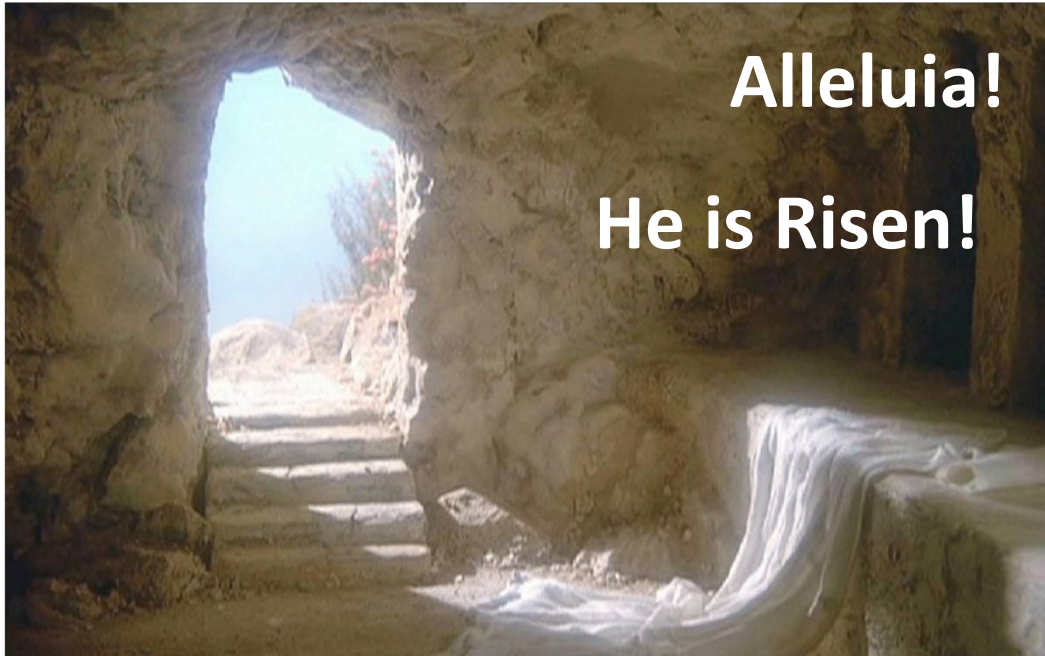




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

St. Mary: 460 NW Washington Avenue, Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street, Maxwell Iowa 50161



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 4 & 5, 2026

It is customary at our Parish that 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 passes away. 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
Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
Barb Liske - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
Tracy Miller - Preschool - 6th RE	tmiller@saintmaryhc.org
Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org
Laura Kutscher - Music Coordinator	lkutscher@saintmaryhc.org
Parish Web Site	www.saintmaryhc.org
Parish Facebook Site	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart

Mass Schedule

No daily Mass this week.

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.

Marriage: Please contact the Office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: Please contact Fr. Parker or Nicole Cory

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Mass and Reconciliation

No daily Mass this week.

Saturday, April 11

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Delila Roberts

Sunday, April 12

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † Mike Phelan

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

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, <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/membership>. We are glad you are here!

Easter Vigil Mass



We gather in St. Mary's Church Saturday for this Mass which begins at 8:00pm. No 5:00pm Mass or Reconciliation that day.



Pastoral Assistance

Father Parker is away Sunday afternoon through Friday. In case of a pastoral emergency please contact Fr. Ken Halbur of St. Luke's Parish, 515-964-1278, Ext. 3 or Fr. James Ahenkora of OLIH, 515-964-3038. A Catholic Chaplain is available 24/7 at Mercy and Unity Point Hospitals.



50 Days of the Easter Season

The resurrection of Jesus is such overwhelmingly Good News that a single day is not enough to celebrate it! The Lord's resurrection is meant to be celebrated intensely for the whole week following Easter (Easter Octave), the entire liturgical Season of Easter (until Pentecost on May 24), and every Sunday thereafter, each as a mini-Easter.

Easter Reflection Booklets

The *Little White Book* and *The Word Among Us* are available for your use during the 50 days of the Easter Season. Find them in St. Mary's vestibule and Holy Cross' entryway. Diocesan family friendly resources and activities to celebrate this Season, can be found at www.dmdiocese.org/living-easter.

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

This Appeal gives us the opportunity to support the ministries and services in our Diocese from which we benefit. Information has been mailed from Bishop Joensen asking you to participate in this Appeal. Every gift helps us reach our assessment of \$47,270. Mail your pledge card and gift directly to the Diocese (check made out to Diocese of Des Moines; address: 601 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50309-2501) or donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; and choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown.

Thank you for your support!

Date Change for Building Fund Collection

This collection will be taken up the weekend of April 11 & 12, instead of this weekend. Your continued support for our Parish enables us to keep our buildings and grounds in good shape and in working order.

Easter Prayer



My resurrected Lord,
my hope is in You!
Alleluia, You are alive
and You have conquered all sin,
all death, all evil.

You bring forth new life
to all who turn to You
in their need.

My Jesus,

I do turn to You

and abandon myself to You

in Your death so that I may rise
with You in Your Resurrection

to new life.

Breathe into me this gift of new life
and allow me to begin anew.

Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.

Parish Council

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

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

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

OCIA / Grow in Your Catholic Faith

April 13 & 20, 6:15pm, Youth Room

No session April 6

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: April 20, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 6: Alleman, Des Moines area, Madrid, Mingo, Mitchellville, Polk City, Prairie City, Runnells, Sheldahl, Slater

The Office is closed Easter Monday.

Fr. Parker is away Sunday afternoon through Friday.

Coming Events

†Weekend of April 11/12: Building Fund Collection

†Weekend of April 18/19: Food Pantry Collection for Impact Community Action Partnership



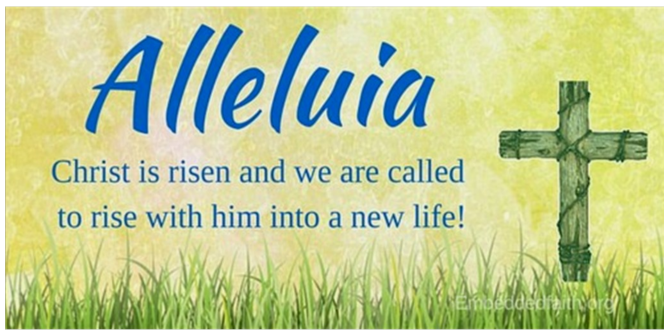
Graduating High School Seniors

The SMHC Scholarship is now available for applicants. To apply, follow this link: [SMHC Scholarship Application](#). We thank the Knights of Columbus for their continued support during the fish fries and all the parishioners who have generously donated a dessert to serve.

If you are interested in donating money for future scholarship opportunities, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.

Church Sign

Easter: The Rest of the Christmas Story.



Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

Tracy Miller, tmiller@saintmaryhc.org, 515-520-7981

Happy Easter to all. This week we will celebrate the Liturgy of Light which is a para liturgy of the Easter Vigil. If anyone wants to join us you are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Sessions

- April 8 - Regular Sessions
- April 12 - First Communion special session, 11:00am-Noon
- April 15- Regular Sessions- Last week
- April 19 - First Communion special session, 11:00am-Noon

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 — Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall, 7th & 8th Session: April 8

Confirmation — 9th & 10th, Sessions in Youth Room
 -Sunday, April 12: 9th Gade Session, 11:00am-12:30pm
 -Sunday, April 19: 10th Gade Session, 11:00am-12:30pm
 -Wednesday, April 22: Family Confirmation Session, 6:00-8:00pm, Social Hall
 -Friday, May 1: Confirmation Liturgy rehearsal dinner, 6:30pm
 -Saturday, May 2: Confirmation Liturgy, 10:00am. Teens arrive by 8:50am to meet with Bishop Joensen.

S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group — Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area, 9th-12th
 Gathering: April 8

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

Sunday, April 12 1:00-3:30pm, OLIH Church in Ankeny



Exposition of the Eucharist begins at 1:00pm; priests will be available to hear confessions from 1:00-3:00pm. The Divine Mercy Chaplet begins at 3:00pm, followed by prayers, scripture, a homily, music, and ending with Benediction.

Other parishes in our Deanery are Ss. John and Paul (Altoona), Our Lady's Immaculate Heart and St. Luke the Evangelist (Ankeny), All Saints (Des Moines), St. Joseph (Des Moines) and Assumption (Granger).

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.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 29 Budget Week 39

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$6,535	\$5,536
<i>Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund</i>		
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$251,844	\$215,887
		<u>Last Year</u>
		\$218,963

Mass Attendance: March 28/29: 366

2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$47,270	\$21,960	\$20,580	\$1,110	\$26,690

Councils and Committees

PARISH COUNCIL

- Anne Davis - annedavis06@gmail.com
- Drew Hanlon - drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com
- Kim Heger - hegerkim91@gmail.com
- Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
- Carolyn Kirby - gurlzmom@gmail.com
- Bill Kyle - bill@northiowaair.com
- Tim Miller - millertimothyg@gmail.com
- Bill Sexton - billsxtn@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL

- Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
- Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com
- Craig Johnson - dad.craig@gmail.com
- Anne Power - powerhouse57049@gmail.com
- Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
- Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

- Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com
- Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks1@hotmail.com
- Beth Hart - mrsmatthart@gmail.com
- Kris LeRoy - klsturtz@gmail.com
- Jen Linderblood - jlinderb@yahoo.com
- Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
- Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
- Sue White - charylsue@msn.com

BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE

- 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

- Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
- Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiaowa.net
- Lowell Crouse - ldcjac82@gmail.com
- John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com
- Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
- Stacey Rooney - rooneysl17@gmail.com
- Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com
- Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.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

- John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net

Thank You!

Thank you to all who came out and prayed the Silhouette Stations of the Cross with the young people of SMHC. Thank you to those who stayed and enjoyed the meatless meal as well. The Silhouette Stations of the Cross take several hours and many hands to prepare for this moving prayer experience. Andrea, Nicole and I would like to thank the following people for helping with this endeavor. There were 16 youth that took part in one or more of the Station presentations. The following are the fabulous shadow "actors", a BIG thank you to Brenton, Luke R, Sam R, Callen, Zeke, JJ, Jack, Rose, Carter, Dawson, Leah K, Jessica S, Mackenzie G, Jillian G, Titus, and Harrison for all your hard work. We also had several adults who helped by narrating, singing, playing piano, filling in during our practice sessions, and directing. We are so grateful for the following adults and for the various ways they helped: Bridget S, Joel K, Gracie F, Julia F, Brenda R, Taylor and Jackie A. A special thank you to our pianists Mary Ortmann and Mary Schmelzer who played for our practice and on Friday for our presentation. We couldn't have done any of this without all of your support. Thank you to our Parish family who stayed and helped us clean up from the Stations and the meal; you are all so generous. It was especially nice to see so many littles watching and praying the Stations this year. We are blessed to be part of such a wonderful Church family.

Easter Blessings,

Melissa Kahler, Andrea Fisher and Nicole Cory

Spring is God saying let's celebrate.

Opportunity to Assist Your Parish!



Please consider hosting Wine & Cheese after 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, May 2 or hosting Coffee & Donuts after 8:00am Mass at Holy Cross on Sunday, May 3. Please contact Barb at the office, bliske@saintmaryhc.org or 515-367-2685, if you have questions or would like to volunteer. Thank you!

Liturgical Ministers for April 11 & 12

Saturday, April 11, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Bill Sexton
Host Distributor	Susan Stillmunkes
Cup Bearers	Bill & Kris Sexton
Ushers	Bill Kyle, Bill Schmitt
Music	Haleigh Nash, Paula Huett, Mary O.

Sunday, April 12, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Jackie Crouse
Cup Bearer	Jon Hand
Altar Servers	Claire and Oliver Hand
Usher	Mike Veasman
Music	Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, April 12, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Jill Swanson
Host Distributor	Mike Nehring
Cup Bearers	Tracy Miller, Jill Swanson
Altar Servers	Emma & Kate Swanson
	<i>Cross Bearer: Cora Swanson</i>
Ushers	Andrew Cory, Gregg Richwine
Music	Garrett McClain, Mary Snyder

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Money Counters

April 7: Sharon Morris, Dona Cowman
 April 12: Dona Cowman, Kathy Petersen



A modern glass bottle would take 4000 years or more to decompose -- and even longer if it's in the landfill.

Change of Information?

Moved? Had a baby? Dropped your landline? New email? Have you provided your email and cell phone number? Please email the parish office with any changes so our records can be as accurate as possible. *Thank you!*

Blood Drive

Our Drive is Thursday, May 21, 3:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. Walk-ins welcome! Each blood donation saves up to three lives and more than 100,000 units of blood are needed yearly. **May we count on you to donate blood?** It only takes about 30-45 minutes from check-in to check-out. Please use this link to find our Drive and sign up to donate: <https://www.lifesevrbloodcenter.org/donate-blood/>.

Volunteers and treats are needed the day of the Drive. Contact the Parish Office at bliske@saintmaryhc.org / 515-367-2685 to help out.

Feed the Hungry

Our Parish families provide a meal at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter in Des Moines on the second Sunday of each month. **Volunteers are needed for June and July.** One or more families or groups can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal (number for the meal varies) to the Shelter. For more information or to volunteer, contact Stacey Rooney, rooneyslq17@gmail.com / 515-490-5034.



Catholic Youth Camp

CYC is for those entering 3rd-12th grade next Fall. Details/registration at www.stmcenter.com. Our Parish contributes \$100 toward the camp fee for each child of the Parish. Contact the Office at bliske@saintmaryhc.org/515-367-2685 with camp dates to have this portion of their fee paid.

Mary's Meals Race to Feed Kids

Join us for the 13th Annual 5K walk/run for Mary's Meals on Saturday, May 9, at the Women of Achievement Bridge in Des Moines. This event supports global, daily school meals, with each registration feeding a child in Malawi for a full school year. Scan the QR for further information and to register.



Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, April 5

Theme: *Jesus' resurrection - the heart of our faith, life, and journey.*

Reading I: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 • God raised him up on the third day.

Reading II: Colossians 3:1-4 • Your attitude must be Christ's.

Gospel: John 20:1-9 • Mary Magdalene came to the tomb.

Question for Children: When have you seen someone do a good deed for someone else?

Question for Youth: Jesus' closest friends had trouble believing that the tomb was empty. Resurrecting is surprising. What does Jesus' resurrection mean in your life?

Question for Adults: Name one way or time when you experience the presence of the Risen Christ?