



# 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 19/20, 2022**



**First Sunday Of Advent**

**November 26/27, 2022**

---

*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

<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Parish General Email</b>	<a href="mailto:smhc@saintmaryhc.org">smhc@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Fr. Michael Amadeo, Admin.</b>	515-249-5015 / <a href="mailto:frmichael@olih.org">frmichael@olih.org</a>
<b>Deacon Terry Schleisman</b>	515-669-6158/ <a href="mailto:digiterry@netscape.net">digiterry@netscape.net</a>
<b>Nicole Cory - Confirmation</b>	<a href="mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org">ncory@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	<a href="mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org">afisher@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	<a href="mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org">mkahler@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Barb Liske - Secretary</b>	<a href="mailto:bliske@saintmaryhc.org">bliske@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE</b>	<a href="mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org">gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE</b>	<a href="mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org">tmiller@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Sue Schmidt - Music</b>	<a href="mailto:sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org">sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper</b>	<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org">bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Parish Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.saintmaryhc.org">www.saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Parish Facebook Site</b>	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
<b>Parish Fax</b>	515-367-7028

## Mass Schedule

<i>See inside for varied Mass schedule.</i>	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](http://www.vocationsonline.org)

## Mass, Reconciliation and Rosary

**Wednesday, November 23** No Mass or Rosary

**Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24**

9:00am Mass, St. Mary †Steven Hohn

**Saturday, November 26**

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Robert Richardson

**Sunday, November 27**

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Peg Moreland

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

**Wednesday, November 30** †Mary Beth Bump

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross

-Rosary prayed at 6:00pm, St. Mary

**Thursday, December 1**

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Anita Brendeland

**Saturday, December 3**

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Toni Dickie

**Sunday, December 4**

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Bill Jorgensen

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

Emergency contact: Fr. Michael Amadeo, 515-249-5015.

## Book of Remembrance

This Book is in the Sanctuary. You are invited to write in the names of your deceased loved ones to be remembered at our Masses this month.

## The Ignite! Campaign

We are making progress! Thank you to everyone who has participated and to those who are praying about how they may make a difference. Please continue to pray for our success and for our hard-working campaign volunteers who are giving of their time and hearts. We need everyone's help to reach our goal! You can mail your pledge to the parish office or pledge online at: [dmdiocese.org/giving/ignite/give-now](http://dmdiocese.org/giving/ignite/give-now).

**Nov. 11 Update**

Goal	Pledged	Collected
\$360,000	\$128,925	\$50,919

## Christmas Eve Choir

All ages and skill levels are welcome! Practices at St. Mary's in the choir loft on Mondays, Nov. 21 & 28, 7:00pm; Sunday, Dec. 4, 11:00am; Thursdays, Dec. 15 & 22, 6:30pm. Contact Sue Schmidt, [sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org) for more info.

## St. Mary's Church Accessibility

The church will generally be locked during the week around 4:00pm; there will be exceptions, so please call the office to be sure someone is here before stopping by. On weekends it will be open prior to Mass, then locked after Mass unless we have an event. If you need in the church at other times, please contact the office so arrangements can be made.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*O God of all creation, giver of all good gifts,  
You bless our lives with your generous love,  
By giving us once more, the fruit of the fields,  
our family and friends, our faith,  
our work, and our lives together.*

*We thank you for these gifts,  
And ask that you help us to imitate your goodness,  
to share our blessings with those who are in need.  
In Your name, Amen.*

### Parish Council

Meeting: Nov. 29, 6:30pm, Social Hall - **date change**

### Finance Council

No meeting in December

### Stewardship

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

### Knights of Columbus

December meeting: TBA

### Funeral Luncheon Food Donations:

Team 4 from Bondurant and Altoona

*The parish office is closed Thanksgiving Day  
(Social Hall in use that day) and Friday, Nov. 25.  
The building will be locked on Friday.*

## Coming Events

- †**This weekend:** Food Pantry collection, *The Blessings Box* in Elkhart
- †**Christmas Eve Mass Choir practices:** Mondays, Nov. 21 & 28, 7:00pm, Sunday, Dec. 4, 11:00am and Thursdays, Dec. 15 & 22, 6:30pm, St. Mary's choir loft.
- †**Altar Server Trainings:** Wednesday, Nov. 30, 6:15pm, St. Mary's; additional review at Holy Cross on Sunday, Dec. 4 after 8:00am Mass
- †**Weekend of Dec. 3 & 4:** Blessings of Mothers-to-be at all Masses — Buildings & Ground Collection — Work of Our Hands Festival, Saturday 3:00-4:45 & after Mass until 7pm & Sunday 11:00am to 12:30pm, Social Hall — Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass, Coffee & donuts after 8:00am & 10:00am Masses
- †**Monday, Dec. 12:** Ladies Christmas party, 5:30pm, St. Mary
- †**Sunday, Dec. 18:** Advent Reconciliation Service, 2:00pm, St. Mary



## Work of Our Hands Providers

Parishioners who are service providers, hobbyists, or willing to provide their services or goods for a fee or barter are welcomed to join Work Of Our Hands. Please contact Lisa at [kautza@netins.net](mailto:kautza@netins.net), call 515-964-7687, call or text 515-238-5557 as soon as possible to be added to the new directory of WOOH participants or to make changes from last years directory.

## Church Sign

**Give all your worries and cares to God.**

## Religious Education

### Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, [gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org), 515-556-4150  
Tracy Miller, [tmiller@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org), 515-520-7981

One of the goals of almost everything we do in religious education classes is for the children to have fuller participation in the Mass. It is the hope that what we are showing the children will give them some insight, or some bit of knowledge, so they are able to engage more at Mass. For instance, we like to introduce the Chasuble that Father wears and give an explanation for the four different colors it might be throughout the year. Purple is for preparation, like during Advent and Lent. White is for celebration, like Christmas and Easter. Green is for ordinary time and Red is for Pentecost. With advent right around the corner be on the lookout for Father to change his vestments to purple and see if your child notices! Otherwise, be sure to point it out!

**No Sessions Nov. 23/25** - Happy Thanksgiving!  
Regular Sessions: Nov. 30/Dec. 2 & December 7/9

## S.T.O.R.M. Report

### Grades 7-12 Coordinators

Melissa Kahler, [mkahler@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org), 515-290-2830  
Andrea Fisher, [afisher@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org), 515-240-5059  
Nicole Cory, [ncory@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org), 515-313-3014

### EDGE Dates (7th & 8th Graders)

**No Session Nov. 23** Have a blessed Thanksgiving  
**No Session Nov. 30** Confirmation night

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

**No Gathering Nov. 23** Have a blessed Thanksgiving  
**No Gathering Nov. 30** Confirmation night

### Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

**Wednesday, Nov. 30:** 6:00-8:00pm, Session, Social Hall  
**Wednesday, Dec. 21:** 6:00-8:00pm, Session, Social Hall

## Altar Server Ministry

We are restarting this ministry with a training for both St. Mary's and Holy Cross. Training for all that want to serve — both at St. Mary and at Holy Cross, will be Wednesday, November 30 at 6:15pm. We will have an additional review at Holy Cross on Sunday, December 4 after 8:00am Mass for those who will be serving there. This is open to all boys and girls who are currently in 4th grade through high school. Any and all who want to serve will be expected to attend. If you have a schedule conflict, please contact Mike Winders at [mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:mwinde59@yahoo.com), to make other arrangements.

## An Urgent Need!

Next month our parish members assist at the Huxley Clothes Pantry. Two hour shifts are available on Saturdays, Dec. 3, 10 & 17 from 10:00am to Noon, and Sundays, Dec. 4, 11 & 18 from 1:00-3:00pm, and Wednesdays, Dec. 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 4:00-6:00pm. If you would be willing to help, please contact Jeriann McLaughlin at [Deanmac1954@gmail.com](mailto:Deanmac1954@gmail.com) or 515-291-3543. Thank you.

## Work Day Thank You

Thank you to those who came to spruce up St. Mary's! You were a small group but you got done some much needed cleaning! Thank you also to those who came and worked prior to the work day.

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

November 11 Budget Week 20

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$2,515	\$5,944

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$95,515	\$118,882	\$1007343

## 2022 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Goal	Pledged	Paid	Unpaid	Amt. Due
\$54,744	\$53,165	\$51,065	\$2,100	<b>\$3,679</b>

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](mailto:hoyhill@partnercom.net)  
Terri Hamm - [thamm@mercydesmoines.org](mailto:thamm@mercydesmoines.org)  
Drew Hanlon - [drewsmhpcpc@yahoo.com](mailto:drewsmhpcpc@yahoo.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Tammi McClain - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)  
Larry Sauer - [sauerld@outlook.com](mailto:sauerld@outlook.com)  
Lisa Schoening - [lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com](mailto:lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com)

### FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heidi Ackerman, *Co-President* - [heidimdittmer@gmail.com](mailto:heidimdittmer@gmail.com)  
Sue Tollefson, *Co-President* - [suet@iowacubs.com](mailto:suet@iowacubs.com)  
John Fisher - [Johntfisher@sienafastener.com](mailto:Johntfisher@sienafastener.com)  
Diane Gannon - [ddkgannon@gmail.com](mailto:ddkgannon@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Bill Rooney - [1rooneybill@gmail.com](mailto:1rooneybill@gmail.com)  
Mike Winders - [mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:mwinde59@yahoo.com)

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - [arlene@4andersons.com](mailto:arlene@4andersons.com)  
Beth Hart - [mrsmatthart@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmatthart@gmail.com)  
Kelly Hoffmeier - [nkhoff@msn.com](mailto:nkhoff@msn.com)  
Kris Sturtz - [klsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:klsturtz@gmail.com)  
Jen Linderblood - [jlinderb@yahoo.com](mailto:jlinderb@yahoo.com)  
Tammi McClain - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)  
Kathy Petersen - [katherine@huxcomm.net](mailto:katherine@huxcomm.net)  
Sue White - [charylmyron@q.com](mailto:charylmyron@q.com)

### BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Chair* - [jroberts@huxcomm.net](mailto:jroberts@huxcomm.net)  
Drew Hanlon - [drewsmhpcpc@yahoo.com](mailto:drewsmhpcpc@yahoo.com)  
Bill Schmitt - [isucui@isualum.com](mailto:isucui@isualum.com)  
Lynn Schreurs - [lschreurs@msn.com](mailto:lschreurs@msn.com)  
Scott Turczynski - [ScottT@hrtlnd.us](mailto:ScottT@hrtlnd.us)

### CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Karen Bellis - [puzzlenuts@aol.com](mailto:puzzlenuts@aol.com)  
Pat Bishop - [pjbishop@midiaowa.net](mailto:pjbishop@midiaowa.net)  
Lowell Crouse - [l3jl@windstream.net](mailto:l3jl@windstream.net)  
John Freeman - [johnfmingo@hotmail.com](mailto:johnfmingo@hotmail.com)  
Tracy Irwin - [irwin@partnercom.net](mailto:irwin@partnercom.net)  
Lynn Schreurs - [lschreurs@msn.com](mailto:lschreurs@msn.com)  
Larry Shaw - [shawcattle77@gmail.com](mailto:shawcattle77@gmail.com)  
Mary Winders - [mefothergill@yahoo.com](mailto:mefothergill@yahoo.com)

### PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - [fogarty929@gmail.com](mailto:fogarty929@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)

### PARISH HISTORIAN

Larry Sauer - [sauerld@outlook.com](mailto:sauerld@outlook.com) - 515-710-2421

### PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - [mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:mwinde59@yahoo.com)

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Garrett McClain - [gjmccclain69@gmail.com](mailto:gjmccclain69@gmail.com)

## Distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass

Bishop Joensen has stated that parishes are permitted to resume distributing the Precious Blood to the faithful, this is not a mandate; each parish can decide on their own when to resume this. Our parish will need two extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist for each Mass at St. Mary; and one additional minister at Holy Cross. Fr. Amadeo, our Administrator, directed that once we have enough ministers for this, we may resume distribution of the Precious Blood. If you are interested in being a minister of the Eucharist please contact the office and when there are enough volunteers for all Masses, we will resume the distribution of the Precious Blood.



## Advent Resources

*Advent is a time of looking forward and waiting for the celebration commemorating Christ's birth and for His second coming. We have the following booklets available to help you prepare for the Christmas celebration of God among us.*

**Little Blue Book:** Give 6 minutes of each day's 1,440 minutes to prayer for the next 43 days. The left hand page has thoughts about these seasons, feast of the day or various traditions and customs. The right-hand page reflects on the first reading for the Mass each day. This may give you a chance to reflect on and pray passages that you may seldom heard proclaimed or preached about at Mass.

**The Word Among Us:** No matter what challenges you may be facing, the Lord says, "Do not be afraid, my child. I am with you." He is God of the impossible! His strength is in you; it is in the quiet of your heart as you turn to him in prayer each day. This booklet includes daily meditations, Advent articles and feature stories.

**Opening to Great Joy:** Are you ready to open your mind and unlock your heart? The love of God is here! Are you ready to push back the forces of fear, anxiety, pride, prejudice and self interest telling us to step back from such great love? Are you ready to open yourself to the forces of faith, hope and love? Ready or not, the Kingdom of God is upon us. Love is set to come to life in our world and change everything! This booklet will help you shake loose the cobwebs, wipe the weary from your eyes, open your mind, your heart, and your soul to the greatest joy in all creation.

**Waiting in Joyful Hope:** Neither waiting or being present in the moment is easy as our world demands that we fill our days with more than we can handle. Doing, not being, is the mantra. Waiting in any form seems like wasted time. Put the world's way aside; it is often in the quiet and waiting that we discover who we really are and who God has called us to be. If we wait in hope, it is most transforming! Use this booklet to wait and watch for what God has in store for you.

**Get Ready For Jesus:** *Activity Booklet For Children.* How did God get ready for Jesus? He made a beautiful world for people to live in. He asked men, women, and children to help him make the world kind and fair. He picked Joseph and Mary to be the family of Jesus. And he made you and your family, too! God will be with your family as you use this book of activities and reflections to get ready for Jesus every day this Advent. You'll find puzzles, games and more!

## † Blessing For Mothers-To-Be

At Masses the weekend of December 3 & 4, 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, have a safe delivery and a healthy baby.

## Advent Prayer

All-powerful God,  
increase our strength of will for doing good  
that Christ may find an eager welcome  
at his coming and call us to his side  
in the kingdom of heaven,  
where he lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.  
*Amen.*



## Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please join us to celebrate Mary, Mother of God and her important role in our Faith! Mass time(s) for this Holy Day of Obligation on December 8 are yet to be determined.

## Ladies Christmas Party!

Join us Monday, December 12! We will worship together and then enjoy a hot bowl of soup. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will play games and fun will be had. We are collecting socks to deliver to local shelters.



## Advent Reconciliation Service

You are invited to celebrate God's love and forgiveness at our Advent Reconciliation Service on Sunday, December 18 2:00pm at St. Mary. We will have additional priests here to assist with individual confession.

## Christmas Memorials

We offer you the opportunity to memorialize a loved one by making a donation toward flowers that will decorate St. Mary and Holy Cross this Christmas season. A memorial list with the names of your loved ones will be printed in a future bulletin. *Flower donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes; additional flower envelopes are in the vestibule. Please return your donation by December 18.*

## Volunteers Needed to Prepare Our Parish Meal for Homeless Families

Our parish has been preparing a meal for the families at the Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter on the second Sunday of each month for more than twenty years. We need volunteers currently for all months in 2023 except February, March, May, and November. One or more families or groups can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal (about 10 families up to 34 people). Covid precautions are taken and up to 3 people can now prepare the meal on-site. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt that can be used for a tax deduction. To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza at kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687.

We are grateful to the following parishioners who prepared meals this past year: Rebecca and Will Bates, Arlene and Todd Anderson family, Larysa Lamberti family, Kris Sexton, Carol Weber, Pat and Gail O'Connor, Alleman Parishioners, RE students, JoAnne Meusburger, Brenda and Mike Renoe family, Knights of Columbus, Matt and Angie Miller family, and Sharon Morris; some of who prepared more than one meal. Thank you for your generosity!

# Work of Our Hands



## Festival

**Saturday, December 3: 3:00 to 4:45pm and after Mass until 7:00pm**  
**Sunday, December 4: after 10:00am Mass until 12:30pm**  
**in the Social Hall**

*Come see goods and services from members of our Parish!!*

- Norwex Consultant - Heidi Ackerman
- Homemade Items - Dona Cowman
- Homemade Rosaries - Johnny Fisher
- Mary and Martha Consultant - Beth Hart
- Handmade Sewn Crafts - Kim Heger
- Paper Parlor - Kelly Hoffmeier
- The Pampered Chef - Lisa Kautza
- Pine Grove Family Farms - Kirsten Smith

You may find the perfect Christmas gifts you've been looking for  
or to just treat yourself!



## Laudato Si

To help keep waterways clean and safe from pollutants, take steps such as using biodegradable detergents at home and in business and eliminating the use of disposable plastic whenever possible. Also, be aware that synthetic pesticides and herbicides can harm birds and insects that benefit agriculture. See *On Care for Our Common Home* at: <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>



## Snow Removal

We have had our first snow, and more will come. We are asking for volunteers for weekend and/or week day time frames to help with sidewalk, etc., snow removal at St. Mary. We have a snow blower. A sign up will be available soon. Thank you in advance for helping our parish in this way.

## 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](mailto: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.*

## 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 to cancel weekend activities arises, this information will be on the three major TV networks and WHO radio.

## November 26/27 Liturgical Ministers by Sign up

### Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

**Needed:** Lector, Host Distributor, 1 Usher

Music Sue Schmidt, Mary Schmelzer

### Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

**Needed:** Lector, Usher

Music Stacey Rooney

### Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

**Needed:** Lector, Host Distributor, 2 Ushers

Music Mary Schmelzer

## December 3/4 Liturgical Ministers

### Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Susan Selby  
Host Distributor Deacon Terry  
Ushers Doug Jones, Joe Rumbaugh

### Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Anne Davis  
Usher Mike Veasman

### Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Di Schleisman  
Host Distributor Deacon Terry  
Ushers Tom & Jacki Ausman

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

## Money Counters

**November 20:** Kathy Daup, Sue White  
**November 28:** Dona Cowman, Sharon Morris



A 60-watt light bulb can be run for over a day on the amount of energy saved by recycling 1 pound of steel.

## Catholic Campaign for Human Development

This Diocesan collection assists community leaders who work to expand access to affordable housing, health care and education; the development of worker-owned businesses and advocates for changes to structures that keep people in poverty. Thank you for your support. *Donation envelopes are on the table; please return in the next few weeks.*

## Additional Options for Tithing

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

**Online Giving:** Available through the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa with 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 donation. No fees! The Foundation sends gift receipts. ~ Thank you!

## Change of Information?

Moved? Had a baby? Dropped your landline? New email? Please email the parish office with any changes so our records can be as accurate as possible. *Thank you!*

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Nov. 19/20

*Theme: In Christ, everything continues in being.*

*Reading I:* 2 Samuel 5:1-3 • David is anointed King.

*Reading II:* Colossians 1:12-20 • Give thanks to the Father.

*Gospel:* Luke 23:25-43 • You will be with me in paradise.

*Question for Children:* Jesus is always kind to those who love him. How do you show your love for Jesus?

*Question for Youth:* In the best sense, King means someone who cares for the people under his reign, and also has authority over them. When have you felt Jesus' care for you? How do you allow Jesus to have authority over you?

*Question for Adults:* As you think about Jesus on the cross, having compassion on the "good thief," what lesson do you draw from it for your own life?

### First Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3/4

*Theme: Waiting, hoping, and preparing.*

*Reading I:* Isaiah 2:1-5 • Walk in the light of the Lord!

*Reading II:* Romans 13:11-14 • It is now the hour to awake from your sleep.

*Gospel:* Matthew 24:37-44 • You must be prepared.

*Question for Children:* What can you do to be ready for God to come into your heart and your life?

*Question for Youth:* We don't know when the Son of Man will return. If he were to arrive today, would you be ready for him? What is one thing you can do during Advent to prepare for his coming?

*Question for Adults:* As you prepare to re-welcome Christ into your heart while you prepare for Christmas, what does Isaiah call you to do, and us as a people to do?