teaching young people how to discern God's call—is a serious duty, but also a joyful one. Please encourage the young people in your life—children, grandchildren, students, and friends—to be open if God calls them to priesthood or religious life.



Pray
for Vocations

Blood Drive



Thursday, May 16, 3:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. There is no substitution for the blood supply that is in so much of a demand. Only you can make the difference in helping to saving lives by making this special donation. Appointments are required; no walk-ins at this time. Please schedule your appointment at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/. Volunteers and treats are needed; please contact Larry Sauer, sauerld@outlook.com / 515-710-2421, to help.

Nourish for Caregivers

This is an on-going ministry that gathers once a month to support the practical, emotional and spiritual needs of family caregivers. *Nourish* gives you the tools and resources to help you connect with your faith and encounter Christ, so you can see the grace and blessings in your caregiving journey. Gatherings focus on issues pertinent to all caregiving, whether you are caring for an aging parent, spouse or disabled child. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 24 from 6:00-7:30pm at Holy Trinity Parish in the School Media Center. For additional information contact Deacon Dan Maxcy at danm@holyltrinitydm.org or Deacon Jim Houston at pastoralcare@saintpiuschurch.org.

Monthly Rosary at the Iowa State Capitol

Our world needs prayer! Join us to pray the rosary at the Iowa State Capitol on the west side steps every third Sunday of the month (April 21) at 1:30pm. Questions? Please contact Diana Balmaceda: 515-974-7691 or Jeff Pierick: 515-778-6087.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday of Easter, April 13/14

Theme: Being able to see the Risen Christ.

Reading I: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 • God raised Christ from the dead.

Reading II: 1 John 2:1-5 • Whoever keeps God's word has love made perfect.

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48 • He stood in their midst.

For Children: Name some times when you know Jesus is with you.

For Youth: What are some ways that you know that God is with you? Who are the people, where are the place, and what are the occasions when you feel closest to God?

For Adults: When have you had an "Aha" moment, when you suddenly realized that God was with you?