St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 14 / 15, 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,

Last weekend the priests in the deanery celebrated Masses in each other's parish as an exercise in getting to know their neighbors. This was the first such time we have done this I was at Saints John and Paul in Altoona whereas their pastor, Fr. Mark McGeary, went to St. Joseph. St. Mary's/Holy Cross as you know had the pastor of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart (OLIH), Fr. James Ahenkora. His associate, Fr. Ambrose Ladu, went to St. Luke's and their pastor, Fr. Ken Halbur went to OLIH. There were other parishes involved as well. It's always good to remember that we are all part of the greater Church. Interestingly, I saw parishioners from here at all the Masses I celebrated in Altoona.

Friday November 13th is the feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (d. 1917). She was born in Lombardy Italy, the youngest of thirteen children. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. She established sixty-seven institutions (schools, hospitals and orphanages) in the United States and South America. She is the first U.S. citizen to be canonized She is the patroness of immigrants and migrants.

Sunday November 15th is the feast of St. Albert the Great (d. 1280). Born in Bavaria, he studied at the University of Padua and joined the Dominican Order. He soon was teaching and had Thomas Aquinas as a student. He was a prolific writer on Sacred Scripture, theology, philosophy and the natural sciences. He contributed to the adoption of Aristotle's philosophy for the study of theology when the norm was to look to St. Augustin and Plato. He was the greatest writer on the Blessed Virgin Mary of his day. He was named bishop of Regensburg. He is a Doctor of the Church and patron of students of the natural sciences.

Monday November 16th is the feast of St. Margaret of Scotland (d. 1093). She was born in Hungary and married King Malcolm III of Scotland. She had eight children, helped to root out paganism and tended to the poor. She is the patroness of Scotland.
Also, on the same day is the feast of St. Gertrude the Great (d. 1301), virgin. She was born in Thuringia and was a mystic of the Benedictine Abbey of Helfta in Saxony. She wrote on the meaning of suffering, the Sacred Heart, the Trinity and God's love. Her most famous work is The Herald of Divine Love.

Tuesday November 17 th is the feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary (d. 1231). She married Louis IV of Thuringia and had three children. As a widow she became a 3 rd Order Franciscan and dedicated herself to the care of the poor and the sick. She is the patroness of the Franciscan Third Order and of Catholic charities.

Wednesday November 18 th is the feast of the Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles. Around 330 Constantine, the first Christian Emperor of Rome, built a basilica over the tomb of St. Peter. The present basilica was started in the 1th c. and

consecrated in 1626. He also built a smaller church over the tomb of St. Paul which was replaced by a larger one built by the Emperor Valentinian II in 386. This church was destroyed by fire in 1823 and the new one was consecrated in 1854.

On the same day is the feast of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne (d. 1852). She founded the first American House of the Religious of the Sacred Heart; opened the first American free school west of the Mississippi. She was known for her courage and desire to serve Native Americans. The Potawatomi called her the "woman who prays Always."

This weekend at the 10:00 Mass we have the Rite of Welcoming and acceptance for all those catechumens looking to come into the Church at the Easter Vigil. This is part of the Order for the Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). Let's all give them a warm welcome on this important part of their journey.

Fr. Pisut

OCIA is adult faith formation that is open to everyone. 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. We meet Thursdays, 6:00-7:30pm in the Social Hall. For more information contact Nicole Cory at ncory@saintmaryhc.org or 515-313-3014



Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, November 17
8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Delores Markfort Goche*

Wednesday, November 18
5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Mary Maxwell*

Thursday, November 19
8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *John & Mildred Flaherty*

Friday, November 20
8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Cecelia & Mike Morton*

Saturday, November 21
4:00 - 4:45pm Reconciliation, St. Mary
5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Delila Roberts*

Sunday, November 22
8:00am Mass, Holy Cross *People of the Parish*
10:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Judson Huett*

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.

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.

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. Our linens are currently being done by someone at St. Augustine; it would be great to have a parishioner doing this task.

Puzzle Fest!

Bring your team or come join a team Saturday, November 14 after 5:00pm Mass! Adult and Children's puzzles. 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

Sunday, November 15 at the 10:00am Mass 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.

Little is much when God is in it.

Prayer

Dear Lord,
I come before You, just as I am,
I am sorry for my sins,
I repent of my sins.
In Your Name, I forgive all others
for what they have done against me.
I renounce satan, and his evil works.
I give You my entire self, Lord Jesus,
now and forever.
I invite You into my life, Jesus.
I accept You as my Lord, God and Savior.
Heal me, change me, strengthen me
in body, soul, and spirit. Amen.

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

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

Stewardship
Meeting: Jan. 11, 6:00pm, Social Hall

OCIA
Rite of Acceptance & Welcome for Participants: Nov. 15 during 10am Mass
Meeting: 6:00-7:30pm, Thursdays, Nov. 19, Social Hall

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

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

The Office closes at 1:00pm on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

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

- **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
- **Food Pantry Collection:** Weekend of Nov. 21/22 for *The Blessing Box*

Bulletin Schedule

The next Bulletin will be for November 22 & 29. If you would like something in that bulletin please email your information to the Parish Office by Noon on Wednesday, November 18.

Liturgical Ministers Needed

Please sign up to minister at our 9:00am Thanksgiving Day Mass and/or Masses the weekend of November 28/29, or email the Office at bliske@saintmaryhc.org. Thank you!

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. 18: Regular sessions
Nov. 25: No sessions, Thanksgiving break
Dec. 2: Regular sessions
Dec. 9: 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

Sessions: Wednesdays, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, 9 & 16
Wednesday, Nov. 25: NO SESSION- Happy Thanksgiving

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

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

Gatherings: Wed. Nov. 18, Dec. 2, 9 & 16
Wednesday, Nov. 25: NO GATHERING- Happy Thanksgiving

Huxley Clothes Pantry

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

Veteran and Military Prayer Card

Please take a toy "soldier" attached to a prayer card, courtesy of the EDGE and Youth Group kids here at SMHC. Consider placing them at your family altar or prayer space to serve as reminder to continue to pray for all veterans and active-duty military. These will be located in the vestibule on the table until they are gone. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Food Pantry Collection

Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass the weekend of November 15/16; we will also take up a monetary collection. Thank you for your generosity in sharing with those in need. Your donation will assist *The Blessing Box* in Elkhart.

Game Nights!!

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

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/Youth/	$6,642	$5,727	**Oct 31/Nov 1**
Bldg. Fund	$4,480	$5,727	**Nov 7/8**

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
$108,358	$108,821	$104,316

Building Fund Collection: $1568

Mass Attendance: Oct. 31/Nov. 1: 304 Nov. 7/8: 339

2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Unpaid Balance: **$2,901**

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
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Anne Power - powerhouse57049@gmail.com
Bill Rooney - 1rooneybill@gmail.com
Tom Rooney - roondog007@msn.com

Stewardship Committee

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Kris LeRoy - klsturtz@gmail.com
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Tammi McClain - tammimcclain71@gmail.com
Kathy Petersen - katherine@huxcomm.net
Sue White - charylsue@msn.com

Building & Ground Committee

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Lynn Schreurs - lschreurs@msn.com

Cemetery Committee

Laurie Phelan, *Chair* - Laurie.c.Phelan@gmail.com
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Parish Trustees

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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



Advent Resources

You have various booklets to choose from to help prepare for the Christmas celebration. Determine ahead of time which might be best for you or your family by reading the following brief descriptions. Booklets will be available next weekend.

Waiting in Joyful Hope

Don't we miss the point if we set our spiritual life apart from the everyday world? The incarnation is literally God-with-us in the flesh, in this world. Advent is a journey of hope, not one of haste. Day by day, in the midst of our deeply flawed world and imperfect lives, this book will help you examine your heart and the work of your hand as you await for the coming of our Savior. May the newborn light of the Incarnation set us and keep us on the path of salvation.

The Jesse Tree

Family booklet

A Jesse Tree helps us see the big story from those very early days of God's plan, until Jesus' arrival in a manger in Bethlehem, one day at a time. Each day of Advent you will learn of one person or promise from the Bible that helped prepare the world for Jesus. Your family will see Jesus keep his promise step by step. Make your own Jesse Tree. In using this booklet, the hope is that your family will grow in wonder, love and joy as you walk toward Christmas, the birth of our Lord and Savior!

Prepare for Great Joy!

As Christmas approaches, embrace the hope, peace, mercy, and joy of the Advent season. This devotional offer thoughtful daily reflections, heartfelt prayers, and meaningful practices to help you deepen your faith and focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Through engaging meditations and actionable spiritual exercises, you'll discover the gifts, blessings, challenges, and opportunities that make Advent such a powerful preparation time for you or your family. This booklet provides guidance for every step of your Advent journey.

God Draws Near

Prepare your heart for Christmas! This booklet, drawn from the words of Pope Leo XIV, has daily reflections inviting you to recognize God's presence, deepen your relationship with Jesus, and respond with hope, compassion, and love. Each day includes Scripture, a thoughtful meditation, and a personal reflection question. This inspiring Advent companion leads you toward Bethlehem and the joyful discovery that Emmanuel—God with us—is always near.

Celebrate Advent like Mary!

Little Blue Book

The Lord desires us to experience his peace. Regardless of what is happening around us. It is possible to discover an inner peace that cannot be shaken--one that "surpasses all understanding." This booklet will help you make room for the most important thing you will do each day: spend quiet time with the Lord. Pick a time of day that works best for you and them commit to it-even just six minutes. You will hear God's voice each day in Sacred Scripture and in your quiet time. You will grow in deeper relationship with the Prince of Peace, making space and encountering the one who dwells in your heart this Christmas and every day.

Journey to Bethlehem

For Children

Children will travel through Advent with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, angels and others who help them prepare their heart for Jesus. There are all sorts of fun activities to get ready for Jesus with love to celebrate the greatest gift of all: Jesus, God's Son, born for us.

The Word Among Us

Journeying with the Magi

This Advent join the Magi on their pilgrimage to find the Christ Child. We do not travel alone. When the journey gets hard it's good to have others in the Lord with whom we can share our burdens. Like the Magi, our journey can feel long and arduous and we can stumble on the way because of sins and trials. But in walking with others alongside us, we find comfort and strength. This Advent seek out something new and unexpected just like the Magi did. Expect to be surprised as your plans change when you find something you did not expect at the start of your Advent journey! Worshiping and seeing the Lord face--to-face is the goal of our life journey!

It's Advent-ageous

For Teens

This is a dynamic Advent devotional for teens designed to inspire daily reflection, deepen faith, and encourage action throughout the season. Centered on the powerful truth that Christ comes for us—for our salvation, service, and guidance home, this devotional brings the message of Advent to life in a way that resonates with today's youth.

Parish Advent Opportunities

Daily Mass:
Tuesdays, 8:00am St. Mary
Wednesdays, 5:30pm Holy Cross
Thursdays, 8:00am St. Mary
Fridays, 8:00am St. Mary

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturdays, 4:00-4:45pm at St. Mary, or by appointment with Fr. Pisut.
Additional times to be announced.

Find Advent events offered by the Diocese & other parishes at www.dmdiocese.org.

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.



Thanksgiving Day Mass

Please join us Thursday, November 28 for 9:00am Mass at St. Mary, to give thanks to our God for all the ways He has blessed us!

Share the Joy of Song!

Christmas is fast approaching and we would love to add your voice to the Christmas Choir. If you enjoy singing and will be here during December, we welcome you to help make our Christmas Eve Mass a joyous celebration through song. No experience needed, just a love of music. All are welcome. The choir will sing at Christmas Eve Mass at St. Mary's; *Mass time to be announced*. Practices are at St. Mary's for one hour on

Sunday, Dec. 6, 11:15am	Tuesday, Dec. 15, 6:30pm
Sunday, Dec. 13, 11:15am	Sunday, Dec. 29, 11:15am

If you would like more information, please contact Lorrie Hanlon at 515-315-0717.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

This collection assists community leaders working to expand access to affordable housing, health care and education; development of worker-owned businesses and advocates for changes to structures that keep people in poverty. Thank you for your support. *Donation envelopes are available at each Church; please return your donation in the next few weeks.*

Ministers for November 21 & 22

Saturday, November 21, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Candy Miller
Host Distributor	Susan Stillmunkes
Cup Bearers	Bill Sexton, Drew Hanlon
Ushers	Drew H., Joe R, Mike D.
Music	Garrett McClain, Maggie Bruce

Sunday, November 22, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Anne Davis
Cup Bearer	Laurie Phelan
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Usher	Sandra Hunter
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, November 22, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Jim Stoelk
Host Distributor	Tom Ausman
Cup Bearers	Jacki Ausman, Mike Nehring
Altar Servers	Charlie & Amelia Muehlenthaler *Cross Bearer*: Aubrey Conover
Ushers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music	Jen Linderblood, Patrick O'Connor, Celeste Muehlenthaler

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Money Counters

November 15: Kathy Daup, Sharon Morris
November 22: Sharon Morris, Donas Cowman

SAY WHAT? Sailor and researcher, Charles Moore discovered the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in 1997.

Trunk or Treat Update

Thank you to all who participated in Trunk or Treat at the end of October. We had 20+ trunks and the Elkhart Fire Department joined us once again. It was a beautiful night and although our numbers were lower than usual, we still had well over 150 kids enjoy the fun that our S.T.O.R.M. Youth hosted. Thank you to all who donated candy and treats to our fun filled evening. **We will continue to collect new socks and underwear for those in need through December 13. The bin is located in the vestibule.**

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Fr. Chris and Beloved Parishioners,

On behalf of MissionCare-USA, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for the opportunity your graciously offered us to share our mission story with your parish community this past summer. Your warmth, hospitality, and genuine openness to our ministry were deeply encouraging. We wish to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the generous donation of $2,253 received from the parish. Your kindness will directly support vulnerable children and families who depend on our mission for clean water, nutrition, and hope. Please know that your generosity reaches far beyond border and continues to touch lives in profound ways. Be assured of our prayers for your parish family. We remain grateful for your partnership in the Gospel and look forward to the grace-filled years ahead.

With appreciation and prayers, *Cathy Eastwood, President and Dr. Emmanuel Offiong, Coordinator*

Be a Blessing! – Board Member Needed

The Blessing Box Food Pantry is seeking a new board member! Established in 2016, this is a collaborative ministry supported by the Elkhart Christian Church, Salem United, and St. Mary-Holy Cross, who work together to serve individuals and families in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. Serving on the board is a meaningful way to share your gifts, support our neighbors, and make a difference in our community. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Tammi McClain at tammimcclain71@gmail.com.

Together, we can continue to be a blessing to others!

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 15

Theme: Christ calls us to use our gifts for the Reign of God.

Reading I: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 • The wise woman receives her reward.

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 • You are children of the light.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30 • We must use the gifts we have been given!

Question for Children: Name one talent or gift that God has given you and tell how you have used it.

Question for Youth: Name three talents that you have. How can you use these talents in the next week to make someone's life better?

Question for Adults: Using Jesus' parable as your starting point, describe in your own words how you are using your own gifts to enrich the reign of God.