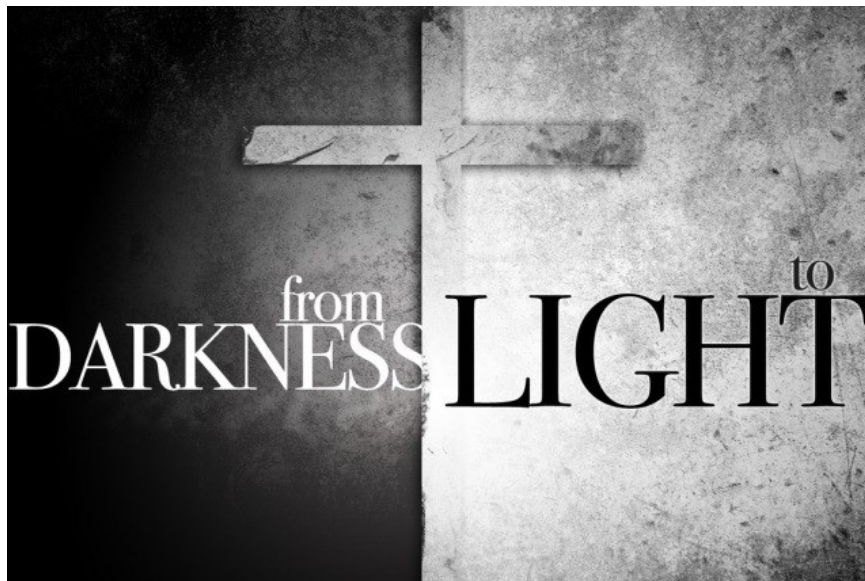




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 9/10, 2024

Dear Good People,

I hope this letter finds you well. Lent is flying by as usual. Sometimes we kind of fall off during this time and our Lenten resolutions start to wane. What a great opportunity to redouble our efforts.

I just wanted to say a word of thanks to the Knights of Columbus for their work on the Fish Fry's. They have been a rousing success. Secondly a big thank you to all who have provided our Lenten meals and have led the Stations of the Cross.

Finally, please continue to keep the RCIA candidates and catechumens in your prayers along with the RCIA team. We pray that all of them will be enlightened by the Holy Spirit as they prepare to be received into the Holy Catholic Church!
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
Nicole Cory - Confirmation ncory@saintmaryhc.org
Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry afisher@saintmaryhc.org
Sue Harrington - Music sschmidt@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
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, Reconciliation and Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, March 12

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †*Reed Benenate*

Wednesday, March 13

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †*Bill Davis*

Thursday, March 14

8:00am Mass, St. Mary *Special Intention*

Friday, March 15

— *Abstain from meat*

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †*Edward & Jessie Ross*

6:00pm *Stations of the Cross, St. Mary*

Saturday, March 16

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †*Lawrence & Beverlee Stokka*

Sunday, March 17

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross *People of the Parish*

10:00am Mass, St. Mary †*Mark Schmidt*


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 an 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.

There's Still Time!

If you had a slow start to Lent or are struggling, there is still time to finish strong — talk to God about it! 

Grow your personal faith and deepen your understanding of Jesus by participating in Stations of the Cross...Sacrament of Reconciliation...attending weekday Mass...quiet prayer time in church...use of reflection booklets...fasting...almsgiving. Check out the Diocesan *Living Lent* ideas for prayers, projects and more at dmdiocese.org/living-lent.

Lenten Reconciliation

Father Parker has scheduled additional individual times at St. Mary: **Wednesday, March 20, 6:00-7:30pm**
Thursday, March 21, 6:00-7:30pm



Easter Music News

Join our Easter Vigil choir! Practices are Sun. 3/10 11am, Thurs. 3/14 6:30pm, Tues. 3/19, 6:30pm, Sun. 3/24 11am, and Tues. 3/26, and last one hour. We will sing at the Easter Vigil 8:00pm Mass on Saturday, March 30. For more information, please contact Sue Harrington, Music Coordinator, at 515-689-9949 or sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org.

Bibles for First Eucharist Students

Thank you so much to everyone who has sponsored a Bible for the children preparing for First Communion! There are a few Bibles left to be sponsored, if anyone would like to still support these children. Any extra money donated will go towards supplies for the First Communion retreat. Money can be sent into the office marked Bibles.

Lenten Prayer

Loving God of forgiveness,
I come before you humbled and sad
in the face of my own repeated failings.
I hold out my hands as a petitioner would,
asking for mercy.
It is then that I feel you reach out
and take my hand in your loving grasp.
Thank you for the love
you pour out on me so lavishly.
Help me to follow more closely
in the path you have set for me,
the path of your Son. Amen.



Parish Council

Meeting: March 19, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: March 26, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: March 18, 6:00pm, Ed Center

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Gatherings: Sundays, 11:00am-1:00pm, location varies

Knights of Columbus

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

Coming Events

- † **Choir Practice for Easter Vigil Mass:** Mar. 10, 11am, March 14, 19 & 26, 6:30pm & March 24, 11am, St. Mary
- † **Fridays of Lent:** Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary. - Lenten meal March 22 and fish fry March 15
- † **Monday, March 11:** Social Hall in use 6:00 to 9:00pm
- † **Next Weekend:** Collection for Maxwell Food Pantry
- † **Thursday, March 21:** Crafts, Games & Conversation, 9:00am, Social Hall

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of reaching our assessment of \$51,458. Please prayerfully consider how you can support our Diocese, and our parish through Fr. Parker and the Vocations Office and mail your gift (checks made out to Diocese of Des Moines) to the Diocese or drop in the collection basket at Mass. You can also donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Thank you to those who have already made a gift!

Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus are serving their final Lenten fish fry this Friday, March 15. Serving from 5:00 to 7:00pm; free will donation. Please contact Jon Hand if you would like to help, 515-291-8814 or jon79hand@gmail.com.



TRIDUUM SERVICES

Holy Thursday, March 28

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, St. Mary
Adoration after Mass until 10:00pm, Social Hall

Good Friday, March 29

3:00pm Stations and Veneration of the Cross
Holy Cross

7:00pm Commemoration of the Passion of Jesus
St. Mary

Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30

8:00pm Mass, St. Mary (no 5:00pm Mass)

Easter Sunday, March 31

Masses: 8:00am, Holy Cross
10:00am, St. Mary

Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 3 Budget Week 36

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$6,417	\$6,114

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$176,354	\$220,093	\$185,144

Building Fund Collection: \$1,198

Mass Attendance: March 2/3: 271

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

Congratulations to all the children who enrolled in First Communion preparation. We are excited to accompany you on this journey. Next week is spring break, we hope you have a lovely time with your families. We return on the 20th ready to dive deeply into the last few days of Lent so as to prepare our hearts for Easter!

If you haven't paid your fee for this year, please do so as soon as you can! Thank you!

Upcoming Dates

March 13- No Sessions, Spring Break
March 20- Regular Sessions-Adoration and Confession
March 27- Regular Sessions
April 3- 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

7th - 12th graders are invited to attend the movie *Cabrini* on Sunday, March 10 in Altoona. We will meet at the theater at 11:30am. We have purchased group tickets and they will be given on a first come first served basis. Call or text Andrea Fisher to be put on the list.

EDGE (7th & 8th Grades)

Sessions: March 20, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the first two fish fry's! There is one more needing volunteers this Friday. We are also looking for volunteers for the Reading of the Passion on Good Friday. Please see the signups sent to your email to volunteer.

-Sunday, March 10: 11:00am (after Mass) - 12:00pm, 9th grade only session, Youth Room

-Sunday, March 24: 11:00am (after Mass) - 12:00pm, 10th grade only session, Youth Room

Wednesday, March 27: 6:00-7:30pm, 9th & 10th grade family session, Social Hall

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

Gatherings: March 20, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room

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
Anne Davis - annedavis06@gmail.com
Terri Hamm - Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com
Kim Heger - hegerkim91@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Lisa Schoening - lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Fisher, *Chair* - Johntfisher@sienafastener.com
Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@mercyoneiowa.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 - 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 - l3jl@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

John & Peg Evans - evansp3@yahoo.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Mike Devereux - devoducks@msn.com

Laudato Si

Visit how2recycle.info for ideas on how to recycle items that you can't put in your curbside recycle bin. For example, you will find that Target accepts plastic bags as well as plastic overwrap from products such as bathroom tissue and even plastic envelopes from online shopping deliveries.

See more at:

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

Catholic Relief Services Collection

This Diocesan collection supports agencies providing relief to suffering people worldwide as well as pastoral outreach and advocacy to improve lives. *Donation envelopes are at both Churches. Please return your donation in the collection basket or mail to the office.* Thank you for your support.

Holy Thursday Washing of Feet & Adoration

We invite 12 individuals to have their foot washed during this Mass on March 28. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows this Mass until 10:00pm in the Social Hall. A sign up for these is at St. Mary and Holy Cross or contact the Office to volunteer.



A Memorial Gift

We offer you the opportunity to remember a loved one by donating towards the flowers that will decorate St. Mary and Holy Cross Churches this Easter Season. A memorial list will be printed in a future bulletin. *Donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes and are also available on the table at St. Mary and in the entryway at Holy Cross. Please return your donation by March 25. Thank you.*

Liturgical Ministers!

You are invited to assist us with our Palm Sunday Masses, Holy Week Services and Easter Sunday Masses. A sign up is posted at St. Mary and Holy Cross, or contact the Office to volunteer. Thank you for sharing your time and talents!

Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

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

Lector Susan Selby
Host Distributor Bob Selby
Cup Bearers Susan Selby, Susan Stillmunkes
Altar Servers Jack Selby
Ushers Jim Hudson, Doug Jones
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, March 17, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer Dawn Beukema
Altar Servers Titus & Zeke Weber
Ushers Todd & Jill Beukema
Music Drew Hanlon, Maggie Bruce

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

Lector Jill Swanson
Host Distributor Tracy Miller
Cup Bearers Jill Swanson, Tim Loraditch
Altar Servers Peyton & Justice Loraditch
Ushers Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music Sue Harrington, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

March 10: Trish Morris, Kathy Daup
March 17: Sharon Morris, Sue White



Recycling one glass bottle or jar saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours.

Lenten Reconciliation at Other Parishes

Sunday, March 17, 4:00pm, St. Pius X, Urbandale
Wednesday, March 20, 6:30pm, St. Theresa, Des Moines
Thursday, March 21, 7:00pm OLIH, Ankeny
Thursday, March 21, 7:00pm, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona



Crafts, Games & Conversation!

YOU are invited to join us Thursday, March 21 at 9:00am in the Social Hall to work on your crafts or play games and enjoy conversation!

Old Palms

There is a container in the vestibule at St. Mary and in the entryway at Holy Cross if you would like us to dispose of your blessed palms from last year.

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 or 515-367-2685.



Married Couples!

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is like Springtime. It's a weekend of fresh air, the rebirth of romance and new beginnings. If you'd like to make your marriage even more special than it already is, sign up now at wwme.org or call Greg & Denise at 563-920-9419.

Iowa upcoming dates: April 12-14 in Epworth, Sept. 27-29 in Dubuque and November 8-10 in Holstein.

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 Channel 8 TV and online only. (Holy Cross may be under "Maxwell" and not "Elkhart").

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 9/10

Theme: We believe.

Reading I: Chronicles 36:14-17, 19-29 • Early and often did God send messengers to them.

Reading II: Ephesians 2:4-10 • God is rich in mercy.

Gospel: John 3:14-21 • The light came into the world.

For Children: Who is one person in your life who supports your faith and helps it to grow?

For Youth: How can you move toward God's light in your life? What is your darkness that needs Jesus' healing?

For Adults: When is it difficult for you to believe? What particular line in this reading helps your faith?