



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

460 NW Washington Avenue Elkhart Iowa 50073

Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street Maxwell Iowa 50161



**Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe**

November 24, 2024



First Sunday Of Advent

December 1, 2024

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.

Dear Good People:

I hope this letter finds you well. This is a two-week bulletin because of Thanksgiving. First of all, I wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving. Certainly, we are grateful for all the blessings that God has bestowed on us not just on Thanksgiving, but every day. Please know of my prayers for all travelers, and we welcome all of our guests here at St. Mary-Holy Cross.

It is hard to believe but the weekend of the 30th/1st we begin the season of Advent. The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. (excerpt from USCCB Website)

A.M.D.G. ~ Fr. Ross

Parish Phone	515-367-2685
Parish General Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
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Melissa Kahler - 7th-12th Ministry	mkahler@saintmaryhc.org
Barb Liske - Secretary	bliske@saintmaryhc.org
Tracy Miller - Preschool - 6th RE	tmiller@saintmaryhc.org
Aubrey Sigmund - Music	asigmund@saintmaryhc.org
Candy Zidon - Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org
Parish Web Site	www.saintmaryhc.org
Parish Facebook Site	St. Mary's Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart

Mass Schedule

<i>See inside for varied Mass schedule</i>	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.

Order of Christian Initiation: Please contact Fr. Parker or Nicole Cory

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationonline.org

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, November 26

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Bernard Hanlon

Wednesday, November 27

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Bill Davis

Thanksgiving Day, November 28

9:00am Mass, St. Mary *For Someone Special*

Friday, November 29

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Mark Kollasch

Saturday, November 30

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Lorraine Campbell

Sunday, December 1

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Lyle Carpenter

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

Monday, December 2

6:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Deceased Ladies of the Parish

Tuesday, December 3

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Lawrence Hanlon

Wednesday, December 4

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross †Doc Birchmier

Thursday, December 5

8:00am Mass, St. Mary *For Someone Special*

First Friday, December 6

8:00am Mass, St. Mary †Byron Pommrehn

Saturday, December 7

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary †Tom Morris

Sunday, December 8

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross †Pat Phelan

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

Monday, Dec. 9 Holy Day of Obligation

7:00am Mass, St. Mary †Leo & Rosemary Overmohle

6:30pm Mass, St. Mary †Fr. Bob Aubrey

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father,
We gather with grateful hearts,
Recognizing your endless blessings.
Thank you for the gift of life,
For family and friends,
And for the daily bread you provide.
Your love sustains us
and fills our lives with joy.
Help us to always remember your goodness
and to share our blessings with others.
May our thanksgiving
Be a reflection of your grace.
In Jesus' name, we pray. *Amen*



Parish Council

No December meeting.

Next meeting: Jan. 14, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

No December meeting.

Next meeting: Jan. 21, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

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

Adult Faith Formation

No upcoming events

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: December 16, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 4: Bondurant and Altoona

*The Parish Office is closed
Thanksgiving Day and Friday the 29th.*

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.

Welcome To Our New Members!



Michael and Anne Power and children Grace and Samuel,
who live in Ankeny

Adam and Jennifer Mahan and children
Amelia, Louise and Tiernan who live in Cambridge



New Birth by Water and the Holy Spirit

Welcome into our Faith Thaddeus Joseph, son of Tim
and Geneveve Loraditch, who was baptized at our Parish.

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.



Book of Remembrance

You are invited to write in the names of your deceased loved
ones to be remembered at our Masses in November.

Coming Events

- †Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, Dec. 1 after Masses
- †Christmas Eve Choir practices: 11/24 Sun. 11am;
12/1 Sun. 11am; 12/17 Tues. 6:30pm and 12/22 Sun. 11am.
- †Ladies Christmas Potluck: Monday, Dec. 2, 6:00pm Mass
followed by gathering in the Social Hall
- †Weekend of Dec. 7/8: Blessing of Mothers-To-Be —
Buildings and Grounds Collection — Wine & cheese after
5:00pm Mass
- †Parish Additional Advent Reconciliation Times:
Thursday & Friday, Dec. 12 & 13, 6:00-7:00pm and
Saturday, Dec. 14, 3:00-4:30pm, St. Mary
- †St. Monica's Mothers Prayer Group: Friday, Dec. 13,
Youth Room in Ed Center

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!

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

Advent begins December 1. This is a great opportunity to live out your faith at home with your children. As we wait in preparation and long for the Messiah to come, we can read books (here's our family's favorite, probably 1st grade+, <https://a.co/d/ck97Xtg>), have a simple Advent wreath to light and pray with, or do a family work of service for those in need to prepare your hearts for Christmas.

We have an opportunity for adult faith formation here at St. Mary's-Holy Cross. This formation is for teens, young adults, parents, grandparents and spouses wishing to know how to better understand and share their faith with others and listen to God with those around you. If you want to better understand why Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, unless you turn and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 18:3, this formation is for you. Our hope is that you come and learn with us. More information available at <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/religious-education>. Cost for parish members is \$100 if you fill out the simple scholarship form. Email Tracy with questions.

Upcoming Sessions

November 27- No Sessions- Thanksgiving break

December 4- Regular Sessions

December 11- Regular Sessions

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

EDGE (7th & 8th Grades)

Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11 & 18, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Sunday, Dec. 1: 11:00am - 12:30pm: **9th grade only** session, Youth Room

Sunday, Dec. 8: Confirmation students to prepare and provide Emergency Family Shelter Meal; watch for an email with details.

Sunday, Dec. 15: 11:00am - 12:30pm: **10th grade only** session, Youth Room

No Wednesday Family Session in December.

STORM Youth Group (9th-12th Grades):

Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11 & 18, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area

Liturgical Ministers Needed

Ministers are needed for our weekend Masses Nov. 30/Dec. 1 and for the Holy Day on Dec. 9. Please contact the Parish Office to volunteer or sign up at Mass. Our new ministers are encouraged to sign up! Thank you for your time and talent to enhance our Liturgies.

Music Notes

We welcome all adults and children 6th grade and older to join our Christmas Eve Choir -- all levels of musicality welcome! Practices are at St. Mary's and will last around one hour. It is not required to attend all practices, just come when you can. *Remaining practices:* 11/24 Sun. 11:00am; 12/1 Sun. 11:00am; 12/17 Tues. 6:30pm; 12/22 Sun. 11:00am. For questions please contact Aubrey Sigmund, at asigmund@saintmaryhc.org.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	\$4,026	\$5,511	Nov. 9/10
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$4,954	\$5,511	Nov. 23/24

Year-to-Date

	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$108,210	\$115,724	\$88,849

Food Pantry Collection: \$691

Mass Attendance: Nov. 9/10: 271 Nov. 16/17: 293

Councils and Committees

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@liskaschoening.com

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Fisher, *Co-Chair* - Johnfisher@sienafastener.com
Laurie Phelan, *Co-Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com
Craig Johnson - dad.craig@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katie Fredericks - katie.fredericks@mercyoneiowa.org
Kathy Gocke - Gocke@aol.com
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
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
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

Advent Resources



You have various booklets to choose from to help prepare for the Christmas celebration of God among us. Determine ahead of time which might be best for you or your family by reading the following brief descriptions. Booklets are available on the table at both Churches.

Waiting in Joyful Hope

We are all story-bearers. All of us bear witness to the people, places and experiences that shape our lives. Stories of love and loss. Stories of grief and gratitude. The ordinary moments and the extraordinary ones. Sacred Stories abound. This booklet includes many stories from people, places and experiences that can help us come to know the incarnate Christ more deeply. Each day of the Advent and Christmas seasons pairs a short story with a spiritual reflection, meditation and prayer.

Celebrate Advent like Mary!

Little Blue Book

Each day we are alive, the Lord wants us to grow closer to Him. This book will help you in your daily prayer for the Advent and Christmas seasons. The left hand page provide a variety of thoughts about these seasons, the Eucharist, the feast of the day, or various traditions and customs. Central to your journey through Advent is the right hand page. Each day (except Sundays and Holy Days when there are reflections on the Blessed Virgin Mary), we'll walk through the first two chapters of Matthew's Gospel, verse by verse. Simply let God speak to you through the words, guiding your reflections. God's living Word can change your day...it can change your life.

God With Us

During Advent we are often so busy and stressed out that we find it difficult to discover God's presence in our hectic lives. This handy easy-to-use booklet of daily reflections and prayers by Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton and St. Mother Teresa encourages us to slow down and recognize that Christ is always coming into our lives and so we can now be better prepared to celebrate Christmas. Each day you will also find a related biblical verse and a brief thought to start your personal prayer.

Following the Star Together

Family booklet

Families looking for that perfect gift can find it in the Advent season itself. With reflections, prayers and activities, grow in love, build habits of faith and prayer and discover signs of God's transforming presence all around you. Is there anymore beautiful gift? Ask God to carry your family as you watch and wait for the Word to become flesh. See where God leads you and accept a gift beyond anything any of us can imagine!

The Word Among Us

My Souls Waits for the Lord

Daily meditations and inspirational stories with the theme of waiting. During this season of Advent, as we all wait for Jesus' birth, make it a point to sit quietly in prayer and wait on the Lord. Lay your deepest concerns before Him and wait for His response. Maybe set aside just ten minutes each morning, or sometime throughout the day. Read the day's Scripture readings and meditation in this booklet, and then wait. Just as Mary gave her yes to the angel, give your yes to God each day. He knows your heart; your needs, fears and desires. Give them all to Him and pray, along with Mary, "May it be done to me according to your word".

We Welcome Jesus

Booklet for Children

These engaging activities, short reflections, and simple prayers can help show children different ways to welcome Jesus into their heart. They will hear about practicing virtues such as kindness, gentleness, holiness, and justice, which are ways to follow Jesus.

Parish Advent Opportunities

Daily Mass: Tuesdays, 8:00am, St. Mary; Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Holy Cross; Thursdays, 8:00am, St. Mary and Fridays, 8:00am, St. Mary.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays, 4:00-4:30pm at St. Mary, or by appointment with Fr. Parker. Additional Reconciliation times for Advent are Thursday and Friday, December 12 & 13, 6:00-7:00pm and Saturday, December 14 from **3:00pm to 4:30pm.**

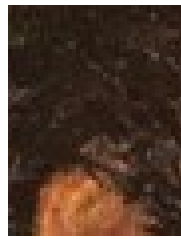
Advent Prayer

O Lord, Jesus Christ,
true Light of the world,
as we prepare to celebrate your birth,
we beseech you to illuminate our hearts and minds.
As we journey through this season of anticipation,
Help us to recognize your presence in our lives
and to embrace the hope and joy you bring.

May your light dispel the darkness
of sin and ignorance,
guiding us on the path of righteousness and truth.
Grant us the grace to be beacons
of your love and compassion,
shining your light into the lives of others.

As we await your coming,
may our hearts be filled with eager expectation
and profound gratitude
for the gift of your divine presence. Amen.

~St. Pope John Paul II



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve
5:00pm, St. Mary
7:00pm, Holy Cross

Christmas Day
9:00am, St. Mary

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Because this Feast falls on Sunday, Dec. 8, it is transferred to Monday the 9th. Please join us to celebrate Mary, Mother of God and her important role in our Faith! Our Masses for this Holy Day of Obligation are Monday, Dec. 9, 7:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary's.

Advent Reconciliation



You are invited to celebrate God's love and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent on Saturdays, 4:00-4:30pm - time on Saturday the 14th will be 3:00 - 4:30pm, and Thursday and Friday, December 12 and 13 from 6:00 - 7:00pm, or by appointment with Father Parker.



Christmas Memorials

We offer you the opportunity to remember your loved ones by donating towards the flowers that will decorate St. Mary and Holy Cross this Christmas season. A memorial list with the names of your loved ones will be printed in a future bulletin. *Flower donation envelopes are included with your tithe envelopes; additional flower envelopes are on the table. Please return your donation by December 17.*

Advent Reflection Resources



We have a number of booklets on the table for you to choose from to help you along your Advent journey. This is a time of looking forward and waiting, both for celebrating Christ's birth and for the time when He comes again.

Living Advent

See how you can make the most of Advent with your family by checking out a variety of resources at dmdiocese.org/living-advent. There is a fun, four-page "how to" guide that makes Advent accessible to all. It's full of simple ideas for adding meaning to family traditions and incorporating prayer and acts of kindness. Also available is a family planner, information on feast days, and suggestions for weekly Advent faith conversations.

Ladies Christmas Potluck



Join us for our Christmas potluck on Monday, December 2, beginning with Mass at 6:00pm. Bring a dish to share! We'll enjoy each others company and sing a few carols. If you would like to donate personal care items, we will be collecting them for area charities. Hope to see you there!

Huxley Clothes Pantry

A thankful thank you for all those who signed up to work at this Pantry the month of December! We have all time slots filled! You will make a difference in the lives of those in need this holiday season.



† Blessing For Mothers-To-Be

At our Masses the weekend of December 7 & 8, we invite all Mothers-To-Be to receive a blessing; that they know of God's presence and strength as they await the birth of their child, for a safe delivery for mom and baby and for a healthy baby.

Feed the Hungry

Our parish families have been preparing a meal for homeless children and their families at the Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter on the second Sunday of each month for more than twenty-five years. Volunteers are needed in 2025 for January, February, March, April, June, July, August and December. One or more families or groups can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal (about 10 families up to 34 people) to the Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter in Des Moines. Up to 3 people can now prepare the meal on-site. This is the only homeless shelter in the Des Moines area that accepts complete families, both parents and children. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves, be reimbursed by the parish, or receive a Gift-In-Kind receipt for a tax deduction. To volunteer or to find out more, contact Stacey Rooney, rooneyslg17@gmail.com or call 515-490-5034.

Retirement Fund for Religious

This collection provides support for tens of thousands of elderly sisters, brother and religious order priests who ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more. Thank you for giving back.

*Envelopes will be on the table Nov. 30/Dec. 1.
Please return your donation by mid-December.*

Church Sign

Christmas is all about His presence, not your presents.

Laudato Si

As much as 95 percent of clothes, shoes and linens thrown in the garbage could be reused or recycled. A number of local organizations will accept all clothes (except those that are wet, mildewed or contaminated with hazardous materials) — even damaged or mismatched items. To learn where you can take these items, see www.earth911.com.

See more at:

<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.

Mark Your 2025 Calendar For These Events!

Saturday, February 1: 3rd annual chili cook off!

Sunday, Sept. 14: Holy Cross Church celebrates its 150th anniversary! Mass at Noon with a luncheon to follow. The Bishop will celebrate with us.

Liturgical Ministers Nov. 30/Dec. 1 by signup

Saturday, Nov. 30, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Volunteers needed: Host Distributor, Altar Servers & Ushers

Lector Linda Froehlich
Cup Bearers Tom & Linda Froehlich
Music Sue Harrington, Mary Snyder

Sunday, Dec. 1, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Volunteers needed: Lector, Altar Servers & Ushers

Cup Bearer Laurie Phelan
Music Maggie Bruce

Sunday, Dec. 1, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Volunteers needed: 1 Cup Bearer, Host Distributor & Servers

Lector Garrett McClain
Cup Bearer Jack Ausman
Ushers Jacki Ausman, Tammi McClain
Music Jen Linderblood, Mary Ortmann

Liturgical Ministers December 7/8

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

Lector Tom Froehlich
Host Distributor Tony Kuehn
Cup Bearers Tom & Linda Froehlich
Ushers Bill Schmitt, Mike Devereux

Sunday, Dec. 8, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector Sheri Fogarty
Cup Bearer Michele Hand
Altar Servers Claire & Oliver Hand
Usher Jerry & Deb Zenkner

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

Lector John Fisher
Host Distributor Mike Nehring
Cup Bearers Tracy Miller, Angela Collum
Altar Servers Gabriel Miller, David Collum
Cross Bearer: Elizabeth Collum
Ushers Bill and Kelly Dunbar

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Money Counters

Nov. 24: Dona Cowman & Kathy Petersen

Dec. 1: Dona Cowman, Sue White

Dec. 8: Sue White, Brenda Nehring

Parish Photo Directory

The photo sessions are complete. Thank you to all who had their picture taken and thank you to those who assisted with check-ins on the November photo days: Trish Morris, Dona Cowman, Patty Devereux, Kathy Gocke, Sue White and Susan Stillmunkes *If you were unable to have your photo taken there is still time to submit a picture and receive a directory! The cost is \$15; if paying by check please make it out to the Parish with "Picture Directory" in the memo and drop it in the collection basket at Mass or mail it to the Office.*

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit (ACH): Monthly from your account on the 15th or 30th. Contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org for questions 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!*

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 TV channels 5, 8 and 17.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Feast of Christ the King, November 24

Theme: Jesus reigns over us in truth.

Reading I: Daniel 7:13-14 • The Son of Man will come on a cloud.

Reading II: Hebrews 9:24-28 • Christ takes away our sins.

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44 • She gave from her want.

For Children: Is it difficult or easy for you to tell the truth? How does Jesus help you?

For Youth: How much do you let Jesus' truth rule your life? How difficult is it for you to follow Jesus?

For Adults: What is the truth for you? How do you live the truth everyday?

First Sunday of Advent, December 1

Theme: Be on guard!

Reading I: Jeremiah 33:14-16 • A shoot shall rise up.

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 • Love one another and act in ways pleasing to God.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 • Jesus will come again in glory; be not afraid.

For Children: What helps you to grow in your faith? Who helps you?

For Youth: Advent is the Church season when we prepare for Christ's birth at Christmas. What is one thing you can do to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas?

For Adults: Paul exhorts us to "make greater progress" in our spiritual lives. What one step could you take to make greater progress in your own life?