



St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 25 & 26, 2025

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.

Dear Good People,

I hope this letter finds you well. I just wanted to give an update on all the exciting things that are happening regarding our buildings. It is because of your generosity that we are able to do all these things. So, thank you!

At Holy Cross we have begun the process of restoring our windows. Our new pit toilet has also been installed. At St. Mary's we have begun the work of leveling our concrete that leads to the front door. We are also fixing the flashing in order to help with leaks when it rains. Our big project coming up is to address the parking lot at St. Mary's. I will meet with the Building Commission at the Diocese next month and hopefully get approval. These are big projects, and I am certainly most grateful for all your generosity! Again, it is because of your generous giving that we can embark on these good works.

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

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
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

<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 10:00am	Holy Cross St. Mary

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 of Adults: Please
contact Fr. Parker or Nicole Cory

Priesthood/Religious: www.vocationsonline.org

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, October 28

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Mark Hanlon*

Wednesday, October 29

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Mary Ellen Hanlon*

Thursday, October 30

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *John & Mildred Flaherty*

Friday, October 31

8:00am Mass, St. Mary *Healing of JoAnn Meusburger*

Saturday, November 1

Feast of All Saints, Holy Day

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Jerry Girres*

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

Feast of All Souls

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Bill Devereux*

Sunday, November 2 — Feast of All Souls

8:00am Mass at Holy Cross † *Chris Schreurs*

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

In case of an emergency please contact Fr. Ross Parker, 515-720-3434. To schedule a visit with Father at your home, 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.

Feasts of All Saints and All Souls

All Saints Day: This Holy Day falls on Saturday so there is no obligation to attend Mass; we will however, have 8:00am Mass at St. Mary on November 1 to celebrate the saints!

All Souls Day: We will celebrate this feast at our weekend Masses November 1 & 2.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Have some great Halloween fun this Wednesday, October 29, 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 costume and "trunk or treat" at the cars. **We are collecting new socks and underwear for local clothes closets.**

Could you donate 1 or 2 large bags of wrapped candy, clean stuffies, small books or small toys (like from happy meals) to hand out to the 200+ trunk or treaters? A container is by the cry room for your donations through this weekend. 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!

Fall Back! Daylight Savings Time ends next Sunday. Turn your clocks back one hour!



Prayer For All the Faithfull Departed

Dear God of Mercy,
I pray this day for all souls,
both known and unknown to me,
who, although touched by death,
have not yet entered Your Heavenly Kingdom.
While they loved you in their lifetime,
they have not attained
the perfection Heaven demands.
So in my love for them,
I offer my prayers, my small works of mercy
in the hope that Your mercy will flow to them
and bring them to eternal peace with You.
May they intercede for me for the graces
I may need to live out my life on earth
in perfect obedience and love of You,
my Father,
so that I, too, may join them
in everlasting life with You in Heaven.
May the souls of the faithful
departed rest in peace. Amen.

Parish Council

Meeting: November 18, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: November 25, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: November 10, 6:00pm, Social Hall

OCIA / Grow in Your Catholic Faith

October 30, 6:15-7:45pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: November 17, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 1: Huxley and Cambridge

Father Parker does not have set office hours at the Parish.

To reach him please email, call or text:

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

Coming Events

†**Trunk or Treat:** October 29, 6:00-7:00pm, St. Mary

†**Community Service Day with Confirmation Students & K of C:** Saturday, November 1, 8:00am - Noon

†**Next Weekend:** Building Fund Collection — Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8:00am and 10:00am Masses

†**Blood Drive:** Thursday, Nov. 13, 3:00-7:00pm St. Mary

Community Work Day

This Saturday (Nov. 1) the Confirmation students, along with the Knights of Columbus are available to help you, or someone you know, with yard work or anything around the house. Please fill out the form provided at either Church and put it in the box provided. You are also welcome to contact Nicole Cory at 515-313-3014. If needed, the rain makeup date is November 8.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

No evening sessions this week due to Trunk or Treat. Please join us for this fun event. The whole family is welcome.

Wanting to learn more about the religious potential of the 3-6 year olds and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd? There is a Level 1 (3-6 year old) formation starting at SS. John & Paul in Altoona this February. Contact Tracy for more information.

Upcoming Dates

Oct. 29- Morning session only—*no evening sessions*—
Trunk or Treat, 6:00-7:00pm, St. Mary
Nov. 5 & Nov. 12- 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 — Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall, 7th & 8th

We are asking every EDGE student to bring 1-2 large bags of wrapped candy for our Trunk or Treat night.

We are collecting candy until October 26.

Oct 29: TRUNK OR TREAT 6:00-7:00pm — Kids will be needed 5:30-7:30pm for set up & clean up

Confirmation (9th & 10th Graders)

Sunday, Oct. 26: 11am-12:30pm, 10th grade only session, Youth Room

Saturday, Nov. 1: 8:00am-12 Noon, Fall Community Work Day. Please watch your email for signups.

S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group — Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area, 9th-12th

Oct 29: TRUNK OR TREAT 6:00-7:00pm — Teens will be needed 5:30-7:30pm for set up & clean up

Removal of Gravesite Decorations

In preparation for winter, please remove all gravesite 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.



Book of Remembrance

This Book will be in the Sanctuary next weekend. You are invited to write in the names of your deceased loved ones to be remembered at our Masses during November.

Camino de Santiago Presentation



If you had an opportunity to walk one of the ancient pilgrimages dating back to the 10th century would you do it? Even if it was a very long walk? Thank you for your prayers as I walked 170 miles of the Way of St James also called the Camino de Santiago. If you'd like to hear about my experience then come to St. Mary's Parish Hall after the evening Mass on Saturday, November 22. I expect this to last about 30 minutes followed by Q & A. ~ Mary Snyder

Seminarian Special Collection

This collection provides support for the education of men discerning priesthood within our Diocese. Your donation helps form our faith leaders of the next generation. Households received a mailing for this collection; please return your gift directly to the Diocese. Thank you!

Weekly Collection Financial Update

October 19 Budget Week 16

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$8,786	\$5,536

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
\$93,575	\$88,569	\$82,446

Food Pantry Collection: \$554.00

Mass Attendance: October 18/19: 322

2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Goal	Pledged	Payments	Outstanding	Refund
\$47,320	\$55,340	\$53,160	\$2,180	\$5,840

Councils and Committees

PARISH COUNCIL

Anne Davis - annedavis06@gmail.com
Terri Hamm - Theresa.Hamm@mercyoneiowa.org
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhpcpc@yahoo.com
Kim Heger - hegerkim91@gmail.com
Doug Jones - djones@bossard.com
Bill Kyle - bill@northiowaair.com
Tim Miller - millertimothyg@gmail.com
Lisa Schoening - lisa@lisaschoening.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 - jlinderb@yahoo.com
Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Sue White - charylmyron@q.com

BUILDING & GROUND COMMITTEE

John Roberts, *Co-Chair* - jroberts@huxcomm.net
Scott Turczynski, *Co-Chair* - ScottT@hrtlnd.us
Drew Hanlon - drewsmhpcpc@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

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

John Roberts - jroberts@huxcomm.net

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). If you are interested in a discussion about the possibilities for WOOH, please contact Monica Kennebeck-Doyle, 515-238-4180 / kennebeckm@gmail.com or Trish Morris, 515-278-4936 / girardifan@hotmail.com.



Birthday Cake Kit Service Project

On December 14, Boy Scouts from our Parish of Ballard Pack 163 are going to assemble birthday cake kits to donate to the Ballard Community Clothing and Food Pantry. Scouts and leaders are also going to volunteer at the Pantry in December along with members of our Parish. Pack 163 is seeking donations of cake mixes, frosting tubs, and birthday candles for this service project. A donation will be available in the vestibule of St. Mary from November 8 - 23. Donating money for the purchase of supplies is another way to support this project. Monetary donations should be sent to the Ballard Pack PayPal account: ballardpack163@gmail.com (add "cake kits" as a note). If monetary donations exceed the cost of supplies, the remaining funds will be donated to the Ballard Community Clothing and Food Pantry. If you have questions, please contact Heather Laake at 515-612-4598.

Without God we are homeless.

Help With Veteran's Day Avenue of Flags



Could you assist with raising the flags at Holy Cross on Saturday, November 8 at Noon and/or retiring them on Tuesday, November 11 at 4:00pm? Weather permitting. Please contact Lynn Schreurs at 515-577-8147 or lschreurs@msn.com, to volunteer or for more information.

Ministers for November 1 & 2

Saturday, November 1, 8:00am Holy Day Mass, St. Mary

Volunteers needed:

Lector, Host Distributor, 2 Cup Bearers and 2 Ushers

Saturday, November 1, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Bob Selby
Host Distributor	Bob Selby
Cup Bearers	Bill & Kris Sexton
Ushers	Dan H., Bob & Jack Selby, Jim Hudson
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, November 2, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer	Michele Hand
Altar Servers	Claire & Oliver Hand
Ushers	Jerry & Deb Zenkner
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, November 2, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Jill Swanson
Host Distributor	Julie Coash
Cup Bearers	Jill Swanson, Bob Coash
Altar Servers	Emma & Kate Swanson
<i>Cross Bearer:</i> Cora Swanson	
Ushers	Andrew Cory, Gregg Richwine
Music	Sue Schmidt, Karon Lacey, Mary Snyder

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

Money Counters

October 26: Sue White, Kathy Petersen
November 2: Kathy Daup, Dona Cowman



Over 5 billion pounds of styrofoam ends up in our landfills and waterways each year and takes more than 500 years to decompose.

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.



Blood Drive

Donate at our Drive and save lives on Thursday, November 13, 3:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome! Sign up online at https://donor.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/188697. Volunteers and treats are needed that day. Contact Larry Sauer at sauerld@outlook.com or 515-710-2421 to help out.

Diocese of Des Moines Permanent Diaconate Formation

Pre-Application Information Meetings

These meetings are intended to provide interested men and their wives with an overview of the formation process and requirements as well as the challenges and rewards when choosing to pursue ordination to the Permanent Diaconate. There will be a short presentation and time for questions and answers. Permanent deacons and wives will be hosting these evenings and available to talk after the presentation. Attending at least one of the pre-application meetings by the inquirer and wife (if married) is a prerequisite for requesting an application packet.

Monday, October 27, 7:00pm Christ the King Parish
Des Moines, Parish Hall

Thursday, November 6, 7:00pm St. Pius X Parish
Urbandale, Martha & Mary Hall

Sunday, November 9, 2:00pm Holy Spirit Parish,
Creston, Parish Hall

For more information contact Vocations@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5034.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 26

Theme: God knows and sees our hearts.

Reading I: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18 • The Lord is a God of justice.

Reading II: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 • I have fought the good fight.

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14 • Everyone who exalts him or herself shall be humbled.

Question for Children: Jesus teaches us to be humble – but what does that mean? How do you show you are humble?

Question for Youth: God knows when we are doing things just for show, and when they come from the goodness of our heart. When have you caught yourself doing something just to be more popular or liked? How does it feel to do something that you know is good and just?

Question for Adults: This Gospel reading suggests that we approach God and each other with humility. What does this mean, in practical terms? How do we "humble" ourselves? What does that mean?