



# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 9, 2025

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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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Dear Good People:

My heart is truly joyful as we celebrated some outstanding events this past week. We welcomed Dan Harrington into our faith community, celebrated the Feast of the Presentation (normally do not get the chance to do this over the weekend), had the chili/cinnamon roll cook-off, welcomed new members to our parish, and had the blessing of the throats. I took a nice long nap on Sunday! The Chiefs are also in the Super Bowl for the third straight year!!!

I just want to give a giant thank you to the Stewardship Committee and to all who participated in the Chili/Cinnamon roll cook-off. It was truly a rousing success. Thank you to all who submitted entries and those like me who tried them.

Just a reminder to please continue to join me in praying for vocations. At this time, we are looking at six young men who will be joining seminary next fall. So big things are happening in that regard. The only issue is that the work in vocations pulls me away from here quite a bit, so I really appreciate your patience with that. Let us continue to pray for and to support one another. A.M.D.G. ~ Fr. Ross

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<b>Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor</b>	515-367-2685/ <a href="mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org">rparker@dmdiocese.org</a>
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<b>Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	<a href="mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org">mkahler@saintmaryhc.org</a>
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<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

### 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

**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:** Please contact Fr. Parker or Nicole Cory

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

## Mass and Reconciliation

### Tuesday, February 11

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

### Wednesday, February 12

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross *Healing for JoAnn Meusburger*

### Thursday, February 13

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Kay Ross*

### Friday, February 14

8:00am Mass, St. Mary *For Someone Special*

### Saturday, February 15

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Jack McDermott*

### Sunday, February 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](mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org).

## Super Bowl Snack Packs

The Super Bowl isn't the same without our S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group's "Super Bowl Snack Packs"! Ordered packs are available for pick up this weekend. We also have "Cash and Carry" snack packs available! Thank you for supporting the young church. Enjoy the snacks and the game!

## Diocesan Solidarity Fund Collection This Weekend

This fund assists our Diocese and Catholic Charities in responding to the immediate needs in the aftermath of any unfortunate disaster-related event in our local, and at times, global communities. Thank you for your support enabling us to be ready to help when disasters strikes.

## Mothers Prayer Group

Come gather with other mothers to pray for your children this Friday, January 10, 9:30am. We meet in the Youth Room in the Ed Center. Children welcome. Grandmothers also welcome to pray for your grandchildren. Questions: please call/text Andrea Fisher at 515-240-5059.

## Food Pantry Collection

Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass next weekend; we will also take up a monetary collection. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing with those needing a little help along the way. Your donation will assist Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

## Prayer

Creator God, Life is your gift to me.  
Through Baptism, You invite me to share  
the gift of my life in service to others.  
Be with me as I choose each day  
to show your presence in our world.  
Give me the courage and generosity  
to respond to your love, to your call.  
I pray especially for priests, brothers, sisters  
and all those who endeavor to serve You  
in witnessing to the Gospel.  
Keep them close to You.  
Open the minds and hearts of many others  
that they may accept your challenge  
to build the Kingdom. Amen.

### Parish Council

Next meeting: Feb. 18, 6:30pm, Social Hall

### Finance Council

Next meeting: Feb. 25, 6:30pm, Social Hall

### Stewardship

Meeting: February 10, 6:00pm, Ed Center

### Adult Faith Formation

No upcoming events

### Knights of Columbus

Meeting: February 17, 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](mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org) or 515-720-3434.

## Coming Events

- †**This Weekend:** Diocesan 2nd collection for Solidarity Fund — pick up ordered snack packs after Masses
- †**Friday, Feb. 14:** St. Monica's Mothers Prayer Group, 9:30am, Youth Room, Ed Center
- †**Weekend of Feb. 15 & 16:** Collection for Catholic Charities Food Pantry
- †**Sunday, Feb. 16:** NCYC parent/teen Informational Meeting, Social Hall

## NCYC Informational Meeting: February 16

If you are an 8th - 11th grader and want to grow closer to God and stronger in your Catholic faith, plan to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference in November 2025! This conference is a bi-annual event which gathers teens from across the country and invites the youth to encounter Christ, experience the universal church and become empowered for discipleship. This event takes place in Indianapolis. Once again St. Mary-Holy Cross plans to take a group of 15+ teens on this amazing pilgrimage. We will have a parent/teen NCYC informational meeting on Sunday, February 16 in the Social Hall following 10:00am Mass. We will discuss the details, fundraising and past experiences of youth who have attended NCYC. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact Melissa Kahler, 515-290-2830 or Andrea Fisher, 515-240-5059 soon to claim one of our reserved spots.

## Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

### Coordinator

Tracy Miller, [tmiller@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org), 515-520-7981

Next Wednesday we have our First Communion enrollment Mass at 9:00am and 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to come celebrate Mass with us. Please pray for the children who are feeling called to the Lord's Table this year.

Bible fundraiser for the children receiving First Eucharist this year: If you would like to donate a Bible to a child, the cost is \$40 and a check can be mailed to the office with "Bible" in the memo. Each Bible has a leather cover and has the child's name engraved on it. It is truly a treasure to them and we are so thankful for all those who support this fundraiser.

### Session Cancellations:

Email will be sent by 7:00am Wednesdays for the morning session and by 2:00pm for the evening sessions. We follow North Polk School District for delays and closings.

### Upcoming Sessions

February 12 - regular sessions with First Communion Enrollment Mass at 9:00am and 6:30pm  
February 19 & 16 - Regular sessions

## 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

**EDGE** (7th & 8th Grades), 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall  
Sessions: Wednesdays, Feb. 12 & 19

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

Sunday, Feb. 9: 11:00am - 12:30pm, 9th grade gathering, Youth Room  
Sunday, Feb. 23: 11:00 - 12:30pm, 10th grade gathering, Youth Room  
Wednesday, Feb. 26: 6:00 - 7:30pm, Confirmation family Session, Social Hall

**STORM Youth Group** (9th-12th): 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room  
Gatherings: Wednesdays, Feb. 12 & 19

## Try Something New This Upcoming Lent

We plan to have our Lenten meals on Fridays during Lent after the 6:00pm Stations of the Cross, and are looking for hosts for March 14 and 28.

How about leading the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 7, 14, 21, 28 or April 4? We have a choice of booklets from which to read.

Please consider getting involved in your parish in one of these ways! For more information, please email the office or sign up in the vestibule at St. Mary. Thank you!

## An Opportunity To Meet Other Parishioners!

Hosting wine & cheese or coffee & donuts is a great way to meet and get to know other parishioners! Hosting dates available for wine & cheese are the first Saturday of March, May and beyond. Hosting dates available for coffee & donuts after 10:00am Mass are the first Sunday of March and beyond. Hosting dates for coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass are available April and beyond. *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 host one of these months! Thank you for considering this request!

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	\$2,697	\$5,511	January 26
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$7,081	\$5,511	February 2
Year-to-Date			
	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$177,263	\$176,341	\$153,188

Building Fund Collection: \$1110.10

### Mass Attendance

January 25/26: 284  
February 1 & 2: 333

## Councils and Committees

### PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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)  
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Bill Kyle - [bill@northiowaair.com](mailto:bill@northiowaair.com)  
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Lisa Schoening - [lisa@liskaschoening.com](mailto:lisa@liskaschoening.com)

### FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Julia Coash - [jcoash@outlook.com](mailto:jcoash@outlook.com)  
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Bill Rooney - [1rooneybill@gmail.com](mailto:1rooneybill@gmail.com)  
Tom Rooney - [roondog007@msn.com](mailto:roondog007@msn.com)

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - [katie.fredericks@mercyoneiowa.org](mailto:katie.fredericks@mercyoneiowa.org)  
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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@hrtlnd.us](mailto:ScottT@hrtlnd.us)  
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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)  
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### 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

Try to limit the use of disposable wet wipes, which are sold for a variety of purposes. Many are made with plastics or synthetic fibers that can disintegrate into micro-plastics that become harmful to wildlife in aquatic environments. Some wipes also have been shown to damage sewer systems. Search the internet for instructions on making reusable wet wipes for various purposes around your home. *See more at:* <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>

## January Blood Drive Results

- 18 people on the schedule going into the drive
- 16 registered to donate
- 12 were able to donate — with 1 first time donor
- 14 units of blood collected!!!
- Up to 42 lives saved or sustained!!!!

Thanks to all who donated and to everyone involved in the planning, food donations, food servers and set-up/tear-down. You are very much appreciated!

## 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](mailto:bliske@saintmaryhc.org) or 515-367-2685.



## 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 TV channels 5, 8 and 17.

## Liturgical Ministers for February 15 & 16

### Saturday, Feb. 15, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Candy Miller
Host Distributor	Susan Stillmunkes
Cup Bearers	Lisa Schoening, Drew Hanlon
Ushers	Jim Hudson, Bob, Jack & Tom Selby
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

### Sunday, Feb. 16, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Anne Davis
Cup Bearer	Jon Hand
Altar Servers	Claire & Oliver Hand
Usher	Sandra Hunter
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

### Sunday, Feb. 16, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Garrett McClain
Host Distributor	Jill Swanson
Cup Bearers	Garrett McClain, Mike Nehring
Altar Servers	Emma & Kate Swanson
	<i>Cross Bearer:</i> Cora Swanson
Ushers	Andrew Cory, Gregg Richwine
Music	Christine Muehlenthaler, Karon Lacey, Stacey Rooney

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## Money Counters

Feb. 9: Trish Morris, Sue White  
Feb. 16: Kathy Petersen, Dona Cowman



The U.S. food waste equates to 346 pounds per person, per year—that's like every person throwing 975 average sized apples right into the garbage — or rather right into landfills, as most discarded food ends up there.

## Caring For a Loved One with Memory Loss

Via Zoom on Saturday, February 15, 9:00am to Noon. Listen to three short presentations from panelists, along with personal stories of family members. There will be time for questions. All are welcome; this event will provide information to all those called to caregiving for a loved one. Register at <https://bit.ly/2025EfMEEvent>. For questions or additional information, please contact parishioner Marion Panyan at 515-321-6395 or [panyanmarion@gmail.com](mailto:panyanmarion@gmail.com).

## You Better BELIZE It!

Last summer, Natalie Shedd and a couple of her classmates decided that Baxter High School needed a service learning trip. They collaborated with a teacher who connected them to a company that specializes in service learning. The four high schoolers developed a trip and plan. They presented this to the school board and were approved. Several students, parents, and teachers including Natalie and Celia Shedd will be traveling to Belize in early March. They will be working with students with learning needs at Stella Maris Primary School, and helping build a playground at Brighter Tomorrow Preschool. Belize is a country of high need.

If you would like to contribute to this trip/project, there are posters in both church buildings with a list of items requested and directions on how to give money to help with trip costs including the cost to check bags with the requested items. Thank you for considering this!



## Snow Removal

We have the equipment for snow removal at St. Mary but need people power! Sign up to help out at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-54094559-sidewalk>. Please contact Bill Schmitt, 515-291-8005 or [isucui@isualum.com](mailto:isucui@isualum.com) with questions. Thank you!

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

This Weekend is like winter because it's a weekend full of fresh air and a time to rejoice in the beauty of marriage and family and to rekindle communication and enjoy a weekend away. For more information call Denise and Greg at 563-920-9419 or register at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org). Upcoming dates: April 25 - 27 in Epworth and September 12 - 14 in Dubuque.

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 9

Theme: We are continually invited to follow Jesus.

*Reading I:* Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8 • Here I am! Send me.

*Reading II:* 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 • The grace of God is with us always.

*Gospel:* Luke 5:1-11 • The apostles were called and so are we.

*For Children:* What is a way that you can follow Jesus?

*For Youth:* Following Jesus can mean leaving some things behind. What do you need to let go of to follow Jesus more fully in your life?

*For Adults:* When recently did God call you to do something that was difficult?