



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 17 & 18, 2026



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 24 & 25, 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 have not written a bulletin article for a while. I just wanted to thank everyone so very much for all the wonderful work that you all did making our Christmas season so special. I had a profound sense of peace during the Christmas mass this year. That often times does not happen with everything going on during that time, but I knew Christ was with me. Emmanuel God with us!

Secondly, I just wanted to thank Aubrey for her wonderful work with our music ministry. She is expecting twins and needs to step away from our music ministry. Please join me in thanking her for the wonderful ministry she provided. Thank you to all our musicians who do so much to add to our liturgies.

Finally, I had a nice few days off. I got to go with Tom down to Kansas City to play some golf. I did not expect that to happen in January! Nice to be back as we begin ordinary time together. Let us keep one another in prayer.

~ 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

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

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.vocationsonline.org

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, January 20

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Jack Housby

Wednesday, January 21

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † Bill Davis

Thursday, January 22

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Victims of Abortion

Friday, January 23

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Jack Newell

Saturday, January 24

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Glen Hobin

Sunday, January 25

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross People of the Parish

10:00am Mass, St. Mary † James Fickbohm

Tuesday, January 27

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

Wednesday, January 28

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

Thursday, January 29

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

Friday, January 30

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Leo & Rosemary Overmohle

Saturday, January 31

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † LaVonne Paulson

Sunday, February 1

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † Lyle Carpenter

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



Blood Drive January 22!

3:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. More than 100,000 units of blood are needed yearly—donate and save lives! Go to www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/ to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome!

Chili and Cinnamon Rolls Contest!



Calling all Chefs...this contest is Saturday, February 7 after 5:00pm Mass. Everyone is invited to attend/vote, but we need entries!! If you have a knack for making chili or baking cinnamon rolls, please enter a pot of chili or a dozen cinnamon rolls to share! Email Tammi McClain to enter one or both contests; tammimcclain71@gmail.com. Prizes will be awarded! Come share fellowship and food together!

Prayer

F

Eternal All-powerful Lord,
may I come to You in all things.
May I love and serve You
when life is good,
and may I trust You
with an unwavering trust
when life is challenging.

A

Increase my faith and help me
to manifest that faith every day
of my life. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.

I

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H

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

January 19, 6:15pm Youth Room

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: January 19, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 3: Ankeny

*The Parish Office is closed January 19-27
and opens at Noon on January 28.*

*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

- †Weekend of Jan. 17/18: Collection for Huxley Food Pantry
- †Thursday, January 22: Blood Drive, 3:00-7:00pm, Hall
- †Jan. 25/26 & Jan. 31/Feb. 1: Order snack packs
- †Sunday Feb. 1: Coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass — NCYC "Thank You" Breakfast and donuts after 10am Mass.
- †Saturday, February 7: Chili Cook-off and Cinnamon Roll contest following 5:00pm Mass, Social Hall.
- †Weekend of Feb. 7/8: Pick up Snack Packs after Masses

Snack Time

You don't want to miss our S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group's snack packs! Order forms will be available in the pews Jan. 24/25 and Jan. 31/Feb. 1. Ordered snack packs will be distributed February 7/8. *Thank you for supporting the young Church!*

NCYC "Thank You" Breakfast

Please join us for this breakfast Sunday, Feb 1 following 10:00am Mass. We're serving Andrea and Melissa's famous breakfast burritos along with donuts. Plan to attend and allow the NCYC participants to serve you. We would like to show our appreciation for all your prayers and financial support. We will also celebrate our new Parish members at this breakfast.

Poinsettias

These flowers from St. Mary have found a new home at Sunny View Nursing Home in Ankeny—the residents love their bright and beautiful color!

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

Thank you to the parents who attended our First Communion meeting. If you missed the meeting and haven't reached out to me, please do so as soon as possible.

Upcoming Sessions

Jan. 21 & 28 and Feb. 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 Sessions: Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 11 & 25

—no Edge Feb. 18, Ash Wednesday; please attend Mass with your Family.

Confirmation 9th & 10th Graders, Sessions in Youth Room

Sunday, Jan. 25: 11am-12:30pm, 10th grade only session.

Wednesday, Jan. 28: 6-7:30pm, Family session, Social Hall

S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group — Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm,

Youth Area, 9th-12th graders

Gatherings: Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 11 & 25

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.

2026 Youth Tithes

Children are encouraged to take a tithe packet located on the table, and on the paper provided, write their name by the number of the packet they have taken. We thank the children for their involvement in the Parish!



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.

YOUTH 2000 Retreat - February 13-15, 2026

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

This Lent

Fridays of Lent we pray the Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm followed by a Lenten meal in the Social Hall. Please think about leading the Stations one Friday or hosting a meal on Friday, February 27, March 13 & 27. A signup will be available at St. Mary the weekend of Jan. 31/Feb. 1 or email the Office to volunteer or if you have questions. Thank you! Knights of Columbus fish fries are Feb. 20, March 6 & 20.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

January 11 Budget Week 28

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$2,710	\$5,536
Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund		
Received	Budget	Last Year
\$167,326	\$154,996	\$156,2052
Mass Attendance:	Jan. 10/11: 283	

Feeling sorry for someone is okay.

Helping him is better.

Councils and Committees

PARISH COUNCIL

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@lisaschoening.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

STEWARSHIP COMMITTEE

Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com
Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks1@hotmail.com
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kris LeRoy - k1sturtz@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@hrlnd.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@midowa.net
Lowell Crouse - 13jl@windstream.net
John Freeman - johnfmindo@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

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.

Pay It Forward!



Have you ever received a random act of kindness? Pay it forward by helping provide a meal at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter in Des Moines on the second Sunday of April, June, July, September and December. One or more families or groups can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal (number for the meal varies) to the Shelter. *To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Stacey Rooney, rooneyslg17@gmail.com / 515-490-5034.*

Ministers for Jan. 24 & 25 and Jan. 31 & Feb. 1

Saturday, January 24, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Lisa Jones
Host Distributor	Linda Froehlich
Cup Bearers	Lisa Jones, Tom Froehlich
Ushers	Doug Jones, Mike Power
Music	Drew Hanlon, Maggie Bruce

Sunday, January 25, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Anne Davis
Cup Bearer	Dawn Beukema
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Usher	Todd & Jill Beukema
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, January 25, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Garrett McClain
Host Distributor	Tracy Miller
Cup Bearers	Garrett McClain, Angela Collum
Altar Servers	David & Elizabeth Collum <i>Cross Bearer: Aubrey Conover</i>
Ushers	Andrew Cory & Gregg Richwine
Music	Jen Linderblood, Mary Ortmann

Saturday, January 31, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Bob Selby
Host Distributor	Bob Selby
Cup Bearers	Susan Stillmunkes, Lisa Merten
Ushers	Bob & Jack Selby
Music	Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, February 1, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer	Jon Hand
Altar Servers	Claire & Oliver Hand
Usher	Jerry & Patty Hilton
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, February 1, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Greg Feldmann
Host Distributor	Julie Coash
Cup Bearers	Bob Coash, Greg Feldmann
Altar Servers	Gabe Miller, Rex Roberts <i>Cross Bearer: Jackson Cory</i>
Ushers	Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music	Garrett McClain, Accompanist needed

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Money Counters

January 18: Kathy Daup, Trish Morris
January 25: Sharon Morris, Sue White
February 1: Kathy Daup, Brenda Nehring



The world produces more than 14 million tons of styrofoam each year.

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.

Catholic Youth Camp



CYC is open to those entering 3rd grade through High School. Details and registration at www.stmcenter.com. *Our Parish will contribute \$100 toward the camp fee for each child of our Parish.* Contact the Parish Office at bliske@saintmaryhc.org / 515-367-2685 with the dates your child is attending to have this portion of their fee paid.



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

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, January 17 & 18

Theme: God's plan in Christ begins to unfold in human history.

Reading I: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 • I will make you a light to the nations. To the ends of the earth.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 • Grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: John 1:29-34 • Now I have seen for myself.

Question for Children: If someone were to ask you, "who is Jesus?" how would you answer?

Question for Youth: How are you able to see through all the busyness, the distractions, and the din of today's world to really see Christ as he makes himself present today? Where do you see him or experience his presence?

Question for Adults: In the Gospel today, John tells us who Jesus is for him. If someone were to ask you, how would you answer this question: Who Jesus is for you?

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, January 24 & 25

Theme: Jesus calls us to follow him; our lives will never be the same.

Reading I: Isaiah 8:23-9:3 • The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17 • Let there be no factions among you.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23 • Come with me.

Question for Children: How do you hear Jesus calling you to do what he wants you to?

Question for Youth: Jesus calls you to follow him in particular ways, both big and small. What are some of the small ways he calls you to follow him?

Question for Adults: How do you know what God wants of you in assisting to the building up of the Reign of God?