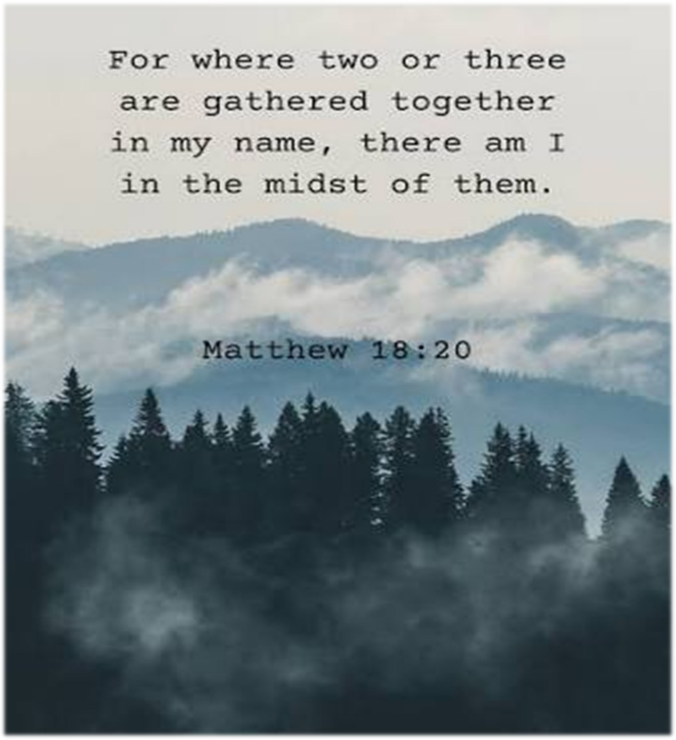
St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 5/6, 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@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 can hardly believe that it's September already and that I have been here almost two months. Soon Fall will be upon us. I am one of those people for which Fall is indeed my favorite season. I look forward to seeing what Fall looks like here in the country around St. Mary/Holy Cross.

Even since I first came here, I have been moved by the custom of silently reciting prayers after Mass for the next person who will die. While the intention of the act is laudable the power of silence also says much. While it is good to have silence in the church both before and after Mass it also has a key role to play in the Mass itself. In 2003, Pope John Paul II wrote, "We need silence 'if we are to accept in our hearts the full resonance of the voice of the Holy Spirit and to unite our personal prayer more closely to the Word of God and the public voice of the Church.'"

In the liturgical tradition of the Church, the use of silence, or the recitation of texts very quietly, has an important purpose. First when the celebrant recites a text silently it can mean that the text is addressed not to the people but to God. These are called priestly prayers. There are prayers the priest says silently before he proclaims the Gospel. The Lavabo prayers (Latin for I shall wash) are the prayers said when the priest washes his fingers. The offertory prayers may be said silently as well, traditionally they always were. In many cases the proclamation of certain texts silently is a sign of their great level of importance.

There is also silence as a moment of pause, a silent interval for the worshiper's private prayers between the texts proclaimed aloud. Pope John Paul II sought to defend the silence of the congregation as he said, "Active Participation does not preclude the active passivity of silence, stillness and listening." While the power of the spoken word and song has its place at Mass let us also cherish the reverent power of silence.

This Saturday September 5th is the feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta (d. 1997). Like Pope John Paul II, she is a saint that many people today knew of during their lifetime. She was born in what is now Albania in 1910. At the age of eighteen she joined the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Sister) in Ireland. She took the name Teresa after Theresa of Lisieux). In 1931 she was assigned to India. In 1946 she received the interior call to serve the poor and in 1950 she formed the Missionaries of Charity which quickly spread throughout the world. She had such an impact that at her death India provided a state funeral for her.

Tuesday September 8 the Church celebrates the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast commemorates her birth. Besides her the only other saint who we celebrate their birthday is John the Baptist. This is due to the importance that both persons played in the Incarnation, Mary to bring our Lord into the world and John to "prepare the way of the Lord." The feast also has special significance to me since my mother, Raymonda Jean Pisut (nee: Theodore) died on this day in 2022.

Wednesday September 9 is the feast of St. Peter Claver (d. 1654). Born in Spain in 1580 he joined the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and was sent to Cartagena (modern Columbia). He dedicated himself to care for the enslaved Africans. While he tended to their physical needs, he also sought their salvation and the abolition of the slave trade. It is said that he brought over three hundred thousand souls into the Church.

Lastly, between sickness, prior plans and covering for Fr. Parker I have not been at St. Mary's for Saturday evening Mass for a month. I thank Fr. Krettek for covering for me at the last minute and for your patience and understanding. I look forward to being back.

Fr. Pisut

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, September 8
8:00am Mass, St. Mary — † *Deloris Markfort Goche*

Wednesday, September 9
5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross — † *Karen Bellis*

Thursday, September 10
8:00am Mass, St. Mary — † *Teri Pratley, Lucy Leyendecker, Josie Garcia, Jay Gonzales*

Friday, September 11
8:00am Mass, St. Mary — † *Ira & Mary Ann Cory*

Saturday, September 12
4:00 - 4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary
5:00pm Mass, St. Mary — *Healing for Chris Pritchard*

Sunday, September 13
8:00am Mass, Holy Cross — † *Lyle Carpenter*
10:00am Mass, St. Mary — *People of the Parish*

Welcome To Our New Member!

We welcome William Otting who lives in Urbandale to our Parish family!

Sacrament of Matrimony

Congratulations to Ethan Smith and Faith Carlson who celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony on August 1 at Holy Cross Church and congratulations to Kathleen Baldwin and John Pohlman who celebrated this Sacrament on August 1 at St. Mary's Church. Our blessing and prayers for them that their lives always be filled with God's presence, and they grow stronger day by day in the bonds of love and fidelity.

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 at 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 and would like a visit, please email Father at cpisut@dmdiocese.org

Who's Your Favorite Team?

This weekend after Mases is your last chance to vote for the winner of the Iowa-Iowa State game in the Youth's "BUCKET VOTE" Fundraiser! Show your support for your favorite team by dropping your cash donations into the "U of I, ISU or IDC (I Don't Care)" bucket. The results and the "winner" will be announced next week. Even if your team isn't favored to win the game, they still have the chance to be the winner here! Thank you for your support!

Help with Avenue of Flags at Holy Cross

Could you assist with retiring the flags on Monday, Sept. 7 at 5:00pm? 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.

Labor Day Prayer

Lord,
Thank you for this day of rest.
Help me to turn off distractions
and find true sabbath
through my relationship with you.
Show me how to live a life that is
focused on your purpose in my work
and in my rest.
Work is not always easy but I know
you gave it to us to honor you. God,
help me to see work as your creation
designed to give me purpose, fulfillment,
and to be a light in the world.
May my work matter not just to my business
and company but to your Kingdom.
Renew my strength in my workplace
and help me to remember
that I am to work with all my heart as for you!
Amen.

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

Finance Council
Meeting: Sept. 22, 6:30pm, Social Hall

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

OCIA
Meeting: 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:** 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

✞**Sunday, Sept. 20:** Pancake breakfast after 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Diocesan Collection: Clergy Formation Appeal

This Appeal provides support for the education of the men who are discerning priesthood and those who are undergoing deacon formation. A mailing will be sent out to households; please return your gift directly to the Diocese or donate online: https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving/diocesan-special-collections/seminarian-special-collection. Thank you for your generous support and your prayers for our future priests and deacons!

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

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

RE sessions begin this Wednesday, Sept. 9 and will be 45 minutes long.

Upcoming dates
Sept. 9: 45 minute sessions
Sept. 16: 45 minute sessions
Sept. 23: Regular sessions
Sept. 30: 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)

No Session Sept. 9
Wed., Sept. 16: EDGE Kick Off- 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

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

Sunday, Sept 20: 11:00am-12:15pm, Confirmation Student Session, Social Hall

Wednesday, Sept 23: 6:00-7:30pm, Confirmation Family Session, Social Hall

Youth Gatherings (Grades 9-12)

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

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.

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

Thank You

St. Mary-Holy Cross,
God bless you all…abundantly for all your support, prayers and thoughts. "*The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed.*" -Proverbs 11:25. Thank you.

~ Ausman Family & Clemens Family

Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a pancake breakfast outside after 8:00am Mass at Holy Cross on Sunday, September 20. Proceeds will benefit Holy Cross Cemetery. Come join us for pancakes, eggs, sausage and conversation!

God is never late.....we are just impatient.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	$3,394	$5,727	**August 23**
Youth/Bldg. Fund	$7,739	$5,727	**August 30**

Year-to-Date	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	$53,160	$51,547	$47,523

Mass Attendance: August 22/23: 329
August 29/30: 276

2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Goal	Pledged	Paid	Unpaid	Refund
$47,270	$57,850	$54,748	**$3,102**	$7,478

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 - 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

25th Anniversary Prayer

God of mercy and love,
As we mark twenty-five years
since the tragic day
of September 11, 2001,
we come before You with quiet hearts
and deep remembrance.

We lift up those who lost precious family members
and friends in New York, at the Pentagon,
and in the fields of Pennsylvania.
Surround them with Your gentle peace
and ease their enduring pain.

We honor the courage of the first responders
and ordinary heroes who rushed into darkness
to save others, laying down their own lives.
Bless their families and comfort all
who still bear physical and emotional wounds.

Heal our nation and our world, O Lord.
Guide our leaders with wisdom,
and help us choose love over hatred,
unity over fear, and peace over division.

May the memories of those we lost
remain a constant blessing,
inspiring us to walk in grace and light. Amen.

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.

Ministers for September 12 & 13

Saturday, September 12, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Tom Froehlich
Host Distributor	Drew Hanlon
Cup Bearers	Tom & Linda Froehlich
Ushers	Drew Hanlon, *Volunteer needed*
Music	Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, September 13, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

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

Sunday, September 13, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Greg Feldmann
Host Distributor	Tracy Miller
Cup Bearers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Altar Servers	Emma Swanson, Rex Roberts *Cross Bearer*: Gabriel Miller
Ushers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music	Jen Linderblood, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

Sept. 6: Trish Morris, Dona Cowman
Sept. 13: Kathy Daup, Sharon Morris

SAY WHAT? At one time, aluminum was more valuable than gold!

Additional Options for Tithing

Auto Debit: You designate a monthly dollar amount to be withdrawn from your account on the 15th or 30th. Please contact Candy at bookkeeper@saintmaryhc.org if you have questions or would like to begin ACH or find the form on the table at church or on the home page of our website.

Online Giving through the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa with this QR Code or this secure link: https://catholicfoundationiowa.org/make-a-donation/parishes-and-schools-relief/. On the drop down choose *St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish-Elkhart* to make your Tithe, Building Fund and/or Food Pantry donation. The Foundation sends gift receipts.

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

Christ Our Life Conference

Sept. 26 & 27, Casey's Center

Speaker: Sister Medhin Tesfay. For 33 years she has served as Director of Social and Development Programs for Daughters of Charity, providing love and compassion for children and adolescents living in desperation and hunger in the streets of Tigray, Ethiopia. Sister cares daily for the sick and works alongside Mary's Meals to provide food for the hungry, considering her work as one of the greatest blessings in her life. *Conference tickets: In Person or Livestream - All-Weekend Adult Pass $30; Age 23 and under FREE! All participants, in-person or livestreaming, PAID or FREE, must obtain tickets by going online at ChristOurLifeIowa.com.*

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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

At this Weekend, married couples learn new tools to improve their communication and learn how to use these tools to deepen their relationship and nurture their love for the rest of their lives. Couples often find new meaning and joy in their marriage relationship and discover new ways to face challenges and thrive together in their life-long journey. For information call Denise and Greg, 563-920-9419, or register at wwme.org. Upcoming dates are October 9-11 in Epworth and February 12-14 in Dubuque.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sept. 6

Theme: We are called to help one another grow as a community of faith.

Reading I: Ezekiel 33:7-9 • The wicked will not prosper.

Reading II: Romans 13:8-10 • Whoever loves his or her neighbor, fulfills the law.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20 • When you join yourselves together in faith, I am with you.

Question for Children: What is one thing you would do for someone whom you loved?

Question for Youth: Jesus tells us about the importance of community and friendship. When have you helped heal an argument between friends? How did that feel?

Question for Adults: How do you make sure you follow the way of love as described by Paul in today's reading? What steps do you take to eliminate the unloving — grudges, hatred, prejudice, or others.