

St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 23/24, 2024

Dear Good People,

I just want to say how excited I am for the Easter Vigil this year. It is going to be awesome. This is just my appeal for everyone to attend the Triduum this year. They are all beautiful liturgies.

Secondly, I just want to take a moment to thank the staff for their tremendous hard work this last week. As you all know I kind of fly by the seat of my pants so they are keeping things together and really living the Lenten sacrifice. Please thank them when you see them. Let us continue to keep one another in prayer as we enter into the holiest of weeks! 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
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 Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE tmiller@saintmaryhc.org
 Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org
 Parish Web Site www.saintmaryhc.org
 Parish Facebook Site
 Parish Fax 515-367-7028

Holy Week Schedule

Tuesday	8:00am	St. Mary
Wednesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
Thursday	7:00pm	St. Mary
Friday	3:00pm	Holy Cross
	7:00pm	St. Mary
Saturday	8:00pm	St. Mary
Sunday	8:00am	Holy Cross
	10:00am	St. Mary

Reconciliation: By appointment with Fr. Parker
Baptism: Please contact the office.
Rite of Christian Initiation: Contact Fr. Parker
Marriage: Contact the office at least six months prior to proposed wedding date.
Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Holy Week



Tuesday, March 26

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Fr. Jim Laurenzo

Wednesday, March 27

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

Thursday of the Lord's Supper, March 28 (no 8:00am Mass)

7:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Catherine Richardson Fanion
Adoration after Mass until 10:00pm, Social Hall

Friday of the Lord's Passion, March 29 (no 8:00am Mass)

Fast and abstain from meat

3:00pm Stations and Veneration of the Cross, Holy Cross

7:00pm Passion Service, St. Mary

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, March 30

8:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Harry Richardson

Please gather in the Social Hall

(No 5:00pm Mass or 4:00pm Reconciliation)

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, March 31

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

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@dmdioocese.org.

Palm Sunday Procession

This weekend our Masses at St. Mary begin with everyone gathering in the Social Hall for the blessing of palms and then we will process into Church.



Holy Week

The central days of our life as Catholic Christians are Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil/Easter. Why not make it a priority this year to attend all our services to commemorate the journey from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, to the Cross and to the Resurrection accomplished by Jesus on our behalf. These are sacred days which give purpose and meaning to all we do as Catholics.

Church Sign

On top of the hill... The Lord gave me my life.

Be a Disciple: Have Your Feet Washed and Stay Awake to Pray!

 We invite 11 individuals to have their foot washed during this Mass on March 28. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows this Mass until 10:00pm in the Social Hall. A sign up for these is at St. Mary and Holy Cross or contact the Office. 

Prayer for Holy Week

Merciful God,
as we journey through Holy Week,
help us to walk closely with Jesus.
From the joyous procession of Palm Sunday
to the sorrow of Good Friday
and the ultimate triumph of Easter,
remind us of the profound love
You have for us, a love that endures all trials
and triumphs over all adversity.
Strengthen our faith
and keep us faithful to You. Amen.

Parish Council

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

Finance Council

Meeting: March 26, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: April 8, 6:00pm, Ed Center

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

The Office is closed Good Friday and Easter Monday.

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

Coming Events

- † **Sunday, March 24:** Social Hall in use 1:00 to 5:00pm
- † **Choir Practice for Easter Vigil Mass:** March 24, 11am and March 26, 6:30pm, St. Mary
- † **Good Friday, March 29:** Collection for the Holy Land
- † **St. Mary Work Day:** Saturday, April 20, 9:00am to Noon

A Memorial Gift

We offer you the opportunity to remember a loved one by donating towards the flowers that will decorate St. Mary and Holy Cross Churches this Easter Season. A memorial list will be printed in a future bulletin. *Donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes and are also available on the table at St. Mary and in the entryway at Holy Cross. Please return donation by Monday, March 25. Thank you.*

Holy Land Collection

On Good Friday we take up a collection for the works of the Church in the Holy Land. Your donation helps those who care for these holy places and shrines which carry great significance for our faith. They are most grateful for your support. Pray that the Holy Land, with all its history, becomes an example of reconciliation among people and religions.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

As we enter Holy Week, the children look closer at the Last Supper and the Passion of Christ. This is a great time to live your faith together as a family in your domestic church. Having a special meal, making unleavened bread on Thursday, saying the stations of the cross as a family on Friday. Attending the whole Triduum is a beautiful experience for children of all ages.

If you haven't paid your fee for this year, please do so as soon as you can. Thank you.

Upcoming Dates

March 27- Regular Sessions
April 3- Regular Sessions
April 7- First Communion Special Session #1
April 10- 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 (7th & 8th Grades)

Sessions: April 3, 10 & 17, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Please see the sign up sent to your email to volunteer to read the Passion on Good Friday.

-Sunday, March 24: 11:00am (after Mass) - 12:00pm, 10th grade only session, Youth Room

-No Family Session for March, please join us for the Easter Triduum

-Friday, April 12: 6:30pm, Confirmation Liturgy Rehearsal Dinner for teens and sponsors

-Saturday, April 13: 2:00pm, Confirmation Liturgy. Teens should arrive by 12:50pm

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

Gatherings: April 3, 10 & 17, 7:30-9pm, Youth Rm

Easter Reflection Resources

The *Little White Book* and *The Word Among Us* are available for your use during the 50 days of the Easter Season. Find them in St. Mary's vestibule and Holy Cross' entryway.

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

Eagle Scout Project

Jack Selby, whom you may recognize as an Atar Server for the Saturday evening Mass, is working on his Eagle Scout project. Jack has chosen to make improvements to the Marian Garden at St. Mary. He will be refurbishing the garden with new landscaping, lighting, and doing a thorough cleaning. Jack is seeking support to assist with his efforts and will be accepting donations after Masses at St. Mary this weekend. Thank you.

Removal of Decorations at Cemetery

In preparation for Spring, please plan to have all gravesite decorations at Holy Cross Cemetery removed no later than April 1. Any that remain after this date will be picked up by the committee. Thank you!

Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 17 Budget Week 37

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$8,137	\$6,114
<i>Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund</i>		
<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$199,776	\$232,320	\$198,623

Mass Attendance: March 16/17: 270

2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Amt. Due
\$51,458	\$11,140	\$10,380	\$41,078

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
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Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com
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Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Bill Schmitt - isucui@isualum.com
Lynn Schreurs - Ischreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Stacey Rooney - rooneyslg17@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com
Lynn Schreurs - Ischreurs@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

Put computers, as well as printers and other peripherals, on a power strip and turn it off at night to save electricity. Do the same with TVs, radios, microwaves and other appliances that remain "powered up" even when off, then turn off the power strip whenever you're gone for an extended period.

See more at:

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

Have You Enjoyed Wine & Cheese and Donut Sunday in Recent Months?

If so, you have seen how easy it is to be the host! We are looking for hosts for...

~ Wine and cheese after 5:00pm Mass on the first Saturday of May, June, August and beyond.....*and*

~ Coffee and donuts after 8:00am Mass on the first Sunday of each month for **April** and beyond*and*

~ Coffee and donuts after 10:00am Mass on the first Sunday of **April** and beyond.

If you have not hosted before, we can pair you up with someone who has. Please contact the parish office with questions or if willing to help.

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of reaching our assessment of \$51,458. Please prayerfully consider how you can support our Diocese which supports our parish. Please mail your gift (check made out to Diocese of Des Moines) to the Diocese or drop in the collection basket at Mass. You can donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Thank you to those who have already made a gift!

Save the Date

Mark Your Calendar!

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

Liturgical Ministers Needed Through Easter Sunday

A sign up is in the vestibule at St. Mary and at Holy Cross or call the Parish Office to volunteer. Thank you for sharing your time and talents for our Liturgies!

Holy Thursday, March 28, 7:00pm Mass, St. Mary
2 Altar servers ~ 3 Ushers

Good Friday, March 29, 7:00pm Service, St. Mary
Host Distributor ~ 4 Ushers

Easter Vigil, March 30, Saturday, 8:00pm Mass, St. Mary
1 Altar Server ~ 4 Ushers

Easter Sunday, March 31, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross
Cup Bearer ~ 2 Altar Servers ~ 2 Ushers

Easter Sunday, March 31, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary
2 Cup Bearers ~ 3 Host Distributors
~ 3 Altar Servers ~ 4 Ushers

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Money Counters

March 24: Brenda Nehring, Dona Cowman
April 2: Dona Cowman, Sue White

SAY WHAT?

The average household throws away 13,000 separate pieces of paper each year. Most is packaging and junk mail.

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.

Divine Mercy Sunday at OLIH

"Tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy..."



Join Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny for Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7. Adoration and Confessions from 1:00-3:00pm. Prayer Service and Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00pm.

Married Couples

Easter Sunday is like a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend because it's a weekend full of fresh love, rebirth and new beginnings. All married couples deserve a richer, fuller life together! For more information call Denise & Greg at 563-920-9419 or sign up at wwme.org/apply. Upcoming Iowa dates are: April 12-14 in Epworth; September 27-29 in Dubuque; and November 8-10 in Holstein.

Advocates for Public Policy Guided by Catholic Teaching

On behalf of the Iowa bishops, the Iowa Catholic Conference (ICC) advocates for policies at the State Capitol that respect the life and dignity of the human person and apply the principles of Catholic social teaching to critical issues of the day. Sign up for the ICC weekly news update by clicking on "Take Action" or "Sign Up for Alerts" on their website at www.iowacatholicconference.org.

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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, March 23/24

Theme: Holy Week — the mystery of our faith.

Reading I: Isaiah 50:4-7 • The Lord God is my help.

Reading II: Philippians 2:6-11 • Your attitude must be

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66 • The passion of our Lord.

For Children: Share how you sometimes make sacrifices for the good of others.

For Youth: Take time to really reflect on Jesus life, death and resurrection. How might you be changed?

For Adults: Name one specific way that you live your baptismal call to enter into the death of the Lord by forgiveness, generosity, hospitality, or other ways.