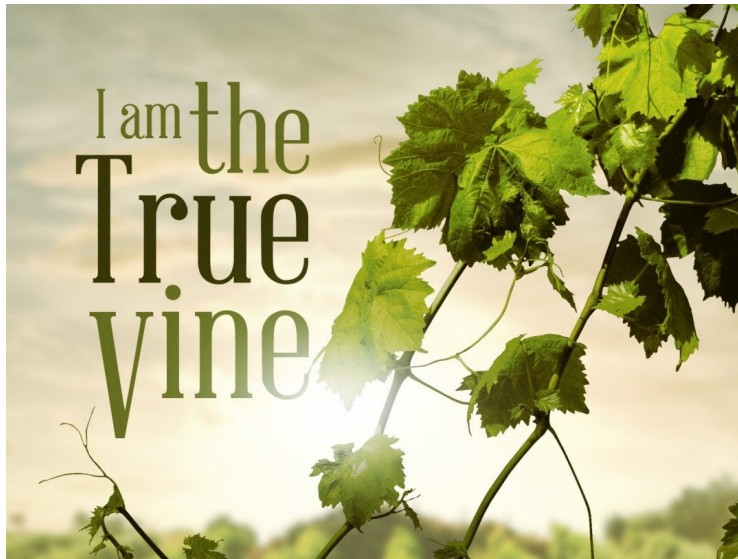


St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 27/28, 2024

Dear Good People,

Why does the Easter season go so much quicker than the Lenten season? I mean come on!!! Just kind of joking, but we really have a lot going on, which is awesome. First of all, an update on Fr. Andrew. I spoke to him on the phone and there was some confusion. He actually never passed out, but there was a water leak in his bathroom and he slipped causing the broken ribs. He is on the mend now and I am heading to his parish to celebrate a wedding on Saturday. Fr. Dan will be here on Saturday so we are grateful for his help.

Secondly, I want to extend a huge thank you to all the people who helped during our clean-up day. We had a great turnout and got a lot of things done. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers for what you do seen and unseen.

Finally, this weekend we are celebrating First Holy Communion at SMHC. Please keep our young people in your prayers. Thank you to Genevieve and Tracy for coordinating everything. It is a lot of work. First Communion is one of my favorite days in the parish. If this is our First Holy Communion or our ten-thousandth let us continue to foster a sense of reverence and love for our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist. 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
Nicole Cory - Confirmation	ncory@saintmaryhc.org
Andrea Fisher - 7th-12th Ministry	afisher@saintmaryhc.org
Sue Harrington - Music	sschmidt@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
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

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

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, April 30

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †*Mary Maxwell*

Wednesday, May 1

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †*Jack Bailey*

Thursday, May 2

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

First Friday, May 3

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

Saturday, May 4

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †*Kay Ross*

Sunday, May 5

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †*Lyle Carpenter*

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

Easter Prayer

Risen Lord, the joyful message is that suffering and death were not the end. You rose triumphantly in a new and glorified body, opening the door for all who believe in You to do the same. Draw me in, Lord, to Your suffering and death so that I may also be drawn into the glory of Your Resurrection. Give me the courage You had as You endured so much. Help me to face the crosses in my life with Your strength. As I do, fill me with hope as I anticipate the new life You will bring from all sufferings united 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. 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.

It's Still the Easter Season!



We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus for 50 days until Pentecost on May 19. Diocesan resources and activities to celebrate this season can be found at www.dmdiocese.org/living-easter.



WOW! What a Group!

We had a much larger group at our workday last Saturday than in the past! Our thanks and appreciation to Doug Jones, Drew Hanlon, Father Ross, Margaret Cleverley, Randy Holdren, Jen and Imogene Linderblood, Gary Sesker, Mike Devereux, Kris Sexton, Terry Sabol and Tim & Candy Miller. It was fantastic that so many of the jobs got done!

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. Order forms are 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.

Church Sign

What would you do today
if you knew you would see Christ tomorrow?

Parish Council

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

Finance Council

Meeting: May 28, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

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

RCIA/Adult Faith Formation

Sunday, May 5, 11:00am-1:00pm & Saturday, May 18, 10:00am to Noon, 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 or 515-720-3434.

Coming Events

- †**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 after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8am and 10am Masses
- †**Thursday, May 16:** Blood Drive, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall
- †**Saturday, May 18:** Work Day at Holy Cross Church, 9:00 am to Noon.

High School Senior Recognition 2024

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

Seniors: please email Fr. Parker, rparker@dmdiocese.org, by this Wednesday, May 1 to let him know which Mass you will be attending.

Be Involved!

If you have not had an opportunity to fill out our Time and Talent form, there are copies at both churches and it is on our website under the *Get Involved* tab on the *Events and Opportunities* page, <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/events-opportunities>. Please return your completed form to the office or in the collection basket. Thank you for making our parish better by being involved!!!



Congratulations

to these students receiving their *First Holy Communion*.

Please keep them in your prayers.

Adrian Babbitt	Lucas Hoskins
Gehrig Barslou	Colette Safina
Fulton Becker	Garrus Safina
Giorgio Becker	Cora Swanson
David Collum	Bennett Teply
Isaac Curran	Samson Weber
Victoria Edsen	Rylie Wilkinson
Rebekah Flege	Ryder Young
Lucy Green	

Weekly Collection Financial Update

April 21 Budget Week 43

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$2,422	\$6,114

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$221,525	\$262,889	\$219,330

Food Pantry Collection: \$690.50

April 20/21 Mass Attendance: 280

2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Parish Goal	Pledge Total	Payments	Amt. Due
\$51,458	\$37,665	\$36,485	\$14,973

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinators

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

Join us for VBS as we learn to live like the saints. Registration opens Monday and will be emailed out to all RE families. Supper is served each night along with crafts and games. June 18-20, 5:00-7:30pm. Ages 4-11 years old. We are always looking for volunteers to help serve food and help with crafts and games.

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

Confirmation

Our Confirmation year has wrapped up. Thank you to everyone who helped with its success. Our sessions for 2024-2025 9th & 10th graders will begin in September.

We Have Exciting News!

We will be offering opportunities for adult faith formation! Please join us Sunday, May 5 from 11:00am to 1:00pm, location to be determined.. Our session will focus on the Mass and the Eucharist. All are welcome to join us for great discussion and communion. Please contact Nicole Cory with any questions you may have.



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. 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 / 515-710-2421, to help.

Change of Information?

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

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
Kim Heger - hegerkim91@gmail.com
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
Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.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
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 MEMBERS

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiowa.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

Laudato Si

Talk with fellow parishioners about the possibility of sharing rides to Mass and other parish events as a way of reducing your carbon footprint. You can take this a step further by organizing occasional walk-to-church weekends. See more: <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>.



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.

Catholic Youth Camp



CYC Sessions are filling up for this summer! Register today at stmcenter.com. Volunteer counselor applications are also available at 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.*

Young Catholic Singles (YCS)

Bump, set, spike! Join YCS for volleyball at Valley View Park on Saturday, May 11, 10am-Noon. Water bottles will be provided. Check out our website <https://www.dmdiocese.org/ministries-and-faith-formation/young-adult-ministry> or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/YCDesMoines/> for more information about Young Catholic Singles in the Diocese of Des Moines.

St. Luke's Blue-Red Mass

On Thursday, May 16, St. Luke the Evangelist in Ankeny will celebrate a special Mass at 5:30pm to not only remember first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice, but to thank the women and men who serve and protect us each day and to pray for their safety. Come and show your support!

Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday, May 4, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector: Lorrie Hanlon
Host Distributor: Tony Kuehn
Cup Bearers: Drew Hanlon, Joe Rumbaugh
Altar Servers: *Volunteer needed*
Ushers: Joe Rumbaugh, Jim Hudson
Music: Jen Linderblood, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, May 5, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector: Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer: Jon Hand
Altar Servers: Claire & Oliver Hand
Ushers: Mike Veasman
Music: Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, May 5, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector: Kris LeRoy
Host Distributor: Tom Ausman
Cup Bearers: Jacki Ausman, Tim Loraditch
Altar Servers: Jon & Marcus Larsen
Ushers: Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music: Garrett McClain, Celeste Muehlenthaler

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Money Counters

April 28: Trish Morris, Kathy Daup
May 5: Sue White, Trish Morris

Prayer at Planting Time

Thank you, God of generosity, Creator of all things,
for everything that grows on the earth.
Thank you for the people who tend the land
and who make it fruitful.

In our age we may forget our dependence
on wind and weather, on sun and rain,
without which nothing would grow.

In this seedtime of the year,
make bright in us an appreciation for farmers
and all who help bring forth the fruits of the earth.
Keep us always in mind of the things that matter most.
Help us to bring rural America together,
and to fulfill our responsibilities in glorifying your earth,
that this world may fulfill your will
for the land to sustain your creation until the end of time.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Recycling one ton of plastic saves the equivalent of 1,000–2,000 gallons of gasoline.

Eucharistic Revival



The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is May 17 through July 16 and is one of the largest Eucharistic pilgrimages in history. Just as crowds followed Christ throughout his earthly ministry, our nation will process with our Eucharistic Lord over 6,500 miles—through cities, along highways, and past rural towns—on the way to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. Iowa's portion of the pilgrimage is June 23-25. During these three days you are invited to journey with Jesus in the Eucharistic processions, celebrate Mass, and participate in Holy Hours and overnight adoration. All Iowa events are free to attend, but registration is encouraged to allow parishes to plan for food at lunch/dinner and overall attendance. Information can be found at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/eucharistic-pilgrimage> or at <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>.

A Spiritual Health Adventure Awaits!

Join Deacon Randy Kiel at St. Mary of Nazareth Parish Mission on Tuesday, May 7, 6:30-8:00pm as he explores "What's the Matter With Mass?". He will tackle tough questions such as "Why do some leave the Church and others stay?", "How can I help people come back?" and more. A social follows. To request child care or for more information, please contact Deacon Greg Lievens, (319) 240-0840 / deacongreg@stmmarydsm.org.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 27/28

Theme: I am the vine; you are the branches.

Reading I: Acts 9:26-31 • The church was at peace.

Reading II: 1 John 3:18-24 • We are called to believe and to love one another.

Gospel: John 15:1-8 • I am the vine.

For Children: How do you keep yourself connected to Jesus in your daily life?

For Youth: Jesus is the vine – we are the branches, connected to Him as our life-source. When do you feel most connected to Jesus in your everyday life? How can you go there more often?

For Adults: How does your own connection to Christ, the vine, affect your daily life? What image from this reading helps you see the importance of this connection to Christ?