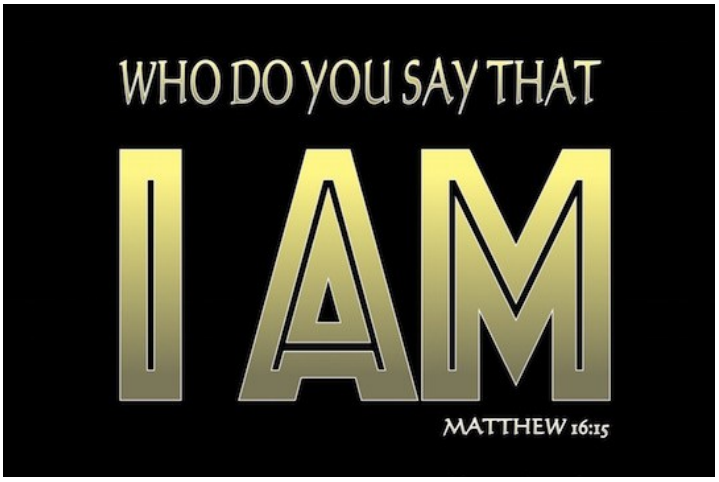
St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 22/23, 2026

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 29/30, 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.

Missionary visit: We welcome Fr. Emmanual Offiong of MissionCare-USA as our celebrant August 29 & 30. See below for information about his mission.

Dear friends in Christ,

I am Fr. Emmanuel Offiong, I represent MISSIONCARE-USA. We are a Catholic mission outreach serving vulnerable children in rural parts of Nigeria, offering support through education, clean water, and nutrition. Next weekend, I will be celebrating the Eucharist with you and share our mission story. Your prayers and generosity will go a long way to help God's children in Southern Nigeria stay in school and grow in hope. Thank you for your willingness to bring mercy and lasting change through this mission appeal. Remain blessed. - Fr. Emmanuel

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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 - 4:30pm, 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'm sorry that I have not been able to celebrate Mass these past few days. I have had a bad summer cold hit me this past week. I think we all know how bad those can be. They sneak up on you, but you know they're coming. Monday night I had a little tickle in the back of my throat. Tuesday my voice started to grow hoarse. Wednesday the runny nose came on and then it just hit me like a ton of bricks. It seems so ironic and unjust to get a cold in the summer.

As I've been speaking about some of the items that are used for the celebration of Holy Mass, I forgot to mention the pall. Pall in general just refers to a covering. At funerals, the pall covers the casket. In English when we refer to a bad feeling coming over a situation we speak of a pall coming over us. In the context of Mass, it is the flat linen covered square of cardboard or plastic that covers the chalice(s) during Mass. While it is part of the ritual of Mass, that's a whole other conversation, it also serves a very practical purpose. It protects the Blood from profanation, such as an insect or dust getting into the chalice. While it's not always used it is supposed to be. Again, that is because since we believe that the bread and wine truly becomes the body and blood of Christ, we should do all we can to protect it.

While the pall does protect the Precious Blood from profanation it also helps cultivate our devotion. The act of using it demonstrates respect for the Sacred Species and by our knowledge of this that enriches our belief. Likewise, I have started using a chalice veil over the ciborium that holds the Consecrated Hosts that are reserved in the tabernacle. This has its origins from the veil in the Jerusalem Temple for the Holy of Holies. Indeed, Fr. Parker's moving of the tabernacle to the center of the church helps to demonstrate that it is the fundamental event that happens at Mass which highlights respect for the Sacred Species and cultivates our devotion as well.

On Saturday August 22nd we celebrate the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It falls fittingly on the Octave (eighth day) of the Assumption. We have so many wonderful Marian feasts that begs the question, is St. Mary's connected to any particular feast of our Blessed Mother?

Sunday August 23rd is the feast of St. Rose of Lima (d. 1617). She is the first canonized saint of the new world. Born of Spanish parents she was baptized as Isabel Flores y de Olivia but because of her radiant beauty was given the name of Rose. She was confirmed by St. Turibius and lived along three other saints: St. Martin de Porres, St. John Macias and St. Francis Solano. She refused to marry and became a Dominical Tertiary (third order), a lay order. She helped to found the first monastery of cloistered nuns in Lima. She was known for her life of prayer, austere penances, mystical experiences and charismatic gifts.

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Monday August 24 is the feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostles. He was also known as Nathaniel. Along with St. Thomas is said to have preached the Gospel in India, where from the earliest days they were knowns as the Christians of St. Thomas. He also preached the Gospel in Armenia, which would become the first Christian nation, where tradition says that he was flayed alive.

Tuesday, we celebrate two saints. King St. Louis of France (d. 1270) was a model ruler and father of eleven children. He was a Franciscan Tertiary who cared for lepers. He built St. Chapelle in Paris as a reliquary for the crown of thorns. He died of plague in Tunisia during the Second Crusade. He is the patron of masons and sculptors.

Also, on Tuesday we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph Calasanz (d. 1648). Born in Aragon he founded the Clerics Regular of Religious Schools, also known as the Piarists. He was dedicated to helping poor children and faced many trials and calumnies for his work. He is patron of all Christian schools dedicated to the poor.

Lastly, Thursday August 27 is the feast of St. Monica (d. 387). She was born in Tagaste in Northern Africa, which was then part of the Roman Empire. After Thirty years of prayer, she obtained the conversion of her dissolute pagan husband and her famous son, St. Augustin. She is patroness of mothers. My only mother, inspired by her example, prayed for me to return to the Faith, not knowing that my birthday is the feast of St. Augustin. More on that next week.

Fr. Pisut

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, August 25
8:00am Mass, St. Mary — † *Delores Markfort Goche*

Wednesday, August 26
5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross — † *Will & Mikey Carpenter*

Thursday, August 27
8:00am Mass, St. Mary — *Healing for Chris Pritchard*

Friday, August 28
8:00am Mass, St. Mary — † *Ira & Mary Ann Cory*

Saturday, August 29
4:00 - 4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary
5:00pm Mass, St. Mary — † *Jerry Girres*

Sunday, August 30
8:00am Mass, Holy Cross — † *Larry Shaw*
10:00am Mass, St. Mary — *People of the Parish*

Tuesday, September 1
8:00am Mass, St. Mary — *Healing for Chris Pritchard*

Wednesday, September 2
5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross — † *Stephen & Michael Carpenter*

Thursday, September 3
8:00am Mass, St. Mary — † *Living and Deceased Members of the Mike & Brenda Nehring Family*

First Friday, September 4
8:00am Mass, St. Mary — † *Clifford & Sarah Seuferer*

Saturday, September 5
4:00 - 4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary
5:00pm Mass, St. Mary — † *Delila Roberts*

Sunday, September 6
8:00am Mass, Holy Cross — † *Bill Jorgensen*
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. Pisut, 515-473-2743. To schedule a visit with Father at your home, or if a family member is in a care facility, home-bound, or hospitalized, please contact him at cpisut@dmdiocese.org.

Breakfast Social to Welcome Fr. Pisut

Please join us after 10:00am Mass this Sunday (August 23) to welcome Fr. Pisut as our Pastor and enjoy food and fellowship!

Did You Know?

There is a huge shortage of blood in our community right now. If able, please consider donating at our Blood Drive on Thursday, August 27, 3:00-7:00pm at St. Mary's. Walk-ins are always welcome or you can sign up here: https://lifeserve-donor.prod.forcytesp.com/schedule-donation?date=2026-08-27&operation_id=494792&operation_type=drives. A bonus this month; we are serving ice cream sundaes at the cantina!

Prayer for Students and Teachers

Dear Lord,
Give our children a thirst for knowledge,
wisdom and understanding.
May their hearts be ready to learn
at home, school and church.
Open their ears,
that they may crave knowledge
and seek it out.
Protect them and keep them safe.

We pray for our teachers.
Watch over them, guide and sustain them,
enabling them to joyfully interact
with their students and co-workers.
Protect them and keep them safe.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Buildings & Grounds
No meeting scheduled

Parish Council
Meeting: Sept. 15, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council
Meeting: August 25, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship
Meeting: Sept. 14, 6:00pm, Social Hall

OCIA
Meetings: Thursdays, Sept. 17, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus
Meeting: Sept. 21, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations
Team 1: Huxley and 1/2 of Cambridge

Fr. Pisut does not have set office hours at the Parish. To reach him please email, call or text: cpisut@dmdiocese.org or 515-473-2743.

Coming Events

- **This Weekend, August 22 & 23:** *Back to School/Welcome Change* themed Masses—wear you school colors!
- **This Sunday, August 23:** Breakfast Social after 10:00am Mass to welcome Fr. Pisut, Social Hall
- **Thursday, August 27:** Blood Drive, 3:00-7:00pm, Social Hall
- **Weekend of August 29/30:** Missionary here to celebrate Masses — Youth Group Football Bucket Vote fundraiser after all Masses
- **Weekend of Sept. 5/6:** Building Fund Collection — Youth Group Football Bucket Vote fundraiser after all Masses — Wine & cheese after 5:00pm Mass — Coffee & donuts after 8:00am and 10:00am Masses

Church Sign

When the outlook is dark, try looking up.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

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

RE Parent meeting: Wednesday Sept. 2, 6:00pm in the Social Hall. Plan about 30 minutes.

RE sessions will begin the following Wednesday, Sept. 9, and will be 45 minutes long that week.

Upcoming dates
Sept. 2: 6:00pm Parent meeting, Social Hall
Sept. 9 & Sept. 16: 45 minute sessions
Sept. 23: 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)
Wednesday, Sept. 2: Parent & EDGE student MANDATORY meeting. We will go over the handbook, calendar and expectations, 6:45-7:15pm, Social Hall, St Mary.

Wednesday, Sept. 16: EDGE Kick Off- 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall, St Mary

Confirmation: If you have a child entering 9th or 10th grade, please join us for our Confirmation Preparation this year. Our gatherings take place twice per month on Sundays after 10:00am Mass. We will also have three family gatherings throughout the year and various service opportunities. Please register your child as soon as possible.

Wednesday, August 26: Confirmation Preparation Parent/ Child meeting, 6:00-7:00pm, Social Hall at St. Mary

Youth Gatherings (Grades 9-12)
Wednesday, Sept. 2: EDGE Ministry Team meeting: 7:15-8:45pm in the Social Hall. If you have been part of our team previously please plan to attend this meeting. If you are a college aged, high school student or an adult and interested in learning more about the EDGE ministry team, please plan to attend our team meeting and contact Melissa or Andrea.

Wednesday, Sept. 9: EDGE Ministry Team Meeting 7:00am-8:30pm, Social Hall, St Mary

Wednesday, Sept. 16: Youth Group Kick Off, 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Area in the Ed Center

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Who's Your Favorite Team?

During the weekends of August 29/30 and September 5/6 we will have our "BUCKET VOTE " S.T.O.R.M. Fundraiser! Who is ready for some FOOTBALL?! The BIG Iowa State vs. University of Iowa game is quickly approaching and we want your "VOTE." S.T.O.R.M. teens will hold the voting event following all Masses those two weekends. Please show your support for YOUR favorite team by dropping your cash donations into the "U of I, ISU or IDC" bucket.

After we count the "votes", the team's bucket with the most money is the WINNER! So even if your team isn't favored to win the BIG game, they still have the chance to be the WINNER here! The SM-HC winner will be revealed in the vestibule and in the bulletin after our votes are counted.

THANK YOU, for your continued support of our Youth!

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	$4,150	$5,727	**August 9**
Youth/Bldg. Fund	$8,944	$5,727	**August 16**

Year-to-Date	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	$42,027	$40,092	$38,834

Collection for Earthquake Victims: $826
Food Pantry Collection: $633
Mass Attendance: August 8/9: 293 August 15/16: 287

2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Goal	Pledged	Paid	Unpaid	Refund
$47,270	$57,240	$54,037	**$3,203**	**$6,767**

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@hrtlnd.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
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 - 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

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.

Help with Avenue of Flags at Holy Cross

Could you assist with raising the flags on Saturday, Sept. 5 at 10:00am and/or retiring them on Monday, Sept. 7 at 5:00pm? Each session lasts about half an hour. Please contact Lynn Schreurs, lschreurs@msn.com / 515-577-8147, to volunteer, for more information, or if inclement weather.

Parish Genealogy

Please access our updated form through our website at https://www.saintmaryhc.org/events-opportunities. These will be kept electronically for the next Parish history book.

Ministers for August 29 & 30

Saturday, August 29, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Anne Power
Host Distributor	Susan Stillmunkes
Cup Bearers	Mike Devereux, *volunteer needed*
Ushers	Greg Stillmunkes, Mike Power
Music	Garrett McClain, Mary Ortmann

Sunday, August 30, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Sheri Fogarty
Cup Bearer	Michele Hand
Altar Servers	Claire & Oliver Hand
Ushers	Sandra Hunter
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, August 30, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Kris LeRoy
Host Distributor	Angela Collum
Cup Bearers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Altar Servers	David Collum, Rex Roberts
	Cross Bearer: Gabriel Miller
Ushers	Andrew Cory, Gregg Richwine
Music	Jen Linderblood, Celeste & Patrick

Ministers for September 5 & 6 are by sign up

Saturday, September 5, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Volunteers Needed: 2 Cup Bearers, 3 Ushers

Lector	Lorrie Hanlon
Host Distributor	Drew Hanlon
Usher	Drew Hanlon
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, September 6, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Volunteers Needed: Lector, Cup Bearer, Servers, Ushers

Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, September 6, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Volunteers Needed: Lector, Host Distributor, 2 Cup Bearers, 2 Altar Servers, 4 Ushers

Music	Jen L., Karon Lacey, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

August 23: Trish Morris, Sue White
August 30: Sue White, Kathy Petersen
Sept. 5: Trish Morris, Dona Cowman

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 OCIA. Our first session is Thursday, Sept. 17, 6:00 - 7:30pm in the Social Hall at St. Mary. Our sessions 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.

Additional Options for Tithing

Automatic Debit (ACH) from your account once a month or **Online Giving through the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa.** For questions or to begin ACH, please contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org. For additional information for online giving, go to https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/.

Thank you for considering one of these options
for your support of SMHC!

Christ Our Life Conference 2026

Join nine world-class speakers for a faith-filled, life-changing event at Casey's Center in Des Moines on September 26 & 27. Tickets: In Person or Livestream, All-Weekend Adult Pass $30, Age 23 and under FREE! All those in-person or livestreaming, PAID or FREE, must obtain tickets by going online at ChristOurLifeIowa.com.

Let's Believe... Live... and Celebrate Our Faith!

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 23

Theme: God is creating a church, built on rock.

Reading I: Isaiah 22:19-23 • David will rule the people.

Reading II: Romans 11:33-36 • How deep is the wisdom of God!

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20 • On this rock, I will build my church.

Question for Children: What are three things you know about Jesus?

Question for Youth: Today's Gospel is about identity – the revealing of Jesus' true self. How difficult is it to you to reveal your true self? What holds you back from being who God created you to be?

Question for Adults: If Jesus turned and asked you the same question, who would you say he is? How would you describe Jesus to someone who did not know him?

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 30

Theme: The cross is a way that leads to true life.

Reading I: Jeremiah 20:7-9 • I suffer for the sake of doing God's work.

Reading II: Romans 12:1-2 • Be transformed.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27 • Take up your cross.

Question for Children: Jesus tells us that we each are called to follow him. What is hard for you to do to follow Jesus?

Question for Youth: In order to follow Jesus, we have to do hard things, to carry our own crosses. What is a cross that you are carrying right now? In what ways can you ask Jesus to help you with your cross?

Question for Adults: Jesus gives us the core truth to life and eternal happiness — the cross. Name the cross that you carry. How is it bringing you closer to God?