



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 31 & February 1, 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 hope this letter finds you well. I am looking forward to our Chili/Cinnamon Roll cook-off next Saturday, Feb. 7th. I want to thank the Stewardship Committee for organizing it. Thank you to all who are entering the contest as well. It is one of the great events we have at our parish. Be sure to order your snack packs as well to support our youth programs. Hopefully you will enjoy some snacks for the Super Bowl, although the Chiefs are not in it this year. We had a good run!

I also want to thank everyone who contributed for our funeral luncheon. It is a wonderful way to show hospitality to a grieving family.

Finally, as a reminder, I seem to be the victim of constant scamming. Please know that I will never ask you to buy me gift cards or anything like that. If I am in trouble, I will call the police or my parents etc. Unfortunately, these scammers are getting more believable with AI advances, so just call or text me if you have any doubts, etc. I pray for these people's conversion.

- A.M.D.G. Fr. Ross

Parish Phone	515-367-2685	Mass Schedule	Tuesday	8:00am	St. Mary
Parish General Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org		Wednesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor	515-367-2685/rparker@dmddiocese.org		Thursday	8:00am	St. Mary
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org		Friday	8:00am	St. Mary
Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry	afisher@saintmaryhc.org		Saturday	5:00pm	St. Mary
Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org		Sunday	8:00am	Holy Cross
Barb Liske - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org			10:00am	St. Mary
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				

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, February 3

8:00am Mass, St. Mary **† Joe Ross**

Wednesday, February 4

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

Thursday, February 5

8:00am Mass, St. Mary **Heather Ward**

First Friday, February 6

8:00am Mass, St. Mary **† Mark Kollasch**

Saturday, February 7

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary **† Tom Morris**

Sunday, February 8

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross **† Bill Jorgensen**

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

Welcome To Our New Members!



Hannah Johnson, who lives in Ankeny

Derek Hickman, who lives in Ankeny

Rodney and Jennifer Burns, who live in Ankeny

Frank and Marjorie Steines, who live in Bondurant

Mikala Jackson and Jacob Rhoades and children Carter, Serenity and Greyson, who live in Huxley

New Birth by Water and the Holy Spirit



Celebrate with us in welcoming into our Faith these little ones who have been baptized:

Navy Kate

Daughter of Cal and Canon Keller

Orion Kincaid, Olysandra Nicole and Opal Mereoleona
Daughters of Caleb Bailey and Taylor Shea



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

Blessing of Throats this Weekend



The Feast Day of St. Blaise is February 3. We will have blessing of throats after Masses this weekend to ask this saint to protect us from all sicknesses of the throat.

NCYC "Thank You" Breakfast

Please join us today (Sunday) following 10:00am Mass for breakfast burritos along with donuts. Allow the NCYC participants to serve you and show their appreciation for all our prayers and financial support. We will also celebrate our new Parish members at this breakfast.



Chili and Cinnamon Rolls!

We have six entries for our chili cook-off and our Cinnamon Roll bake-off has one entry. It's not too late to enter one or both of the contests! Please contact Tammi at tammimccain71@gmail.com or 515-290-3904. All are invited to join us after Mass next Saturday, February 7 to enjoy the tastes of their labor!

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

JoAnn Moody, sister of Jean Rumbaugh, who passed away January 16

and

Mark Block, who passed away January 29

and for their families that they know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

† *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.* **†**

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

February 2, 9 (with special guest Fr. Bruce Riebe, Social Hall) & 23, 6:15pm Youth Rm
No session Feb. 16

Knights of Columbus

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

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 4: Bondurant, Altoona

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

†This Weekend: Blessing of Throats after Masses for Feast of St. Blaise — S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group taking order for Snack Packs

†Sunday, Feb. 1: Coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass — NCYC appreciation breakfast after 10:00am Mass — Kitchen in use Noon to 6:00pm

†Saturday, February 7: Chili Cook-off and Cinnamon Roll contest following 5:00pm Mass, Social Hall.

†Weekend of Feb. 7/8: Building Fund Collection — Pick up Snack Packs after Masses

†Monday, Feb. 9: Guest speaker Father Bruce Riebe from Byzantine Catholic Outreach of Iowa, 6:15pm, Social Hall

Snack Time

Order forms for our Youth Group's snack packs are available in the pew this weekend or contact Andrea, 515-240-5059 or Melissa, 515-290-2830, to place an order. Pick up your snack pack next weekend. We will have a limited supply of cash and carry snack packs available then, but it's better to order this weekend! Thank you for supporting the young Church!

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!

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

Would you like to sponsor a Bible for one of the children receiving their First Holy Communion? If you would like to donate a Bible to a child or do a partial donation, the cost is \$50 (check can be mailed to the Parish Office with "Bible" in the memo). Each Bible has a leather cover and 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.

Upcoming Sessions

February 4 - Regular Sessions, First Communion enrollment Mass, 6:15pm

February 11- Regular sessions, First Communion enrollment Mass, 9:00am

February 18- Ash Wednesday, No sessions. Please attend Mass with your family

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 Sessions: Feb. 4, 11 & 25

—no Edge 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 signup to volunteer for our KofC fish fry Fridays.

Sunday, Feb. 8: 11:00am-12:30pm, 9th grade only session

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

Gatherings: Feb. 4, 11 & 25

World Day for Consecrated Life is February 2

Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

Our deepest appreciation and thanks to Father Ross for accepting the call to Priesthood!

Byzantine Catholic Outreach of Iowa

Father Bruce Riebe from Saint Andrew of Crete Byzantine Catholic Outreach of Iowa will join us Monday, February 9, 6:15pm in the Social Hall to share about the Byzantine tradition, including prayer, liturgy, and spirituality. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how the Catholic faith is lived and celebrated in the Eastern Church. All are welcome, please join us!

Additional Options for Tithing

- **Automatic Debit** from your account once a month.

- **Online Giving, Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa.**

For more information or to begin either of these, please contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	\$9,557	\$5,536	January 18
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$4,336	\$5,536	January 25

Year-to-Date

	Received	Budget	Last Year
Youth/Guests	\$178,219	\$166,067	\$167,485

January Food Pantry Collection: \$786.16

*Mass Attendance: Jan. 17/18: 279
Jan. 24/25: 308*

Councils and Committees

PARISH COUNCIL

Anne Davis - annedavis06@gmail.com
Terri Hamm - Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhpc@yahoo.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 - tammimclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Sue White - charlysue@msn.com

BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE

John Roberts, *Co-Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Scott Turczynski, *Co-Chair* - ScottT@hrtlnd.us
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhpc@yahoo.com
Tim Miller - millertimothyg@gmail.com
Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Bill Schmitt - isucut@isualum.com
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
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
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

Thank you for considering one of these for your tithing.

YOUTH 2000 Retreat - February 13-15

This amazing retreat at St. Pius X Church is for youth 13-18 and includes Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, talks, workshops, music, and fellowship. Registration of \$60; includes Saturday lunch and dinner. Registration ends Feb. 1 at 11:55pm. If your youth is interested in this retreat, please contact Andrea Fisher, 515-240-5059. Please visit <https://www.dmdiocese.org/youth2000> to learn more or to register.



Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions are a cherished tradition of the Church, allowing us to unite our prayers for the living or the deceased with Christ's perfect offering in the Eucharist. In accordance with a decree from Archbishop Zinkula, effective January 1, 2026, the customary stipend for Mass Intentions has increased to \$10 for all Iowa Dioceses.

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. In an effort to save money, we do not automatically mail out these statements to everyone.

Youth Tithes

We have envelopes available on the table for children. On the paper provided, please write your name by the number of the packet you have taken. Thank you!

It Will Snow Again

 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.

Ministers for Feb. 7 & 8

Saturday, February 7, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Lorrie Hanlon
Host Distributor	Drew Hanlon
Cup Bearers	Mike Devereux, Susan Stillmunkes
Ushers	Mike D., Jim H., Drew H., Bob S.

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

Lector	Sheri Fogarty
Cup Bearer	Laurie Phelan
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Usher	Mike Veasman

Sunday, February 8, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Kris Sturtz
Host Distributor	Angela Collum
Cup Bearers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Altar Servers	Elizabeth Collum, Amelia Muehlenthaler
	<i>Cross Bearer:</i> David Collum
Ushers	Tom & Jacki Ausman

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Money Counters

February 1: Kathy Daup, Brenda Nehring
February 8: Dona Cowman, Kathy Daup



More aluminum goes into beverage cans than any other product.

Lent Will Be Here Soon

- **Ash Wednesday** is February 18. Our Masses are 7:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary.

- We are looking for volunteers to **lead the Stations of the Cross** on Friday's February 20 & 27, March 6 & 27. And volunteers to **host a meal after Stations** on February 27 & March 27. Please consider getting involved in your parish in this way; a signup is at St. Mary or email the Office at bliske@saintmaryhc.org to volunteer or if you have questions. Thank you!

- **Fish Frys** are Friday's February 20, March 6 & 20, serving from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

- **Sign up to bring a dessert for a fish fry** at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4AA8A62DA5FD0-61631815-desserts>. Thank you!



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.

Give a Gift to Yourself!

The gift of a CEW (Christian Experience Weekend) at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny! This weekend is a beautiful opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life and focus on faith, renewal, and personal growth. Women's Weekend is February 6-8 and Men's Weekend is February 20-22. For more information and to register, please go to <https://www.olih.org/adult-ff/97-cew>.

T G I F - Today God is First.



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

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Jan. 31/Feb. 1

Theme: The Beatitudes, a way of life, a map to happiness.

Reading I: : Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13 • Seek justice. Seek humility.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 • God chose those whom the world considers absurd.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a • The Beatitudes

Question for Children: Choose one of the Beatitudes and share how you will make it part of your life.

Question for Youth: Jesus gives us a plan for our happiness in the beatitudes. Do the things that make you happiest also lead you towards God? Do they follow God's plan?

Question for Adults: How do you describe what it means to be "blest" in your own life?