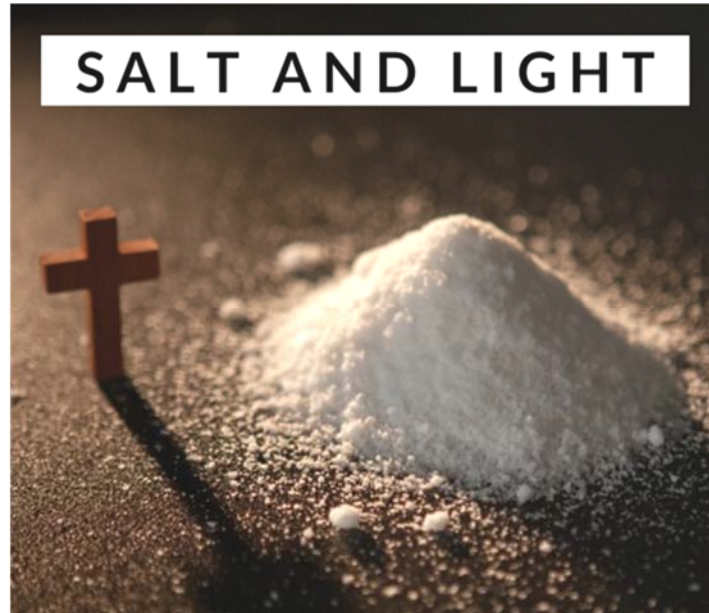




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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



Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 4/5, 2023

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. Michael Amadeo, Admin. 515-249-5015 / frmichael@olih.org
Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor (Feb. 7) 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

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

Baptism: Please contact the office.

Rite of Christian Initiation: Please contact the office.

Marriage: Contact the office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationonline.org

Mass, Rosary and Reconciliation

Wednesday, February 8

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Jim & Margaret Shaw
-Rosary prayed at 6:00pm, St. Mary

Thursday, February 9

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Anita Brendeland

Friday, February 10

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Bill & Joe Ross

Saturday, February 11

4:00-4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Jerry & Steven Hohn

Sunday, February 12

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Craig Hand

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

Prayer

*Lord our God,
keep us in your Spirit.
Surround us with your protection,
so that in body and soul
we may praise your might
and be joyful even in a world full of evil.
Shine into our hearts, that we may discern
what is right and good and eternal.
Wrap your loving arms around
those who still walk in darkness
far away from you;
and may your eternal mercy enfold them.
May the earth be filled with thanks to you,
the Creator and Father of us all.
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

In case of emergency contact Fr. Dan Krettek, 515-423-2888, through Feb. 6 and Fr. Ross Parker, beginning Feb. 7 at 515-720-3434. If a family member is in a care facility, homebound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit please contact Fr. Parker at rparker@dmdiocese.org or 515-367-2685.

Buildings & Grounds Collection

Thank you for your donations for this monthly collection. There have been a number of repairs that have needed to be made in the past 2 months. We had to replace a part in the elevator which was \$2,000. The office furnace was not working properly, so we invested \$1,050 recently for repairs which did not fix the issues. Three different contractors came to investigate and all of them suggested a full replacement, which we are having done. This will cost around \$4,200. We wanted to update you on money being spent from this committee. Again, thank you for your generosity and support for our parish needs.

Game Time Snacks!

The Super Bowl just isn't the same without our S.T.O.R.M. "Super Snack Packs!" Order forms are available at Mass this weekend and snack packs will be distributed after Masses February 11/12. Thank you for supporting our youth!

Ash Wednesday †

Join us as we begin our Lenten journey on February 22. Our Masses are 7:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary.

- Liturgical Ministers need for these Masses. Please sign up in the vestibule or contact the office to volunteer. Thank you.

Seeking Volunteers for Friday's During Lent

Would you like to lead the Stations of the Cross one Friday of Lent and/or host a Lenten meal on Friday, March 3, 17, or 31? Please consider getting involved in your parish in this way. A signup is at St. Mary or email the office, bliske@saintmaryhc.org, to volunteer or if you have questions.

Parish Council

Meeting: Feb. 21, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting, Feb. 28, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: Feb. 13, 6:00pm, Ed Center

Knights of Columbus

Mon. Feb. 20, Rosary, 6:40 SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations:

Team 4 from Bondurant and Altoona

Coming Events

- †**Weekend of February 4 & 5:** Buildings & Grounds Collection
- †**February Wine & Cheese and Donut Sunday:** Moved to Feb. 11/12 to welcome Fr. Ross Parker to our parish
- †**Snack Pack Orders and Pick Up:** Order this weekend; pick up next weekend
- †**Monday, February 13:** Hall in use 6:30pm
- †**Thursday, February 16:** Crafts, Games & Conversation, 9:00am in the Social Hall
- †**Weekend of February 18 & 19:** Collection for Catholic Charities Food Pantry — First Communion Bible Fundraiser after Masses

Thanks for Supporting the Ignite! Campaign

Thank you to our volunteers and parishioners who helped with the Ignite! Campaign. Your gifts allowed us to raise \$241,300 (67.03%) toward our goal of \$360,000. If you have not made a gift, you can pledge online at: dmdiocese.org/giving/ignite/give-now.

Help Us Put the *Word of God* in Our First Communicants' Hands

Cost is \$30 to sponsor one Bible and we have 19 that need sponsored. If you wish to sponsor a child please mail or drop off a check with "Bible" written in the memo to St. Mary's or Geneveve and Tracy will be available after Masses the week-end of February 18/19 with envelopes for those who wish to contribute in person. Thank you for prayerfully considering this lifelong gift to the children.

Religious Education

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

We are excited to begin the more intense part of preparation for First Communion. Children who are feeling called to receive Jesus in the Body and the Blood are being invited to sign up for First Communion Prep! This begins with Enrollment, writing their name in gold and placing it on our board to pray for the children. This is such a special part in the journey of the child and we invite you all to keep these children in your prayers.

Sessions

February 8/10 Regular Sessions
February 15/17 Regular Sessions (Enrollment)
February 22/24 Regular Sessions

S.T.O.R.M. Report

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 Dates (7th & 8th Graders)

Sessions: Feb. 8, March 1, 8, 22, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

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

Gatherings: Feb. 8, March 1, 8, 22, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area

Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator


Session: Wednesday, Feb. 15: 6:00-8:00pm, Social Hall

Saint Displays due for 10th graders at February session

End of Year Statements

To receive your year end statement, please email Candy, bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org or contact the office, 515-367-2685, with a request to email or print/mail your statement. In an effort to save money, we do not automatically mail out these statements to everyone.

Equipment Provided - People Power Needed!

 Can you help with weekend and/or week day snow removal of sidewalks, etc., at St. Mary? We have the equipment, but need the people power! Currently we have no volunteers. Thank you for considering helping your parish in this way! Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094ea4a722a2fb6-snow1#/> to sign up or contact Bill Schmitt with questions, 515-291-8005.

Fish Fries

St. Mary-Holy Cross Knights of Columbus are looking forward to serving their fish fries again this year from 5:00 to 7:00pm on Fridays February 24, March 10 & 24 in the Social Hall.

OLIH fish fries are March 3, 17 & 31, 5:00 to 7:00pm.

St. Luke's fish fries are March 3, 17 & 31, 4:30 to 7:00pm

Prayer Shawls

A prayer shawl is a soft warm reminder for people going through a rough time that they are not alone and that we are praying for you. If you know someone that could use the comfort of a prayer shawl, please contact Dona Cowman at 515-383-4482 or racefans@iowatelecom.net.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
Tithes/Plate/	\$2,517	\$5,944	January 22
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$6,479	\$5,944	January 29
<i>Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund</i>			
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
	\$162,352	\$178,324	\$176,170

Collection for Huxley Food Pantry: \$777.16

A good pill to swallow is your pride.

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 - thamm@mercydesmoines.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

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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - arlene@4andersons.com
Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@commonspirit.org
Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
Kelly Hoffmeier - nkhoff@msn.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 - drewsmhcpc@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
Karen Bellis - puzzlenuts@aol.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiova.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com
Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com
Larry Shaw - shawcattle77@gmail.com
Mary Winders - mefothergill@yahoo.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

Garrett McClain - gjmccclain69@gmail.com

Laudato Si

As much as 95 percent of clothes, shoes and linens thrown in the garbage could be reused or recycled. A number of local organizations will accept all clothes (except those that are wet, mildewed or contaminated with hazardous materials) — even damaged or mismatched items. To learn where you can take these items, see www.earth911.com

See *On Care for Our Common Home* at:

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

Prayer Chain

If illness or a crisis strikes your family or friends, please don't hesitate to contact us so members of our Parish may offer prayers for those in need. For requests or to participate in our Prayer Chain, please contact Barb, bliske@saintmaryhc.org / 515-367-2685. *If the request is not for you, please ask permission of the one it is for to be on our prayer chain.*

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit: Designate a monthly amount for withdrawal from your account on the 15th or 30th. If you have questions or would like to begin ACH, please contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org or find the form on the table at church or on the home page of our website.

Online Giving: Offered by the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa with this secure link: <https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/>. On the drop down choose *St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart* to make your donation. No fees! The Foundation sends gift receipt.

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 activities, it will be on TV channels 5, 8 and 17.**

Liturgical Ministers February 11/12

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Lorrie Hanlon
Host	Drew Hanlon
Cup Bearers	Mary Thomas, Lisa Schoening
Ushers	Glenn Hobin, Drew Hanlon
Music	Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer	Jon Hand
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Usher	Sandra Hunter
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Jill Swanson
Host Distributor	Mike Nehring
Cup Bearers	Greg Feldmann, Jill Swanson
Ushers	Gregg Richwine, Andrew Cory
Music	Jen Linderblood, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

February 5: Kathy Daup, Sharon Morris

February 12: Sue White, Trish Morris

SAY WHAT? More aluminum goes into beverage cans than any other product.

Men's CEW

Plan now to attend the Men's Christian Experience Weekend retreat at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny on February 17-19. The retreat, which begins Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon, is a great chance to grow in faith, meet new friends, take a break from busy schedules... and EAT! For more information or to register, please visit www.olih.org/cew-retreats.

Saint Blaise

Bishop and Martyr, c. early 4th Century



Bishop Blaise (sometimes spelled Blase) was martyred around 316 by order of Governor Agricolaus in Sebastea, Armenia, during Licinius' persecution of Christians. That is the only certain knowledge that we have about this saint.

According to legend, Blaise was born in Armenia to wealthy Christian parents and was made a bishop in his youth. He was known as a good bishop who encouraged the spiritual and physical health of his people. When the persecution of Christians began in Armenia, Blaise was forced to flee and went to live as a hermit in the back country, where he cured wild animals that were sick or wounded. One day, while seeking animals for the amphitheater, a group of hunters, came across Blaise kneeling in prayer in a cave surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions, and bears. Recognizing him as a Christian, the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison. On the way there, a mother came to him with her young son who was choking to death on a fish bone caught in his throat. Blaise cured the boy; thus, he later became the patron and protector of throats. Many Catholics in this country still have their throats blessed on St. Blaise's feast day, February 3.

Blaise's message today: All of God's creatures are entitled to our care and compassion. There are many people, young and old, who may not be able to look after their own needs. It is up to us to help them in whatever way we can.

*Are you aware of the needs in your own community?
What can you do to alleviate the suffering of others?*

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 4/5

Theme: We are all called to be children of the light.

Reading I: Isaiah 58:7-10 • True holiness is found in right relationships with one another.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 • Become transparent to let God's light shine through.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16 • Salt is another image of holiness, and saltiness is given by God.

Question for Children: What can you do to bring the light of Jesus into the lives of your family, friends, and people you meet?

Question for Youth: How do you feel when Jesus says that YOU are the salt of the earth and that YOU are called to be the light for others?

Question for Adults: What specific efforts do you take to maintain your light? Do you let your light dim? Why?