



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

February 17/18, 2024

Dear Good People,

I hope your Lent is off to a great start. We had a wonderful turnout for our Ash Wednesday masses. There is always something that stirs in us at the beginning of Lent. I think it is a stirring that reminds us that we all need to return to the Lord. The imposition of ashes is a powerful outward symbol that we are dust and unto dust we shall return.

As I am writing this, we are also preparing for our first fish fry. Please come support the brother Knights and attend the fish fry's if you are able. Also, a reminder that we have stations of the cross at 6PM on Friday's as well. What a wonderful opportunity to spend some time in prayer contemplating our Lord's way of the Cross. You can come enjoy some fish and then spend some time in prayer. What a wonderful opportunity!

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

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.

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
Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org
Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE tmiller@saintmaryhc.org
Sue Schmidt - Music sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org
Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org
Parish Web Site www.saintmaryhc.org
Parish Facebook Site St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
Parish Fax 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.vocationsonline.org

Mass, Reconciliation and Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, February 20

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Deacon Dave Bartemes

Wednesday, February 21

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

Thursday, February 22

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mark Burke

Friday, February 23

— Abstain from meat

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Helen Koch

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

Saturday, February 24

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Lorraine Campbell

Sunday, February 25

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. 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.

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.

Your Lenten Journey!

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.



Stations of the Cross

These began as the practice of 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 the fourteen stations currently found in almost every Catholic church.

We invite you to join us for these powerful Stations each Friday of Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary.

Come follow Jesus on his way to Calvary.

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.

Lenten Prayer

Lord,
I am not always eager to do your will.
I'd often much rather do my own will.
Please be with me on this Lenten journey
and help me to remember
that your spirit can guide me
in the right direction.
I want to overcome 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: February 20, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

Meeting: March 18, 6:00pm, Social Hall

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Gatherings: Sundays now through April 28, 11:00am-12:30pm, location varies

Knights of Columbus

Feb. 19, 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 or 515-720-3434.

Coming Events

- † **This Weekend:** Catholic Charities Food Pantry collection
- † **Fridays of Lent:** Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary.
 - Lenten meals February 23, March 8 & 22.
 - Fish fry March 1 & 15

Easter Music News

Easter and spring are right around the corner. Planning has started for our Easter Vigil choir. You are cordially invited to join us. Practices are Sun. 2/25 11am, 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. The choir 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, contact Sue Harrington, Music Coordinator, at sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org or 515-689-9949.

Could You?

Lead the Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm on Friday, March 15 or March 22? We have a choice of booklets from which to read. *To volunteer or for more information, please contact the office or sign up in the vestibule at St. Mary. Thank you!*

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org, 515-556-4150
Tracy Miller, tmiller@saintmaryhc.org, 515-520-7981

On February 28, 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

February 21- Regular Sessions
February 28- Regular Sessions, Enrollment Mass at 9:15am and 6:00pm
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, 515-290-2830
Andrea Fisher, afisher@saintmaryhc.org, 515-240-5059
Nicole Cory, ncory@saintmaryhc.org, 515-313-3014

EDGE (7th & 8th Grades)

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

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Sunday, Feb. 25, 11:0am (after Mass) - 2:00pm: 10th Grade Teen/Sponsor Retreat, Social Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 6:00 - 7:30pm: 9th & 10th grade family session, Social Hall

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

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

RCIA

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic or just learning more? If so, join us for RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). All are welcome! Gatherings are held Sundays 11:00am-12:30pm through April 28 (sign for location will be posted). Please contact Nicole Cory for more information, ncory@saintmaryhc.org, 515-313-3014.

Attention Families of 7-12th Graders

We've been invited to join the Des Moines Area Catholic Youth Ministries for a night of ice skating at Brenton Skating Plaza in Des Moines. You will find a flyer and permission form on the table in the vestibule at St. Mary. Please return the form to the vestibule once it is completed, preferably by Wednesday, February 21. If you have any questions please reach out to Nicole, Andrea or Melissa.

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.

If you currently do not receive parish emails, but your spouse does, and you would like to receive them, please call the office and we will add your name to the distribution list.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 11 Budget Week 33

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$2,820	\$6,114

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$160,671	\$201,752	\$165,927

Mass Attendance: February 10/11: 271
Ash Wednesday: 227

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
Anne Davis - annedavis06@gmail.com
Terri Hamm - Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhpcpc@yahoo.com
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Lisa Schoening - lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Fisher, *Chair* - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
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Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@mercyoneiowa.org
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
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Jen Linderblood - jlinderb@yahoo.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Sue White - charylmyron@q.com

BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Co-Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Scott Turczynski, *Co-Chair* - ScottT@hrtind.us
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Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Bill Schmitt - isucui@isualum.com
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Mike Devereux - devoducks@msn.com

Laudato Si

For summer picnics, try to use reusable cups, plates and cutlery. If you must use disposables, use a different color of marking pen for each person to prevent mix ups that cause more than one setting to be used per person. If possible, opt for compostable plates, cups and cutlery. See more at: <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>.

End of Year Statements

Please email Candy, bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org to have your statement emailed or mailed to you.

Please Consider Helping Your Parish By....

~Removing snow on the weekend and/or week day at St. Mary. Please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-46550958-sidewalk> to sign up or contact Bill Schmitt with questions, 515-291-8005/isucui@isualum.com.

~Hosting any of the following:

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

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

Automatic Debit (ACH) from your account once a month or **Online Giving through the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa.** For questions or to begin ACH, please contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org. For additional information for online giving, go to <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. Thank you!

Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

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

Lector	Linda Froehlich
Host Distributor	Linda Froehlich
Cup Bearers	Tom Froehlich, Susan Stillmunkes
Altar Servers	Jack & Tommy Selby
Ushers	Mike Devereux, Jim Hudson
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

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

Lector	Jackie Crouse
Cup Bearer	Laurie Phelan
Altar Servers	Nick Shedd
Ushers	Jerry & Patty Hilton
Music	Drew Hanlon & Stacey Rooney

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

Lector	Kris LeRoy
Host Distributor	Tracy Miller
Cup Bearers	Mike Nehring, Tim Loraditch
Altar Servers	Isaac, Jonah, Gabriel Miller
Ushers	Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music	Jen Linderblood, Celeste Muehlenthaler

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Money Counters

February 18: Sharon Morris, Dona Cowman
February 25: Kathy Daup, Sue White



The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.

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.

Christ Our Life Conference

Exciting opportunity for Youth and their families! For youth 23 and under, FREE tickets are being made possible by generous donors. Families are encouraged to attend and enjoy the conference together. Adult tickets:\$ 30. To get your free youth ticket, register online at: ChristOurLifelowa.com. A ticket is required for admittance for all. **September 28 & 29**, Wells Fargo Arena. *Let's Believe... Live... and Celebrate Our Faith!*

Free tickets for High School & College Students, made possible by generous donors, to interact and hear these amazing world-class speakers in your own private breakout session:

- Jason Evert {Topic - Love or Lust}
- Sr. Josephine Garrett (Topic - The Choice)
- Q & A with Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, exorcist priest and Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, international
- Mary's Meals humanitarian

To get your free ticket, register online at: ChristOurLifelowa.com.

A ticket is required for admittance for all.

Saturday, September 28 only at Wells Fargo Arena

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").

Find events and resources offered by the Diocese and other parishes at www.dmdiocese.org. Scroll towards end of page.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

First Sunday of Lent, February 17/18

Theme: Reform your lives!

Reading I: Genesis 9:8-15 • I am setting my covenant with you forever!

Reading II: 1 Peter 3:18-22 • You are saved by your baptisms!

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15 • Jesus was sent by the Spirit into the desert.

For Children: What will you do this Lent to become more like Jesus?

For Youth: Lent gives us a chance to do things differently – to "go to the desert." How can you make Lent a time for growing in faith?

For Adults: What is the one area of your life which you most want to "reform" as you get ready to embrace the Gospel?