

# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073



## Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 18/19, 2023

Dear Good People,

Today we celebrate Laetare Sunday. Easter approaches as we continue with the Gospel of the man born blind. Again, these gospels are meant to prepare us for Easter. Let us continue to be attentive. Here is a good mediation I found for this week's liturgy at: [Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 19, 2023 - Liturgical Calendar | Catholic Culture](#)



*Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. This Sunday is known as Laetare Sunday for the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon laetare (rejoice); it is a Sunday of joy. The celebrant has the option to wear rose-colored vestments. This is also the Second Scrutiny in preparation for the baptism of adults at the Easter Vigil.*

*The Church's liturgy, on this the Fourth Sunday of Lent, invites us to retrace one of the fundamental dynamics of our baptismal re-birth through the Gospel account of the healing of the 'man born blind'. It is the passage from the darkness of sin and error to the Light of God, who is the Risen Christ.*

*The Solemnity of St. Joseph is usually celebrated on March 19, but has been transferred to March 20 since the liturgy of the Lenten Sundays take precedence.*

*This Sunday has a place apart amongst the Sundays of Lent. As in Advent we had Gaudete Sunday, so in Lent we have a Sunday commonly called Laetare Sunday. Lent is half over, and Easter is enticingly near. This Sunday is our foretaste of Easter joy. Knowing the ebb and flow of intensity even in our best efforts, God deals with us tenderly in rhythms of consolation and desertion. So today, thoughts of freedom and joy come in the middle of Lent. But the joy does more than cushion our failing energies and needle our lagging spirits. It is a positive, meaningful joy, born of our fruitful life in Christ and of our sweet freedom as His purchased children. The Eucharistic banquet of heavenly Bread, foreshadowed by the multiplied loaves and fishes and become now the Bread of Life for the whole Christian world, adds to our Laetare joy the quiet gladness of every festive meal. 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](mailto:smhc@saintmaryhc.org)

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**Deacon Terry Schleisman** 515-669-6158/[digiterry@netscape.net](mailto:digiterry@netscape.net)

**Nicole Cory - Confirmation** [ncory@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org)

**Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry** [afisher@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org)

**Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry** [mkahler@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org)

**Barb Liske - Secretary** [bliske@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:bliske@saintmaryhc.org)

**Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE** [gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org)

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**Sue Schmidt - Music** [sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org)

**Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper** [bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org)

**Parish Web Site** [www.saintmaryhc.org](http://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.vocationonline.org](http://www.vocationonline.org)

## Mass and Lenten Offerings

### Tuesday, March 21

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Jean & Jeff Hurd*

### Wednesday, March 22

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Stephen & Michael Carpenter*

6:00pm Rosary, St. Mary

### Thursday, March 23

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

### Friday, March 24

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Joe Rubendall*

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

### Saturday, March 25

4:00-4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Mark Schmidt*

### Sunday, March 26

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † *Bill Jorgensen*

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. We are glad you are here!



## † Pastoral Assistance

In case of emergency contact Fr. Ross Parker at 515-720-3434. If you or a family member is in a care facility, homebound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit please contact Fr. Parker at [rparker@dmdiocese.org](mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org) or 515-367-2685.

## Are You on Your Way to Transformation?

How are you doing with your Lenten commitments you began on Ash Wednesday? Are you going strong or easing up? Are you struggling? Talk to God about it!

We have a few Lenten booklets still available. *Diocesan Resources*: From toddlers to teenagers, we've got ideas for helping your family live Lent more fully. Go to [dmdiocese.org/Lent2023](http://dmdiocese.org/Lent2023) to find prayers, ways to fast (and good meatless soup recipes!) and a planner for the whole family for almsgiving. Find creative activities for children, conversation topics for teens, a list of feast days during Lent, and more.

## Church Sign

**1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.**

## Liturgical Ministers Needed

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

## Join Our Easter Choir!

All ages and skill levels are welcome! We will sing for Holy Saturday, April 8th Mass. If you would like more information, please contact Sue Schmidt at [sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org). Practice schedule: Sundays after 10:00am Mass on March 19, 26 & April 2; and at 6:30pm on March 30 & April 4.



## TRIDUUM SERVICES

### Holy Thursday, April 6

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

### Good Friday, April 7

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

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

### Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 8

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

### Easter Sunday, April 9

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

## 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.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Your Son. Amen.

### Parish Council

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

### Finance Council

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

### Stewardship

Meeting: April 10, 6:00pm, Ed Center

### Knights of Columbus

March 20, Rosary, 6:40pm SM, Meeting 7:00pm, Hall

### Funeral Luncheon Food Donations:

Team 5 from Elkhart and Cambridge

## Coming Events

✠ **This weekend:** Collection for Maxwell Food Pantry —  
Choir practice after 10am Mass

✠ **Fridays of Lent:** Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary.  
Lenten meal after Stations on March 31

✠ **Friday, March 24:** Fish Fry, 5:00-7:00pm, Social Hall



## Do You Like to Sing...

But don't want to sing alone? Please consider joining the Holy Thursday Choir. Practices will be at St. Mary's on Thursday, March 23, 6:30pm and Monday, April 3, 6:30pm. Contact Sue Schmidt at [sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org) for more information or questions.

## Religious Education

### Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

Geneveve Loraditch, [gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org), 515-556-4150  
Tracy Miller, [tmiller@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org), 515-520-7981

Thank you so much for all the condolences my family received after unexpectedly suffering the loss of my father. I definitely felt the love from my parish family. I also appreciate your patience as I missed a few classes due to his passing. We are moving forward, as life goes on, so look to the bulletin next week for more about gestures of the Mass and how the children are using this time in class to prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus. -Geneveve

We hope you had a nice spring break!

March 22/24: Regular Sessions

March 26: First Communion Special Session 1, 11:00am

March 29/31: Regular Sessions

April 2: First Communion Special Session 2, 11:00am

## S.T.O.R.M. Report

### Grades 7-12 Coordinators

Melissa Kahler, [mkahler@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org), 515-290-2830  
Andrea Fisher, [afisher@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org), 515-240-5059  
Nicole Cory, [ncory@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org), 515-313-3014

### EDGE Dates (7th & 8th Graders)

**Sessions:** March 22, April 5 & 12, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

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

**Gatherings:** March 22, April 5, 12 & 26, 7:30-9:00pm,  
Youth Area

### Grades 9 & 10, Confirmation Coordinator

*We have a lot of volunteer opportunities coming up,  
please check your email for sign ups.*

**Saturday, March 25:** 9:00-11:00am, 10th grade only Teen/  
Sponsor Session, Social Hall

**Wednesday, March 29:** 6:00-8:00pm, Confirmation  
Session, Social Hall

## ✝ Lenten Reconciliation

Father Parker has scheduled additional individual time for Reconciliation at St. Mary:

Tuesday, March 28, 5:30-6:30pm

Wednesday, March 29, 6:30-7:30pm

Thursday, March 30, 5:30-6:30pm

## Fish Fry

K of C final Fish Fry Friday is March 24, serving 5:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall; free-will donation. Take-out available. Join us! Contact Jon Hand if you would like to help, [jon79hand@gmail.com](mailto:jon79hand@gmail.com) or 515-291-8814.

## 2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Thank you to everyone who has already given a gift to this appeal. Each and every person's gift brings us closer to our assessment of \$55,196. For those who have not made their gift, please join us in supporting the vital programs and services throughout the Diocese. Simply fill out the contribution card you received from Bishop Joensen and place it in the offertory basket or drop it in the mail. *If paying by check, please make it out to Diocese of Des Moines.* Gifts can also be made at [dmdiocese.org/giving](http://dmdiocese.org/giving) and choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Thank you for your generosity and your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 12 Budget Week 37

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$2,640	\$5,944

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$192,423	\$219,932	\$216,211

### 2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Assessed	Pledged	Paid	Unpaid	Amt. Due
\$55,196	\$10,775	\$10,575	\$200	\$44,621

Weekend Mass attendance March 11/12: 150

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](mailto:hoyhill@partnercom.net)  
Terri Hamm - [thamm@mercydesmoines.org](mailto:thamm@mercydesmoines.org)  
Drew Hanlon - [drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com](mailto:drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)  
Tammi McClain - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)  
Larry Sauer - [sauerld@outlook.com](mailto:sauerld@outlook.com)  
Lisa Schoening - [lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com](mailto:lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com)

### FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heidi Ackerman, - *President* - [heidimdittmer@gmail.com](mailto:heidimdittmer@gmail.com)  
John Fisher - [Johntfisher@sienafastener.com](mailto:Johntfisher@sienafastener.com)  
Diane Gannon - [ddkgannon@gmail.com](mailto:ddkgannon@gmail.com)  
Bill Rooney - [1rooneybill@gmail.com](mailto:1rooneybill@gmail.com)  
Mike Winders - [mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:mwinde59@yahoo.com)

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arlene Anderson - [arlene@4andersons.com](mailto:arlene@4andersons.com)  
Katie Fredericks - [katie.fredericks@commonspirit.org](mailto:katie.fredericks@commonspirit.org)  
Beth Hart - [mrsmathart@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmathart@gmail.com)  
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Kathy Petersen - [katherine@huxcomm.net](mailto:katherine@huxcomm.net)  
Sue White - [charylmyron@q.com](mailto:charylmyron@q.com)

### BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Roberts, Co-Chair - [jroberts@huxcomm.net](mailto:jroberts@huxcomm.net)  
Scott Turczynski, Co Chair - [ScottT@hrtlnd.us](mailto:ScottT@hrtlnd.us)  
Drew Hanlon - [drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com](mailto:drewsmhcpc@yahoo.com)  
Tim Miller - [millertimothyg@gmail.com](mailto:millertimothyg@gmail.com)  
Laurie Phelan - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Bill Schmitt - [isucui@isualum.com](mailto:isucui@isualum.com)  
Lynn Schreurs - [Ischreurs@msn.com](mailto:Ischreurs@msn.com)

### CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Karen Bellis - [puzzlenuts@aol.com](mailto:puzzlenuts@aol.com)  
Pat Bishop - [pjbishop@midiowa.net](mailto:pjbishop@midiowa.net)  
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Larry Shaw - [shawcattle77@gmail.com](mailto:shawcattle77@gmail.com)  
Mary Winders - [mefothergill@yahoo.com](mailto:mefothergill@yahoo.com)

### PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - [fogarty929@gmail.com](mailto:fogarty929@gmail.com)  
Doug Jones - [djones@bossard.com](mailto:djones@bossard.com)

### PARISH HISTORIAN

Larry Sauer - [sauerld@outlook.com](mailto:sauerld@outlook.com) - 515-710-2421

### PARISH AMBASSADOR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mike and Mary Winders - [mwinde59@yahoo.com](mailto:mwinde59@yahoo.com)

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Garrett McClain - [gjmccclain69@gmail.com](mailto:gjmccclain69@gmail.com)





## Laudato Si

Set aside one day a month - or better yet, a day each week - to leave the car parked and instead walk, ride a bike or use transit to get where you are going. It's a small step that can benefit the health of the Earth, and yours as well. *More at:* <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>

## Thank You

Thank you everyone! You were so thoughtful to remember me on my birthday. Your thoughts, prayers, kind words, art work and bracelets meant a great deal to me on my special day. My St. Mary/Holy Cross family is truly a blessing and a gift I cherish. God bless you all. ~ Chris Schreurs

## Holy Thursday Washing of Feet & Adoration

 We invite individuals to have their feet washed during our Holy Thursday Mass on April 6.  Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is after this Mass until 10:00pm in the Social Hall. A sign up for both of these are in the vestibule at St. Mary and at Holy Cross.



## 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 April 3. Thank you.*

## Reconciliation Services at Other Parishes

Sunday, March 19, 3:00pm, St. Mary of Nazareth, DSM  
 Wednesday, March 22, 7:00pm, St. Theresa, DSM  
 Wednesday, March 22, 7:00pm, Sacred Heart, WDM  
 Wednesday, March 29, 6:30pm, Assumption, Granger  
 Thursday, March 30, 7:00pm, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona

## Liturgical Ministers March 25/26

### Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Linda Froehlich  
 Host Lisa Jones  
 Cup Bearers Mike Devereux, Susan Stillmunkes  
 Altar Servers  
 Ushers Doug Jones, Mike Devereux  
 Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

### Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Heidi Ackerman  
 Cup Bearer Tony Kuehn  
 Altar Servers Titus & Zeke Weber  
 Usher Sandra Hunter  
 Music Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

### Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Jill Swanson  
 Host Distributor Jill Swanson  
 Cup Bearers Tom & Jacki Ausman  
 Altar Servers Emma Swanson, Hailey Conover  
 Ushers Bill & Kelly Dunbar  
 Music Sue Schmitt, Maggie Bruce

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## Money Counters

**March 19:** Sue White, Trish Morris  
**March 25:** Sharon Morris, Brenda Nehring



Aluminum can be recycled from cans, bicycles, computers, cookware, wires, cars, planes and other sources.

## An Opportunity To Meet Other Parishioners!

Hosting wine & cheese or coffee & donuts is a great way to meet and get to know other parishioners! If you have not hosted before, we can pair you up with someone who has. Please contact the parish office with questions or if willing to help. *Dates to host wine & cheese:* First Saturday in May, June and beyond! *Dates to host coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass:* First Sunday in July and beyond! *Dates to host coffee & donuts after 10:00am Mass:* First Sunday in April, June and beyond! Thank you for considering!

## 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. To request prayers or to participate in our prayer chain, please contact the office, [bliske@saintmaryhc.org](mailto: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.*

## Catholic Relief Services Collection

This Diocesan collection supports agencies providing relief to suffering people as well pastoral outreach and advocacy to improve lives.

*Collection envelopes are on the table in the vestibule/entryway. Please return in the collection basket or mail to the parish office. Thank you for your continued generosity.*

## Catholic Youth Camp



Have a week of growing in faith and discipleship, having fun, playing games and making friends! Find out more or register at <https://stmcenter.com/>. Our parish pays \$100 of the camp fee for children of the parish attending CYC.



## 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.

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 18/19

*Theme: We are children of the Light.*

*Reading I:* 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a • David is anointed king of Israel.

*Reading II:* Ephesians 5:8-14 • You are people of the light.

*Gospel:* John 9:1-41 • Jesus gives us sight.

*Question for Children:* What are the things that Jesus wants you to do as his friend?

*Question for Youth:* Jesus helps each of us see the world differently. How do you see differently because you believe?

*Question for Adults:* Share how you, as a child of the light, in the power of Christ, produce goodness, justice, and truth for the world. What specific actions do you take to do this?