St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

St. Mary: 460 NW Washington Avenue, Elkhart Iowa 50073
Holy Cross: 12704 NE 98th Street, Maxwell Iowa 50161



Solemnity of All Saints
October 31 / November 1, 2026



Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 7 / 8, 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

See inside for varied 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.

With the transition from October to November, we leave the month of the Rosary and enter the month of All Souls. Sunday November 1 is the feast of All Saints, which will be observed on the Saturday night and Sunday morning masses. Monday November 2 we will have mass for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, commonly known as All Souls. The month of All Souls is important as it helps us to focus on an important aspect of our Faith which many people don't like to think about, the Four Last Things: death, judgement, heaven and hell. Sadly, many people don't think they will be subject to judgement and a loving God wouldn't consign us to hell so it becomes just the inevitable death which we all must face and the presumption that we will all go to heaven, except a few really bad people like Hitler and Stalin.

While focusing on the Four Last Things we also see the three-part nature of the Church: Triumphant, Suffering and Militant. The Church Triumphant refers to the saints in heaven. While this includes those canonized saints we all know it also includes all those who persevered, albeit imperfectly, in the Faith who after a time of purification attained their eternal reward. That period of purification refers to the Church Suffering, those poor souls in purgatory. While some go straight to heaven and some go straight to hell, many of us will spend time in purgatory. While we refer to them as the poor souls because they long to be with God they are still assured heaven eventually. Lastly there is us, the Church Militant, those on earth striving to be faithful to the Gospel, to live us God created us. As St. Paul says, working out our salvation in fear and trembling. We know that eternal damnation is possible, Jesus spoke of hell more than he did of heaven. However, we know that is not want God wants for us. He created us to know, love and serve him in this life so that we could be with him in the next. We have the well-founded hope that if we are faithful to the Gospel we will be with our Father in Heaven.

Tuesday November 3 is the feast of St. Martin de Porres (d.1639). He was born in Lima Peru to a Spanish father and black slave mother. He was a lay Dominican who ministered to the poor and sick, especially the African slaves. He was devoted to the Holy Eucharist. He was a close friend of St. Rose of Lima. He is the patron of social justice and people of mixed races.

Wednesday November 4 is the feast of St. Charles Borromeo (d.1584). While he died at the relatively young age of forty-six, he accomplished a lot in that time. He was made cardinal and secretary of state at age twenty-two for his uncle Pope Pius IV. He implemented the reforms of the Council of Trent in his diocese of Milan. He founded seminaries as part of that reform. He is considered a model pastor by many bishops, including St. Francis de Sales. He held five provincial councils and eleven diocesan synods. He is patron of catechists and catechumens.

Lastly, as we enter the month of All Souls let us begin by praying for them in a special way Monday at 6:00 at the Mass for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed.

Fr. Pisut

Laundering Church Linens

Would you be interested in taking on this task? For additional information or to volunteer, please contact Father Pisut, cpisut @dmdiocese.org. We are grateful for Sharon Adams' many years of dedicated and excellent service to the Parish!

Conversation and Refreshments!

Please join us Friday, November 6 after 8:00am Mass at St. Mary's for refreshments and conversation. *If you would like to host refreshments December 4, please contact the Office.*

Community Service Day

Saturday, November 7 the Confirmation students will team up with the K of C for their 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.

Blessing For Our Veterans

We will have a blessing for all Veterans at our Masses next weekend to honor them for their service and sacrifice for us and our country's protection and safety. We thank you!!

Help With Veteran's Day Avenue of Flags



Could you assist with raising the flags at Holy Cross on Tuesday, November 10 at Noon and/or retiring them on Wednesday, 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.


Join us for
Work of Our Hands
November 7-8
IN THE CHURCH HALL
Join us as we celebrate the gifts, creativity, and skills God has given each of us!
This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners and support our church community.
Times:
Saturday
3:00 pm – 4:45 pm
After Mass till 7:00 pm
Sunday
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Mass and Reconciliation

Monday, November 2 -- All Souls Day
6:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Deceased Parish Members*

Tuesday, November 3 -- No Mass

Wednesday, November 4
5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross *Healing for Chris Pritchard*

Thursday, November 5
8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Living & Deceased Members of the Mike & Brenda Nehring Family*

First Friday, November 6
8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Dorothy Smith*

Saturday, November 7
4:00 - 4:45pm Reconciliation, St. Mary
5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Jerry Girres*

Sunday, November 8
8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † *Lyle Carpenter*
10:00am Mass, St. Mary *People of the Parish*

Tuesday, November 10
8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Bill & Kay Ross*

Wednesday, November 11
5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *All Veterans, Living and Deceased*

Thursday, November 12
8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Deceased Bodak Family*

Friday, November 13
8:00am Mass, St. Mary *Healing for Chris Pritchard*

Saturday, November 14
4:00 - 4:45pm Reconciliation, St. Mary
5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Rhonda Kerr Bagley*

Sunday, November 15
8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † *Peg Moreland*
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 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@dmdiocese.org.

All Souls' Day †

All Souls' Day is Monday, November 2; we will have Mass at 6:00pm at St. Mary's.



Book of Remembrance

This Book is in the Sanctuary. You are invited to write in the names of your deceased loved ones to be remembered at our Masses this month.

Prayer For The Holy Souls

Merciful Father,
hear our prayer and console us.
As we renew our faith in Your Son,
whom You raised from the dead,
strengthen our hope
that all our departed brothers and sisters
will share in His Resurrection,
who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

Parish Council
Meeting: Nov. 17, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council
Meeting: Nov. 24, 6:30pm, Social Hall

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

OCIA
Meetings: 6:00-7:30pm, Thursdays, Nov. 5 (Hall), Nov. 12 (Youth Room), Nov. 19 (Hall)
Rite of Acceptance & Welcome for Participants: Nov. 15 during 10am Mass

Knights of Columbus
Meeting: Nov. 16, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations
Team 2: Maxwell, Colfax, Collins, Nevada

The Parish Office is closed through Wednesday, November 4

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:** Coffee & Donuts after 8:00am and 10:00am Masses.
- **Friday, Nov. 6:** Refreshments & Conversation after 8:00am Mass
- **Work of Our Hands Festival:** Saturday, Nov, 7, 3:00-4:45pm & after Mass to 7:00pm -- Sunday, Nov. 8 after 10:00am Mass until 12:30pm, Social Hall
- **Weekend of Nov. 7 & 8:** Blessing of Veterans during Masses -- Building Fund Collection -- Wine & Cheese after 5:00pm Mass
- **Monday, Nov. 9:** Social Hall in use 6:30-9:00pm
- **Blood Drive:** Thursday, Nov. 12, 3:00-7:00pm, Hall
- **Puzzle Fest:** Saturday, Nov. 14 after 5:00pm Mass, Hall
- **OCIA Rite of Acceptance & Welcome:** Sunday, Nov. 15 during 10:00am Mass
- **Sunday, Nov. 15:** Social Hall in use 1:00-6:00pm
- **Game Night!:** Friday, Nov. 20, 6:30-8:30pm, Social Hall

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

We have an opportunity for adult faith formation coming up in January. We are hosting a CGS Level 1 adult course here at St. Mary's. It is free for our parishioners. We invite you to come learn more about our Catholic faith and how we can offer it in a way that meets the needs of our youngest parishioners. To sign-up or for more details please email me. Spots are limited.

Upcoming dates

Nov. 4: Regular sessions
Nov. 11: Regular sessions
Nov. 18: 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. Nov. 4: Session
Wed. Nov. 11: Session

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Sunday, Nov. 1: 11:00am-12:15pm, Confirmation Student Session, Social Hall
Saturday, Nov. 7: 8:00am-12 Noon, Community Service Day See email to sign up. Our rain date is Saturday, Nov. 14.
Sunday, Nov 15: 11:00am-12:15pm, Confirmation Student Session, Social Hall
Sunday, Dec 6: 11:00am, Confirmation students to help with St. Nicholas Party, see email for more information.

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

Wed. Nov. 4: Gathering
Wed. Nov. 11: Gathering

Puzzle Mania!



Bring your team or come join a team Saturday, November 14 after 5:00pm Mass! Adult and Children's puzzles. Each team will have a table to do the puzzle. First Adult team to finish the puzzle wins a prize! (Children's puzzles are just for fun.) Potluck snacks are welcome.

OCIA Rite of Acceptance & Welcome

Please join us on Sunday, November 15 at the 10:00am Mass at St. Mary as we celebrate the Rite of Acceptance & Welcome for our OCIA participants. This special celebration marks an important step in their journey of faith. We invite our parish to welcome them with open hearts and keep them in prayer as they continue preparing to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church.

The 4 Keys to Heaven

This booklet is found on the table at church and contains an exclusive collection of prayers, poems, meditations and many more. Hopefully you will find these prayers useful and heed the Blessed Virgin Mary's words: "Pray, dear children. Pray from your heart." Listen to Her call, hear Her request; it will be your gateway to eternal salvation.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

October 25 **Budget Week 17**

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	$2,739	$5,727

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
$97,235	$97,366	$90,533

Mass Attendance: October 24/25: 335

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
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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
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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.

Game Nights — Mark Your Calendar!!

Join us for something new -- prayer, games and community on Fridays, November 20 and December 4, 6:30-8:30pm in the Social Hall!

Ministers for November 7 & 8

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

Lector	Candy Miller
Host Distributor	Mike Devereux
Cup Bearers	Susan Stillmunkes, Garrett McClain
Ushers	Jim Hudson, Mike Devereux
Music	Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

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

Lector	Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer	Dawn Beukema
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Usher	Todd & Jill Beukema
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

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

Lector	Jill Swanson
Host Distributor	Bob Coash
Cup Bearers	Julie Coash, Jill Swanson
Altar Servers	Cora & Kate Swanson
	Cross Bearer: Emma Swanson
Ushers	Andrew Cory, Gregg Richwine
Music	Sue Harrington, Patrick O'Connor, Celeste Muehlenthaler

Ministers for November 14 & 15

Saturday, November 14, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Tom Froehlich
Host Distributor	Tom Froehlich
Cup Bearers	Linda Froehlich, Lisa Jones
Ushers	Doug Jones, Bill Schmtt
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, November 15, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Sheri Fogarty
Cup Bearer	Jon Hand
Altar Servers	Claire & Oliver Hand
Usher	Jerry & Patty Hilton
Music	Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, November 15, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Kris LeRoy
Host Distributor	Nicole Cory
Cup Bearers	Angel Collum, Greg Feldmann
Altar Servers	Aubrey Conover, Jackson Cory
	Cross Bearer: Carter Cory
Ushers	Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music	Sue Harrington, Karon Lacey, Maggie Bruce

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Money Counters

November 1: Dona Cowman, Kathy Petersen
November 9 (Monday): Kathy Petersen, Sue White
November 15: Kathy Daup, Sharon Morris

SAY WHAT? The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is not a Solid Island: despite popular belief, it is not a visible or walkable island of trash.

You Can Save Lives!

It's that time of year when we start thinking about what we are thankful for. Health is always near the top of the list. Every 3 seconds someone needs blood, yet in Iowa only 3% of eligible people donate.

Our blood drive is Thursday, November 12, 3:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. There will be yummy soups and homemade treats to enjoy after your donation. To schedule an appointment go to https://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/ (zip code 50073 to find our sign-up). Walk-ins are also welcome! Thank you for your gift of life to those in need.

Huxley Clothes Pantry

This Pantry is staffed by volunteers from various churches throughout the year. Our Parish provides volunteers for the month of December. If you would be willing to help for a 2 hour shift one of the Wednesdays (5:00 to 7:00pm), Saturdays (10:00am to Noon) or Sundays (1:00 to 3:00pm), please contact the Parish Office, bliske@saintamryhc.org or 515-367-2685. Thank you! The Pantry is closed December 23, 26 & 27.

Make God your Director - He knows how the story ends.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Solemnity of All Saints, November 1

Theme: We become blest by being children of God.

Reading I: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14• We are made clean in Christ's death and resurrection.

Reading II: 1 John 3:1-3 • We are God's children.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12 • The Beatitudes

Question for Children: When have you become a peacemaker? Among your friends? In your family? At school? Other times?

Question for Youth: All Saints Day gives us a chance to remember the saints of our Church and of our lives. Who are the people who have been saints in your life?

Question for Adults: When you heard the Beatitudes today, which one did you hear most clearly as a summons for your own life?

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 8

Theme: We must always be ready.

Reading I: Wisdom 6:12-16 • Wisdom seeks those who seek her.

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 • The dead will participate in Jesus' return.

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13 • Readiness is essential for the end time.

Question for Children: If Jesus came to your house today, what would you do to get ready for him?

Question for Youth: What strategy do you have to make sure you are "ready" for the inevitable moment when you will die?

Question for Adults: How are you preparing to be ready for that moment that no one escapes, the moment when you come to the end of your life as you know it now?