



# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161

## I AM the Good Shepherd....

John 10:11



### Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 20/21, 2024

Dear Good People,

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is also World Day of Prayer for Vocations. I would humbly ask you to continue to pray for Vocations, and in a special way Vocations to the priesthood. Worldwide there are more and more Catholics, which is awesome, but there are less and less priests. We pray that many will be open to a call to priesthood in service to Christ and His Church.

Please also keep in your prayers Fr. Andrew Windschitl former Pastor of St. Mary-Holy Cross. He had quite the health scare, but it seems like he is now on the road to recovery.

Finally, we are preparing for First Holy Communion next week. Please keep our young people in prayer as they are preparing to receive Jesus in Holy Communion next Sunday. I will be presiding at a wedding in Shelby County Friday and Saturday and Fr. Dan will have mass on Saturday, but I will be home on Saturday night. A lot of awesome things are happening. A.M.D.G. - Fr. Ross

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*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.*

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<b>Parish Phone</b>	515-367-2685
<b>Parish General Email</b>	<a href="mailto:smhc@saintmaryhc.org">smhc@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Fr. Ross Parker, Pastor</b>	515-367-2685/ <a href="mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org">rparker@dmdiocese.org</a>
<b>Nicole Cory - Confirmation</b>	<a href="mailto:ncory@saintmaryhc.org">ncory@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	<a href="mailto:afisher@saintmaryhc.org">afisher@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Sue Harrington - Music</b>	<a href="mailto:sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org">sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry</b>	<a href="mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org">mkahler@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Barb Liske - Secretary</b>	<a href="mailto:bliske@saintmaryhc.org">bliske@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Geneveve Loraditch - PreK-6 RE</b>	<a href="mailto:gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org">gloraditch@saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Tracy Miller - PreK-6 RE</b>	<a href="mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org">tmiller@saintmaryhc.org</a>
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<b>Parish Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.saintmaryhc.org">www.saintmaryhc.org</a>
<b>Parish Facebook Site</b>	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart
<b>Parish Fax</b>	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

**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.

**Rite of Christian Initiation:** Please contact Fr. Parker

**Priesthood/Religious:** [www.vocationsonline.org](http://www.vocationsonline.org)

## Mass and Reconciliation

### Tuesday, April 23

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Clifford & Sarah Seufferer

### Wednesday, April 24

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Ashley Carpenter and  
Mary Beth Bump

### Thursday, April 25

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

### Friday, April 26

8:00am Mass, St. Mary *Special Intention*

### Saturday, April 27

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

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

### Sunday, April 28

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Jeff Ruden

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

## Prayer for Vocations

God our Father,  
we thank you for calling men and women  
to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests,  
deacons, and consecrated persons.  
Send your Holy Spirit  
to help others to respond generously  
and courageously to your call.  
May our community of faith  
support vocations to the  
priesthood and religious life  
in our youth and young adults. 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. 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](mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org).

## It's Still the Easter Season!



We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus for 50 days until Pentecost on May 19. *The Little White Book* and *The Word Among Us* are available at St. Mary to help you celebrate this season. Diocesan resources and activities to celebrate this season can be found at [www.dmdiocese.org/living-easter](http://www.dmdiocese.org/living-easter).

## Today is World Day of Prayer for Vocations

As Catholics, we firmly believe that God has a plan for our lives! He calls some to marriage, some to the priesthood, and others to religious life or to live as generous single people. Fully living our own vocations—and teaching young people how to discern God's call—is a serious duty, but also a joyful one. Please encourage the young people in your life—children, grandchildren, students, and friends—to be open if God calls them to priesthood or religious life.



## Graduating Seniors!

Our parish is pleased to announce a scholarship to be granted to a high school senior pursuing higher education! If interested in applying for this scholarship, please go to [https://docs.google.com/document/d/188f\\_s1JAQh9LGHJpwbxL1CVqsJSYcN5WlksB44iBubl/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/188f_s1JAQh9LGHJpwbxL1CVqsJSYcN5WlksB44iBubl/edit?usp=sharing). Paper applications are also available at St. Mary and Holy Cross. **The application is due by this Friday, April 26.**

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

## Parish Council

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

## Finance Council

Meeting: April 23, 6:30pm, Social Hall

## Stewardship

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

## RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Gatherings: Sundays, 11:00am-1:00pm, location varies

## Knights of Columbus

May 20, 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](mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org) or 515-720-3434.

## Coming Events

- †**This Weekend:** Food Pantry Collection for Impact Community Action Partnership in Ankeny
- †**Thursday-Saturday, April 25-27:** Social Hall, Ed Center and Church in use, 9:00am-3:00pm
- †**Friday, Saturday, Monday, May 3/4/6:** Social Hall and Ed Center in use, 9am - 4pm & Sunday, May 5, 11am-5:30pm
- †**Weekend of May 4/5:** Blessing of High School Seniors — Building Fund collection — Wine & Cheese (**host needed!**) after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8:00am and 10:00am Masses
- †**Thursday, May 16:** Blood Drive, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall

## Purchase a Flag for Holy Cross Cemetery

Honor your special someone with a flag to be flown on Memorial weekend, Fourth of July, Labor Day weekend and Veteran's Day in Holy Cross Cemetery along with our current 165 American flags. Price of \$275 includes flag, pole, laser engraved identifying tag of the honoree and the donor, base installation, raising and lowering the flag and storage. An order form is included in this bulletin, at both churches and on our website <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/holy-cross-cemetery-committee>. Order and payment (payable to Lynn Schreurs) due by May 1. Contact Lynn with questions, 515-577-8147. A reminder that we only install new flags once a year prior to Memorial weekend.

## 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

Next Sunday, we will celebrate the children making their First Holy Communion! This week will be busy with preparations, including retreats and reconciliation. Please keep these children in your prayers!

If you are attending the retreat on Thursday or Friday please send a sack lunch and a water bottle with your children. Please have the children wear nice clothes for Mass but also clothes they can play in since, weather permitting, we will go to the park for lunch.

### Upcoming Dates

April 21- First Communion Special Session #3, 10:45-12:15  
April 25-26, Optional First Communion Retreat, 9am-3pm  
April 27- First Communion Retreat with First Reconciliation, 9:00am-3:00pm  
April 28- First Communion Liturgy, 2:00pm

## S.T.O.R.M. Report: 7th - 12th Grade

### 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

Dear EDGE families,

What a wonderful way to end an amazing year of EDGE faith formation at St. Mary-Holy Cross! The weather was perfect for our last session of the 2023-2024 year. The youth, teen & adult leaders had a cookout and competitive game of kickball with Father Ross as the pitcher. We even got the privilege to wrap up the evening with a Q&A session with Father!

As we reflect on this past year we are once again grateful for the energetic young church at SM-HC! In addition to all the fun fellowship opportunities, the youth learned about several Saints, experienced new prayer practices, participated in service projects, attended Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, gained an bit more understanding of the importance of the Eucharist at Mass and grew in their love for our Catholic faith. We look forward to accompanying them on their continued faith walk. We have been blessed to be on this faith journey with the 7th & 8th graders.

Watch the bulletin for information and be sure to get registered for the 2024-2025 school year! Have a great summer! *Blessings Melissa, Ann, Nicole, Melanie & Bridget*

## High School Senior Recognition 2024

During weekend Masses of May 4 & 5 we will recognize and have a blessing for our students graduating this year!

*Seniors: please email Fr. Parker, [rparker@dmdiocese.org](mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org), by May 1 to let him know which Mass you will be attending.*

## Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Thank you to everyone who has given a gift to this Appeal. We will need 100% participation to reach our assessment of \$51,458. Please mail your gift (check made out to Diocese of Des Moines) to the Diocese or drop in the collection basket at Mass. Pledge cards are also available at both Churches. You can also donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; and choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown.

**Jesus Is The Only Reason For Every Season!**

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

April 14 Budget Week 42

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$7,974	\$6,114

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$219,128	\$256,775	\$216,253

April 13/14 Mass Attendance: 303

## 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Amt. Due
\$51,458	\$29,445	\$28,765	\$22,693

## 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](mailto:hoyhill@partnercom.net)  
Anne Davis - [annedavis06@gmail.com](mailto:annedavis06@gmail.com)  
Terri Hamm - [Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org](mailto:Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org)  
Drew Hanlon - [drewsmhpcp@yahoo.com](mailto:drewsmhpcp@yahoo.com)  
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Tammi McClain - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)  
Lisa Schoening - [lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com](mailto:lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com)

### FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Fisher, *Chair* - [Johnfisher@sienafastener.com](mailto:Johnfisher@sienafastener.com)  
Julia Coash - [jcoash@outlook.com](mailto:jcoash@outlook.com)  
Laurie Phelan - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Bill Rooney - [1rooneybill@gmail.com](mailto:1rooneybill@gmail.com)  
Tom Rooney - [roondog007@msn.com](mailto:roondog007@msn.com)

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - [katie.fredericks@mercyoneiowa.org](mailto:katie.fredericks@mercyoneiowa.org)  
Beth Hart - [mrsmatthart@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmatthart@gmail.com)  
Kris Sturtz - [klsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:klsturtz@gmail.com)  
Jen Linderblood - [jlinderb@yahoo.com](mailto:jlinderb@yahoo.com)  
Tammi McClain - [tammimcclain71@gmail.com](mailto:tammimcclain71@gmail.com)  
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 - [drewsmhpcp@yahoo.com](mailto:drewsmhpcp@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 - [lschreurs@msn.com](mailto:lschreurs@msn.com)

### CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - [Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com)  
Pat Bishop - [pjbishop@midiowa.net](mailto:pjbishop@midiowa.net)  
Lowell Crouse - [l3jl@windstream.net](mailto:l3jl@windstream.net)  
Tracy Irwin - [irwin@partnercom.net](mailto:irwin@partnercom.net)  
Stacey Rooney - [rooneysl7@gmail.com](mailto:rooneysl7@gmail.com)  
Tom Rooney - [roondog007@msn.com](mailto:roondog007@msn.com)  
Lynn Schreurs - [lschreurs@msn.com](mailto:lschreurs@msn.com)  
Larry Shaw - [shawcattle77@gmail.com](mailto:shawcattle77@gmail.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

John & Peg Evans - [evansp3@yahoo.com](mailto:evansp3@yahoo.com)

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Mike Devereux - [devoducks@msn.com](mailto:devoducks@msn.com)

## Laudato Si

Encourage prayer before and after meals to express gratitude to God for His generosity in meeting our daily needs, but also as a reminder of our duty to be good stewards of His creation so that it may continue to serve the needs of all His creatures. See more at:

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

## Catholic Youth Camp

CYC Sessions are filling up for this summer! Register today at [stmcenter.com](http://stmcenter.com). Volunteer counselor applications are also available at [stmcenter.com/counselors](http://stmcenter.com/counselors). Our parish pays \$100 of each of our student's fee to attend CYC. Please contact the office after registering your child for this camp.

## 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](mailto:bliske@saintmaryhc.org) or 515-367-2685.

## 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](mailto: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.*

## Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

### Saturday, April 27, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Bob Selby  
Host Distributor Lisa Schoening  
Cup Bearers Susan & Bob Selby  
Altar Servers Jack Selby  
Ushers Mike Devereux, Bill Schmitt  
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

### Sunday, April 28, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Matt Hart  
Cup Bearer Tony Kuehn  
Altar Servers Titus & Zeke Weber  
Ushers Jerry & Patty Hilton  
Music Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

### Sunday, April 28, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Greg Feldmann  
Host Distributor Jill Swanson  
Cup Bearers Gregg Feldmann, Tracy Miller  
Altar Servers Emma Swanson, Hailey Conover  
Ushers Gregg Richwine, Andrew Cory  
Music Garrett McClain, Karon Lacey, Mary Ortmann

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## Money Counters

April 21: Sharon Morris, Sue White

April 28: Trish Morris, Kathy Daup



Recycling one glass bottle or jar saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours

## Earth Day 2024: Planet vs. Plastics

This is an annual event on April 22 to support environmental protection. Join us to honor and celebrate our remarkable planet on this extraordinary day. Earth Day is a reminder of the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability, encouraging us to come together and take action for a healthier planet and brighter future. [EarthDay.org](http://EarthDay.org) is unwavering in their commitment to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of ALL plastics by 2040. Their theme, *Planet vs. Plastics*, calls to advocate for widespread awareness on the health risk of plastics, rapidly phase out all single use plastics, urgent push for a strong United Nations Treaty on Plastic Pollution, and demand an end to fast fashion. Join us as we build a plastic-free planet for generations to come!



## Blood Drive



Thursday, May 16, 3:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall.

There is no substitution for blood—only you can make the difference in helping to save lives by making this special donation. Appointments required; no walk-ins. Schedule your appointment: [www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/). It only takes about 30 – 45 minutes from check-in to check-out. Volunteers and snacks are needed; please contact Larry Sauer, [sauerld@outlook.com](mailto:sauerld@outlook.com) / 515-710-2421, to help.

## Bring a Nurse to Church!

Join us for Mass on the Feast Day of St. Catherine of Siena, Patron Saint of Nurses, to pray with and pray for nurses. Let us give thanks for all they do for our communities. All nurses and friends of nurses of all denominations welcome! Join us at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church and Student Center at Drake University, 1150 28th Street, DSM, on Monday, April 29 at 5:15pm. Refreshments following Mass.

## Mental Health Ministry Mass and Retreat

Join us Sunday, May 5 for 11:00am Mass at the Cathedral and this Retreat from Noon to 4:00pm at the Catholic Pastoral Center. It's a day of prayer and fellowship. This retreat offers a deeper understanding and appreciation for topics related to mental health from a Catholic perspective. Lunch is provided. Cost: \$10, scholarships available upon request. To inquire about a scholarship email Sherri Simmer at [ssimmer@dmdioocese.org](mailto:ssimmer@dmdioocese.org).

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 20/21

*Theme: Jesus is the Good Shepherd.*

*Reading I:* Acts 4:8-12 • Jesus has become our cornerstone!

*Reading II:* 1 John 3:1-2 • We shall be like him: light!

*Gospel:* John 10:11-18 • Jesus is our good shepherd.

*For Children:* Jesus tells us he is the Good Shepherd, but how do you experience God guiding and protecting you?

*For Youth:* How do you feel about Jesus' being your shepherd? What does it mean to you that he lays down his life for you?

*For Adults:* What qualities of God does the image of the Good Shepherd suggest? How do you experience God in this way?