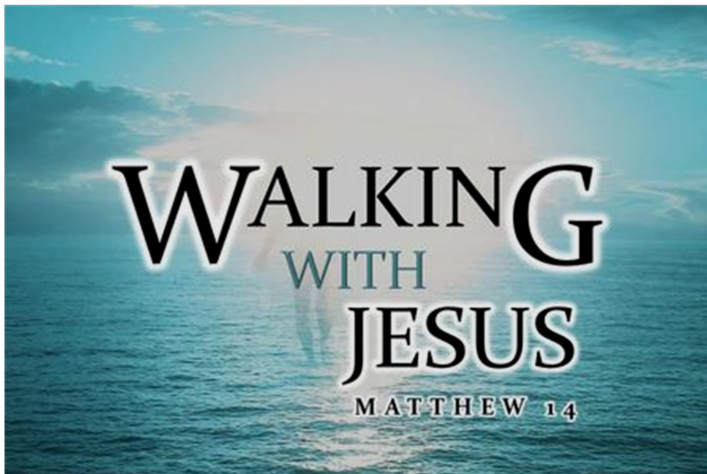




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 8/9, 2026



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 15/16, 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@dmdioocese.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 Parishioner's,

It has been just about a month since I've been here and I'm really starting to feel at home. That being said it, was only last week that I was able to start settling into the rectory since it was being cleaned and painted. I appreciate that the parish was willing to do those things to help me feel at home. Thank you for your generosity and hospitality.

Ever since I first came here, I've been touched how everyone kneels after Mass and prays for the next person who will pass away. It is a lovely tradition. Kneeling is an important part of our Catholic prayer life, both in the liturgy and personally. It has always been a part of our worship. It is mentioned in both the Old and the New Testament, fifty-nine times in the New Testament in fact. Some people have even returned to the long-standing custom of kneeling to receive Holy Communion.

Recently, I moved the kneelers that were in the vestibule and placed them in front of the statues of Jesus and Mary. I invite parishioners to take the opportunity to kneel in prayer before these two great saints that God choose to be instrumental in his plan of salvation. Perhaps, you may have noticed that the altar has been moved back slightly. That was to allow space for people to comfortably kneel during the wedding ceremony as well, another long-standing Catholic tradition that is becoming popular again. Whether it's in Mass, to receive Holy Communion, in front of a statue of our favorite saint or just by our bed at night kneeling is an essential aspect of our faith. As Benedict XVI stated, "The man who learns to believe learns also to kneel, and a faith or a liturgy no longer familiar with kneeling would be sick at the core. Where it has been lost, kneeling must be rediscovered, so that in our prayer, we remain in fellowship with the apostles and martyrs, in fellowship with the whole cosmos, indeed in union with Jesus Christ Himself."

As we transition from July to August it is good to remind ourselves that since the 16th century the Church has assigned special devotions to each month to help us grow closer to God, His Son and His Saints. July is dedicated to the Precious Blood. August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Wearing the Miraculous Medal, which has an image of Our Lady's Heart on it, is a good way to celebrate this month.

As I reflect on Lady's Immaculate Heart, I realize that this is the first time I've been at a Church named after Mary or the Holy Cross, which by the way is the devotion for September. As a seminarian I was at St. Theresa's in Des Moines, as a deacon I was at St. Joan of Arc and St. Athanasius in Evanston, IL. My first assignment I was at St. Francis in West Des Moines, the largest parish in the diocese. While I studied Canon Law, I was at St. Joseph in Beltsville, MD. I was pastor for the first time at Sacred Heart, Chariton; St. Brendan Leon and St. Francis Corydon, the smallest parish in the diocese. They didn't even have a church; they used a Methodist church on Saturday nights. Lastly, I was at St. Augustin. I'm proud to now have the beautiful arrows of St. Mary and Holy Cross in my quiver of church names.

Fr. Pisut

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, August 11

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

Wednesday, August 12

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Ashley Carpenter and Mary Beth Bump*

Thursday, August 13

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Ira & Mary Ann Cory*

Friday, August 14

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Johnny Richardson*

Saturday, August 15

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Harry & Mary Fisher*

Sunday, August 16

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

10:00am Mass, St. Mary *People of the Parish*

Tuesday, August 18

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *James Fickbohm*

Wednesday, August 19

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Bill Davis*

Thursday, August 20

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Teri Pratley, Lucy Leyendecker Josie Garcia, Jay Gonzalez*

Friday, August 21

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

Saturday, August 22

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Catherine Fanion*

Sunday, August 23

8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † *Doc Birchmier*

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@dmdioocese.org.

Special Diocesan Collection August 8 & 9

Bishop Joensen requests a special collection for the victims of the earthquakes in Venezuela. The structural losses are nearly unimaginable; but the loss of more than 1700 lives and injuries to thousands are even more devastating to those remaining. Please respond generously to support the people of Venezuela.

Food Pantry Collection

Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass on August 15/16 weekend; we will also take up a monetary collection. Your donation will assist Catholic Charities Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Prayer for The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Dearest Mother, assumed into Heaven, you are the Immaculate Conception, the Ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. As we honor your glorious

Assumption into Heaven, please pray for me and for all your children.

In Heaven, you are honored by your Son and your prayers are most effective. I believe this with all my heart and entrust myself, my family, our Church, and the entire world to your motherly care and intercession. Mary, assumed into Heaven, pray for me. Amen.

Buildings & Grounds

No Meeting scheduled

Parish Council

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

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

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

OCIA

Interest meeting, Tuesday, August 11, 6:00-7:00pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

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

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 1: Huxley and 1/2 of Cambridge

The Parish Office is closed on Thursdays during the summer.

Fr. Pisut does not have set office hours at the Parish.

To reach him please email, call or text: cpisut@dmdioocese.org or 515-473-2743.

Coming Events

- † **Weekend of August 8/9:** Special Collection for victims of the earthquakes in Venezuela
- † **OCIA Interest meeting:** Tuesday, August 11, 6:00-7:00pm, Social Hall
- † **Food Pantry Collection:** Weekend of August 15/16 for Catholic Charities Food Pantry
- † **Weekend of August 22/23:** *Back to School/Welcome Change* themed Masses
- † **Sunday, August 23:** Breakfast Social after 10:00am Mass to welcome Fr. Pisut, Social Hall
- † **Thursday, August 27:** Blood Drive, 3-7pm, Social Hall

Church Sign

Your conscience is God's built-in warning system.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

Registration is now open for the Fall. Check your email or the Parish website for digital forms. Physical forms are on the table at both Churches. Please turn those in to the Parish Office as it helps with planning.

RE parent meeting: Wednesday Sept. 2, 6:00-6:30pm, Social Hall

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

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 3 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

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 our next informational meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 6:00-7:00pm in St. Mary's Social Hall. An interest form for OCIA is on the table in the vestibule at St. Mary. Please complete the form and return it to the provided box, also on that table.

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.

Weekly Collection Financial Update

	Received	Budget	
Tithes/Plate/	\$ 2,387	\$5,727	July 26
Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$10,310	\$5,727	August 2
Year-to-Date	Received	Budget	Last Year
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Guests	\$28,904	\$22,910	\$26,784

Building Fund Collection: \$1,306

Mass Attendance: July 25/26: 304 August 1/2: 358

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

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

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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
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John Freeman - johnfmingo@hotmail.com
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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

Have You Heard?



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!

Diocesan Collection for the Church in Africa

Help support our brothers and sisters in faith in Africa. Envelopes are available at both churches through August 26. Please return your gift in the collection basket. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Ministers for August 15 & 16

Saturday, August 15, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	John Roberts
Host Distributor	Garrett McClain
Cup Bearers	Susan Stillmunkes, Lisa Jones
Ushers	Joe R., Doug J., Jim H., Mike D.
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, August 16, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Anne Davis
Cup Bearer	Jon Hand
Altar Servers	Claire & Oliver Hand
Ushers	Mike Veasman
Music	Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, August 16, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Greg Feldmann
Host Distributor	Greg Feldmann
Cup Bearers	Bob & Julie Coash
Altar Servers	Aubrey Conover, <i>Volunteer needed</i> <i>Cross Bearer:</i> Rex Roberts
Ushers	Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music	Mary Snyder

Ministers for August 22 & 23

Saturday, August 22, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Candy Miller
Host Distributor	Linda Froehlich
Cup Bearers	Joe Rumbaugh, Tom Froehlich
Ushers	Bill Schmitt, Bill Kyle
Music	Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, August 23, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Lowell Crouse
Cup Bearer	Laurie Phelan
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Usher	Jerry & Patty Hilton
Music	Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, August 23, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Jill Swanson
Host Distributor	Jill Swanson
Cup Bearers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Altar Servers	Kate & Emma Swanson <i>Cross Bearer:</i> Cora Swanson
Ushers	Tom & Jacki Ausman
Music	Jen Linderblood, Mary Snyder

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Money Counters

August 9: Dona Cowman, Kathy Petersen
August 16: Sharon Morris, Dona Cowman
August 23: Trish Morris, Sue White



SAY WHAT? An aluminum can thrown away today will still be a can 500 years from now!

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!

Summer Bi-weekly Bulletins

Submission deadline: Email to bliske@saintmaryhc.org by Noon on Wednesdays, August 19 for the August 23/30 bulletin. Thank you. *We return to weekly bulletins on September 6.*

When you travel this summer....
check out Mass times and Catholic Church
locations at www.Masstimes.org.



Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 9

Theme: If we believe, we will be saved.

Reading I: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a • The Lord will be passing by.

Reading II: Romans 9:1-5 • I speak the truth in Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33 • Lord, save me!

Question for Children: What does God's voice sound like when you pray and listen to Jesus?

Question for Youth: The good and the bad have the same opportunity to rule our life. What are you doing (bad habits, poor choices, etc.) that you need to weed out? Who can help you with that?

Question for Adults: Tell about your experiences of hearing God speak in "tiny voices" rather than in the winds and earthquakes of life.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 16

*Theme: Trust in God and never be afraid
to ask Him for anything.*

Reading I: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 • Observe what is right and do what is just.

Reading II: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 • God's gifts can never be taken back.

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28 • She insisted that Jesus help her, and he did.

Question for Children: What is your favorite way to talk with Jesus? What words do you use?

Question for Youth: Do you trust that God hears your prayers? Do you believe that your prayer makes a difference?

Question for Adults: When you pray, how do you know that Jesus will really respond?