



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



First Sunday of Lent

February 21 & 22, 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,

I hope this letter finds you well as we begin our yearly observance of holy Lent. I would ask you to please keep in your prayer our OCIA candidates who are preparing to be received into the Church. May this time be a time of conversion and purification for them. I especially want to thank Nicole for her leadership. Her curriculum is truly top notch.

During my Ash Wednesday homily, I referenced the Holy Father's Lenten Message to us. If you type Pope Leo Lent Message for 2026 it should come up. It is certainly worth a read.

The first Sunday of Lent we hear the familiar story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Jesus proves that He truly enters the desert of human existence and does not use His divine power for His own benefit. He really accompanies our life's pilgrimage and reveals in it the true power of God, which is love to the very end. ~ 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@dmdioocese.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
Music Coordinator -Position Open	
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, Reconciliation & Lenten Offerings

Tuesday, February 24

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Helen Koch

Wednesday, February 25

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Doc Birchmier

7:30 - 8:00pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

Thursday, February 26

8:00am Mass, St. Mary Adelaide & Alaric Ward

Friday, February 27 *Abstain from meat*

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Mark Kollasch

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

Saturday, February 28

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Terry Gilligan

Sunday, March 1

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † Patrick Phelan

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

Lenten Prayer

Heavenly Father,

As I enter this week of my Lenten journey,
guide me to the path that leads to you.

Fill my heart with gratitude, patience,
strength, and peace as I strive
to become the-best-version-of-myself.

Let me hear your voice
in the deepest reaches of my heart.

Give me rest in you.

Help me to accept others,
showing them your great love
instead of casting judgment.

Stay with me through these busy days
and remind me that when I need comfort,
solitude, wisdom, or guidance,
I can always turn to you. 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, <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

Lenten Reflection Resources

Additional reflection booklets are available to assist you in your Lenten journey.

Diocesan Resources: How are you and your family going to live the Lenten season this year? The Diocese has a Lenten planner, some kid-friendly activities, recipes and more! Find family Lenten resources at dmdiocese.org/living-lent.



Fridays of Lent

Join us to pray the Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm each Friday of Lent. We gather for a Lenten meal following the Stations on February 27, March 13 and March 27.

Lenten Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for people to lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 6 and 27. We have a choice of booklets from which to read. Thank you for considering this request. For more information, please email the Office or sign up in the vestibule at St. Mary. Thank you!

Fish Fry Fridays

Join the Knight of Columbus March 6 & 20 for their fish fry, serving from 5:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. Free will donation. Please contact Jon Hand, jon79hand@gmail.com / 515-291-8814 if you'd like to help. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4AA8A62DA5FD0-61631815-desserts>. To donate a dessert. Thank you!

Parish Council

Meeting: March 17, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: February 24, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

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

OCIA / Grow in Your Catholic Faith

Feb. 23 & March 2, 6:15pm, Youth Room

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: March 16, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 6: Alleman, Baxter, Des Moines area, Madrid, Mingo, Mitchellville, Polk City, Prairie City, 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:** Collection for Catholic Charities Food Pantry
- † **Friday, February 27:** Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary, followed by Lenten meal, Social Hall
- † **Sunday, March 1:** Coffee & donuts after 8:00am and 10:00am Masses
- † **Friday, March 6:** Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary — Fish Fry, 5:00-7:00pm, Social Hall
- † **Saturday, March 7:** Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass
- † **Weekend of March 7/8:** Buildings & Grounds Collection
- † **Friday, March 13:** Silhouette Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary, followed by Lenten meal

Additional Reconciliation Times at St. Mary



Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7:30 - 8:00pm

Wednesday, March 25, 6:15 - 7:15pm

Thursday, March 26, 6:00 - 7:00pm

Saturday, March 28, 3:30-4:30pm

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

Thank you to all who have donated to our First Communion Bible fundraiser. We are in need of 4 more Bibles to be sponsored. Cost is \$50 or you could do half for \$25. The gift of a Bible with their name engraved is a lifelong treasure to these children. Thank you for considering.

Upcoming Sessions

February 25 - Regular Sessions

March 4 - Regular Sessions

March 11 - 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

EDGE — Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall, 7th & 8th Session: Feb. 25

Confirmation 9th & 10th Graders, Sessions in Youth Room
Please see your email to sign up to volunteer for KofC fish fry Fridays.

Sunday, Feb 22: 11:00am-12:30pm, 10th grade only session

NO February Wednesday Family Session

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

Gathering: Feb. 25

Old Palms

If you would like us to dispose of your blessed palms from last year, please place them in the container at either Church.

Pay It Forward!

Have you ever received a random act of kindness? Pay it forward by helping provide a meal at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter in Des Moines on the second Sunday of June or July. One or more families or groups can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal (number for the meal varies) to the Shelter. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt. *To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Stacey Rooney, rooneyslq17@gmail.com / 515-490-5034.*

End of Year Statements

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

And It Snowed....

 Winter is not over yet. We are in need of your assistance to keep the sidewalks and steps at St. Mary safe and accessible. Sign up to help by using this QR code or using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-60961940-sidewalk>. Contact Bill Schmitt with questions, isucui@isualum.com / 515-291-8005. Thank you!

Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 15 Budget Week 33

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$10,898	\$5,536

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$211,388	\$182,673	\$186,523

Mass Attendance: February 14/15: 321
Ash Wednesday: 275

Jesus is right for what is wrong in your life.

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 - gurizmom@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
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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
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Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

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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

