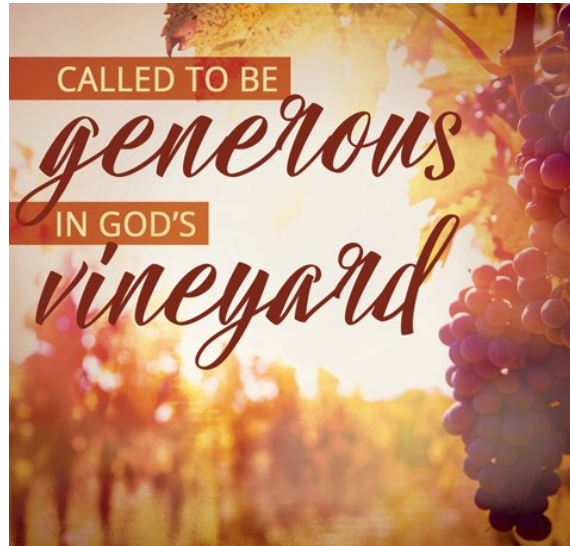


St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 23 & 24, 2023

Dear Good People,

As you are reading this, I am either just preparing to go to Italy or am on my way. Please know that I will pray for all of you in the eternal city. I will certainly tell the Holy Father that all the parishioners of St. Mary-Holy Cross say hello, if I get to see him! Please pray for Mike Mahoney as he is ordained a Deacon on Friday, September 29th. Mike is a good man who will God willing be a fine priest. After I get back from Rome, I am then heading to our priest workshop in Iowa City. It will be nice to see my brother priests and spend some time with them as well.

Secondly, as I wrote about last week, harvest seems to be starting. Let us keep our farmers in our prayers as we pray for safety and productive yields. Please also keep Mary Ann Cory in your prayers along with her family. We have a funeral mass for Mary Ann on Saturday, October 7th.

Finally, we celebrate the feast of the Archangels on Friday, September 29th. I love this feast. This feast is celebrating the higher messengers of God, the three archangels that are mentioned by name in the Bible: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. We have gratitude to God for the gift of these angels, and need to constantly remember and pray to them in our lives. We invoke these archangels to send us messages on how to live the right purpose of our lives, to lead us to do good, to help us live for others, and to imitate in those virtues they live as spirits. 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
Deacon Terry Schleisman 515-669-6158/digiterry@netscape.net
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
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	No Mass
Wednesday	No Mass
Thursday	No Mass
Friday	No Mass
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

No daily Mass this week — Fr. Parker is in Rome

Saturday, September 30

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

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

Sunday, October 1

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

10:00am Mass, St. Mary † Mike Lacey

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

Fr. Ross is in Rome this week and then goes directly to the Priests workshop through October 5. In case of emergency Sept. 24 - Oct. 1, please contact Fr. Ken Halbur of St. Luke's Parish at 515-964-1278 Ext 3. In case of emergency Oct. 2 - 5, please contact Fr. Dan Krettek at 515-423-2888.

If a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, and they wish a visit please contact or Deacon Schleisman at 515-669-6158 or digiterry@netscape.net.

October is the Month of the Rosary

Please join us to pray the Rosary 20 minutes before weekend Masses in October. *If you'd like to lead the Rosary please email Anne Davis, annedavis06@gmail.com.*

Becoming Catholic

People come from many different backgrounds and levels of belief to learn more about the Catholic way of life. Some may have extensive experience through the influence of a spouse or child, a grandparent or friend. Others are attracted through the witness of Catholics in their life or through a service offered in a time of need. Some have a yearning or longing that nothing else has satisfied. All are welcomed into an inquiry community where they may ask questions, discuss experiences and discover more about who we are as Catholic people.

If you, or someone you know, want to learn more about the Catholic way of life, please contact Fr. Parker, rparker@dmdiocese.org. Participation in the inquiry sessions does not require you to commit to joining the Church. We ask only that you be open to learning more about God, the Catholic tradition and yourself.

Work Of Our Hands

Members of the Parish who are service providers, hobbyists, or willing to provide their services or goods for a fee or barter are welcomed to join Work Of Our Hands (WOOH). Each year participants offer their goods and services at a WOOH Festival in the Social Hall. Please join us at this year's Festival scheduled November 4 & 5. Please contact Lisa Kautza at kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687 if you are interested in becoming a participant or if you want more information. To be added to the new directory of Work Of Our Hands participants or to make changes from the previous years, please contact Lisa by October 6.

Autumn Prayer

Gracious and Holy God,
We see signs of summer's passing
in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings,
autumn glow.
We sense its passing
in rain that dampens, winds that chill,
harvest's bounty placed on show.
Creator God,
who brings forth
both green shoot and hoar frost,
sunrise and sunset,
we bring our thanks
for seeds that have grown,
harvests gathered,
storehouses filled, mouths fed.
And, as your good earth rests,
we look forward to its re-awakening
when kissed by Spring's first touch. Amen.

Parish Council

Meeting: October 17, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

Meeting: October 9, 6:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Oct. 16, 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 when he is at the parish. To reach him, please email, call or text:

rparker@dmdiocese.org/515-720-3434.

Coming Events

- † **Weekend of Sept. 30/Oct. 1:** Buildings and Grounds Collection—Coffee & Donuts after 8:00am & 10:00am Mass
- † **Weekends in October:** Rosary prayed 20 minutes before each Mass.
- † **Sunday, Oct. 1:** Life Chain, 2:00-3:30pm (see back page)
- † **Saturday, Oct. 7:** Wine & Cheese after 5:00pm Mass
- † **Weekend of Oct. 14/15:** InnerVisions Baby Bottle Campaign
- † **Sunday, Oct. 15:** Omelet/Scramlette Bar after 10:00am Mass, Social Hall

The Saint of Lost Causes

The largest relic of an Apostle outside of Europe is coming to the Diocese of Des Moines. Come and venerate the Arm of St. Jude on Tuesday, September 26 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in WDM from 1:00-10:00pm; Mass will be celebrated at 7:00pm. Known as the Apostle of the Impossible, St. Jude is revered for his unwavering dedication and steadfast faith. Millions have experienced his intercession in times of adversity and need. Visit saintfrancis-church.org/stjude for further details.

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Ann Cory, mother of Elizabeth Mitchell, Tom, Mike and Joe Cory, who passed away Sept. 15 at the age of 101 and one day. She is now resting with our Risen Lord. May her family know the compassionate presence of Christ in their time of loss.

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

Services for Mary Ann are at St. Mary's: Visitation is Friday, October 6 from 5:00 to 7:00pm, with a Rosary prayed at 7:00pm. Funeral Mass is Saturday, October 7 at 10:30am.

Religious Education Registration

Register online: <https://forms.gle/DFn61LKez5juiYx48>, or fill out a paper form (on the website and in the vestibule) and send it to the office.

Religious Education: Preschool to 6th Grade

Preschool - 6th Grade Coordinators

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

Regular Sessions resume for Wednesday night this week. On Sunday, October 1 our Session A children will be ministers at the 10:00am Mass. Please have your children here by 9:45, unless directed otherwise. As the year moves along, please let us know if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns! We love collaborating with parents to make sure each child has a great experience.

September 27- Regular Sessions

October 1- Session A Children ministers at 10:00am Mass

October 4- Regular Sessions

October 11- Regular Sessions

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

Grades 7-12 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

Our EDGE kick off took place last Wednesday and we are off to a great start. We have approximately 20 EDGE students and 15-20 High School / Adult volunteers on our EDGE Core team which helps things operate very well. We look forward to a fun faith filled experience this year. If you haven't joined our EDGE Remind Group please do that soon, this will be our primary way we will communicate with our EDGE families. Have a blessed weekend. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Melissa or Andrea.

Sept. 27: No session

Sessions: October 4, 11, 18, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

October 25: Trunk or Treat. EDGE teens can come as soon as they are able to set up and will be asked to stay a bit later to help clean up.

9th & 10th Confirmation:

10th Grade Session: Sunday, Sept. 24, 11:00am (after Mass) to Noon in the Youth Room downstairs at St. Mary.

9th & 10th Teen / Adult Session: Wednesday Sept. 27, 6:00-7:30pm in the Social Hall at St. Mary.

9th Grade Session: Sunday, October 8, 11:00am (after Mass) to Noon in the youth room downstairs at St. Mary.

STORM Youth Group (9th - 12th Graders)

Sept. 27: No gathering

Gatherings: October 4, 11, 18, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room

Weekly Collection Financial Update

September 17 Budget Week 12

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$7,811	\$6,114

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$53,427	\$73,364	\$53,008

Food Pantry Collection: \$791

Mass Attendance: September 16/17: 242

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal

<u>Assessed</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
\$55,196	\$50,215	\$47,815	\$2,400	\$7,381

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
Terri Hamm - Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhpcp@yahoo.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Larry Sauer - sauerld@outlook.com
Lisa Schoening - lisa.schoening@cbdsm.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Winders - *President* - mwinde59@yahoo.com
Heidi Ackerman - heidimdittmer@gmail.com
John Fisher - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Diane Gannon - ddkgannon@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@commonspirit.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@hrtlnd.us
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhpcp@yahoo.com
Tim Miller - millertimothyg@gmail.com
Laurie Phelan - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Bill Schmitt - isucul@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 - rooneysl7@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

Mike and Mary Winders - mwinde59@yahoo.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND KNIGHT

Mike Devereux - devoducks@msn.com

Laudato Si

Consider replacing all incandescent light bulbs in your home with more efficient CFL or LED bulbs. Replacing just one incandescent bulb can eliminate hundreds of pounds of climate pollution each year. See more at:

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

Life Chain 2023!

Join pro-lifers next Sunday, October 1 from 2:00 - 3:30pm to peacefully and prayerfully stand in remembrance of the many babies lost to abortion. Park at Des Moines Fellowship Church, 950 35th Street, DSM. Please do not park in business or private parking lots. There is road construction near the church. There will be signs at the church for you to pick up and then walk or shuttle to line 35th Street, Kingman Boulevard and 31st Street. Life Chain will take place rain or shine. Stand with us as we thank God for the gift of life and pray for vulnerable women and their babies.



Recycling a pound of steel saves enough energy to light a 60-watt light bulb for 26 hours.



Listen to Creation

Pope Francis exhorts us to listen to the voice of creation during the annual ecumenical Season of Creation which began September 1 with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and concludes on October 4 with the feast of St. Francis. When we are attentive to God's presence in the natural world, we can hear a kind of dissonance ... a sweet song in praise of our Creator and an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of our common home. You can find Pope Francis' message at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2023/documents/20230513-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html> For more about the Season of Creation visit <https://www.creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html>.

Liturgical Ministers September 30 & October 1

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector Susan Selby
Host Distributor Bob Selby
Cup Bearers Susan Selby, Mike Devereux
Altar Servers Jack & Tommy Selby
Ushers Mike Devereux, Doug Jones
Music Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Sheri Fogarty
Cup Bearer Tony Kuehn
Altar Server Nick Shedd
Usher Sandra Hunter
Music Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector Religious Ed Student
Host Distributor Greg Feldmann
Cup Bearers Garrett McClain, Jill Swanson
Altar Servers Religious Ed Students
Ushers Religious Ed Students, Gregg Richwine
Music Jen Linderblood, Religious Ed Students, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

Sept. 25: Sue White, Brenda Nehring

October 1: Dona Cowman, Sharon Morris



Omelet (Scramlette?) Bar

'Build-Your-Own' creation after 10:00am Mass on Sunday, October 15. You'll choose the ingredients and the Knights of Columbus chefs will prepare your omelet/scramlette! Fruit, mini donuts/toast, coffee, orange juice and water will also be available. Breakfast, Fellowship and No Dishes! Hope to see YOU there. *Free will offering will go toward the College Scholarship Fund.*

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.

Diocesan Collection for Seminarians

Funds collected cover tuition, room and board, and provide a small monthly stipend for pre-theologians/theologians and tuition assistance for college seminarians. Grants combined with scholarships help the men to graduate with little debt. Men who advance to major seminary rely entirely on the support of our diocesan community.

Each registered household has received a brochure through the mail. Please return your gift directly to the Diocese, place it in the collection basket at Mass (marked "Seminarian Collection") or make a gift at dmdiocese.org/giving. Thank you for your generosity for our future priests!

Calling All Moms and Daughters Ages 8-12!

There is a fantastic and free open house from 1:00-3:00pm at Divine Treasures, DSM, on Saturday, September 30. Come for some quality time, sweet treats, and learn about a brand new Catholic resource for moms and daughters to discuss beauty, femininity and puberty in light of Catholic Teaching! Stop in to sip a warm beverage and do a fun flower craft along with some fun mother-daughter discussion questions! During this time, help launch the brand new book, *Bloom: Unfolding the Beauty of Femininity in Light of the Son* written by Ankeny local, Stacy Halbach. Stacy is available to answer questions and even sign the book if you'd like! Although an RSVP is not necessary, if you could let us know you want to come by emailing Stacy at JumpInCatholic@gmail.com.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sept. 23 & 24

Theme: It is never too late to enter the reign of God.

Reading I: Isaiah 55:6-9 • Seek the Lord while he may be found.

Reading II: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a • Life means Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a • The parable of the vineyard.

Question for Children: How do you experience God being generous to you: through your family, friends, school, or parish?

Question for Youth: God is always seeking us out and welcoming us into his generous love. Through whom has God reached out to you? Who is always encouraging you to say "yes" to God?

Question for Adults: Using Jesus' parable, describe in your own words how God will treat those who come to be part of the church, even those who come late.