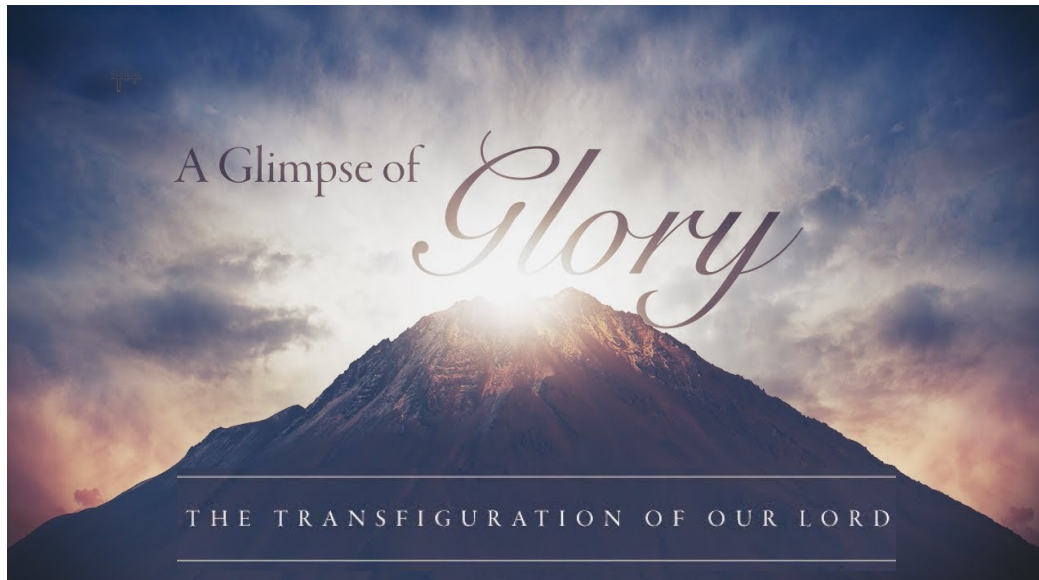




# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



## Second Sunday of Lent

February 24/25, 2024

Dear Good People,

I hope this letter finds you well. I pray all of our Lenten journey has gotten off to a great start. The second Sunday of Lent we always hear the gospel of the Transfiguration of Jesus on Mt. Tabor. As Jesus's time of temptation in the desert foreshadows His eventual victory on the cross, the Transfiguration foreshadows the resurrection.

Again, please continue to pray for our RCIA candidates and catechumens as well as the RCIA team. Please also pray for our young people who are preparing to receive the sacraments of reconciliation, first holy communion, and confirmation.

Finally, we are going to schedule some extra time for reconciliation next month, so please be aware of that. I also really need to make some seminary visits so I will plan on doing that in April. Please pray for Deacon Mike Mahoney and Deacon Luis Cabrera as they prepare for priesthood ordination in June. Exciting things are happening!

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

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*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 dies. Parishioners near death have expressed the comfort they experience knowing the Parish Community is praying for them. Please join us in this sacred prayer.*

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<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Parish General Email</b>	<a href="mailto:smhc@saintmaryhc.org">smhc@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor</b>	515-367-2685/ <a href="mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org">rparker@dmdiocese.org</a>
<b>Nicole Cory - Confirmation</b>	<a href="mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org">ncory@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	<a href="mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org">afisher@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	<a href="mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org">mkahler@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Barb Liske - Secretary</b>	<a href="mailto:bliske@saintmaryhc.org">bliske@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE</b>	<a href="mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org">gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE</b>	<a href="mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org">tmiller@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Sue Harrington - Music</b>	<a href="mailto:sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org">sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper</b>	<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org">bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Parish Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.saintmaryhc.org">www.saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Parish Facebook Site</b>	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
<b>Parish Fax</b>	515-367-7028

### 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.

**Rite of Christian Initiation:** Please contact Fr. Parker

**Marriage:** Contact the office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

**Priesthood/Religious:** [www.vocationonline.org](http://www.vocationonline.org)

## Mass, Reconciliation and Lenten Offerings

### Tuesday, February 27

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Edward & Jessie Ross

### Wednesday, February 28

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Jack Bailey

### Thursday, February 29

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

### First Friday, March 1

— Abstain from meat

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Kay Ross

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

### Saturday, March 2

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Bill Devereux

### Sunday, March 3

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. We are glad you are here!

## Pastoral Assistance

In case of an emergency contact Fr. Ross Parker, 515-720-3434. If a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit please contact Fr. Parker at [rparker@dmdiocese.org](mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org).

## How's Your Lent Going?

Grow your personal faith by participating in Stations of the Cross...Sacrament of Reconciliation...attending weekday Mass...quiet prayer time in the church...use of reflection booklets in the vestibule...fasting...almsgiving. May we all strive to grow in relationship with Jesus our Lord.

The Diocese also has suggestions for making this Lenten season come alive within your home and family. Lent is a good opportunity to take part in activities that deepen our understanding of Jesus. Check out their *Living Lent* ideas for prayers, projects and more at [dmdiocese.org/living-lent](http://dmdiocese.org/living-lent).



## Stations of the Cross

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

Following the Stations on March 8 & 22 we have a Lenten meal and fellowship.

We are looking for someone to lead these Stations on March 15. Please contact the office to volunteer.

## Fish Frys

The Knights of Columbus are serving their Lenten fish frys! Please join them March 1 & 15. Serving from 5:00 to 7:00pm; free will donation. Please contact Jon Hand if you would like to help, 515-291-8814 or [jon79hand@gmail.com](mailto:jon79hand@gmail.com).

## Church Sign

A clean conscience makes a soft pillow.

## Lenten Prayer

God of Love,  
through this Lenten journey,  
purify my desires to serve you.  
Free me from any temptations  
to judge others,  
to place myself above others.  
Please let me surrender  
even my impatience with others,  
that with your love and your grace,  
I might be less and less  
absorbed with myself,  
and more and more full of the desire  
to follow you,  
in laying down my life  
according to your example. Amen.



## Parish Council

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

## Finance Council

Meeting: February 27, 6:30pm, Social Hall

## Stewardship

Meeting: March 18, 6:00pm, Ed Center

## RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Gatherings: Sundays now through April 28, 11:00am-1:00pm, location varies

## Knights of Columbus

March 18, Rosary, 6:40pm SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

## Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 6, Alleman, Baxter, Des Moines, Mingo, Mitchellville, Prairie City, Sheldahl, Slater

Fr. Parker does not have set office hours here at the parish.

To reach him please email, call or text:

[rparker@dmdiocese.org](mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org) or 515-720-3434.

## Coming Events

- † **Choir Practices for Easter Vigil Mass:** Feb. 25 after 10am Mass, Feb. 29, 6:30pm, March 5, 6:30pm, March 10, 11am, March 14, 6:30pm; March 24, 11am, St. Mary
- † **Fridays of Lent:** Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary.
  - Lenten meals March 8 & 22
  - Fish fry March 1 & 15
- † **Next Weekend:** Annual Diocesan Appeal Kick-off; Building & Grounds Fund Collection, Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass, Coffee and donuts after 8:00am Mass & 10:00am Mass (**need host!**)

## Easter Music News

Easter and spring are right around the corner. You are cordially invited to join our Easter Vigil choir. Practices are Sun. 2/25 after 10am Mass, Thurs. 2/29 6:30pm, Tues. 3/5 6:30pm, Sun. 3/10 11am, Thurs. 3/14 6:30pm and Sun. 3/24 11am, and last one hour. We will sing at the Easter Vigil 8:00pm Mass on Saturday, March 30. Singing is another form of prayer! So, if you like to sing and want to be part of our parish Easter choir, come check us out. For more information, please contact Sue Harrington, Music Coordinator, at [sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org) or 515-689-9949.

## Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

### Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, [gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org), 515-556-4150  
Tracy Miller, [tmiller@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org), 515-520-7981

Next Wednesday the 28th, we will be having an enrollment Mass for First Communion at 6:00pm. We will also have a Mass at 9:15am for the morning session. The early session will run late that evening and the late session needs to arrive for Mass at 6:00pm. If you have any conflicts please let us know as soon as possible and we will make other arrangements. Anyone from the parish is welcome to attend.

If you haven't paid your fee for this year, please do so as soon as you can! Thank you!

### Upcoming Dates

Feb. 28- Regular Sessions, Enrollment Mass: 9:15am & 6pm  
March 6- Regular Sessions  
March 13- No Sessions, Spring Break!

## S.T.O.R.M. Report: 7th - 12th Grade

### Coordinators

Melissa Kahler, [mkahler@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org), 515-290-2830  
Andrea Fisher, [afisher@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org), 515-240-5059  
Nicole Cory, [ncory@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org), 515-313-3014

**7th - 12th graders are invited to attend the movie *Cabrini*** on Sunday, March 10 in Altoona. We will meet at the theater at 11:15am. We have purchased group tickets and they will be given on a first come first served basis. Call or text Andrea Fisher to be put on the list.

### EDGE (7th & 8th Grades)

**Sessions:** March 6 & 20, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

### Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the first fish fry! There are still 2 more to volunteer for. We are also looking for volunteers for the Reading of the Passion on Good Friday. Please see the signups sent to your email to volunteer.

**-Sunday, Feb. 25:** 11:00am (after Mass) - 2:00pm, 10th Grade Teen/Sponsor Retreat, Social Hall

**-Wednesday, Feb. 28:** Des Moines Diocese Family Night at Brenton Skating Plaza 6:00-8:00pm

**-Sunday, March 10:** 11:00am (after Mass) - 12:00pm, 9th grade only session, Youth Room

### S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group (9th - 12th Grades)

**Gatherings:** March 6 & 20, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room

## Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

This Appeal is a unified effort of all Catholics to join together to further the mission and ministry of our diocesan Church. It provides more than \$4.7 million in essential support and over 70% of ministry and operational needs on an annual basis. Please prayerfully consider how you can support our Diocese as we strive to *Sow God's Spirit by Cultivating Connections in Christ*. Soon you will be receiving a letter or postcard in the mail asking you to give a gift to the ADA. Our parish goal is \$51,458.

## Help Us Put the Word of God in Our First Communicants' Hands

Cost is \$40 to sponsor one Bible and we have 17 that need sponsored. If you wish to sponsor a child please mail or drop off a check with "Bible" written in the memo to St. Mary's or Geneveve and Tracy will be available after Masses the weekend of March 2 & 3 with envelopes for those who wish to contribute in person. Thank you for prayerfully considering this lifelong gift to the children.

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 18 Budget Week 34

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$7,320	\$6,114

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$167,991	\$207,865	\$175,806

*Mass Attendance: February 17/18: 257*

**1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given**

## Councils and Committees

If you prefer to speak with one of our committee members instead of email, please contact the parish office for their phone number.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Celia Shedd, *Chair* - [hoyhill@partnercom.net](mailto:hoyhill@partnercom.net)  
Anne Davis - [annedavis06@gmail.com](mailto:annedavis06@gmail.com)  
Terri Hamm - [Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org](mailto:Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org)  
Drew Hanlon - [drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com](mailto:drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com)  
Kim Heger - [hegerkim91@gmail.com](mailto:hegerkim91@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Tammi McClain - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)  
Lisa Schoening - [lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com](mailto:lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com)

### FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Fisher, *Chair* - [Johnfisher@sienafastener.com](mailto:Johnfisher@sienafastener.com)  
Julia Coash - [jcoash@outlook.com](mailto:jcoash@outlook.com)  
Diane Gannon - [ddkgannon@gmail.com](mailto:ddkgannon@gmail.com)  
Laurie Phelan - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Bill Rooney - [1rooneybill@gmail.com](mailto:1rooneybill@gmail.com)

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - [katie.fredericks@mercyoneiowa.org](mailto:katie.fredericks@mercyoneiowa.org)  
Beth Hart - [mrsmatthart@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmatthart@gmail.com)  
Kris Sturtz - [klsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:klsturtz@gmail.com)  
Jen Linderblood - [jlinderb@yahoo.com](mailto:jlinderb@yahoo.com)  
Tammi McClain - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)  
Kathy Petersen - [katherine@huxcomm.net](mailto:katherine@huxcomm.net)  
Sue White - [charylmyron@q.com](mailto:charylmyron@q.com)

### BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Co-Chair* - [jroberts@huxcomm.net](mailto:jroberts@huxcomm.net)  
Scott Turczynski, *Co-Chair* - [ScottT@hrtind.us](mailto:ScottT@hrtind.us)  
Drew Hanlon - [drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com](mailto:drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com)  
Tim Miller - [millertimothyg@gmail.com](mailto:millertimothyg@gmail.com)  
Laurie Phelan - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Bill Schmitt - [isucui@isualum.com](mailto:isucui@isualum.com)  
Lynn Schreurs - [lschreurs@msn.com](mailto:lschreurs@msn.com)

### CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Pat Bishop - [pjbishop@midiowa.net](mailto:pjbishop@midiowa.net)  
Lowell Crouse - [l3jl@windstream.net](mailto:l3jl@windstream.net)  
Tracy Irwin - [irwin@partnercom.net](mailto:irwin@partnercom.net)  
Stacey Rooney - [rooneyslg17@gmail.com](mailto:rooneyslg17@gmail.com)  
Tom Rooney - [roondog007@msn.com](mailto:roondog007@msn.com)  
Lynn Schreurs - [lschreurs@msn.com](mailto:lschreurs@msn.com)  
Larry Shaw - [shawcattle77@gmail.com](mailto:shawcattle77@gmail.com)

### PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - [fogarty929@gmail.com](mailto:fogarty929@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)

### PARISH HISTORIAN

Larry Sauer - [sauerld@outlook.com](mailto:sauerld@outlook.com) - 515-710-2421

### PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

John & Peg Evans - [evansp3@yahoo.com](mailto:evansp3@yahoo.com)

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Mike Devereux - [devoducks@msn.com](mailto:devoducks@msn.com)

## Laudato Si

Washing dishes by hand rather than using a dishwasher saves energy and water. If you opt for the dishwasher, try to at least skip pre-rinsing — a good detergent will get your dishes just as clean and you can save as much as 20 gallons of water per load. See more at:

<https://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>.

## Lenten Reconciliation

Father Parker has scheduled additional individual time for Reconciliation at St. Mary:

Wednesday, March 20, 6:00-7:30pm

Thursday, March 21, 6:00-7:30pm

*Reconciliation Services at other parishes:*

Wednesday, February 28, 6:00pm, St. Joseph, Des Moines

Wednesday, February 28, 6:30pm, Assumption, Granger

Sunday, March 3, 2:00pm, St. Mary of Nazareth, Des Moines

Sunday, March 3, 4:30pm St. John, Adel

Wednesday, March 6, 6:30pm, St. Augustin, Des Moines

Sunday, March 17, 4:00pm, St. Pius X, Urbandale

Wednesday, March 20, 6:30pm, St. Theresa, Des Moines

Thursday, March 21, 7:00pm Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, Ankeny

Thursday, March 21, 7:00pm, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona

## Old Palms

There is a container in the vestibule at St. Mary and in the entryway at Holy Cross if you would like us to dispose of your blessed palms from last year.

## End of Year Statements

Please email Candy, [bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org), to have your statement emailed or mailed to you.

Find events and resources offered by the Diocese and other parishes at [www.dmdiocese.org](http://www.dmdiocese.org), then scroll to the end of the page.

## Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

### Saturday, March 2, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Kris Sexton  
Host Distributor Bill Sexton  
Cup Bearers Mike Devereux, Kris Sexton  
Altar Servers Jack & Tommy Selby  
Ushers Mike Devereux, Doug Jones  
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

### Sunday, March 3, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Sheri Fogarty  
Cup Bearer Tony Kuehn  
Altar Servers Titus & Zeke Weber  
Ushers Mike Veasman  
Music Drew Hanlon & Stacey Rooney

### February March 3, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Jill Swanson  
Host Distributor Mike Nehring  
Cup Bearers Jill Swanson, Greg Feldmann  
Altar Servers Jon & Marcus Larsen  
Ushers Tom & Jacki Ausman  
Music Garrett McClain, Karon Lacey, Laura Kutscher

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## Money Counters

February 25: Kathy Daup, Sue White

March 3: Sharon Morris, Kathy Daup



Recycling one glass bottle or jar saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours.

## Could You Help Your Parish By...

*Hosting any of the following events:*

- Coffee and donuts after 10:00am Mass on the first Sunday of **March, April, June or July**
- Coffee and donuts after 8:00am Mass on the first Sunday of **April through July**
- Wine & Cheese after Mass on the first Saturday of **May, June or July**

*If you have not hosted before, we can pair you up with someone who has. Please contact the parish office with questions or if willing to help. Thank you!*

## 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](mailto: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.*

## 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").

## Lenten Taize Service

Please join us Monday, March 11, 7:00pm at St. Catherine of Siena Parish (1150 28th St. DSM). A Taize service is a time to rest in God. There is no preaching, no teaching, just a quiet meditative service with chants, songs and Lenten scripture readings in a candlelit atmosphere. Everyone is welcome.

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Second Sunday of Lent, February 24/25

*Theme: Seeing Jesus*

*Reading I:* Genesis 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18 • Because you trusted me, I will bless you greatly.

*Reading II:* Romans 8:31-34 • Who can be against us?

*Gospel:* Mark 9:2-10 • He was transfigured before their eyes!

*For Children:* Name or draw a picture of a time you knew that Jesus was with you.

*For Youth:* The disciples had a very intense experience of Jesus on the mountain. Have you ever had a "mountain top" experience? What was it like for you?

*For Adults:* In what ways does Jesus speak today, ways in which you can truly "listen to him?"