



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



First Sunday of Lent

March 9, 2025

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 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:

The following is from Michael Moore of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate:

"As we begin our own Lenten journey, we need to recall and remember that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. God is with us walking by our side very step of way. When we are tempted, we need to follow the example of Jesus. He did not rely on his own strength. He turned to God and asked for help which he received. We will not be able to walk the Lenten journey on our own. We need to realize that like Jesus, we too need God's help, support, guidance and protection. Whenever we feel tired or ready to give up or give in, we need to turn to God for encouragement. We know that God will be with us during Lent as God was with Jesus when he was in the desert. God will never leave us alone."

~ A.M.D.G. Fr. Ross

Parish Phone	515-367-2685	Mass Schedule		
Parish General Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org	Tuesday	8:00am	St. Mary
Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor	515-367-2685/ rparker@dmdiocese.org	Wednesday	5:30pm	Holy Cross
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org	Thursday	8:00am	St. Mary
Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry	afisher@saintmaryhc.org	Friday	8:00am	St. Mary
Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org	Saturday	5:00pm	St. Mary
Barb Liske - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org	Sunday	8:00am	Holy Cross
Tracy Miller - Preschool - 6th RE	tmiller@saintmaryhc.org	Reconciliation: Saturday 4:00 - 4:30pm, St. Mary or by appointment with Fr. Parker		
Aubrey Sigmund - Music	asigmund@saintmaryhc.org	Baptism: Please contact the office.		
Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org	Marriage: Please contact the office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.		
Parish Web Site	www.saintmaryhc.org	Order of Christian Initiation: Please contact Fr. Parker or Nicole Cory		
Parish Facebook Site	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart	Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org		

Mass and Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, March 11

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Special Intention*

Wednesday, March 12

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Mary Beth Bump and Ashley Carpenter*

Thursday, March 13

8:00am Mass, St. Mary *Healing for JoAnn Meusburger and Tim Miller*

Friday, March 14 *Abstain from meat*

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

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

Saturday, March 15

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Mark Schmidt and Mary Harrington*

Sunday, March 16

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † *Patrick 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, <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, 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.



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 will have a meatless meal and fellowship in the Social Hall following the Stations on March 14, 28 and April 11.

Try Something New This Lent!

We hope you will consider forming your personal faith by participating in our Lenten offerings... Stations of the Cross... Sacrament of Reconciliation... attending weekday Mass... quiet prayer time in the church... making use of the reflection resources available in the vestibule. Welcome Jesus more fully into your life and let Him be the anchor of your soul!

How about leading the Stations of the Cross March 28 or April 4? We have a choice of booklets to use. For more information, please call the office. To volunteer please sign up in the vestibule at St. Mary or call the office. Thank you!!

Church Sign

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

Lenten Prayer

Lord,
I am not always eager to do your will.
I would often much rather do my own will.
Please be with me on this Lenten journey
and help me to remember
that your own spirit can guide me
in the right direction.
I want to fix my weaknesses
but the task seems overwhelming.
But I know that with your help,
anything can be done.
With a grateful heart,
I acknowledge your love
and know that without you,
I can do nothing. Amen.

Parish Council

Meeting: March 18, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: March 25, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: March 10, 6:00pm, **Ed Center**

Adult Faith Formation

No upcoming events

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: **March 10**, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 5: Elkhart & Cambridge

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

† **Friday, March 14:** St. Monica's Mothers Prayer Group, 9:30am, Youth Room — Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary, followed by Lenten meal, Social Hall

† **Weekend of March 15/16:** Collection for Maxwell Food Pantry

† **Choir Practice:** Sundays, March 16, 23 & 30, 11am, Thursdays, April 3 & 10, 6:30pm; Sunday, April 13 at 11am

† Lenten Resources

Please take advantage of these booklets available in the vestibule. They will help God's presence in you become more evident, more of a reality in your everyday life, and they may help God's light shine through you to others in need.

Easter Vigil Choir

Join our Easter Vigil choir! Practices are Sundays, March 16, 23 & 30 at 11:00am, Thursdays, April 3 & 10 at 6:30pm and Sunday, April 13 at 11:00am, and last one hour. We will sing at the Easter Vigil 8:00pm Mass on Saturday, April 19. For more information, please contact Aubrey Sigmund, Music Coordinator, 515-451-0635 or asigmund@saintmaryhc.org.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jacob Pinkston, nephew of Andrew Cory, who passed away from a brain tumor last Sunday, and for his family that they know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

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

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

There are lots of opportunities to grow closer to Jesus in Lent. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are ways we, as well as our children, can prepare our hearts this Lent. We have an opportunity to help lead the Stations of the Cross for our RE program on March 21st. I will be sending out an email to sign-up to help read.

Would like to donate a leather covered Bible for a First Communicant with their name engraved on it? It is truly a treasure to them. Cost is \$40; a check with "Bible" in the memo can be mailed or dropped in the collection. *Thank you!*

Upcoming Sessions

March 12 - Regular sessions
March 19 - No sessions, Spring Break
March 21 - Stations of the Cross led by our RE program
March 26 - 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 (7th & 8th Grades), 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Sessions: Wednesdays, March 12 & 26

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Friday, March 21 and April 4: KofC Fish Fry

Watch for a sign up genius to volunteer for Fish Fry Fridays.

STORM Youth Group (9th-12th): 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room

Gatherings: Wednesdays, March 12 & 26

Old Palms

There is a container in the vestibule if you would like us to dispose of your blessed palms from last year.

Fish Fry Fridays

Join the Knight of Columbus March 21 & April 4, 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. To donate a dessert please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4AA8A62DA5FD0-54890380-desserts#/>*

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

This Appeal gives us the opportunity to support the ministries and services in our Diocese from which we benefit. A mailing has been sent from Bishop Joensen asking you to give a gift. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the ADA. Please return your pledge card to the parish office or drop it in the collection basket, or make online gift at www.DMDiocese.org/giving. Our assessment is \$47,320. Thank you for your support.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 2 Budget Week 36

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$7,656	\$5,511

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

	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$199,888	\$198,384	\$173,486

Building Fund Collection: 1409.25

Mass Attendance March 1 & 2: 340

**To be content with what we possess
is the greatest of all riches.**

Councils and Committees

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Anne Davis - annedavis06@gmail.com
Terri Hamm - Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org
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
Lisa Schoening - lisa@liskaschoening.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Craig Johnson - dad.craig@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
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BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
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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

Buy reusable mesh bags to use for fresh produce when grocery shopping; it eliminates the need for plastic produce bags, which are difficult to recycle. Mesh bags, available from a number of retailers, can be laundered - keep them along side your reusable grocery bags. See more at: <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>

Parish Scholarship

This Scholarship has been awarded to 20 of our high school seniors since it started in 2018! Money collected from deserts at the fish fries has been our biggest source of donations. Please consider donating dessert items OR money to help build our scholarship campaign. The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your generosity.

Additional Reconciliation at St. Mary

Thursday, March 27, 6:00-7:00pm
Friday, March 28, 5:00-6:00pm
Saturday, March 29, 3:00-4:30pm



Reconciliation Services at other parishes:

Tuesday, March 11, 7:00pm, St. Francis of Assisi, West DSM
Wednesday, March 12, 7:00pm, St. Joseph, Des Moines
Sunday, March 23, 2:00pm, St. Mary of Nazareth, DSM
Sunday, March 30, 3:00pm, St. John, Adel
Sunday, March 30, 4:00pm, St. Pius X, Urbandale
Tuesday, April 1, 6:00pm, St. Boniface, Waukee
Wednesday, April 2, 6:30pm, Assumption, Granger
Wednesday, April 2, 6:30pm, St. Theresa, Des Moines
Thursday, April 3, 6:30pm, OLIH, Ankeny
Thursday, April 10, 7:00pm, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona

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.

Liturgical Ministers for March 15 & 16

Saturday, March 15, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Olivia Jones
Host Distributor Lisa Jones
Cup Bearers Bob & Susan Selby
Ushers Doug Jones, Dan Harrington
Music Sue Harrington, Mary Ortmann

Sunday, March 16, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Jackie Crouse
Cup Bearer Laurie Phelan
Altar Servers Titus & Zeke Weber
Usher Mike Veasman
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, March 16, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Greg Feldmann
Host Distributor Angela Collum
Cup Bearers Julia Coash, Tracy Miller
Altar Servers David & Elizabeth Collum
Cross Bearer Gabriel Miller
Ushers Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music Christine, Muehlenthaler, Karon Lacey, Mary Snyder

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Money Counters

March 9: Kathy Daup, Sue White
March 16: Dona Cowman, Sue White



The average person has the opportunity to recycle more than 25,000 cans in their life.

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.

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. Please email him at rparker@dmdiocese.org.

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.

An Evening with Fr. Mike Schmitz

Iowa Catholic Radio is sponsoring *Encounter the Eucharist: An Evening with Fr. Mike Schmitz*, Wednesday, April 2 at the Community Choice Convention Center in DSM. A night of Sacred Music, Eucharistic Adoration, and the host of *Bible in a Year*. Get tickets at IowaCatholicRadio.com.

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" or "Elkhart".**

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

First Sunday of Lent, March 9

Theme: Lent is time to open our hearts more fully to Jesus.

Reading I: Deuteronomy 26:4-10 • Worship the Lord your God.

Reading II: Romans 10:8-13 • There is only one God.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13 • Jesus is led into the desert and tempted.

For Children: When you feel tempted to do wrong, how do you remain strong in your faith?

For Youth: What is one thing you'll do during Lent to become more open to God in your life?

For Adults: As you come to understand the temptation of Jesus in the desert, which one of the devil's offerings is hardest for you to resist?