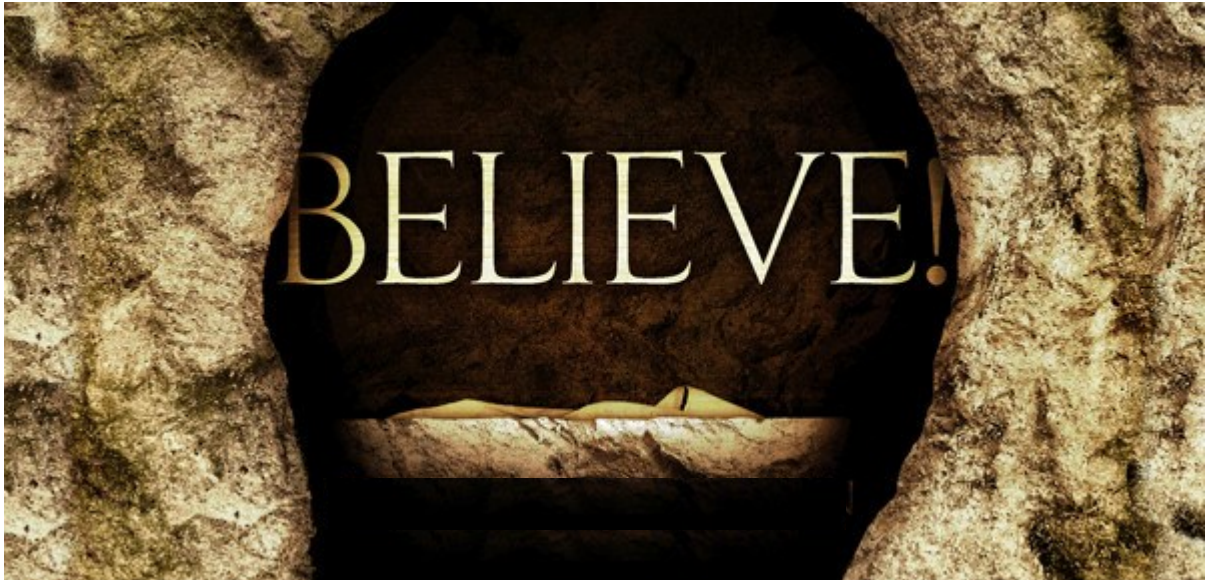




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

St. Mary: 460 NW Washington Avenue, Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street, Maxwell Iowa 50161



Second Sunday of Easter

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 11/12, 2026

It is customary at our Parish that 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 passes away. 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
Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
Barb Liske - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
Tracy Miller - Preschool - 6th 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

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.

Marriage: Please contact the Office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: Please contact Fr. Parker or Nicole Cory

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, April 14

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Ira & Mary Ann Cory

Wednesday, April 15

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † Doc Birchmier

Thursday, April 16

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

Friday, April 17

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Kay Ross

Saturday, April 18

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Bob Canney

Sunday, April 19

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † Paul Siedel

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

Prayer for Divine Mercy Sunday

Most Merciful Lord,
I desire to receive
the superabundance
of Your Mercy
poured forth from Heaven today.
Please open my heart
so that I will turn to You
in my need.
I am a sinner, dear Lord,
but for that reason
I am in most need of You in my life.
Help me to trust in You
with all my might.
Jesus, I do trust in You!



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, <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/membership>. We are glad you are here!

† Pastoral Assistance

In case of an emergency please contact Fr. Ross Parker, 515-720-3434. To schedule a visit with Father at your home, or if a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit, please contact him at rparker@dmdiocese.org.

50 Days of the Easter Season



The resurrection of Jesus is such overwhelmingly Good News that a single day is not enough to celebrate it! The Lord's resurrection is meant to be celebrated intensely for the whole week following Easter (Easter Octave), the entire liturgical Season of Easter (until Pentecost on May 24), and every Sunday thereafter, each as a mini-Easter.

Easter Resources

Diocesan family resources and activities to celebrate this Season, can be found at www.dmdiocese.org/living-easter.

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

Sunday, April 12 1:00-3:30pm, OLIH Church, Ankeny



Exposition of the Eucharist begins at 1:00pm; priests will be available to hear confessions from 1:00-3:00pm. The Divine Mercy Chaplet begins at 3:00pm, followed by prayers, scripture, a homily, music, and ending with Benediction.

Other parishes in our Deanery are Ss. John and Paul, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, St. Luke the Evangelist, All Saints St. Joseph and Assumption of the BVM.

Opportunities to Assist Your Parish!



Hosts needed for Wine & Cheese after 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, May 2 and for Coffee & Donuts after 8:00am Mass at Holy Cross on Sunday, May 3. If May does not work for you to host, which month will? Please contact the Office, bliske@saintmaryhc.org or 515-367-2685, if you have questions or would like to volunteer. Thank you!

Parish Council

Meeting: April 21, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: April 28, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

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

OCIA / Grow in Your Catholic Faith

April 13 & 20, 6:15pm, Youth Room

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: April 20, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 6: Alleman, Des Moines area, Madrid, Mingo, Mitchellville, Polk City, Prairie City, Runnells, Sheldahl, Slater

Fr. Parker does not have set office hours at the Parish.

To reach him please email, call or text:
rparker@dmdiocese.org or 515-720-3434.

Coming Events

- † **Weekend of April 11/12:** Building Fund Collection
- † **Weekend of April 18/19:** Food Pantry Collection for Impact Community Action Partnership
- † **Blood Drive:** Thursday, May 21, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Thank you to everyone who gave a gift this past week to this Appeal. No matter the gift amount, please know that each and every person's gift brings us closer to our assessment of \$47,270. Any additional gifts over this amount stay here in our Parish for our own use. If you have not made a gift, please join us in supporting the vital programs and services throughout the Diocese. Mail your pledge card from Bishop Joensen along with your gift directly to the Diocese (check made out to Diocese of Des Moines; address: 601 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50309-2501) or donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; and choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Thank you for your support!

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep; talk to the Shepherd.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

This is our last week of RE for this school year. Registration for next year will come out this summer.

Upcoming Sessions

April 12 - First Communion special session, 11:00am-Noon
April 15- Regular Sessions- Last week
April 19 - First Communion special session, 11:00am-Noon

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

Hello EDGE families,

It has been a great year with us meeting over 20 Wednesdays! We hosted a large trunk or treat event, collected items for homeless shelters, participated in Lenten activities, prayer stations, Mass, reconciliation and adoration. Besides all those wonderful things we learned about several saints through our weekly Saint Spotlight, prayed the rosary, even were able to pray a glow in the dark rosary! We also learned about many of our rich catholic traditions, practiced different prayer postures and were introduced to the meaning and importance of sacramentals. We got closer to Jesus and grew in our faith through studying the Sunday Gospel alongside our small groups/EDGE families. The weather even cooperated for our annual end of the year kickball match and fun was had by all! It has been a fun, fruitful year, and we are grateful to accompany the youth in their faith journey. Thank you for all your support of the young church. We look forward to seeing you at Mass and next EDGE or Confirmation. May you have a blessed Easter season!

~ Andrea Fisher and Melissa Kahler

Confirmation — 9th & 10th, Sessions in Youth Room

-Sunday, April 12: 9th Gade Session, 11:00am-12:30pm
-Sunday, April 19: 10th Gade Session, 11:00am-12:30pm
-Wednesday, April 22: Family Confirmation Session, 6:00-8:00pm, Social Hall
-Friday, May 1: Confirmation Liturgy rehearsal dinner, 6:30pm
-Saturday, May 2: Confirmation Liturgy, 10:00am. Teens arrive by 8:50am to meet with Bishop Joensen.

Graduating High School Seniors

Apply now for the SMHC Scholarship by following this link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/14PLHIJUzhBe2Rdza-kKXpOmGe6xo0oK3lDxQobNxHfQ/edit?tab=t.0>. We thank the Knights of Columbus for their continued support during the fish fries and all the parishioners who have generously donated a dessert to serve. *If you are interested in donating towards future scholarship opportunities, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.*

Blood Drive

Thursday, May 21, 3:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. Walk-ins welcome! Cancer patients are the number one recipients of blood and blood products—they can use up to eight units a month. You can join the fight against cancer by donating blood. Please use this link to find our Drive and sign up to donate: <https://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donate-blood/>. Volunteers and treats are needed the day of the Drive. Contact the Parish Office at bliske@saintmaryhc.org / 515-367-2685 to help out.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

April 5 Budget Week 40

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$8,183	\$5,536
Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund		
Received	Budget	Last Year
\$260,026	\$221,422	\$231,508

Mass Attendance: Holy Thursday: 111; Good Friday: 92;
Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday: 650

2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Goal	Pledged	Paid	Unpaid	Amt. Due
\$47,270	\$21,960	\$20,580	\$1,110	\$26,690

Councils and Committees

PARISH COUNCIL

Anne Davis - annedavis06@gmail.com
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhpcp@yahoo.com
Kim Heger - hegerkim91@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Carolyn Kirby - gurlzmom@gmail.com
Bill Kyle - bill@northiowaair.com
Tim Miller - millertimothyg@gmail.com
Bill Sexton - billsxtn@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com
Craig Johnson - dad.craig@gmail.com
Anne Power - powerhouse57049@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com
Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks1@hotmail.com
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kris LeRoy - klsturtz@gmail.com
Jen Linderblood - jlinderb@yahoo.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Sue White - charylsue@msn.com

BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE

John Roberts, *Co-Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Scott Turczynski, *Co-Chair* - ScottT@hrtlnd.us
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhpcp@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

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiaowa.net
Lowell Crouse - ldcjac82@gmail.com
John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com
Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Stacey Rooney - rooneyslg17@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.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

John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net

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.



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 in sharing with those in need. Your donation this month will assist Impact Community Action Partnership which serves northern Polk County.

Feed Those in Need

Our Parish families provide a meal at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter in Des Moines on the second Sunday of each month. **Volunteers are needed for June 14 and July 12.** One or more families or groups can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal (number for the meal varies) to the Shelter. For more information or to volunteer, contact Stacey Rooney, rooneyslq17@gmail.com / 515-490-5034.

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.*

Liturgical Ministers for April 18 & 19

Saturday, April 18, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	John Roberts
Host Distributor	Drew Hanlon
Cup Bearers	Lisa Merten, Mike Devereux
Ushers	Mike D., Mike P., Drew H., Jim H.
Music	Sue Harrington, Paula Huett, Mary O.

Sunday, April 19, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer	Laurie Phelan
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Usher	Jerry & Patty Hilton
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, April 19, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Garrett McClain
Host Distributor	Tom Ausman
Cup Bearers	Jacki Ausman, Greg Feldmann
Altar Servers	David Collum, Gabriel Miller
	<i>Cross Bearer: Elizabeth Collum</i>
Ushers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music	Jen Linderblood, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

April 12: Dona Cowman, Kathy Petersen
April 19: Sue White, Trish Morris



The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle can run a 100-watt light bulb for four hours. It also causes 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than when a new bottle is made from raw materials.

St. Mark the Evangelist

Mark's Gospel is very likely the first one written (sometime between 60 and 70 while in Rome) and is the shortest of the four. He often goes into much more detail in describing Jesus' ministry than the other evangelists.



Mark apparently was writing for Gentiles who were unfamiliar with Jewish customs. Mark is not mentioned in any of the Gospels, though he may have been referring to himself when he wrote of the young man who attempted to follow Jesus after his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:51-52). Modern biblical scholars believe that Mark's Gospel provided Matthew and Luke with a common source for their Gospels.

In the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of Peter and Paul, Mark is mentioned several times. He was the son of Mary at whose house in Jerusalem Peter and the other Apostles stayed. He was a cousin of Barnabas. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas on Paul's first missionary journey, and he was with Paul in Rome during Paul's first imprisonment. Mark was evidently a disciple of Peter who refers to him as "Mark, my son." An early, though uncertain, tradition about Mark is that he was the first bishop of Alexandria.

Saint Mark is the patron saint of Venice. This city claims that his body was brought from Alexandria to Venice, where it now lies in Saint Mark's Cathedral. He is also the patron of notaries. We celebrate the feast day of this Evangelist on April 25.

Mark's message today: Imagine telling the story of Jesus' life to people who have never heard it before. Some of today's evangelists are the teachers of faith formation who tell Jesus' story to children.

Movie Reviews

See www.catholicnews.com/movies.cfm.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy), April 12

Theme: Jesus gives us the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reading I: Acts 2:42-47 • They devoted themselves to a communal life.

Reading II: 1 Peter 1:3-9 • There is cause for rejoicing here.

Gospel: John 20:19-31 • Peace be with you, he said.

Question for Children: Even though you can't see him with your eyes, how do you "see" Jesus in others?

Question for Youth: Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit and gave us the power to forgive sins. How do you offer forgiveness to your friends and family? How do you seek forgiveness for yourself?

Question for Adults: When and how do you experience the "new birth" which we are given in Christ? When someone has forgiven you? When you have forgiven others? When you celebration reconciliation? At other times?