

St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 4/5, 2023

Dear Good People,

I hope this letter finds you well. It is so hard to believe that we are heading into November and Advent is right around the corner! I am sorry I am a little behind on everything it seems like. I just wanted to extend the invitation to the RCIA program for this year. We are getting our team together and I think we will be meeting after 10 AM Mass. Please let me know if you would like to join this year.

Just an FYI for my schedule. It seems like my speaking engagements are on the rise so I will be traveling quite a bit in November giving talks. Please continue to pray for an increase in vocations.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who volunteered for our Blood Drive and to those who gave the gift of life. Secondly, I want to thank those who planned and are participating in the Work of Our Hands Festival. Finally, a big thank you to Janet Phelan and Pat and Diane Gannon for the popcorn balls and apples; to Jon and Michele Hand who provided us with sweet corn; and also to those who dropped off produce at St Mary's this summer. We are certainly well-fed! Blessings to all of you and your families. Let us remember to pray especially for our beloved deceased during this month. 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

Deacon Terry Schleisman 515-669-6158/digiterry@netscape.net

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 and Reconciliation

Tuesday, November 7

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

Wednesday, November 8

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †*Beryl & Peg Moreland*

Thursday, November 9

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †*Mary Ann Cory*

Friday, November 10

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †*Eunice Ives*

Saturday, November 11

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †*Harry & Mary Fisher*

Sunday, November 12

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †*Patrick Phelan*

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

Prayer for the Holy Souls

Immortal God, holy Lord,
Father and Protector of all You have created,
we raise our hearts to You today for those
who have passed from this mortal life.

In Your loving mercy, Father of all,
be pleased to receive them in Your heavenly company,
and forgive the failings and faults
they may have done from human frailty.

Your only Son, Christ, our Savior,
suffered so cruelly that
He might deliver them from the second death.
By his merits may they share in the glory
of His victory over sin and death.

May the merits and prayers of our Virgin Mother,
Mary, and those of all the Angels and Saints,
speak for us and assist them now.
This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

New Birth by Water and the Holy Spirit



Celebrate with us in welcoming into our Faith

Nathaniel Joseph
Son of Luke and Tracy Miller

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 or 515-367-2685 or Deacon Schleisman at 515-669-6158 or digiterry@netscape.net.

Book of Remembrance

You are invited to write in the names of your deceased loved ones to be remembered at our Masses this month.

This Weekend!

Enjoy a fun, relaxing time sampling food and finding out more about the goods and services provided by our parishioners at our Work of Our Hands Fall Festival this weekend: Saturday from 3:00 - 4:45pm and after Mass until 7:30pm and on Sunday after 10:00am Mass until 12:30pm. You'll find locally grown meat, eggs, and honey; handmade crafts; elegant and faith-oriented dinnerware; quality cookware and kitchen tools; natural skin care and professional makeup products; sustainable cleaning and personal care products available for purchase. See you at the festival!



Help With Veteran's Day Avenue of Flags

Could you assist with raising the flags at Holy Cross Saturday, Nov. 11, 10:00am and/or retiring them Sunday, Nov. 12 at 5:00pm? Each session is about 30 minutes. Please contact Lynn Schreurs at 515-577-8147 or lschreurs@msn.com, to volunteer or for more information. Thank you! *Note: Future flag prices for 2024 will be \$250.*

Parish Council

Meeting: November 21, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting, November 28, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: November 13, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Nov. 20, 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 at the parish. To reach him, please email, call or text:

rparker@dmdiocese.org/515-720-3434.

Coming Events

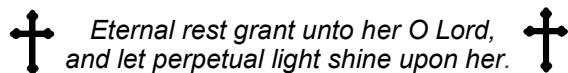
- † **This Weekend:** Work of Our Hands Festival, Saturday 3:00 - 4:45pm & after Mass until 7:30pm; Sunday after 10:00am Mass until 12:30pm — Buildings & Grounds collection — Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8:00am & 10:00am Masses — NCYC *Move the Bus* fundraiser after Masses (and next weekend)
- † **Weekend of Nov. 11 & 12:** Blessing of Veterans at Masses
- † **Thursday, Nov. 16:** Crafts, Games & Conversation, 9:00am, Social Hall

Fundraiser for NCYC Pilgrimage!

On Nov. 16, 18 SM-HC teens and adults will embark on an amazing pilgrimage to Indianapolis to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference. We will travel by charter bus 500+ miles to join 20,000 other Catholic teens and leaders. We have been blessed with support! With your generosity we have almost reached our financial goal. We will hold our fundraiser, "*Move the NCYC Bus*" after Masses this weekend and next. We ask that you prayerfully consider purchasing \$1 "ticket(s)" to sponsor "miles along the trip to Indianapolis". Stop by the tables after Mass to learn more! Thank you for your love, prayers and support! *God IS good, ALL the time!*

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patricia Schmitt, Mother of Bill Schmitt, who passed away October 27, and for her family that they find peace and strength at this most difficult time.



Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

We resume our time in RE this Wednesday with our regular sessions. We will begin preparing for the birth of Christ. We do this first by placing Jesus in time and space by studying the geography of the Holy Land. Next, through the prophecies and the infancy narratives, we explore the great mystery of Christ being born and what that means for us now, and at his return!

Upcoming Sessions

- November 8- Regular Sessions
- November 15- Regular Sessions
- November 22- No Session, Happy Thanksgiving!
- November 29- Regular Sessions

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

Grades 7-12 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

Nov. 8: Session 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall
No Session on Nov. 15, 22 or 29

9th & 10th Confirmation:

Saturday, Nov. 11 & Sunday, Nov. 12: 11:00am-2:00pm:
10th Grade only Sponsor/Teen Prayer Stations, Social Hall
Sunday, Nov. 12, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 9th grade
only session, youth room downstairs at St. Mary.
Sunday, Nov. 26, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 10th grade
only session, youth room downstairs at St Mary
Wednesday, Nov. 29, 6:00-7:30pm: 9th & 10th grade family
session, Social Hall

STORM Youth Group (9th - 12th Graders)

Gathering: Nov. 8, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room
No gathering on Nov. 15, 22 or 29

Music Notes

The Christmas season is right around the corner. We would like to have a choir for the Sunday Christmas Eve Mass. Please help us to bring the joy of music to this very special Mass. All ages and musical ability are welcome to join! We would love to have some children join us this year; if you participated in the Children's Masses as a cantor or choir member and like to sing, please join us.

The first practice is after Sunday 10:00am Mass on November 19; additional confirmed practice dates are Sundays, December 3 & 17 after 10am Mass and last approximately one hour. Additional evening practice dates will be determined by accompanist and choir member availability. For more information, please contact Sue Schmidt at sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

October 29 Budget Week 18

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$5,438	\$6,114

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$78,522	\$110,046	\$87,159

Mass Attendance: Oct. 28/29: 230

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 - drewsmhccp@yahoo.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com
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
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@hrtlnd.us
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhccp@yahoo.com
Tim Miller - millertimothyg@gmail.com
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
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Stacey Rooney - rooneyslg17@gmail.com
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

Mike and Mary Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Mike Devereux - devoducks@msn.com

Laudato Si

Recycle as much as possible. EPA figures show recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy used to make new ones from raw materials. The energy saving is as much as 70 percent when recycling steel and tin cans, 60 percent for paper and about 33 percent for glass and plastic.

See more at:

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

Pope and Bishop Call to Prayer and Advocacy

It's been 8 years since many of us gathered in the social hall for a meal and to be introduced to Pope Francis' letter to all people On Care for Our Common Home. On Oct. 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis released a follow-up letter, Laudate Deum, "to all people of good will on the climate crisis." You can read it on our parish website at saintmaryhc.org/climate-crisis.

An emphasis of this new letter is on those of us living in the United States and western society: "If we consider that emissions per individual in the United States are ... seven times greater than the average of the poorest countries, (LD 44) ... a change in ... (our) lifestyle... would have a significant long-term impact." (LD 72) Pope Francis calls us to **lead the needed transformation in our hearts, our homes, our Church, and our world that can result in urgent climate action.**

Our own Bishop William Joensen says in the October 20, 2023 Catholic Mirror, "I believe it is incumbent on all of us to take the Pope's words to heart in reflection and prayer ... and be ever more potent **advocates with leaders in various sectors of society to advance the needed changes in policy and practice** that will save our planet, and allow God to save us from ourselves." See more about Laudate Deum at saintmaryhc.org/climate-crisis.



Americans use 100 million steel cans and 200 million aluminum beverage cans every day.

Liturgical Ministers November 11 & 12

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Linda Froehlich
Host Distributor Tom Froehlich
Cup Bearers Lisa Jones, Linda Froehlich
Altar Servers Jack & Tommy Selby
Ushers Joe Rumbaugh, Doug Jones
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Anne Davis
Cup Bearer Tony Kuehn
Altar Server Nick Shedd
Usher Mike Veasman
Music Jen Linderblood, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Kris LeRoy
Host Distributor Jacki Ausman
Cup Bearers Tom Ausman, Garrett McClain
Altar Servers Jon & Marcus Larsen
Ushers Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music Garrett McClain, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

November 5: Sue White, Kathy Daup
November 12: Brenda Nehring, Sharon Morris
November 19: Dona Cowman, Kathy Daup

An Opportunity!

We are looking for volunteers to help with RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). If you are interested, please contact Nicole Cory, ncory@saintmaryhc.org, or Father Ross, rparker@dmdiocese.org.

Huxley Clothes Pantry

This pantry is manned by volunteers from various churches all year long. **Our parish is in charge of providing volunteers for December.** To help with a 2 hour shift on Wednesdays 5:00-7:00pm or Saturdays 10:00am-Noon or Sundays 1:00-3:00pm, please contact the parish office, 515-367-2685 or bliske@saintmaryhc.org. Thank you. The pantry is closed December 23, 24 & 31.

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.

Parish Council Nominations

As we look forward to 2024, the Parish Council wants to ensure the Council membership is representative of the parish community. Thus, the Council, in consultation with Father Parker, is beginning a discernment process for the appointment of new members. Attributes such as faithfulness, integrity, generosity, compassion, and actively deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ are desirable in all members of the Council. Skills for effective communication and listening, creative discernment and verbalization of a vision, and working collaboratively with others are essential elements. If you have anyone you would like to nominate (including yourself), please contact Father Ross or a Parish Council member at the parish office 515-367-2685. Application forms are posted on the parish website or available through Barb Liske in the parish office.

Catholic Youth Camp



Online registration begins Saturday, November 11! Spend a week of growing in faith and discipleship, having fun, playing games and making friends! Find out more and register at <https://stmcenter.com/registration>. Our parish pays \$100 of the camp fee for each child of the parish attending this camp; please notify the parish office when you have registered your child for CYC.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Nov. 4/5

Theme: True leadership is based on conversion.

Reading I: Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10 • Honor God with your best gifts. Be faithful one to another.

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13 • God's Word is at work in believers.

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12 • Seek God's honor, not your own honor.

Question for Children: How can you make the light of Christ shine through your life?

Question for Youth: What does it mean to humble yourself?

Question for Adults: Do you practice what you preach?