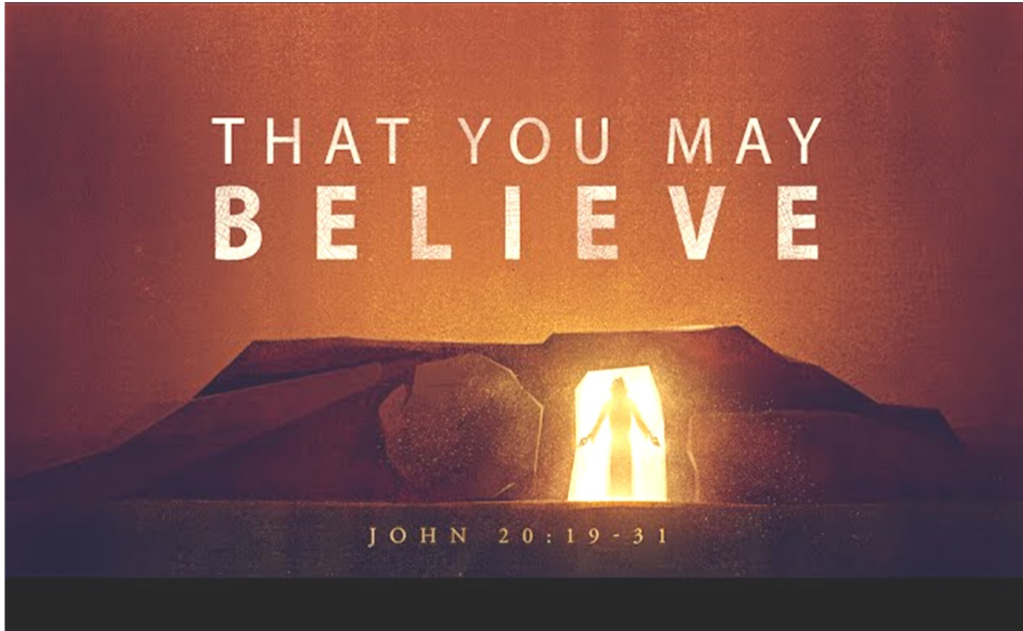




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday April 6/7, 2024

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 9

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

Wednesday, April 10 — No Mass today

Thursday, April 11 — No Mass today

Friday, April 12

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Irene Anderson

Saturday, April 13

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Adam Baumberger

Sunday, April 14

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Mike Phelan

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@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 liturgical Season of Easter, until Pentecost on May 19, and every Sunday thereafter each as a mini-Easter).

We have two reflections booklets to help you celebrate this Season; *The Little White Book* and *The Word Among Us* are available at St. Mary and Holy Cross.

Diocesan family resources and activities can be found at www.dmdiocese.org/living-easter.

Divine Mercy Sunday

"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.

Easter is a Time of New Beginnings

Just as Jesus' resurrection signaled a fresh start for humanity, it can be a chance for us to reflect on our own lives and make positive changes. One way that we can do that is to volunteer and become more involved with our parish community. Please fill out the time and talent form and submit it to the Parish Office. You can print off the form at <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/events-opportunities>, or pick one up on the table outside the cry room at St. Mary or in the entryway at Holy Cross. If you have questions regarding this form, please speak to a Parish Council representative.

Come on in — God has been expecting you!

Easter Season Prayer

Good and gracious God,
Our most glorious Creator,
As we greet the signs in nature around us:
Of Spring once again regaling us in bloom,
We give you praise for an even greater sign
of new life: the resurrection of your Son,
The sadness and despair of his death
has given way to the bright promise of immortality.
For the Resurrection is our guarantee
that justice will triumph,
Light will overcome darkness,
and love will conquer death.
We praise you in this Easter season.
Change our lives, change our hearts
to be messengers of Easter joy and hope.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ,
our risen Lord forever. Amen.

Parish Council

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

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

Meeting: April 8, 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

- † **This Weekend:** Buildings and Grounds collection — Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass - Coffee & Donuts after 8:00am Mass — Coffee & Donuts after 10:00am Mass with a welcome for our new members from RCIA
- † **Thursday, April 18:** Friends & Fellowship, 9:00am, 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

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. If you have not donated yet, please consider how you can help our diocese and 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 also donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; and choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown.

Congratulations

to these students who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday. Please keep them in your prayers during their next steps in their faith journey.

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

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

Happy Easter! Easter is celebrated in the church for 50 days, so the celebrating doesn't need to stop just because the octave of Easter is over!! We continue meditating on this great mystery in the classroom and for many levels, we tie this to baptism on the upcoming session. Next week we will anticipate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. These are all great presentations, and we want to really encourage you all to finish the year strong!

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

Upcoming Dates

April 7- First Communion Special Session #1, 10:45-12:15
April 10- Regular Sessions
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, 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

EDGE (7th & 8th Grades)

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

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

-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 10 & 17, 7:30-9pm, Youth Room

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, treats and coffee!

Work Day at St. Mary

 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.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 31 Budget Week 39

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$6,502	\$6,114
Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund		
Received	Budget	Last Year
\$208,105	\$244,548	\$206,481

Mass Attendance for Easter, March 30/31: 498

2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Amt. Due
\$51,458	\$18,120	\$17,400	\$34,058

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 - drewsmhpcp@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 - 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 MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midia.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

To commemorate Earth Day (April 22), consider rereading, or reading for the first time, Pope Francis's landmark encyclical letter about our planet's environment. If you don't own a copy of "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home," you can find it at <https://bit.ly/1Lh3szp>.

See more at:

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

Blessings Offered

If you would like a blessing for your fields, flocks, pets, house or another blessing, Fr. Parker is more than happy to come to your home for any of these. Please email him for more information at rparker@dmdiocese.org.

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.



Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday, April 13, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Tim Kautza
Host Distributor	Drew Hanlon
Cup Bearers	Susan & Bob Selby
Altar Servers	Jack Selby
Ushers	Bill Schmitt, Jim Hudson
Music	Teri Hamm, Mary Snyder

Sunday, April 14, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Jackie Crouse
Cup Bearer	Jon Hand
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Ushers	Mike Veasman
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, April 14, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Jill Swanson
Host Distributor	Jacki Ausman
Cup Bearers	Tom Ausman, Jill Swanson
Altar Servers	Caleb & Callahan Coffelt
Ushers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music	Jen Linderblood, Celeste Muehlenthaler

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Money Counters

April 7: Trish Morris, Kathy Daup
April 14: Sue White, Brenda Nehring



Approximately 1 billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.



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_s1JAQh9LGHJpwbxL1CVqsJSYcN5WlksB44iBubl/edit?usp=sharing. Paper applications are also available at St. Mary and Holy Cross. The application is due by April 26.

If you are interested in donating money for future scholarship opportunities, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.

Change of Information?

Moved? Had a baby? Dropped your landline? New email? Your adult children moved away and/or joined another parish? Please email the parish office with any changes so our records can be as accurate as possible. *Thank you!*

Receiving Parish Emails

If you currently do not receive parish emails, but your spouse does, and you would like to receive them, please call the office and we will add your name to the distribution list.

Holy Hour

Every Monday at 5:00pm, Bishop Joensen holds a holy hour at St. Ambrose Cathedral. On April 15, we are going to have a special intention at that holy hour of thanking Our Lady of Guadalupe for protecting the unborn through the closure of Planned Parenthood clinics. A missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be at the holy hour. About 12 years ago, Iowa had 26 Planned Parenthood clinics. Today, it has 6. We thank Our Lady for her intercession and pray that she continues to intercede on behalf of the unborn.

March With Us

The Iowa March for Life will be Saturday, June 22, starting with a 1:00pm rally and 1:45pm walk at the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda. This is an opportunity to proclaim the value of all human life and advocate for the protection of life in our law. Questions? [Contact PulseForLife.org](http://ContactPulseForLife.org).

Find events and resources offered by the Diocese and other parishes at www.dmdiocese.org. Scroll towards end of page.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Second Sunday of Easter, April 7

Theme: Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe!

Reading I: Acts 4:32-35 • The community was of one heart.

Reading II: 1 John 5:1-6 • We are called to keep the commandments of God.

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

For Children: How can you believe in Jesus whom you have never seen?

For Youth: Jesus' words of greeting were "Peace be with you," followed by the invitation to forgive sins. How does forgiveness bring peace to you? How does it change the world?

For Adults: What strengthens your faith? Why do you believe in Jesus?