



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 26/27, 2026



Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 3/4, 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.

Parish Information

Parish Phone	515-367-2685
Parish General Email	smhc@saintmaryhc.org
Fr. Pisut, Pastor	515-367-2685/ cpisut@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
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
<i>See inside for varied Mass schedule.</i>	Friday	8:00am	St. Mary
	Saturday	5:00pm	St. Mary
	Sunday	8:00am	Holy Cross
		10:00am	St. Mary

Reconciliation: Saturday 4:00 - 4:45pm, St. Mary or by appointment with Fr. Pisut

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. Pisut or Nicole Cory

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Dear Parishioners,

Recently, I spoke of how appreciative I was that Fr. Parker returned the tabernacle to the center of the sanctuary. Its presence there is so important since the confection of the Most Holy Eucharist is what happens at Mass. As the Church says, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. As such, we should do all we can to make sure that our Lord is housed in a worthy home. We have a lovely old tabernacle at St. Mary's, but it is showing its age. It would be great to have it restored to its original splendor. In 2022 the tabernacle for Holy Cross was lovingly restored in memory of William "Peter" Jorgensen. His wife Shirley still attends Mass at Holy Cross and their daughter Cathy Gearheart actually works in the Tribunal office with me at the diocese. However, restoration work is not cheap and it does take time but it is worth it. I have had many religious items restored over the years and I was always happy with the results. The cost to have the tabernacle (and altar crucifix) restored is about \$8000, though the exact price won't be known until the restoration company has it in hand. Obviously, that is a lot of money but in comparison a similar new tabernacle could cost around \$30,000. Recently, I had a couple approach me who generously donated \$4,000 towards the restoration of the tabernacle, that's half the total cost! If anyone else would like to contribute to the restoration of the tabernacle and altar crucifix please let me know. You can drop off a check in the office or put it in the collection basket with the word "tabernacle" on the memo line.

Saturday September 26 is the feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian (d. 300). These brother physicians were martyred in what is now Syria. They were known as "moneyless ones" for their generous care of the sick. They are mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). They are patrons of physicians, surgeons, druggists, barbers and the blind.

Sunday September 27 is the feast of St. Vincent de Paul (d. 1660). Born in France to a poor family he became a priest at nineteen. He was captured by pirates and spent two years as a slave in Tunisia. He eventually converted his master to Christianity. He knew St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane Francis de Chantal. He was superior of the convents of the Visitation in Paris. He is known for his catechetical apostolate to the French peasants of the countryside, forming the Congregation of the Missions, known as the Vincentians. They eventually added seminary formation to their charism. He also organized the Daughters of Charity for the social apostolate and works of charity.

Monday September 28 is the feast of Saint Wenceslaus (d. 929). The Duke of Bohemia, he was martyred at the age of twenty-two by his pagan brother Boleslaus for bringing the Faith to his people. He is patron of the Czech Republic and Slovakia (my people). Many know his name from the old Christmas Carol, "Good King Wenceslaus." On the same day is the feast of St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions. They were a multiethnic group of Dominicans who

were martyred in Nagasaki, Japan between the years 1633-1637. Lawrence was the father of a family and the protomartyr of the Philippines.

Tuesday September 29 is the feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, archangels. These biblical messengers signify God's transcendence and care. Michael, meaning "Who is Like God" is patron of security forces and the sick. Gabriel, "God's Strength" is patron of telecommunications and the postal service. Raphael, "God's Remedy" is patron of travelers and the blind.

Wednesday September 30 is the feast of St. Jerome (d. 420). This devoted monk and ascetic wrote numerous commentaries on the Bible and authored the Latin "Vulgate" translation of the Bible. He is one of the four great Latin Doctors of the Church. He is known for saying, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." He died at Bethlehem. Unsurprisingly, he is patron of scripture scholars.

Thursday October 1 is the feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus (d.1897) at the age of twenty-four. She is also known as the "Little Flower." At a young age she entered the Carmelite convent of Lisieux. Her biography, *The Story of a Soul*, urged all to follow "the little way." She is a Doctor of the Church. She is patroness of missions, florists, France and the Apostleship of Prayer.

This week is the annual Fall Priest Workshop so there will be no weekday Mass except Friday. It is held every year at this time. It is always held outside of the diocese, so we aren't tempted to get drawn in to parish work. We alternate between Omaha, Kansas City, Ames and Iowa City. This year it will be in Iowa City. It's a combination of presentations, diocesan business and free time for priestly fellowship. Please prayer for all of us priests that it will be a fruitful workshop and that we come back refreshed to serve our parishes.

Fr. Pisut

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, September 29 — No Mass

Wednesday, September 30 — No Mass

Thursday, October 1 — No Mass

First Friday, October 2

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

Saturday, October 3 — Rosary 20 min. before Mass

4:00 - 4:45pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Special Intention*

Sunday, October 4 — Rosary 20 min. before Masses

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † *Larry Shaw*

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

Tuesday, October 6

8:00am Mass, St. Mary *Living & Deceased Members
of the Mike & Brenda Nehring Family*

Wednesday, October 7

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Ashley Carpenter and
Mary Beth Bump*

Thursday, October 8

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Michael Hall*

Friday, October 9

8:00am Mass, St. Mary *Healing for Chris Pritchard*

Saturday, October 10 — Rosary 20 min. before Mass

4:00 - 4:45pm Reconciliation, St. Mary

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Special Intention*

Sunday, October 11 — Rosary 20 min. before Masses

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † *Patrick Phelan*

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

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

Fr. Pisut leaves for the Priests Workshop after Masses this Sunday (Sept. 27) and returns Wednesday evening (Sept. 30). Upon his return, if you would like to schedule a visit at your home, or if a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized and would like a visit, please email him at cpisut@dmdioocese.org

Pray the Rosary With Us

Please join us in praying the Rosary 20 minutes before weekend Masses in October.

If you would like to lead the Rosary

please email Anne Davis at annedavis06@gmail.com.



Can You Lend a Helping Hand?

We are in need of a host for Wine & Cheese after 5:00pm Mass on October 3 and a host for Coffee & Donuts on Sunday October 4 after 10:00am. It's easy to host!

*No cost to you! Please contact Barb at the Office
if you would like more information or to volunteer.*

A Prayer to the Archangels

Heavenly King,

You have given us archangels to assist us
during our pilgrimage on earth.

Saint Michael is our protector;

I ask him to come to my aid,

fight for all my loved ones,

and protect us from danger.

Saint Gabriel is a messenger of the Good News;

I ask him to help me clearly hear Your voice

and to teach me the truth.

Saint Raphael is the healing angel;

I ask him to take my need for healing

and that of everyone I know,

lift it up to Your throne of grace

and deliver us back to the gift of recovery.

Help us, O Lord, to realize more fully

the reality of archangels and their desire

to serve us. Holy angels, pray for us. Amen.

Parish Council

Meeting: Oct. 20. 15, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: Oct. 27, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: October 12, 6:00pm, Social Hall

OCIA

Meetings: Thursdays Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 30
6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Oct. 19, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 1: Huxley and 1/2 of Cambridge

*Fr. Pisut leaves Sunday afternoon Sept. 27
and returns Wednesday evening Sept. 30.*

He does not have set office hours at the Parish.

To reach him please email, call or text:

cpisut@dmdioocese.org or 515-473-2743.

Coming Events

✚ **Friday, October 1:** Refreshments and Conversation after
8:00am Mass, Social Hall

✚ **Weekend of October 3 & 4:** Rosary prayed 20 minutes
before Masses — Building Fund Collection — Wine &
Cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & Donuts after
Sunday Masses

✚ **Friday, October 9:** Social Hall in use, 7:00-9:00pm

✚ **Saturday, October 10:** Social Hall in use, 8:00am-3:00pm

Refreshments and Conversation

Please join us Friday, October 2 after 8:00am Mass at St.
Mary's for refreshments and conversation.

*If you would like to host refreshments after 8:00am Mass
on December 4, please contact the Office.*

In Sympathy and Compassion

Please pray for the repose of the soul Dan Sickerson, a life-long member of our Parish, who passed away September 21. He is now resting with our Lord! May his family 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.

Services: Visitation at Ankeny Funeral Home, 5:00-7:00pm on Wednesday, Sept. 30 and at St. Mary's one hour before the 10:00am Mass of Christian burial on Thursday, October 1.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

Regular sessions resume this week and will continue through October.

Upcoming dates

Sept. 30: Regular sessions

Oct. 7: Regular sessions

Oct. 14: 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

Registration for 7th-10th graders for 2026-27: Please go to <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/religious-education> to register your teen; please email/return the form to the Parish Office.

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

Wed. Sept 30: EDGE Session

Wed. Oct. 7: EDGE Session

Wed. Oct. 14: EDGE Session

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

As a reminder, both 9th and 10th grades should attend all sessions this year.

If you have not filled out a registration form for your child for Confirmation Preparation, please do so.

Sundays, Oct. 4 & 18: 11:00am-12:15pm, Confirmation Student Session, Youth Room

Youth Gatherings (Grades 9-12), 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room

Wed. Sept 30: Youth Gathering

Wed. Oct. 7: Youth Gathering

Wed. Oct. 14: Youth Gathering

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Are you someone or do you know someone who would like to know more about the Catholic faith? Please join us for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). Our sessions take place on Thursdays from 6:00 - 7:30pm in the Social Hall at St Mary, and are open to anyone. If you've already received your Sacraments but are interested in growing in your faith - please join us. If you know someone who simply wants to learn more without pressure—please invite them.

Adult sponsors are needed for OCIA. If you know someone who would be a good fit, please reach out to Nicole Cory.

Church Sign

Exercise Daily: Run from Satan. Walk with God.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

September 20

Budget Week 12

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$8,967	\$5,727

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$71,442	\$68,729	\$64,605

Food Pantry Collection: \$747.00

Mass Attendance: Sept. 19/20: 325

2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Unpaid Balance: **\$3,102**

Councils and Committees

PARISH COUNCIL

Anne Davis - annedavis06@gmail.com

Drew Hanlon - dlhanlon@windstream.net

Kim Heger - hegerkim91@gmail.com

Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com

Carolyn Kirby - gurlzmom@gmail.com

Bill Kyle - bill@northiowaair.com

Tim Miller - millerjtimothy@gmail.com

Bill Sexton - billsextn@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 - Linderblood@gmail.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 - dlhanlon@windstream.net

Tim Miller - millerjtimothy@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

Jim Stoelk - jim.stoelk@gmail.com

PARISH TRUSTEES

Sheri Fogarty - fogarty929@gmail.com

John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net

PARISH HISTORIAN

Larry Sauer - 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 for to be on our prayer chain.* For requests or to participate in our prayer chain, contact the Office at bliske@saintmaryhc.org or 515-367-2685.

Life Chain 2026!

Sunday, October 4, 2:00-3:30pm. Stand for all the lives that God has created. Parking and signs available at Des Moines Fellowship Church, 950 - 35th St., Des Moines. Gather on the south side of University Ave. & 35th Street and on the west side of 31st Street & Kingman Blvd. Stand with us rain or shine. —St. Pius X Life Chain: Come join us on the sidewalk on Douglas Avenue in front of the Church.

Ministers for October 3 & 4

Saturday, October 3, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Olivia Jones
Host Distributor	Lisa Jones
Cup Bearers	Joe Rumbaugh, Drew Hanlon
Ushers	Joe R, Doug J., Drew H. & 1 volunteer
Music	Garrett McClain, Mary Ortmann

Sunday, October 4, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Sheri Fogarty
Cup Bearer	Michele Hand
Altar Servers	Claire & Oliver Hand
Ushers	Jerry & Patty Hilton
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, October 4, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Nicole Cory
Host Distributor	Nicole Cory
Cup Bearers	Tracy Miller, Mike Nehring
Altar Servers	Jackson & Carter Cory
	Cross Bearer: Gabriel Miller
Ushers	Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music	Karon L., Sue H., Celeste M., Patrick

Ministers for October 10 & 11

Saturday, October 10, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Garrett McClain
Host Distributor	Joe Rumbaugh
Cup Bearers	Garrett McClain, Mike Devereux
Ushers	Joe Rumbaugh, Mike Devereux
Music	Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, October 11, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer	Dawn Beukema
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Ushers	Todd & Jill Beukema
Music	Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, October 11, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Kris LeRoy
Host Distributor	Tom Ausman
Cup Bearers	Angela Collum, Jacki Ausman
Altar Servers	David Collum, Charlie Muehlenthaler
	Cross Bearer: Amelia Muehlenthaler
Ushers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music	Jen Linderblood, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

Sept. 27: Kathy Daup, Kathy Petersen
October 4: Sue White, Dona Cowman
October 11: Kathy Petersen, Kathy Daup



In 1972 each pound of aluminum produced 22 cans; today it yields 32 cans

Thank You!

Thank you to the following people for providing a meal to the Emergency Family Shelter in 2026: *Patrick and Gail O'Connor — Heather Friedow & Gretchen Shuler — Kris and Denis LeRoy — Katie Johnson, Angela Bruce, Kristin Smith — Tracy Miller & RE students — Jerry and Patty Hilton & family — Drew & Lorrie Hanlon — Rick & Kathy Daup & Dona Cowman — Tom & Stacey Rooney — Matt & Angie Miller — Knights of Columbus — Pat Thomas, Anne Leopold, Molly Brynes & Peg McCombs.* Your generous contribution and support are greatly appreciated and make a meaningful difference for those in need at the Emergency Family Shelter.

If you would like information on providing a meal or are interested in providing a meal in 2027 for February, July, August, September or December, please contact Stacey Rooney at rooneysl7@gmail.com or 515-490-5034.



Have some great Halloween fun Wednesday, October 28, 6:00-7:00pm in the parking lot at St. Mary (if rain, in the Social Hall). All Parish families, friends and surrounding community members are welcome to attend! Wear your non scary costumes and "trunk or treat" at the cars. *We are collecting new socks and underwear for local clothing closets. Could you donate 1 or 2 large bags of wrapped candy, snack cakes, clean stuffies, small books or small toys (from happy meals) to hand out to the 200+ trunk or treaters?* A container is by the cry room for your donations through October 25. If you are interested in *helping in any way or hosting a trunk*, please contact Melissa Kahler, 515-290-2830 or Andrea Fisher, 515 -240-5059. Thank you!

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sept. 27

Theme: It's not enough to merely say you believe. You must also live your faith.

Reading I: Ezekiel 18:25-28 • Turn from what is sinful to what is just and right.

Reading II: Philippians 2:1-11 • Make my joy complete.

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32 • Many will enter the reign of God before you if you do not repent.

For Children: How do you show your love for Jesus by doing what he asks, even when it is difficult for you?

For Youth: Today's parable reminds us that it isn't what we say that counts as much as what we do. How would someone know you are a Christian through your actions?

For Adults: How and when were you like each of the sons in the Gospel?

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 4

Theme: Think about the things that are good and true.

Reading I: Isaiah 5:1-7 • Israel is the vineyard of the Lord.

Reading II: Philippians 4:6-9 • Present your needs to God.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43 • They killed even the son.

For Children: What makes you feel peaceful inside? What makes you feel restless?

For Youth: How do you thank God for the talents you have and give back to God by use of those talent?

For Adults: What steps do you take to make sure you are doing as Paul directs: "Live according to what you have learned and accepted."?