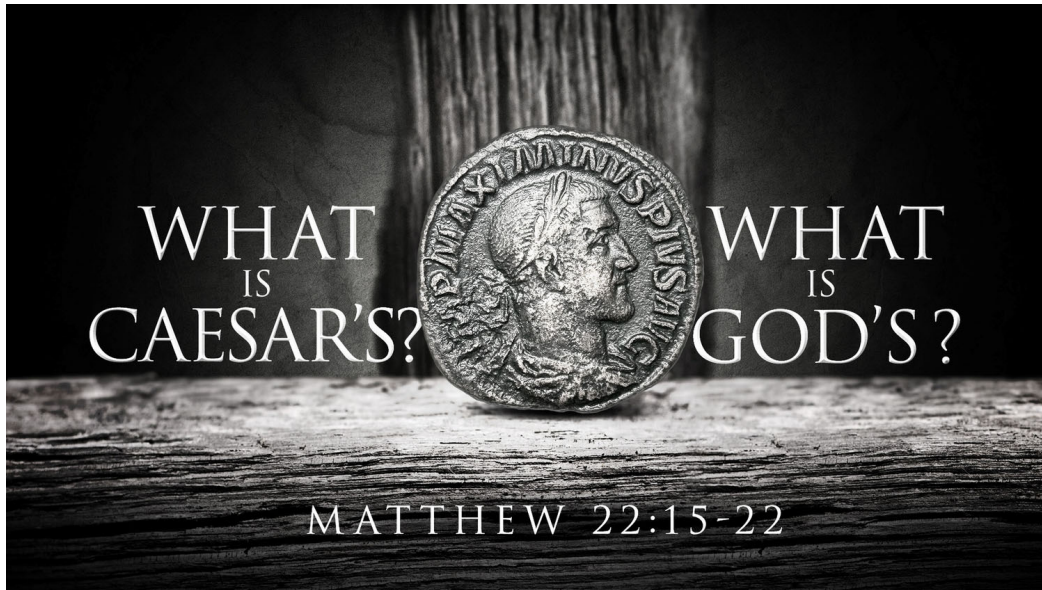


St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 17/18, 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 their 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. Pisut, Pastor	515-367-2685/ cpisut@dmdiocese.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
	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,

I don't have a whole lot to say today as this Cold that I've been fighting for the past couple of months seems to have resurfaced. Still, we always have the saints to turn to.

Friday October 16th is the feast of St. Hedwig (d. 1243). She was born in Bavaria, a duchess of Silesia and mother of seven. She was dedicated to helping the poor and prisoners. As a widow she entered a Cistercian convent.

On the same day is the feast of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (d. 1590). She was a French Visitandine mystic who promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This devotion helped to free the Church from the rigorist heresy of Jansenism. She promoted the first Friday devotion. Please join us on First Fridays for Mass and coffee and donuts. You may have also noticed that I have placed our votive candle stand under our lovely statue of the Sacred Heart to cultivate that devotion.

Saturday October 17th is the feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch (d. 107). This important Apostolic Father was martyred under the Roman Emperor Trajan in the Amphitheatre. He was the second successor to St. Peter in Antioch. He wrote seven letters to the early Church on unity and structure. He was the first to use the term "Catholic Church." He is mentioned in the Roman Canon.

Sunday October 18th is the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist. Tradition tells us that he was a doctor from Syria. He was a companion to St. Paul on his second journey. He wrote his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. Along with Saints Cosmas and Damian he is patron of doctors. He is also said to have painted an icon of the Blessed Mother and so is patron of painters.

Monday October 19th is the feast of Saints John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests and Companions, martyrs (1642-1649), French Jesuits and oblates to the Hurons and Iroquois of North America. John was tomahawked to death, and Isaac was savagely mutilated before he was slain. They are secondary patrons of Canada.

Tuesday October 20th is the feast of St. Paul of the Cross (d. 1775). He was born in Liguria, a renowned preacher and founder of the Passionists who are dedicated to retreats and missions with penitential monasticism.

Thursday October 22nd is the feast of Pope St. John Paul II (d. 2005). He was born in Poland in 1920 and as archbishop of Krakow took part in the Second Vatican Council. He was elected pope in 1978, the first non-Italian pope in hundreds of years. He was known for his world traveling pastoral zeal and rich magisterial teaching. He promulgated the Catechism

of the Catholic Church, the new Code of Canon Law for the Latin and Eastern Churches and the third edition of the Roman Missal.

Lastly, the people from Kley's, the company that is restoring our tabernacle and altar crucifix, picked them up this past Tuesday. Fr. Parker at St. Augustin has generously allowed us to use to use the tabernacle they use for Holy Thursday until we get ours back.

Fr. Pisut

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, October 20

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † Leo & Emma Sickerson

Wednesday, October 21

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † Doc Birchmier

Thursday, October 22

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

Friday, October 23

8:00am Mass, St. Mary Living & Deceased Members
of the Hill & Voong Family

Saturday, October 24 — Rosary 20 min. before Mass

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † Bill Devereux

Sunday, October 25 — Rosary 20 min. before Masses

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † Will & Mikey Carpenter

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

Are You New to Our Parish? Welcome

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 or the online form at <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/membership>. We are glad you are here!

† Pastoral Assistance

In case of an emergency please contact Fr. Pisut, 515-473-2743. To schedule a visit with Father at your home, or if a family member is hospitalized, in a care facility or home-bound, please email him at cpisut@dmdioocese.org.

Pray the Rosary With Us

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



Baby Bottle Campaign

InnerVisions HealthCare, is a local unplanned pregnancy and STD medical clinic whose mission is to empower women in vulnerable situations to choose parenting or adoption. To assist InnerVisions, you are invited to take a bottle, fill it with your donation of change, cash or check, and return it by the weekend of October 24/25. See <https://innervisionshealthcare.org/> to learn more. Thank you for your generous support!

TRUNK OR TREAT

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!

A Prayer for What Counts



Lord,

When I grow weary, please help me
to remember each and every day:

To count my blessings and not my crosses;

To count my gains and not my losses;

To count my laughs and not my tears;

To count my joys and not my fears;

To count my health and not my wealth;

And most of all....

To count on You, God, and not myself.

Amen.

Parish Council

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

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

Meeting: Nov. 9, 6:00pm, Ed Center

OCIA

Meetings: Thursdays Oct. 22 & 29, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

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

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 2: Maxwell, Colfax, Collins, Nevada

Fr. Pisut 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

- ✦ **This Weekend:** Food Pantry Collection for Impact Community Action Partnership
- ✦ **Thursday, October 29:** Informational meeting for Fr. Pisut's Ireland Pilgrimage, 6:00pm, St. Augustine or via Zoom
- ✦ **Work of Our Hands Festival**, Saturday, Nov. 7, 3:00-4:45pm and after Mass until 7:00pm and Sunday, Nov. 8 after 10:00am Mass until 12:30pm

Laundering Church Linens

After 26 years Sharon Adams is turning off her iron! She has been washing and ironing the Church linens since 2000. We are so grateful for her many years of dedicated and excellent service to the Parish! Would you be interested in taking on this task? For more information or to volunteer, please contact Father Pisut at cpisut@dmdioocese.org.

Removal of Grave Site Decorations

In preparation for winter, please plan to remove all grave site decorations at Holy Cross Cemetery by October 30. Any remaining decorations after this date will be collected and disposed of by the cemetery committee. Thank you.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

Are your children wanting to be more involved in Mass? We are always looking for more Altar servers. Please let me know and we can get them trained and on the schedule.

Upcoming dates

- Oct. 21: Regular sessions
- Oct. 28: Regular morning sessions -- no evening sessions due to Trunk or Treat
- Nov. 4: 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 (Grades 7 & 8), 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Wed. Oct. 21: EDGE Session

Wed. Oct. 28: TRUNK or Treat 6:00-7:00pm (EDGE and High School youth will need to help set up and clean up 5:30pm-7:30pm)

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

9th & 10th graders should attend all sessions this year.

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

Sunday, Oct. 18: 11:00am-12:15pm, Confirmation Student Sessions, Social Hall

Sunday, Nov 1: 11:00am-12:15pm, Confirmation Student Sessions, Social Hall

Saturday, Nov. 7: 8:00am-12 Noon, Community Service Day. See email to sign up. Our rain date is Saturday, Nov. 14.

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

Wed. Oct. 21: Youth Gathering

Wed. Oct. 28: TRUNK or Treat 6:00-7:00pm (High School and EDGE youth will need to help set up and clean up 5:30pm-7:30pm).

Join Us for Work of Our Hands Festival!

Join us November 7 & 8 as we celebrate the unique gifts, creativity and talents God has blessed each of us with! Work of Our Hands is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners and support our Parish Community.

We look forward to celebrating the many gifts that make our Church Family so special! *We hope to see you there!*

Event Times:

Saturday, November 7: 3:00-4:45pm
and after Mass until 7:00pm



Sunday, November 8: 11:00am-12:30pm

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

OCIA sessions take place on Thursdays from 6:00-7:30pm in the Social Hall at St Mary. They are open to anyone. If you have 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.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

October 11

Budget Week 15

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$2,626	\$5,727

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$84,550	\$85,911	\$79,178

Mass Attendance: October 10/11: 301

2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Unpaid Balance: **\$3,002**

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 - millertimothyg@gmail.com
Bill Sexton - billsxtn@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@hrtInd.us
Drew Hanlon - dlhanlon@windstream.net
Tim Miller - millertimothyg@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@midiowa.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.

All Saints Day and All Souls' Day

The Holy Day of All Saints falls on a Sunday so no additional Masses. All Souls' Day is Monday, November 2; we will have Mass at 6:00pm that evening at St. Mary's.

Diocesan Collection for Missions

Help support our brothers and sisters in faith in this country and throughout the world. Donation envelopes are available at both Churches, Please return your envelope by November 1. You may also donate online at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving/diocesan-special-collections/world-mission-sunday>. Thank you for your generosity in helping those most in need locally, nationally and world-wide.

Community Service Day

On Saturday, November 7 the Confirmation students will team up with the Knights of Columbus for our 9th annual Fall Community Service Day. The rain makeup date will be November 14. If you or someone you know are looking for some help with yard work or anything around the house, please fill out a form in the vestibule and drop it in the box provided. You are also welcome to contact Nicole Cory at 515-313-3014.

Church Sign

Wipe out worry, get a faith-lift.

Ministers for October 24 & 25

Saturday, October 24, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Lorrie Hanlon
Host Distributor	Garrett McClain
Cup Bearers	Drew Hanlon, Mike Devereux
Ushers	Drew Hanlon, Mike Devereux
Music	Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, October 25, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Jackie Crouse
Cup Bearer	Laurie Phelan
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Usher	Jerry & Deb Zenkner
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, October 25, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Jill Swanson
Host Distributor	Jacki Ausman
Cup Bearers	Tom Ausman, Jill Swanson
Altar Servers	Kate & Cora Swanson
	<i>Cross Bearer:</i> Rex Roberts
Ushers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music	Jen Linderblood, Celeste Muehlenthaler
	Patrick O'Connor

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

Money Counters

October 18: Sharon Morris, Kathy Daup
October 25: Kathy Petersen, Sue White



The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a massive collection of marine debris, mostly plastic, floating between Hawaii and California.



Mark Your Calendars!

Please plan to attend our Blood Drive on Thursday, November 12 from 3:00-7:00pm in St. Mary's Social Hall. There will be Yummy Soups and Homemade Treats to enjoy after your donation. To schedule an appointment please go to <https://www.lifesevebloodcenter.org/> (use 50073 as the zip code to find our sign-up). Walk-ins are also welcome! Thank you for your gift of life to those in need. 😊

Ireland Pilgrimage Information Meeting

Interested in finding out more about Fr. Pisut's pilgrimage to Ireland in September 7-16, 2027? Join us Thursday, October 29, 2026, 6:00pm for an in-person gathering hosted at St. Augustin Catholic Church in the Parish Hall. We encourage those who cannot join the meeting in-person to join the meeting remotely by clicking this Zoom link at the time of the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89881556820#success>.

Thinking of Priesthood Day

This one-day event in Ames on Saturday, November 7 is for men aged 16-40 who are interested in priesthood. This is an informal discernment day and is a great way to spend time with peers who are also thinking about their vocation. Please contact Father Nick Smith for more information or to register at 515-237- 5050.

Victim Assistance Advocate

Sam Porter, is a staff member at Polk County Victim Services. He helps people who are, or were, minors when they were victims of abuse by the clergy through a complaint process. He also helps them seek support and counseling services. He can be reached at Sam.Porter@polkcountyiowa.gov or 515-286-2024.

St. Thomas More Center is Hiring!

We have openings for an executive director, a camp director, and a facilities director. If you like helping kids grow in their faith and being outdoors, this is the perfect job for you. Get more information at dmdiocese.org/careers then Catholic Organizations. Email your cover letter and resume to HR@dmdiocese.org.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 18

Theme: We thank God for faithfulness.

Reading I: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 • I have called you by name.

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b • We thank God for your faith!

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21 • Keep your priorities clear.

Question for Children: In your young life, who has helped you know Jesus as a friend?

Question for Youth: What in your life is dedicated to God? How to you keep those things sacred?

Question for Adults: If you were to write a thank you note to someone or to a group who has helped you grow in faith, to whom would you write and what would you say?