



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 3/4, 2024

Dear Good People,

I hope this letter finds you well. Watching all the snow drifts I was figuring it was going to be May until we saw the grass again, but these warm days have been a nice gift. Just some words of thanks again for all who helped with our Chili Cook Off. That was a lot of fun. Congratulations to the winners as well. I also got a nice note from the Blood Center of Iowa about our Blood Drive. Thank you to all who volunteered and who gave blood. Some more exciting news is that we have some inquirers into the RCIA. This is outstanding. I want to thank the team for their work and dedication. They have been meeting after mass at 10 AM.

Finally, it is hard to believe but Lent will be starting on Feb. 14th. Now might be a good time to start discerning what you would like to do for Lent. I say this to me as much as anyone, but we do not want to miss the opportunity to grow in virtue and holiness this Lenten season. 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
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Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry afisher@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
Sue Schmidt - Music sschmidt@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 and Reconciliation

Tuesday, February 6

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Tom Morris

Wednesday, February 7

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Doc Birchmier

Thursday, February 8

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Kay Ross

Friday, February 9

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mary Ann Cory

Saturday, February 10

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Bill Devereux

Sunday, February 11

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

10:00am Mass, St. Mary *Heather Ward*

Prayer to St. Blaise

O Blessed St Blaise,
you received from God
the power to protect men
from throat diseases
and other maladies.
Take away the illness that afflicts me,
keep my throat healthy and perfect
so that I can talk correctly
and be able to proclaim
and sing praises to God.
Keep my throat free from illness
so that I can praise God, my Creator,
and thank you, St. Blaise, my protector.
Amen.

World Day for Consecrated Life

Please pray for Father Ross and all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life. May they always reveal the love and light of Christ to all they encounter and continue to enrich our world by their dedicated lives of prayer. Thank you Father Ross for responding generously to God's gift of your vocation.

Feast Day of St. Blaise

We ask St. Blaise to protect us from all sicknesses of the throat. We will have blessing of throats after Masses this weekend.

New Birth by Water and the Holy Spirit



Celebrate with us in welcoming into our Faith

Reuben Noel

Son of Eric and Rachel Manley

Welcome To Our New Members!

Mary Byrnes, who lives in Polk City

Patricia Thomas, who lives in Elkhart

Anne Leopold, who lives in Polk City

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.



Game Time Snacks!

The Super Bowl just wouldn't be the same without our S.T.O.R.M. "Super Snack Packs"! Order forms are available in the pews this weekend. Snack Packs will be distributed after Masses next weekend. Thank you for supporting the young church! Enjoy the snacks and the game!

Parish Council

Meeting: February 20, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting, February 27, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: Feb. 12, 6:00pm, Social Hall

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Gatherings: Sundays now through April 28, 11:00am-12:30pm, location varies

Knights of Columbus

Feb. 19, 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

- † **This Weekend:** Building Fund Collection — Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8:00am & 10:00am Masses
- † **Fridays of Lent:** Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary. Lenten meals on Feb. 23, March 8 & 22. Fish fry on Feb. 16, March 1 & 15
- † **Weekend of Feb. 17/18:** Collection for Catholic Charities Food Pantry

Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14 †

Our Masses are 7:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary.

We are looking for volunteers to lead the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent and hosts for our Lenten meal on Fridays, Feb. 23 and March 22. Please consider getting involved in your parish in this way; a signup is available in the vestibule of St. Mary or email the office to volunteer or if you have questions.

End of Year Statements

Please email Candy, bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org to have you statement emailed or mailed to you.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

Earlier this week, the readings proclaimed that we need to become like children to enter the kingdom of heaven. When observing the children in their religious education classes, it is not hard to see why the Lord says this. Whether it's the concentration shown in making a prayer card or their delight in discovering and delving deeper in some mystery presented, the child exhibits an exuberant, deep faith that points to an inexhaustible love of the Lord. Let's pray that we may all approach the mysteries of the kingdom as the child! If you are interested in observing on Wednesdays, please let us know.

Upcoming Dates

February 7- Regular Sessions
February 14- No Sessions, Ash Wednesday, please attend Mass with your families
February 21- 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 (7th & 8th Grades)

Sessions: Feb. 7, 21 & 28, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall
No session on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, please attend Mass with your family.

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Sunday, Feb. 11, 11:00am (after Mass) - Noon: 9th Grade only session, Youth Room downstairs at St. Mary

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

Gatherings: Feb. 7, 21 & 28, 7:30-9pm, Youth Room
No session on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, please attend Mass with your family.



Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic or just learning more? If so, join us for RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). All are welcome! Gatherings are held Sundays 11:00am-12:30pm through April 28 (sign for location will be posted). Please contact Nicole Cory for more information, ncory@saintmaryhc.org, 515-313-3014.

Blood Drive Results

27 people scheduled for the Drive
25 registered to donate
25 were able to donate
31 units of blood collected!!!
Up to 93 lives saved or sustained!!

Thanks to all who donated and to everyone involved in the planning, food donations, food servers and set-up/tear-down. Very much appreciated!



Prayer Chain

If illness or a crisis strikes your family or friends, don't hesitate to contact us so members of our Parish may offer prayers for those in need. *If the request is not for you, please ask permission of the one it is for, to be on our prayer chain.* To request prayers or to participate in our prayer chain, please contact the parish office, bliske@saintmaryhc.org.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	\$2,102	\$6,114	January 21
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$4,333	\$6,114	January 28

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$149,899	\$189,524	\$155,873

Food Pantry Collection: \$846.56

Diocesan Solidarity Fund Collection: \$449.00

Mass Attendance: Jan. 20/21: 226; January 27/28: 250

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
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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

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@hrtind.us
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Bill Schmitt - isucui@isualum.com
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiaowa.net
Lowell Crouse - l3jl@windstream.net
Tracy Irwin - irwin@partnercom.net
Stacey Rooney - rooneyslg17@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com
Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@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

Lenten Resources

A brief description of Lenten reflection booklets are below; they will be available next weekend.

Little Black Book

Find six minutes of quiet time every day to use this book a page at a time. That's within reach. The right hand page walks through the Passion according to Luke, with reflections and explanations along the way and on Sundays, it will take you through the Mass, explaining one part at a time. The other page has a variety of quotes, information, timely thoughts, many of which are centered around the Eucharist. This book begins Sunday before Ash Wednesday to give you three days to get ready for Lent.

The Season for Healing Hearts

Most people look at someone in trouble and think, "Somebody should help them." This Lent let your response be "I'm somebody! I should help!" We can all do something—call, listen, visit. Not difficult, but surely provides needed comfort. Jesus is saying, "Look at the people who are hurting. Let me bring healingthrough you." Get everything you can out of these pages and when Easter arrives you'll feel refreshed, renewed and ready to open your *helping* heart to *hurting* hearts.

Season of Love

*For Families
Daily Reflections, Prayers
and Activities*

Parents, if you find yourself overwhelmed by the thought of all you have to do during Lent, this little booklet is for you. Or, maybe Lent isn't registering as all that important for you and you are kind of neutral on it. Or maybe, just maybe, you are excited by Lent's possibilities and wondering how to help your family make the most of it. No matter where you are, this booklet is for you. We'll take just a few minutes each day to help you and your family grow a little more in understanding and love of God, each other, and the world around you.

Not by Bread Alone

This is a season of the heart, a yearly reminder to check our pulse, to review what damages and what heals our hearts. Just as our physical health is a year-round responsibility, this once-a-year Lenten check up keeps us on track. In this season of "heart health," we turn to God who has the power to transform our lives. In just a few minutes daily, these insightful meditations can deepen your experience of this solemn season of prayer and penance.

We Have a Friend in Jesus

Lent for Kids

During this holy time of Lent children come to know more about Jesus and grow closer to him; he is our friend! There are Scripture stories engagingly told, plus fun puzzles and activities that reveal to children that Jesus is their friend!

The Word Among Us

*Return to Me
with All Your Heart*

Scripture readings with daily meditations and inspirational features including the Parable of the Prodigal Son. When we are far from God and lost in our sin, God never gives up hope. He is always watching and waiting for us to come back. This is what Lent is all about. This is the very reason God the Father sent his Son to die for *us*! Every day our heavenly Father looks out for us and call us by name and invite us to come home. Our God longs for his children to be restored to him. Also included in this booklet is an Examination of Conscience.



Parish Lenten Opportunities

Mass: Tuesdays, 8:00am, St. Mary, Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Holy Cross; Thursdays and Fridays, 8:00am, St. Mary

Stations of the Cross: This is a devotional prayer practice that reflects on the Passion and Death of Jesus using artistic representations, accompanied by prayerful reflections. The tradition as it is today began with St. Francis of Assisi. We pray these Stations on Fridays, 6:00pm at St. Mary. We will have a meatless meal after the Stations on February 23, March 8 & 22 and a fish fry on February 16, March 1 & 15.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: St. Mary: Saturdays, 4:00-4:30pm or by appointment with Fr. Parker. There will be additional Reconciliation times at St. Mary in March. Dates and time to be determined.

Diocesan Resources: Visit <https://www.dmdiocese.org/living-lent> for amazing Lenten opportunities and resources for families, teens and adults of all ages.

Laudato Si

Lower the amount of energy used to pump, treat, and heat water by washing your car less often. When you do wash your vehicle, take it to a commercial car wash. That will use less water and the water will be treated afterward.

See more at:

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

Thank You

To My Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the Christmas cards. It was a joy each time I went to the mailbox and found the cards waiting for me. ~ *Dellia Roberts*

We would like to thank all of our St. Mary/Holy Cross family and friends for remembering us with cards and prayers as we celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary. God bless you all. ~ *Lynn and Chris Schreurs*

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of the Huxley Food Pantry, I want to thank you for your donation in January. Our numbers have increased these past few years, so your donation came at a particularly good time. It seems the pandemic has made us aware of how hard things must be for some of our neighbors. This community has always been generous! ~ *Jackie Rasmussen*



Help Needed!

Hard to think about snow removal when the weather has been so nice! Winter is not over yet. Sign up to help at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4A722A2FB6-46550958-sidewalk>. Contact Bill Schmitt, 515-291-8005 / isucui@isualum.com with questions. A list of parish activities will be emailed to you. Thank you in advance!

Church Sign

Free trip to heaven. Details inside.

Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday, February 10, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Bob Selby
Host Distributor	Susan Selby
Cup Bearers	Mary Thomas, Bob Selby
Altar Servers	Jack & Tommy Selby
Ushers	Doug Jones, <i>1 volunteer needed</i>
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, February 11, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

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

Sunday, February 11, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Jill Swanson
Host Distributor	Mike Nehring
Cup Bearers	Jill Swanson, Greg Feldmann
Altar Servers	Emma Swanson, Hailey Conover
Ushers	Gregg Richwine, Andrew Cory
Music	Garrett McClain, Karon Lacey, Maggie Bruce

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Money Counters

February 11: Brenda Nehring, Sue White
February 18: Sharon Morris, Dona Cowman



90% of plastic bags in the U.S. are not recycled.

What is a Prayer Shawl?

A prayer shawl is a soft warm reminder for people going through a rough time that you are not alone and that we are praying for you. If you know someone that could use the comfort of a prayer shawl or are interested in helping make them, please contact Dona Cowman at 515-383-4482 or racefans@iowatelecom.net.

Change of Information?

Moved? Had a baby? Dropped your landline? New email? Your adult children moved away and/or joined another parish? Please email the parish office with any changes to your family information so our records can be as accurate as possible. *Thank you!*

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").



Time Together With Your Spouse

Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? If you agree then you'll want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more info contact Denise and Greg - 563-920-9419.

Upcoming Iowa dates: February 16-18, Marshalltown;
April 12-14, Epworth; September 27-29, Dubuque;
November 8-10 in Holstein.

Theology on Tap

Join Young Catholics of the Diocese of Des Moines at Confluence Brewery (1235 Thomas Beck Rd, Des Moines) on February 16 at 6:00pm. Our guest speaker, Adam Storey, will discuss the question "What does it mean to be human?" Dinner is provided and drinks will be available for purchase. Check out our Facebook page or for questions or details email ydcatholiccatholicsingles@gmail.com.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 3/4

Theme: Let us preach the good news to all!

Reading I: Job 7:1-4, 6-7 • My life is like the wind.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23 • I am all things for all people, for the sake of the Gospel.

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39 • He went to a lonely place to pray.

For Children: What can you do to help your friends and classmates know more about Jesus?

For Youth: Jesus knew that his mission was for everyone, not just one village or group of people. How can you reach out to others (outside of friends and family) and offer them hope and Good News?

For Adults: If you were going to pray for healing for any reason, what would it be? What needs to be healed in our world and society?