



# St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



## Second Sunday of Lent

March 16, 2025

*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 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,

The Gospel on the second Sunday of Lent is always and account of the Transfiguration of Jesus. Traditionally celebrated forty days before Good Friday. The Gospel readings from last week and this week remind us that Jesus is in solidarity with us in our temptations, and that we also share in Christ's glory through our Baptism and Confirmation.

As I am writing this our students are preparing for Spring Break. I never remembered getting out of school on Thursday, but anyway! Hopefully this time can be a time of renewal of mind and body for students, staff, and teachers. Just a reminder to travelers to make a plan for holy mass.

Finally, a giant thank you to the brother Knights of Columbus for the hard work for the first fish fry. We had someone at Church from Thursday night all the way until late Friday when I went to bed and saw the lights turn out. That is a lot of work! Please join us for Stations of the Cross, Our Lenten Meals, and our Fish Fry's. A lot of good stuff happening.

- A.M.D.G. Fr. Ross

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<b>Parish Facebook Site</b>	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:** Please contact Fr. Parker or Nicole Cory

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

## Mass and Lenten Offerings

### Tuesday, March 18

8:00am Mass, St. Mary *Healing for JoAnn Meusburger and Tim Miller*

### Wednesday, March 19

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Doc Birchmier*

### Thursday, March 20

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Mark Kollasch*

### Friday, March 21 *Abstain from meat*

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Edith Lacey*

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

### Saturday, March 22

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary *People of the Parish*

### Sunday, March 23

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † *Aiden Phelan-Ruden and Jeff Ruden*

10:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Bill Ross*

## 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, 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](mailto:rparker@dmdiocese.org).



## Stations of the Cross

Come follow Jesus on his way to Calvary by praying these powerful Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary. We will have a meatless meal and fellowship in the Social Hall following the Stations on March 28 & April 11.

## Try Something New This Lent!

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 the church... making use of the reflection resources available in the vestibule. Welcome Jesus more fully into your life and let Him be the anchor of your soul!



## Lenten Reconciliation

Father Parker has additional times for Reconciliation on **Thursday, March 27, 6:00-7:00pm, Friday, March 28, 5:00-6:00pm and Saturday, March 29, 3:00-4:30pm** at St. Mary, or contact him for an appointment.

## Lenten Resources

Please take advantage of these booklets available in the vestibule. They will help God's presence in you become more evident, more of a reality in your everyday life, and they may help God's light shine through you to others in need.

## Lenten Prayer

Loving God,  
Sometimes my heart  
turns in every direction  
except towards you.  
Please help me  
to turn my heart toward you,  
to gaze upon you in trust  
and to seek your kingdom with all of my heart.  
Soften my hardened heart  
so that I might love others  
as a way to glorify and worship you.  
Grant me this  
with the ever-present guidance of your spirit.  
Amen.



### Parish Council

Meeting: March 18, 6:30pm, Social Hall

### Finance Council

Meeting: March 25, 6:30pm, Social Hall

### Stewardship

Meeting: April 14, 6:00pm, Social Hall

### Adult Faith Formation

No upcoming events

### Knights of Columbus

Meeting: April 21, 7:00pm, Social Hall

### Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 5: Elkhart & Cambridge

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:** Collection for Maxwell Food Pantry
- † **Choir Practice:** Sundays, March 16, 23 & 30, 11am, Thursdays, April 3 & 10, 6:30pm; Sunday, April 13 at 11am
- † **Friday, March 21:** Stations of the Cross, 6:00pm, St. Mary — 5:00-7:00pm fish fry, Social Hall
- † **Hall in use:** Saturday, March 22, 7:00am-2:00pm



## Easter Vigil Choir

Join our Easter Vigil choir! Practices are Sundays, March 16, 23 & 30 at 11:00am, Thursdays, April 3 & 10 at 6:30pm and Sunday, April 13 at 11:00am, and last one hour. We will sing at the Easter Vigil 8:00pm Mass on Saturday, April 19. For more information, please contact Aubrey Sigmund, Music Coordinator, 515-451-0635 or [asigmund@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:asigmund@saintmaryhc.org).

## Fish Fry Fridays

Join the Knight of Columbus March 21 & April 4, serving from 5:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. Free will donation. *Please contact Jon Hand, [jon79hand@gmail.com](mailto:jon79hand@gmail.com) / 515-291-8814 if you'd like to help. To donate a dessert please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4AA8A62DA5FD0-54890380-desserts#/>*

## Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

### Coordinator

Tracy Miller, [tmiller@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tmiller@saintmaryhc.org), 515-520-7981

We have Lenten resources available for you and your children on the table by the Cry Room.

Thank you so much to all of you who donated a Bible for our First Communicants; they will start their preparations soon.

### Upcoming Sessions

March 19 - No sessions, Spring Break

March 21 - Stations of the Cross led by our RE program

March 23 - First Communion special session 11:00am- 12:00pm

March 26 - Regular sessions

## 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

**EDGE** (7th & 8th Grades), 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Session: Wednesday, March 26

**Confirmation** (9th & 10th Grades)

Fridays, March 21 and April 4: KofC Fish Fry

*Check email for a sign up genius to volunteer for Fish Frys.*

**STORM Youth Group** (9th-12th): 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room

Gathering: Wednesday, March 26

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

## Removal of Decorations at Cemetery

In preparation for Spring, please plan to have all gravesite decorations at Holy Cross Cemetery removed no later than Tuesday, April 1. Any remaining decorations after this date will be collected and disposed of by the Cemetery Committee. Thank you.

## Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of reaching our assessment of \$47,320. Please prayerfully consider how you can support our Diocese which supports our parish. Please mail your pledge card and gift (check made out to Diocese of Des Moines) to the Diocese. You can also donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving>; choose our parish from the "Designate" dropdown. Thank you for your support and thank you to those who have already made a gift!

## Prayer for Pope Francis



O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favorably on your servant Francis, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd; grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

-Source: USCCB

## Weekly Collection Financial Update

March 9 Budget Week 37

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$2,817	\$5,511

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

	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$202,705	\$203,895	\$176,126

*Building Fund Collection: \$1489.25*

*Mass Attendance March 8 & 9: 303*

## God Chats 24-7.

## Councils and Committees

### PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Anne Davis - [annedavis06@gmail.com](mailto:annedavis06@gmail.com)  
Terri Hamm - [Theresa.Hamm@mercyconeiowa.org](mailto:Theresa.Hamm@mercyconeiowa.org)  
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Lisa Schoening - [lisa@lisaschoening.com](mailto:lisa@lisaschoening.com)

### FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Sue White - [charylmyron@q.com](mailto:charylmyron@q.com)

### BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Roberts, *Co-Chair* - [jroberts@huxcomm.net](mailto:jroberts@huxcomm.net)  
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### CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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### PARISH TRUSTEES

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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

Keep a set of reusable dining utensils in your briefcase, purse, car or some other handy spot so that they are available whenever you buy take-out food. That way you won't have to take plastic utensils (even the compostable kind) from the restaurant. See more at:

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

## Parish Scholarship

This Scholarship has been awarded to 20 of our high school seniors since it started in 2018! Money collected from desserts at the fish fries has been our biggest source of donations. Please consider donating dessert items OR money to help build our scholarship campaign. The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your generosity.

## Old Palms

There is a container in the vestibule if you would like us to dispose of your blessed palms from last year.

## Area Churches Reconciliation Services

Sunday, March 23, 2:00pm, St. Mary of Nazareth, DSM  
Sunday, March 30, 3:00pm, St. John, Adel  
Sunday, March 30, 4:00pm, St. Pius X, Urbandale  
Tuesday, April 1, 6:00pm, St. Boniface, Waukee  
Wednesday, April 2, 6:30pm, Assumption, Granger  
Wednesday, April 2, 6:30pm, St. Theresa, Des Moines  
Thursday, April 3, 6:30pm, OLIH, Ankeny  
Thursday, April 10, 7:00pm, Ss. John and Paul, Altoona



## Living Lent

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](http://dmdiocese.org/living-lent).

## Liturgical Ministers for March 22 & 23

### Saturday, March 22, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Tom Froehlich  
Host Distributor Drew Hanlon  
Cup Bearers Linda & Tom Froehlich  
Ushers Jim Hudson & Drew Hanlon  
Music Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

### Sunday, March 23, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Anne Davis  
Cup Bearer Tony Kuehn  
Altar Servers Claire & Oliver Hand  
Usher Jerry & Patty Hilton  
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

### Sunday, March 23, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Garrett McClain  
Host Distributor Garrett McClain  
Cup Bearers Tom & Jacki Ausman  
Altar Servers Amelia Muehlenthaler, Aubrey Conover  
*Cross Bearer:* Hailey Conover  
Ushers Tom & Jacki Ausman  
Music Aubrey Sigmund, Vivian Kahler, Maggie Bruce

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## Money Counters

March 16: Dona Cowman, Sue White  
March 23: Kathy Daup, Kathy Petersen



2.5 million plastic bottles are thrown away every hour in America.

## 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.

## Evangelization: Camel's Hair and Locusts Not Required

Join us for *Tap Into Faith*, Sunday, March 23, 7:00-8:30pm at King's Head (next to Magee's Irish Pub) in Ankeny.

St. John the Baptist seems to be an unlikely herald of the Gospel, but he was also directing people towards an unlikely Messiah. The thought of evangelization makes many people anxious with feelings of being unqualified. You don't need to wear camel's hair and eat locusts to live out your baptismal calling to go before the Lord to bring knowledge of salvation to His people by the forgiveness of their sins. Deacon Mark Campbell from Iowa Catholic Radio will share how everyone can be a voice of one crying out in the desert.

## Health Care Decisions in Line with Our Faith

Do you need help making health care decisions that are in alignment with Catholic moral teaching? The Iowa Catholic Conference can help. They released a new webinar for its project called Supportive Care Iowa. You can find it at the Iowa Catholic Conference YouTube channel. To be connected with a trained person who can assist in completing advance care directive documents, email Tom Chapman at [tom@iowacatholicconference.org](mailto:tom@iowacatholicconference.org).

See Diocesan events at [www.dmdiocese.org](http://www.dmdiocese.org); scroll towards bottom of that page.

## 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" or "Elkhart".**

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### Second Sunday of Lent, March 16

*Theme: Lent calls us to transform our lives.*

*Reading I:* Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 • God makes a covenant with Abram.

*Reading II:* Philippians 3:17-4:1 • Christ will transform us.

*Gospel:* Luke 9:28b-36 • As Jesus prayed, He was transformed.

*For Children:* Jesus invites you to be close to him, to see him with clear eyes. What is Jesus like as a friend?

*For Youth:* What do you most want God to help you with?

*For Adults:* Sometimes we can see Christ with clear eyes, as the disciples did on that mountain. Share about such a time in your own life.