



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Second Sunday of Lent

February 28 & March 1, 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. The first week of Lent we always hear of Jesus' temptation in the desert. The second week of Lent we hear of the Transfiguration of Jesus. In today's preface for mass we hear about the mystery of the Transfiguration: "For after he had told his disciples of his coming death, on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory, to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection." As we journey through our lives we remember that the crosses and temptations we carry orient us to the glory of the resurrection and eternal life, which is our hope as Christians. What a powerful thing to reflect on during these days of holy Lent! - 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, March 3

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Teresa Schrum

Wednesday, March 4

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † Bill Davis

Thursday, March 5

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † James Fickbohm

First Friday, March 6 *Abstain from meat*

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Ira & Mary Ann Cory

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

Saturday, March 7

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Jerry Girres

Sunday, March 8

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † Chris Schreurs

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

Lenten Prayer



Loving God,
there is so much darkness in my life
and I hide from you.
Take my hand
and lead me out of the shadows of my fear.
Help me to change my heart.
Bring me to your truth
and help me to respond to your generous love.
Let me recognize the fullness of your love
which will fill my life.
Free me from the darkness in my heart.
Amen.

Welcome To Our New Members!



Christopher & Shannon Pagliai, who live in Ankeny

New Birth by Water and the Holy Spirit



Celebrate with us in welcoming into our Faith

Georgia Catherine

Daughter of Dillon and Anna Harlow

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

Your Lenten Journey

We hope you will consider forming your personal faith by participating in our Lenten offerings: Stations of the Cross... Sacrament of Reconciliation... attending weekday Mass... quiet prayer time in church... making use of the reflection resources available. Welcome Jesus more fully into your life and let Him be the anchor of your soul.

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. On March 13m our EDGE and Youth Group students will be presenting the Silhouette Stations of the Cross. We gather for a Lenten meal following the Stations on March 13 and March 27.

-If you would like to lead the Stations of the Cross on March 6, please email the Office or sign up in the vestibule at St. Mary. Thank you!

Parish Council

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

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

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

OCIA / Grow in Your Catholic Faith

March 2, 9, 23 & 30, 6:15pm, Youth Room

No session March 16

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

- † **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:** Social Hall in use 8:00am-3:00pm — 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

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!*



Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday, March 8.
Spring ahead one hour!

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Bob Canney, brother of Char McHone, who passed away Monday

Paul Seidel, grandfather of Kim Liske, who passed away Thursday.

They are now at peace with our Lord. May their families know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

✠ *Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.* ✠

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

We have Lenten booklets available for children and parents on the table to take after Mass. They are also available in the Ed Center on Wednesday.

The children will be leading Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 20 at 6:00pm. We are looking for volunteers to help out. See your email for details.

Upcoming Sessions

March 4 - Regular sessions

March 11 - Regular sessions

March 18 - No sessions spring break

March 20 - Children led Stations of the Cross, 6pm, St. Mary

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

ATTENTION EDGE & High School Teens:

Silhouette Stations of the Cross "actors" needed! We need 4-10 teens who are willing to lead and participate in this moving presentation of the Stations of the Cross. No need to be nervous or shy about the acting, we have plenty of time to rehearse and you are behind a screen, so shy people are welcome! We will meet 4 times to rehearse: Wednesday, March 4, 7:30pm-8:30pm (Youth Room), Sunday, March 8, 6:30pm-8:00pm (Church) & Wednesday, March 11, 7:30pm-8:30pm (Youth Rm). Our final rehearsal is Friday, March 13 right after school, then we present these Stations to the Parish at 6:00pm. Please text or call Melissa soon, 515-290-2830, to sign up to help with this powerful experience.

EDGE — Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall, 7th & 8th Sessions: March 4, 11 & 25. No Session on March 18 due to Spring Break

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

Please see your email to sign up to volunteer for KofC fish fry Fridays.

Sunday, March 8: 9th Grade Session, 11:00am-12:30pm

Sunday, March 22: 10th Gade Session, 11:00am-12:30pm

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

Gatherings: March 4, 11 & 25. No Gathering on March 18 due to Spring Break

Additional Reconciliation Times at St. Mary



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

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

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

Weekly Collection Financial Update

February 22 Budget Week 34

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$2,760	\$5,536

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$214,149	\$188,209	\$190,298

Food Pantry Collection: \$978.16

Mass Attendance: Feb 21/22: 350

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

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

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



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.

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Please prayerfully make a commitment to support the work of our Diocesan programs and ministries. These programs provide services that our Parish cannot provide on our own – faith formation training, marriage prep support, medical insurance for priests and staff as well as support for our seminarian and diaconate training programs. We are part of the larger Diocese, and each parish provides support.

You have, or will be receiving information from Bishop Joensen asking you to give a gift. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the ADA. Please return your pledge card to the Parish Office or drop it in the collection basket, or make an online gift at www.DMDiocese.org/giving. Our assessment is \$47,270. Thank you for your support.

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit: Designate a monthly amount to be withdrawn from your account on the 15th or 30th. Contact Candy, bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org for questions or to begin ACH or the form is at church or on our website home page.



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.

Ministers for March 7 & 8

Saturday, March 7, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Tom Froehlich
Host Distributor	Susan Stillmunkes
Cup Bearers	Linda & Tom Froehlich
Ushers	Mike D., Bill K., Lisa M., Larry D.
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

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

Lector	Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer	Laurie Phelan
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Usher	Jerry & Deb Zenkner
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, March 8, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Kris Sturtz
Host Distributor	Angela Collum
Cup Bearers	Jacki & Tom Ausman
Altar Servers	David & Elizabeth Collum
	<i>Cross Bearer:</i> Aubrey Conover
Ushers	Andrew Cory, Greg Richwine
Music	Sue Harrington, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

March 1: Dona Cowman, Sue White
March 8: Sue White, Kathy Petersen



There is no limit to the amount of times an aluminum can be recycled.

Reconciliation Services

If you are unable to come to Reconciliation at St. Mary, below are Services at other Parishes.

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, March 3 | 6:00pm, St. Boniface, Waukee |
| Wednesday, March 4 | 6:15pm, St. Joseph, Des Moines |
| Wednesday, March 4 | 6:30pm, Assumption, Granger |
| Wednesday, March 4 | 6:30pm, St. Theresa, Des Moines |
| Sunday, March 8 | 3:00pm, St. John, Adel |
| Wednesday, March 11 | 7:00pm, Sacred Heart, WDM |
| Thursday, March 12 | 6:30pm, OLIH, Ankeny |
| Wednesday, March 18 | 6:00pm, St. Catherine of Siena, DSM |
| Sunday, March 22 | 2:00pm, St. Mary of Nazareth, DSM |
| Thursday, March 26 | 7:00pm, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona |
| Sunday, March 29 | 4:00pm, St. Pius X, Urbandale |

Help Shape the Future of Iowa Catholic Radio!

Take their confidential survey at iowacatholicradio.com and be entered for a chance to win one of ten \$25 Visa gift cards. Your feedback helps them better serve the Catholic community—thank you for being part of their mission!

Digital Catholic Mirror Newsletter

Sign up for The Catholic Mirror newsletter A new bi-weekly digital newsletter from the Diocese. Every issue will feature Catholic news and events from around the Diocese plus additional news stories out of the Vatican and USCCB. Sign up today by visiting www.dmdiocese.org/newsletter.

"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may go to heaven." ~ St. Rose of Lima

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").

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Second Sunday of Lent, Feb. 28 & March 1

Theme: Transfiguration - with the Spirit of Jesus living within us, we will be transformed.

Reading I: Genesis 12:1-4a • I will make of you a great nation.

Reading II: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 • God has called us to a holy life.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9 • Get up! Do not be afraid!

Question Share about a time when you felt especially close to God or Jesus.

Question for Youth: Have you ever had a "mountain top" experience where you felt exceptionally close to God? How was your life changed by that experience?

Question for Adults: Perhaps this reading calls us, not to cling to the familiar, but to leave the comforts of the parish and reach out to the world around us. In your community or neighborhood, who is waiting to hear the Good News?