

# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073 Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Second Sunday of Advent December 9/10, 2023

Dear Good People,

I hope your Advent Season is starting off well. My biggest advice for Advent is kind of what I talked about in my homily last weekend. Let's remember to slow down and watch in expectation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. This time of year is filled with so much activity, and we can kind of miss the reason for the season if you will if we do not challenge ourselves to slow down and patiently wait with the Blessed Mother for the birth of Jesus. Another great way to engage with the season of Advent is to do a thorough examination of conscience and receive God's mercy in the searament of reconciliation.

With the theme of waiting, we are waiting to return to the Church after our renovations are complete. A major thank you to all who moved furniture and items around. I know it is a little inconvenient, but we will be happy when the project is completed. A giant thank you to our benefactor who is in charge of completing the project. I think our temporary set-up is working just fine. Thank you again for your patience with this. Again, a very blessed Advent to you and your families! 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 Parish General Email Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor Nicole Cory - Confirmation Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry Barb Liske - Secretary Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE Sue Schmidt - Music Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper Parish Web Site Parish Facebook Site Parish Fax

# Parish Information

515-367-2685 smhc@saintmaryhc.org 515-367-2685/rparker@dmdiocese.org ncory@saintmaryhc.org afisher@saintmaryhc.org mkahler@saintmaryhc.org bliske@saintmaryhc.org gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org tmiller@saintmaryhc.org sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org www.saintmaryhc.org St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart 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
2	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 and Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 1 5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross Thursday, December 14 8:00am Mass, Social Hall Friday, Dec. 15 8:00am Mass, Social Hall Saturday, December 16 4:00 - 4:30pm Reconciliati 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary Sunday, December 17	<ul> <li>+Ashley Carpenter and Mary Beth Bump</li> <li>+Msgr. Frank Chico</li> <li>+Leo &amp; Rosemary Overmohle</li> <li>fon, St. Mary</li> <li>+Virginia Schmelzer</li> </ul>	O J The As tha You in t Gui and Illu and of p Ma
Sunday, December 17 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross 10:00am Mass, St. Mary	⁺Craig Hand People of the 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!

# <sup>•</sup> Pastoral Assistance

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.

# **Advent Reflection Resources**

We have a few book left on the table for you to choose from to help you along your Advent journey. This is a time of looking forward and waiting, both for celebrating Christ's birth and for the time when He comes again.



### Ladies Christmas Gathering!

Join us Monday, December 11 for 6:00pm Mass followed by a potluck and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share. We'll enjoy each others company and sing a few carols. We will collect personal items for The Blessing Box if you wish to donate items. Thank you and hope to see YOU there!



We offer you the opportunity to remember your loved ones by donating towards the flowers that will decorate St. Mary and Holy Cross this Christmas season. A memorial list with the names of your loved ones will be printed in a future bulletin. Flower donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes; additional flower envelopes are on the table. Please return your donation by Sunday, December 17.

# Advent Reconciliation Times at St. Mary

Saturdays, 4:00-4:30pm, and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 20, 21, & 22 from 6:00 -7:00pm, or by appointment with Father Parker.

# Church Sign

### **Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!**

**Advent Prayer** 



Jesus.

e very thought of you brings light into our hearts. we await the celebration of your holy birth, are reminded of the brilliance of your love t dispels all darkness and fills our lives with hope. u are the true light shining he midst of our uncertainties. ide our steps, dear Lod, d led us on the path of righteousness. minate our minds with your wisdom, d let your radiant presence be a beacon peace in our troubled world. y we joyfully proclaim your light to all d share the gift of your love. Amen.

#### Parish Council

Meeting: January 16, 6:30pm, Social Hall

**Finance Council** Meeting, January 23, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship Meeting: January 8, 6:00pm, Social Hall

#### **Knights of Columbus**

Dec. 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 when he is here at the parish. To reach him, please email, call or text: rparker@dmdiocese.org or 515-720-3434.

### Coming Events

- Choir Practice: Dec. 12, 6:30pm, Dec. 17, after 10am Mass, & Dec. 21, 7:10pm
- Ceiling repair in St. Mary's Church through Dec. 15
- **Monday, Dec. 11:** Ladies Christmas gathering, 6:00pm Mass followed by food, fun and fellowship, St. Mary
- **Weekend of Dec. 16/17:** Food Pantry collection for Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter
- ✤ Sunday, Dec. 17: Social Hall in use 4:00-7:00pm

# Serve Homeless Children

Families of St. Mary – Holy Cross parish have been preparing a meal for homeless children and their families at the Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter on the second Sunday of each month for more than twenty years. Volunteers are needed in 2024 for March, June, July, August, September and December. One or more families or groups can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal (about 10 families up to 34 people) to the shelter in Des Moines. Up to 3 people can now prepare the meal on-site. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt that can be used for a tax deduction. This is the only homeless shelter in the Des Moines area that accepts complete families, both parents and children. To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza at kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687.

# In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jim, brother of Susan Genalo, who passed away December 6 with his family at his side. May he rest in peace and his family find peace and strength at this most difficult time.

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

# Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Masses

#### Dec. 23/24 Sunday Obligation Masses

Saturday, Dec. 23, 5:00pm, St. Mary Sunday, Dec. 24, 9:00am, St. Mary - No morning Mass at Holy Cross -

Sunday Christmas Eve Masses 5:00pm, St. Mary 7:00pm, Holy Cross Monday Christmas Day Mass 9:00am, St. Mary



#### Regular Weekend Mass Schedule for Dec. 30 /31

January I Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Holy Day, 9:00am Mass, St. Mary

#### Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

#### Coordinators

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

Next week we continue our preparation for Christmas by having Adoration and Confession in each session. This is a beautiful way to make straight a highway for our Lord, as we anticipate his coming at Christmas, and again at the time when God will be all in all, Parousia!

Our First Communion parent meeting is January 3, 6:30pm in the Social Hall. This meeting is required, if you are unable to attend, let us know so we can make arrangements to discuss the meeting at a later date! If you are planning to attend and haven't already emailed, please email Geneveve.

#### Upcoming Sessions

**December 13- Regular Sessions and Confession** December 20/27- No Sessions- Merry Christmas! January 3- First Communion parent meeting, 6:30pm Ed Center, No 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)

Sessions: Dec. 13, Jan. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 6:00-7:30pm, Hall

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

Sunday, Dec. 10, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 9th grade only session, youth room

Sunday, Dec. 17, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 10th grade only session, youth room

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6:00-7:30pm: 9th & 10th grade family session, Social Hall

STORM Youth Group (9th - 12th Grades) Gatherings: Dec. 13, Jan. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 7:30-9:00pm, Hall

#### Weekly Collection Financial Update Received Budget Tithes/Plate/ \$6.114 \$3.676 Nov. 25 Youth/Bldg. Fund \$7,084 \$6,114 Dec. 3

Year-to-Date Received Budget Last Year Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests \$102,768 \$140,615 \$110,286 Buildings & Grounds Collection: \$1141

Mass Attendance: Nov. 25/26: 216 Dec. 2/3: 242

#### 2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Pledged Paid Assessed Unpaid Amt. Due \$55,196 \$52,825 \$50,445 \$2,380 \$4,751

# 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 Terri Hamm - Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com Lisa Schoening - lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com

#### **FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mike Winders - President - mwinde59@yahoo.com Heidi Ackerman - heidimdittmer@gmail.com John Fisher - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com

#### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@commonspirit.org Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com Kris Sturtz - klsturtz@gmail.com 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 Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com Tim Miller - millertimothyg@gmail.com Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com Bill Schmitt - isucui@isualum.com Lynn Schreurs - Ischreurs@msn.com

#### **CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Laurie Phelan, Chair - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiowa.net Lowell Crouse - I3jl@windstream.net Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net Stacey Rooney - rooneyslg17@gmail.com Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com Lynn Schreurs - Ischreurs@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** Mike and Mary Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT** Mike Devereux - devoducks@msn.com

# Laudato Si

Know and closely follow local recycling/compost/trash rules. This can help to keep buyers of materials to be recycled (many in China) from rejecting material arriving from specific areas of the U.S. and sending it to the landfill.

#### See more at:

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

# 🖌 Prayer Chain

If illness or a crisis strikes your family or friends, don't hesitate to contact us so members of our Parish may offer prayers for those in need. *If the request is not for you, please ask permission of the one it is for, to be on our prayer chain.* To request prayers or to participate in our prayer chain, please contact the parish office, bliske@saintmaryhc.org.

#### Would You Be Interested?

We are forming a core team at our parish for the benefit of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). We are looking for other members of our parish to be part of this core team. The responsibilities would vary but would not be time consuming. Please join us for an informational meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 7:00pm in the Social Hall at St Mary. Please contact Nicole Cory with any questions you may have, ncory@saintmaryhc.org, 515-313-3014.

#### Donations for 2023

If you wish to have any donation included on your 2023 contribution statement, it must reach the Parish Office by Sunday, December 31 at 10:00am Mass. Monies received after this time, even if dated December 2023, will be credited as 2024 donations. The office will be open Wednesday, and Thursday December 27 & 28 and until Noon on Friday, December 29 to drop off those much appreciated last minute donations. Thank you.

#### Liturgical Ministers December 16 - January 1 are by sign up.

We have 12 Masses that we are asking for volunteers to serve as ministers. Please contact the office to volunteer. Thank you!

Dec. 16, Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Dec. 17, Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Dec. 17, Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Dec. 23, Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

No morning Mass at Holy Cross on Sunday, Dec. 24

Dec. 24, Sunday, 9:00am Mass, St. Mary

Christmas Eve, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Christmas Eve, 7:00pm Mass, Holy Cross

Christmas Day, 9:00am, St. Mary

Dec. 30, Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Dec. 31, Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Dec. 31, Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Jan. 1, Monday, Holy Day Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, 9:00am, St. Mary

#### Money Counters

**December 10:** Brenda Nehring, Sue White **December 17:** Kathy Daup, Trish Morris

Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles per hour. Each one takes 500 years to decompose.

# Food Pantry Collection

Our collection next week is for Catholic Charities Family Emergency Shelter. Your monetary donation will help them purchase the needed supplies for those staying there. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing with those who are having a difficult time.

### We Have Had a Little Bit of Snow...

And winter is coming eventually. We have a Signup Genius for coordinating snow removal of sidewalks, etc. at St. Mary. Please take a look at your calendar and see when you would be able to help out. Sign up here: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-</u>

<u>46550958-sidewalk</u>. Snow blower, shovels, ice melt and sand provided. You will be sent a list of activities at the church so you know what days and times will need to be shoveled. If you have any questions please contact Bill Schmitt, isucui@isualum.com / 515-291-8005.

Thank you in advance for helping our parish!

Many thanks to all who helped last year and a grateful thank you to Nick and Todd Volz for removing the snow from the parking lot at St. Mary and to Laurie Phelan for taking care of snow removal at Holy Cross each year. We appreciate you!!

#### **Retirement Fund for Religious**

This collection provides support for tens of thousands of elderly sisters, brother and religious order priests who ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more. Thank you for giving back.

Donation envelopes are on the table; please return your donation in the next few weeks.

# 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.

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**

#### Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 9/10

Theme: Preparing a pathway in our lives.

*Reading I:* Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 • Prepare the way of the Lord!

*Reading II:* 2 Peter 3:8-14 • Be holy in your conduct and devotion.

*Gospel:* Mark 1:1-8 • I send my messenger before you.

*Question for Children:* How do you experience God taking care of you, even in times of trouble?

*Question for Youth:* How can you be good news to your friends and family this week?

*Question for Adults*: When you hear Isaiah comfort the people by promising that God is like a shepherd who gathers the lambs into his arms, what is your response?