

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 sacrament 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 Information

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
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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.vocationonline.org

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 12

8:00am Mass, **Social Hall** †John & Janith Hutchinson

Wednesday, December 13

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

Thursday, December 14

8:00am Mass, **Social Hall** †Msgr. Frank Chico

Friday, Dec. 15

8:00am Mass, **Social Hall** †Leo & Rosemary Overmohle

Saturday, December 16

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Virginia Schmelzer

Sunday, December 17

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Craig Hand

10:00am Mass, St. Mary *People of the Parish*

Advent Prayer



O Jesus,

The very thought of you brings light into our hearts.
As we await the celebration of your holy birth,
we are reminded of the brilliance of your love
that dispels all darkness and fills our lives with hope.

You are the true light shining
in the midst of our uncertainties.

Guide our steps, dear God,
and led us on the path of righteousness.
Illuminate our minds with your wisdom,
and let your radiant presence be a beacon
of peace in our troubled world.

May we joyfully proclaim your light to all
and share the gift of your love. Amen.

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

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 books 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!

Christmas Memorials

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!

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 1 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/	\$3,676	\$6,114	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

Assessed	Pledged	Paid	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
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Lisa Schoening - lisa.schoening@cbdsms.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
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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

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Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

