



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Third Sunday of Easter

April 18/19, 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.

Dear Good People,

A very Happy Easter to all of you! He is Risen; He is Risen indeed! Certainly, these last few weeks have been an absolute whirlwind. First, I just want to thank everyone who made our Triduum liturgies so beautiful. I got so many nice comments about the art and environment as well as how great the liturgies went from music to set-up. It was just wonderful. Please keep all of our neophytes in your prayers. I think we broke some attendance records so let's keep it going!

So obviously with me these last weeks have been wild. I was really sick the first part of Holy Week of course the worst possible timing. Then I think the Lord helped me to make it through. Then obviously with my mom being hospitalized and then announcing my departure was pretty stressful. I just go back to the idea that we must trust that God has a plan and he puts us where he needs us. Like the Blessed Mother, our response should be one of Trust. That is what I keep coming back to at least. My heart is certainly full, and I am so grateful to all of you!

~ A.M.D.G. Fr. Ross

| | |
|---|--|
| 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 |
| Parish Web Site | www.saintmaryhc.org |
| Parish Facebook Site | St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart |

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|------------|
| 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.

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

Tuesday, April 21

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Mark Kollasch*

Wednesday, April 22

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Bill Davis*

Thursday, April 23

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Fr. Leonard Kenkel*

Friday, April 24

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Irene Anderson*

Saturday, April 25

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *George Meusburger*

Sunday, April 26

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † *Harry & Mary Fisher*

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

Prayer for Third Week of Easter

Loving God,
We rejoice now
in the glory of your
resurrection,
celebrating your life with Easter joy.
We are filled with confident hope
and feel our spirits renewed within us.
Our hearts burn with a new depth of love
as we see your light shine in the darkness.
Lead us, Lord. We are your people.
May we spend this day praising your glory
and being filled with confident hope
as you hold out your wounded hands



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!

† Pastoral Assistance

In case of an emergency please contact Fr. Ross Parker, 515-720-3434. To schedule a visit with Father at your home, or if a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit, please contact him at rparker@dmdiocese.org.


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.

Diocesan family resources and activities to celebrate this Season, can be found at www.dmdiocese.org/living-easter.

Opportunities to Assist Your Parish!

 Hosts needed for Wine & Cheese after 5:00pm Mass on Saturdays, June 6, July 4 & August 1; and for Coffee & Donuts after 8:00am Mass at Holy Cross on Sundays, May 3, July 5 & August 2, and for Coffee & Donuts after 10:00am Mass on June 7, July 5 & August 2. Please contact the Office, 515-367-2685 or bliske@saintmaryhc.org, if you have questions or would like to volunteer. Thank you!

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Thank you to everyone who gave a gift this past week to this Appeal. If you have not made a gift, please join us in supporting the Diocese. Mail your pledge card from Bishop Joensen along with your gift to the Diocese (check made out to the 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!

God's truth is protection from the devil's lies.

Parish Council

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

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

Meeting: May 11, 6:00pm, Social Hall

OCIA / Grow in Your Catholic Faith

April 20, 6:15pm, Youth Room

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

*Fr. Parker does not have set office hours at the Parish.
To reach him please email, call or text:
rparker@dmdiocese.org or 515-720-3434.*

Coming Events

- † **This Weekend:** Food Pantry Collection for Impact Community Action Partnership
- † **Blood Drive:** Thursday, May 21, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall

Parish History

As many of you know, we've recently updated our one-hundred-fifty-year history book. We'd now like to take the next step and update the family genealogy records for both churches, with the goal of preserving our church records for future generations. Here's the link to a Family Questionnaire, https://www.saintmaryhc.org/files/ugd/f72588_0af85fcc6899483eb760bc7b8204b4cd.pdf that you can use to add new information or update existing records. If you prefer not to include your vital records, simply leave those sections blank. However, if you wish to share your information but maintain privacy, we can keep those details confidential within the database.

Deadline is July 1, 2026 to have the current information printed into the current 150 year book. There have been numerous errors in the original book so we are cleaning those up for printing after the 1st of July.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

What a great year we had growing in our faith together on Wednesdays. Every year, I'm blown away by the deep religious capacities of children. We are so thankful you keep entrusting us to walk alongside your children in their journey of faith. We look forward to seeing you all again in the fall.

Registration for next year will come out this summer.

Upcoming Sessions

April 19 - First Communion special session, 11:00am-Noon

April 23 & 24 - Optional First Communion Retreat, 8am-3pm

April 25 - First Communion Retreat, 9am-3pm, with First Reconciliation, 1:00pm

April 26 - First Communion Mass 12:00pm

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

Confirmation — 9th & 10th, Sessions in Youth Room

-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 9:40am.

Graduating High School Seniors

Apply now for the SMHC Scholarship by following this link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/14PLHIJUzhBe2Rdza-kKXpOmGe6xo0oK3lDxQobNxHfQ/edit?tab=t.0>. 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 towards future scholarship opportunities, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.*

Blood Drive

Thursday, May 21, 3:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. Walk-ins welcome! Save lives! Find our Drive and sign up at <https://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donate-blood/>. Volunteers and treats needed the day of the Drive. Contact the Parish Office at bliske@saintmaryhc.org to help out.



Earth Day! April 22

Progress in protecting our land, air, and water is real, resilient, and ongoing. *Our Power, Our Planet* transcends political cycles. Environmental stewardship has never depended on a single administration, institution, or election. It is sustained by the daily decisions of communities, educators, workers, innovators, and families who understand that protecting the places they live and work is both a responsibility and a long-term investment in service of the planet we all depend on.

The Great Global Cleanup® is a worldwide campaign to remove billions of pieces of trash from neighborhoods, beaches, rivers, lakes, trails, and parks - reducing waste and plastic pollution, improving habitats, and preventing harm to wildlife and humans. There are registered clean ups scheduled in Iowa. Go to <https://www.earthday.org/campaign/cleanup/#map> to find out when and where.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

April 12 Budget Week 41

| | Received | Budget |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund | \$8,680 | \$5,536 |
| Year-to-Date Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund | | |
| Received | Budget | Last Year |
| \$268,708 | \$226,958 | \$239,797 |

Building Fund: \$5018.50 - includes 1 time gift of \$2400
Mass Attendance April 11/12: 353

2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

| Goal | Pledged | Paid | Unpaid | Amt. Due |
|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| \$47,270 | \$32,570 | \$30,855 | \$1,715 | \$16,415 |

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 - rooneyslg17@gmail.com

Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com

Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - fogarty929@gmail.com

John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net

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

Prayer at Planting Time

Adapted from the Rural Life Committee, Diocese of Sioux Falls

Thank you, God of generosity, Creator of all things,
for everything that grows on the earth.

Thank you for the people who tend the land
and who make it fruitful.

In our age we may forget our dependence
on wind and weather, on sun and rain,
without which nothing would grow.

In this seedtime of the year,
make bright in us an appreciation for farmers
and all who help bring forth the fruits of the earth.
Keep us always in mind of the things that matter most.

Help us to bring rural America together,
and to fulfill our responsibilities in glorifying your earth,
that this world may fulfill your will
for the land to sustain your creation until the end of time.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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.

Meal for Family Shelter



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 14 and July 12.** 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.

Liturgical Ministers for April 25 & 26

Saturday, April 25, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lector | John Roberts |
| Host Distributor | Tom Froehlich |
| Cup Bearers | Linda Froehlich, Mike Devereux |
| Ushers | Doug Jones, Bill Kyle |
| Music | Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer |

Sunday, April 26, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Lector | Anne Davis |
| Cup Bearer | Michele Hand |
| Altar Servers | Claire & Oliver Hand |
| Usher | Jerry & Deb Zenkner |
| Music | Drew & Lorrie Hanlon |

Sunday, April 26, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Lector | Jill Swanson |
| Host Distributor | Jill Swanson |
| Cup Bearers | Bob & Julie Coash |
| Altar Servers | Jackson Cory, Amelia Muehlenthaler |
| | <i>Cross Bearer: Carter Cory</i> |
| Ushers | Bill & Kelly Dunbar |
| Music | Karon Lacey, Sue Harrington, Mary Snyder |

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

Money Counters

April 19: Sue White, Trish Morris

April 26: Sharon Morris, Kathy Daup



Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours -- or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit: You designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on the 15th or 30th. Please contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org if you have questions or would like to begin ACH or find the form on the table at church or on the home page of our website.



Online Giving through the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa with this QR Code or 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 Tithe, Building Fund and/or Food Pantry donation. The Foundation sends gift receipts.

Thank you for considering one of these for your tithing.

Life is fragile; handle with prayer.

Tap Into Faith

20 Years of Friday Fish:

From Protestant Ports to Catholic Casting

Bo Bonner was born and raised in Oklahoma and has lived in Iowa for nearly a decade. He grew up Southern Baptist, entered into Methodist Seminary, but was eventually 'reeled' into the Catholic Church. After converting to Catholicism, he has been 'casting nets' in Catholic mission. He has both taught and led within educational institutions for the majority of his career. He is the host of the *Catholic Morning Show*, and co-host of the *Uncommon Good* on Iowa Catholic Radio.

Hear Mr. Bonner speak on Sunday, April 26 at King's Head (next to Magee's Irish Pub) 1610 SW Main St., Ankeny. Social: 7:00-7:30pm, Speaker: 7:30-8:30pm. All adults welcome! Food and drinks available for purchase. Sponsored by Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church.

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 this QR code for further information and to register.



Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Third Sunday of Easter, April 19

Theme: When we share meals, Christ sits among us.

Reading I: Acts 2:14, 22-33 • My heart has been glad.

Reading II: 1 Peter 1:17-21 • It is through him that you are believers.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 • Were not our hearts burning within us as he spoke?

Question for Children: What is your favorite time to share a meal with your family?

Question for Youth: The disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread. How have you experienced Jesus at Mass, in the breaking of the Eucharistic bread? How have you experienced Jesus at meals and with friends and family?

Question for Adults: Share about great meals you've been part of, ones which are still memorable to you.