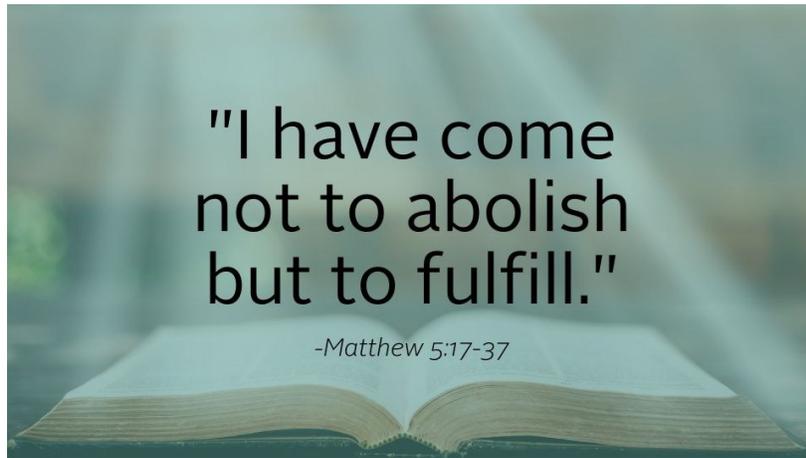


St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 14 & 15, 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,

It is hard to believe but the holy season of Lent will soon be upon us. Lent is one of my favorite times of the year. A good chance for us to seriously consider how we can return to the Lord and grow in faith and virtue during this time. Maybe all of us can take some time in prayer and think about what we will do for Lent. My personal thoughts this year was that I was especially struck by the Beatitudes reading a couple of weeks ago. So I am going to be vigilant about following the Beatitudes. I will print those out as a reminder to myself. I also have other things I need to give up so I will try to do that as well! Hopefully you can join us for mass on Ash Wednesday. Just a reminder that mass will be at 7AM and 6:30PM at St. Mary's. Looking at the weather forecast it will be the first time since I have been here where we are not expected to have a snow or ice storm on Ash Wednesday. So that is great!

Secondly, I want to thank the Stewardship Committee for the great work for putting on the Chili and Cinnamon roll cook off. Congratulations to the winners. It was a great event. Thank you for the Youth for putting together the snack packs as well. I shared my snacks with my mom and dad so they also benefited!

Finally, Sharon reminded me that last week marked my third year as Pastor of SMHC. I am grateful each day to God that he has placed me here. This is actually the longest time I have served continuously at one parish, which is kind of hard to believe. Thank you for your good Christian witness and for making our parish so special. It is truly home to me!

~ 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@dmdioocese.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
Music Coordinator -Position Open	
Parish Web Site	www.saintmaryhc.org
Parish Facebook Site	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart

<i>See inside for Mass times for Ash Wednesday</i>	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, Reconciliation and Lenten Activities

Tuesday, February 17

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Living & Deceased Members of the Mike & Brenda Nehring Family*

Ash Wednesday, February 18

7:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Teresa Schrum*

6:30pm Mass, St. Mary † *JoAnn Meusburger*

Thursday, February 19

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Delores Markfort Goche*

Friday, February 20

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Glen Hobin*

6:00pm *Stations of the Cross*, St. Mary

Saturday, February 21

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Bill Devereux*

Sunday, February 22

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † *Karen Bellis*

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, <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

Food Pantry Collection

Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass next weekend; we will also take up a monetary collection. Thank you for sharing with those needing a little help along the way. Your donation will assist Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

Lenten Reflection Resources

We have a variety of reflection booklets available to choose from to assist you along your Lenten journey.

Ash Wednesday Masses

We begin our Lenten journey this Wednesday. Our Masses are 7:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary.

Fasting & Abstaining From Meat

Everyone 14 years and older are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.

Everyone 18 years old and under 59 years old are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these days, only one full meatless meal is allowed.

Two other meatless meals together should not equal a full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juice are allowed.

When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, this does not apply.

Old Palms

If you would like us to dispose of your blessed palms from last year, please place them in the container at either Church.

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Gracious God,
today begins a period of inner reflection and examination.

The days stretch before me
and invite me inward to that silent,
holy space that holds your Spirit.

This special time beckons me
to see my life through Christ's eyes
and the truth and reality
of your love incarnate.

Give me the grace
to enter the space of these days
with anticipation of our meeting.

And, when I open my soul
to your presence,
let your loving kindness flow over me
and seep into the pockets of my heart.
I ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

Parish Council

Meeting: February 17, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: February 24, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

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

OCIA / Grow in Your Catholic Faith

Feb. 23, 6:15pm, Youth Room —

No session Feb. 16

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: February 16, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 6: Alleman, Baxter, Des Moines area,
Madrid, Mingo, Mitchellville, Polk City,
Prairie City, 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

† **Ed Center in Use:** Sat./Sun., Feb. 14/15, 11:00am-3:00pm

† **Friday, February 20:** Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm,
St. Mary — Fish Fry, serving 5:00-7:00pm, Social Hall

† **Next Weekend:** Collection for Catholic Charities Food
Pantry

† **Lenten Meal following Stations of the Cross:** Friday's
Feb. 27, March 13 & 27



Stations of the Cross

These Stations began with pilgrims to Jerusalem who would retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary. Later, for those who wanted to pass along the same route, but couldn't make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed that eventually took the form of our current fourteen Stations.

Come pray these powerful Stations every Friday of Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary, and follow Jesus on his way to Calvary.

We have a meatless meal and fellowship in the Social Hall following the Stations on February 27, March 13 & 27.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Larry Shaw; father of Tracy Backus and nephew of Jeanne Carpenter, who passed away last Tuesday. May his family find strength and comfort as they mourn his passing.

✠ *Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord,* ✠
and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Visitation is today (Sunday) 2:00-4:30pm with a Rosary prayed at 4:30pm and Funeral Mass is Monday, 10:00am; both at St. Mary's.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

We have 15 children receiving their First Holy Communion this year. We are in need of 10 more Bibles to be sponsored. Would you like to sponsor a Bible for one of these children? Each Bible has a leather cover and has the child's name engraved on it. It is a lifelong treasure to them and we are so thankful for all those who support this fundraiser. If you would like to donate a Bible or do a partial donation, the cost is \$50 and a check can be mailed to the office with "Bible" in the memo.

Upcoming Sessions

February 18— Ash Wednesday, No sessions. Please attend Mass with your family
February 25 & March 4 – 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 — Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall, 7th & 8th
Session: Feb. 25 —no session on Feb. 18, Ash Wednesday;
please attend Mass with your Family.

Confirmation 9th & 10th Graders, Sessions in Youth Room
Please see your email for questions regarding upcoming dates. Also be on the lookout for a sign up to volunteer for our KofC fish fry Fridays.

-Saturday, Feb. 14 and Sunday, Feb. 15: 11:00am-3:00pm, 10th grade only (teen & sponsor) Prayer Stations, Social Hall
-Sunday, Feb 22: 11:00am-12:30pm, 10th grade only session
NO February Wednesday Family Session

S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group — Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm,
Youth Area, 9th-12th graders
Gathering: Feb. 25 —*No gathering Feb 18, Ash Wednesday*

Try Something New the Fridays of Lent ✠

- How about leading the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 6 or 27? We have a choice of booklets for you to use.
- How about hosting a Lenten meal on March 27 after the 6:00pm Stations of the Cross?

Please consider getting involved in your parish in one of these ways! For more information, please email the Office or sign up in the vestibule at St. Mary. Thank you!

Fish Fry Fridays

Join the Knight of Columbus February 20, March 6 & 20, serving from 5:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. Free will donation. *Please contact Jon Hand, jon79hand@gmail.com / 515-291-8814 if you'd like to help. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4AA8A62DA5FD0-61631815-desserts>. To donate a dessert. Thank you!*

Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 8 Budget Week 32

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$11,435	\$5,536

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$200,490	\$177,138	\$177,213

Mass Attendance: Feb 7/8: 392

Donut Sunday

Please contact the Office if you would like to host coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass on March 8.

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
Bill Kyle - bill@northiowaair.com
Tim Miller - millertimothyg@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@hrtind.us
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@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 - rooneysl7@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

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.

End of Year Statements

To receive your year end statement, please email Candy, bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org or contact the office, 515-367-2685, with a request to email or print/mail your statement. We do not automatically mail out statements to everyone.

It Will Snow Again

 Hard to think about snow removal when the weather has been so nice! Winter is not over yet. We are in need of your assistance to keep the sidewalks and steps at St. Mary safe and accessible. Use this QR code or this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-60961940-sidewalk>. Contact Bill Schmitt with questions, isucui@isualum.com / 515-291-8005.

Living Lent

How are you and your family going to live the Lenten season this year? The Diocese has a Lenten planner, some kid-friendly activities, recipes and more! Find family Lenten resources at dmdiocese.org/living-lent.



Catholic Youth Camp

CYC is for those entering 3rd–12th grade next Fall. Details/registration at www.stmcenter.com. *Our Parish contributes \$100 toward the camp fee for each child of the Parish!* Contact the Office at bliske@saintmaryhc.org/515-367-2685 with camp dates to have this portion of their fee paid.

Ministers for Feb. 21 & 22

Saturday, February 21, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	John Roberts
Host Distributor	Susan Stillmunkes
Cup Bearers	Linda & Tom Froehlich
Ushers	Bill K., Bill S., Mike P., Jim H.
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, February 22, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Jackie Crouse
Cup Bearer	Dawn Beukema
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Usher	Mike Veasman
Music	Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, February 22, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Greg Feldmann
Host Distributor	Bob Coash
Cup Bearers	Juile Coash, Greg Feldmann
Altar Servers	Jackson Cory, Amelia Muehlenthaler
	<i>Cross Bearer: Carter Cory</i>
Ushers	Andrew Cory, Greg Richwine
Music	Garrett McClain, Karon Lacey, Mary O.

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

Money Counters

February 15: Sharon Morris, Kathy Petersen
February 22: Sue White, Brenda Nehring



An aluminum can that is thrown away today will still be an aluminum can 500 years from now.

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 options.*

We are a rehab for sinners, not a club for saints.

Emmaus House Offerings

A Different Kind of Fast for Lent: Beginning Tuesday, Feb. 17, 6:00pm. Reading and reflection group with the book *A Different Kind of Fast* by Christine Valters Paintner. Offering contemplative reflection and prayer practices. Readers journey thru Lent with a different fast each week.

Lent & the Solace of the Desert: Feb. 28, 9:00am-2:30 pm Our world would like us to believe that to be “without” is to be lacking, a sort of deficiency. To go into the desert is to be called into greater, deeper communion with God without the daily distractions we feel we can't live without.

Ignatius Imaginative Prayer: March 7, 9:00am-Noon. St. Ignatius invited believers to enter into the stories of Jesus and his followers with all of their senses and enter into conversation with the characters of the scene. Experience how this type of prayer can bring the Gospel stories to life.

Go to <https://www.theemmaushouse.org/upcoming-events> for more in formation.



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

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Feb. 14 & 15

Theme: God's Commandments are a way of life.

Reading I: Sirach 15:15-20 • Human beings have free will. The Law is a gift from God.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 • Happy are they that follow the Law of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37 • The Law is God's gift of life. The holiness of Jesus' followers is a choice of life.

Question for Children: Which rules cause you the most difficulty? Why?

Question for Youth: In your own words, describe what the spirit of God's law is.

Question for Adults: Have you considered that laws are made with love? Do you accept God's love through his laws?