



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

May 16/17, 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.

Dear Good People,

I just wanted to thank all of you again for your generosity regarding the parking lot at St. Mary's. It looks outstanding! It is because of your generosity that we can complete projects like this and the windows at Holy Cross. At the end of the day, all of these things are really a work of hospitality. So, thank you again for that.

This weekend, we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord into heaven. Oftentimes, we can overlook this most important event in the life of Our Lord and His Church. Here are some things to remember:

The Catholic Feast of the Ascension is not simply a historical remembrance. It holds deep theological significance. The feast day of the Ascension marks the exaltation of Christ and the completion of his earthly ministry. Jesus ascends not to abandon us, but to intercede for us at the right hand of God, and to make way for the promised Holy Spirit—the advocate or “Counselor”, (John 14:16, 26; 15:26) – on Pentecost.

Through his Ascension, Jesus affirms his divine authority and points to our ultimate destiny. Where he has gone, we hope to follow (John 14:1-3). When we ask, “Where is Jesus?” or “When does Jesus come back to earth?” we are expressing our longing for the Second Coming and the fulfillment of his promise to return and take us to heaven (Matt. 25:31-34, 46). ~ A.M.D.G. Fr. Ross

Parish Phone	515-367-2685
Parish General Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor	515-367-2685/ rparker@dmdiocese.org
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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.vocationonline.org

Mass and Reconciliation



Tuesday, May 19

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Fr. Leonard Kenkel

Wednesday, May 20

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † Karen Bellis

Thursday, May 21

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Mark Kollasch

Friday, May 22

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † James Fickbohm

Saturday, May 23

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Jack Groark

Sunday, May 24

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † Mike Phelan

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

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25

10:00am Mass, Holy Cross † Chris Schreurs

Ascension of the Lord

Loving Jesus,
You promise that I will see you again
and that my heart will rejoice.
Hold me close in my fears
and give me the courage
to live my life openly as your witness.

You say to me: "Go on speaking,
and do not be silent, for I am with you."
I ask that your presence in my life
gives me the courage
to live out your gospel with my life
I ask that in every trial in my life,
I have the grace to suffer
with you and for you.
Help me to seek Heaven above,
where you are seated at the right hand
of God the Father! Amen.

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.

Keep Celebrating the Easter Season!

The Lord's resurrection is celebrated for the entire Season of Easter; which ends with Pentecost next weekend.

Food Pantry Collection This Weekend

Please bring non-perishable items to Mass; we will also take up a monetary collection. Thank you for sharing with those who visit *The Blessing Box* in Elkhart.

Give Blood, Give Life This Thursday!

Sign-up to donate your valuable and much needed blood! Reserve your preferred appointment time at <https://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donate-blood/>. **Not donated before — give it at try!** It only takes about 30 – 45 minutes from check-in to check-out and you get to enjoy beverages and homemade treats at our canteen. **Walk-ins welcome.** We look forward to seeing you at our drive this Thursday, May 21 in the Social Hall from 3:00 – 7:00pm.

Memorial Day



This was established after the Civil War as a means to unify the country with a national day of remembrance. Join us for 10:00am Mass at Holy Cross Church on Monday, May 25. The Maxwell Legion and McKinsey Guard Bagpipers will be present following Mass. Come see our Avenue of Flags and take a self-guided walking tour of the Church and Cemetery.

Parish Council

Meeting: May 19, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

Meeting: June 8, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Adult Faith Formation

Please watch the bulletin for upcoming opportunities for faith and fellowship.

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: May 18, 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

- † **Sunday, May 17:** Social Hall in use, 5:00-8:00pm
- † **Blood Drive:** Thursday, May 21, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall
- † **Collection for Holy Cross Cemetery:** Weekend of May 23/24 and on Memorial Day

Scholarship Recipients

The Stewardship Committee is happy to announce the scholarship recipients for the 2025-2026 school year. Congratulations to the following seniors: Jessica Schoening, McKenna Welch, Natalie Shedd, and Rylie Campbell. The Scholarship is completely funded from the generous donations that we receive at the dessert table during the KOC fish fries. Thank you for your support.

Help with Avenue of Flags for Memorial Day!

Could you assist with raising the flags this Saturday, May 23 at 10:00am and/or retiring them on Memorial Day at 4:00pm? Each session is about 30-35 minutes. For more information or to volunteer, contact Lynn Schreurs, 515-577-8147.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

We have a couple parish/family movie nights planned for this summer. Drinks and snacks provided. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Monday, June 29, 6:30-8:30pm, *Love God's Will* - True story of Father Ryan Stawaisz. Join us for this powerful movie.

Tuesday, July 14, 6:30-8:30pm, *David* - a historical animated musical film.

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

On May 2, twelve of our youth celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. It has been a pleasure leading this group through preparation for the sacrament. Thank you to our program volunteers, your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you to those who helped with our rehearsal dinner and our Liturgy, it was beautiful. Please continue to pray for these young people as they move on to a new chapter of their faith journey. ~ Nicole Cory, Coordinator

Liturgical Minsters Needed for 10:00am Mass

We could use additional Lectors, Ministers of the Eucharist and Ushers for our 10:00am Mass. Training provided. Please contact the Office, bliske@saintmaryhc.org if interested or have questions.

Holy Cross Cemetery Collection

We have a second collection next weekend and on Memorial Day for maintenance of the grounds at Holy Cross Cemetery. Envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes. If you are unable to attend one of these Masses, you are welcome to mail your donation to the Parish Office. If paying by check, please make it out to *Holy Cross Cemetery*. Thank you in advance for your support to assure Holy Cross Cemetery remains a beautiful resting place.

Attention 6-12th Graders & Young Adults of St. Mary-Holy Cross!

You are invited on Wednesday, May 27 by Fr. Ross and S.T.O.R.M. to join us for Mass at Holy Cross at 5:30pm followed by a game of kickball at St. Mary's beginning around 6:15pm. Food will be served at the field (or in the Social Hall in the case of rain.) If it is a rainy evening, we will play toilet paper dodge ball in the Social Hall. We hope you will join us for one of Fr. Ross' favorite activities! If you have any questions please reach out to Andrea, 515-240-5059, or Melissa, 515-290-2830.

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Please consider how you can support the Diocese which supports our Parish! Our assessment is \$47,270; we are off to a strong start, but are not there yet! Mail your pledge card from Bishop Joensen and your gift directly to the Diocese (check made out to the Diocese of Des Moines; 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!

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	\$7,887	\$5,536	May 3
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$4,226	\$5,536	May 10

Year-to-Date

	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$294,595	\$249,100	\$268,789

Building Fund Collection: \$2,246

Mass Attendance: May 2/3: 317 May 9/10: 390

2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Goal	Pledged	Paid	Unpaid	Amt. Due
\$47,270	\$37,580	\$35,716	\$1,864	\$11,554

Councils and Committees

PARISH COUNCIL

Anne Davis - annedavis06@gmail.com
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@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
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Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Sue White - charylsue@msn.com

BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE

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Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Bill Schmitt - isucui@isualum.com
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

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Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

PARISH TRUSTEES

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John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net

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.

Seven Sisters Apostolate

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a mission committed to prayer support toward a Parish Priest. Seven women commit to praying each one hour a week on a specific day. Currently, there is a group of Seven Sisters who pray for Fr. Ross Parker. We would like to begin a group for Fr. Christopher Pisut. Please prayerfully consider joining this important group. More information is available at <http://sevensistersapostolate.org/>. If interested, please contact Nancy Breitzkreutz, 515-778-2415 / nbz7882@gmail.com or Kathy Daup, 515-306-2702 / kadaup@hotmail.com.

Catholic Communications Campaign

Your support of this collection helps build Catholic communities using the internet, television, radio and print media. Half the funds collected remain in our Diocese to support local efforts. Spread the Gospel message! To learn more visit www.usccb.org/cc.

Donation envelopes are available on the table at St. Mary and at Holy Cross.

Church Sign

Free trip to Heaven. Details inside!

Ministers for Memorial Weekend By Sign-up

Please call the Office by Wednesday to volunteer or sign up at Church this weekend. Thank you.

Saturday, May 23, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Volunteers Needed: Lector, Host Distributor, 2 Cup Bearers, 2-3 Ushers

Music Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, May 24, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Anne Davis
Cup Bearer Laurie Phelan
Altar Servers Claire & Oliver Hand
Usher Jerry & Patty Hilton
Music Jen Linderblood, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, May 24, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Volunteers Needed: Lector, Host Distributor, 1 Cup Bearer, 2-3 Altar Server, 2-3 Ushers

Cup Bearer Julie Coash
Music Garrett McClain, Vivian Kahler, Mary Ortmann

Memorial Day, May 25, 10:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Volunteers Needed: Lector, Cup Bearer, Altar Servers, Ushers

Music Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

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Money Counters

May 17: Dona Cowman, Kathy Petersen

SAY WHAT? There is no limit to the amount of times aluminum cans be recycled.

Coffee & Donuts!

We hope to have coffee and donuts after 10:00am Mass on June 7. To do this we need someone to host it. No expense to you. Just pick up the donuts at the North Hy-Vee in Ankeny, serve them and straighten up afterwards! Contact the Parish Office to volunteer or if you would like more information. Thank you for considering this request!

Move Over, Please

The Parish is growing! We ask your assistance at our 10:00am Sunday Mass. Most Sundays we have enough room to seat everyone in the Church -- if we all make room in our pew. So please scooch over a little and make some room for your fellow parishioners. Thank you.

Helping Those In Need

Please consider helping provide a meal at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter in Des Moines on **July 12**. One or more families or groups can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal (number for the meal varies) to the Shelter. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt. *To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Stacey Rooney, rooneyslg17@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.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Ascension of the Lord, May 17

Theme: We are sent, and Christ is with us.

Reading I: Acts 1: 1-11 • Why are you standing there looking up at the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

Reading II: Ephesians 1:17-23 • We are Jesus Christ's complement

Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20 • All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Question for Children: Jesus tells us to make disciples wherever we are. A disciple is one who follows Jesus. Name one way that you can be a disciple of Jesus this week.

Question for Youth: : Jesus commanded his disciples to go and make disciples of all people. How can you help to make disciples of your peers?

Question for Adults: Jesus commissioned the disciples to go out to proclaim the Gospel. When have you proclaimed the Good News of Jesus by how you act and live each day?