St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 12/13, 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,

Recently, the diocese announced a collection for the Clergy Formation Program. This is an expansion beyond just the Seminarian Collection to include also the Diaconate Formation Program. The Permanent Diaconate was reestablished after the Second Vatican Council. This is separate from the Transitional Diaconate which all priests are members of for about the last nine months to a year before they are ordained priests. We are blessed to have a member of our congregation in the Permanent Diaconate Program, John Fisher, who should be ordained in about two years. Since we never seem to have enough priests nowadays Permanent Deacons are of great assistance to pastors. They can preach, celebrate baptisms, and weddings and funerals outside of Mass as well as being pastorally present in other ways. Even now John is of great assistance to me at the altar. Something that he started doing at the request of Fr. Parker.

We are also blessed to have many servers at St. Mary/Holy Cross. Indeed, considering its smaller size I would say that proportionally I have far more servers than I have had at many of my former assignments. It's great to see so many young people willing to serve. It's a way to serve God in a close and intimate way, indeed it is a privilege. When a priest celebrates Holy Mass they should do all they can to make it a holy and reverent experience. The servers are an extension of that. Indeed, the new server's cassock and surplice help in that regard. Thanks to the vision of Fr. Parker, John Fisher has been helpful with cultivating the server program. I will continue to collaborate with him to help the servers to grow in their appreciation of their special role in the celebration of Holy Mass.

Saturday September 12 is the feast of the Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary. God the Father is glorified by the exalted role in salvation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Thus, her name is a name of honor, a holy name, a maternal name, and a name responsive to the needs of the Church.

Sunday September 13 is the feast of St. John Chrysostom (d. 407). This Doctor of the Church was known as a powerful preacher. "Chrysostom" means "golden mouthed." He was elected Patriarch of Constantinople (modern day Istanbul) when it was the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire. He was exiled twice because his preaching aroused the hostility of the imperial court.

Monday September 14 is the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This dates to the dedication in Jerusalem of two churches in 335. The Anastasis, built over the empty grave of Jesus, and the Calvarium over the site of the crucifixion. They were connected by a basilica, the Martyrium. They were destroyed by the Persians in 614. They were rebuilt and then destroyed by the Muslims in 1009. The current Church of the Holy Sepulcher was built by the Crusaders in 1149. Today also commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by the Empress St. Helena, mother of Constantine, the first Christian Emperor.

Tuesday September 15 is the accompanying feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. By the 14th c. the sorrows of Mary numbered seven: the presentation of Jesus in the temples; the flight into Egypt, Jesus being lost in Jerusalem; the meeting of Mary and Jesus on the way to Calvary, the crucifixion; the taking down of Jesus' body from the cross and his burial.

Wednesday September 16 is the feast of St. Cornelius, Pope (d. 253) and St. Cyprian, Bishop (d. 258), martyrs. They both fought controversies of their time about bringing people back into the Church who apostatized during persecution. The later wrote *On the Unity of the Catholic Church*. The are both listed in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I).

Thursday September 17 is also the feast day for two saints. St. Robert Bellarmine was a bishop and Doctor of the Church (d. 1621). A Tuscan, he was a brilliant Jesuit scholar, preacher, writer and systematic apologist of the Counter Reformation. He was the Cardinal Archbishop of Capua. He is the patron of catechists and catechumens. He was involved in the Galileo affair.

Hildegard of Bingen (d. 1179) was a virgin and Doctor of the Church. Known as the Sybl of the Rhine she was a German Benedictine Abbess, writer, composer, philosopher, poet, Christian mystic, visionary and polymath. She is especially known as a composer of sacred monophony. She is a patron saint of musicians and writers.

Lastly, Friday September 11 is the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11. It's hard to believe that it's been so long and indeed that it even happened. I'm sure all of us remember what we were doing that day. I sure do. Let us pray for all the victims and their families that still feel the loss and pain.

Fr. Pisut

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, September 15
8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Ira & Mary Ann Cory*

Wednesday, September 16
5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Bill Davis*

Thursday, September 17
8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Delores Markfort Goche*

Friday, September 18
8:00am Mass, St. Mary *Healing for Chris Pritchard*

Saturday, September 19
4:00 - 4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary
5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Bob Canney*

Sunday, September 20
8:00am Mass, Holy Cross † *Patrick Phelan*
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 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

The SMHC Bucket Vote Winner Is...

IOWA STATE! Congratulations to all the Cyclone fans and a HUGE thank you for your $400 worth of votes! IOWA came in 2nd at a grand total of $75 and not far behind was the I DON'T CARE votes which brought in $58. Thank you for voting and supporting the youth as they continue to fundraise for the S.T.O.R.M. needs. All together your votes totaled $533; this will be VERY helpful to our SMHC Youth when the opportunity arises for them to attend retreats, conferences, movies, go on social outings and other purchases for extra items needed for our ministry program. THANK YOU!

Diocesan Collection: Clergy Formation Appeal

This Appeal provides support for the education of the 13 men who are discerning priesthood and for 35 men who are now undergoing deacon formation or will begin formation this fall, . A mailing has been sent 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!

— Read the Bishop Joensen's letter about this collection on our website at https://www.saintmaryhc.org/bulletin-calendar.

Food Pantry Collection

Please bring non-perishable food items to Mass next weekend; we will also take up a monetary collection. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing with those in need who rely on the Maxwell Food Pantry.

Morning Prayer

Heavenly Father,
as the golden light of morning
breaks through the dark,
I thank you for the gift of a new day.
You know my experiences,
my unspoken burdens,
and my needs even before I ask.
Lord, lift any heavy weights or worries
from my heart today.
Replace my anxieties
with your surpassing peace
and exchange any sadness
for your persistent joy.
Cover my mornings, afternoons, and evenings
with your goodness,
and let me walk securely
knowing you guide my steps. 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: Thursday, 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

✞**Weekend of Sept. 12/13:** Collection for Maxwell Food Pantry

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

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.

Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

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

It was great to have everyone back in RE. Just a reminder we will have 45 minute sessions again this coming week.

Upcoming dates
Sept. 16: 45 minute sessions
Sept. 23: Regular evening sessions;
Shortened morning session
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), 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall
Wed. Sept. 16: EDGE Kick Off- 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall
Wed. Sept 23: No Session
Wed. Sept 30: EDGE Session

Confirmation:
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), 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room
Wed. Sept. 16: Youth Group Kick Off
Wed. Sept 23: No Gathering
Wed. Sept 30: Youth Gathering

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!

Refreshments and Conversation

You are invited to join us for 8:00am Mass on First Friday, October 2, followed by refreshments and conversation. We thank Dona Cowman for bringing back this tradition. If you would like to host this on November 6, please contact the Office.

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!*

Weekly Collection Financial Update

September 6 Budget Week 10

	Received	Budget
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	$2,996	$5,727

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

Received	Budget	Last Year
$56,156	$57,174	$55,027

Building Fund Collection: $1005
Mission Collection to date: $1903
Mass Attendance: Sept. 6: 303

2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Unpaid Balance: **$3,102**

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

Stewardship Committee
Julia Coash - jcoash@outlook.com
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Kris LeRoy - klsturtz@gmail.com
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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
Pat Bishop - pjbishop@midiowa.net
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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, 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.

Enjoyed Wine & Cheese or Donut Sunday?

It's easy to host! We are looking for people to host ….
~ Wine & cheese the first Saturday of December and beyond
~ Coffee & donuts after 8:00am Mass the first Sunday of November and beyond ….*and*
~ Coffee & donuts after 10:00am Mass the first Sunday of October and beyond.

No cost to you! Please contact Barb at the Office if you would like more information or to volunteer.

Receiving Parish Emails

If you currently do not receive Parish emails, but your spouse does, and you would like to receive them, please contact the Office and your name will be added to the distribution list.

Christ Our Life Conference

Sept. 26 & 27, Casey's Center. Fr. Robert Spitzer will share his in-depth research of over 1,500 people who have had near-death-experiences. He is president of the Magis Center in Garden Grove, CA, and is best known as host of *Father Spitzer's Universe*, a weekly international TV program. He offers wisdom in areas from Jesus' life to science, ethics and creation. Join us for this faith filled, life-changing event! *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!

Ministers for September 19 & 20

Saturday, September 19, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Lisa Jones
Host Distributor	Lisa Jones
Cup Bearers	Bill Sexton, *volunteer needed*
Ushers	Jim H., Bill K., Bill S., Doug J.
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, September 20, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Jackie Crouse
Cup Bearer	Jon Hand
Altar Servers	Claire & Oliver Hand
Ushers	Jerry & Deb Zenkner
Music	Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, September 20, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Nicole Cory
Host Distributor	Angela Collum
Cup Bearers	Nicole Cory Mike Nehring
Altar Servers	David Collum, Jackson Cory *Cross Bearer*: Carter Cory
Ushers	Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music	Terri H., Sue H., Maggie Bruce

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Money Counters

Sept. 13: Kathy Daup, Sharon Morris
Sept. 20: Trish Morris, Sue White

SAY WHAT? Aluminum can be recycled from cans, bicycles, computers, cookware, wires, cars, planes and other sources.

Change of Information?

Moved? Had a baby? Dropped your landline? New email? Your adult children moved away and/or joined another parish? Please email the Parish Office with any changes so our records can be as accurate as possible. *Thank you!*

Respect Life Mass

You are warmly invited to St. John's Catholic Church in Adel for a Respect Life Mass on Sunday, October 18 at 11:00am. Immediately following Mass, we will gather in our *Memorial Garden for the Unborn* for a special prayer service and the dedication and placement of memorial stones in remembrance of unborn children or infants lost too soon. We are blessed to welcome Bishop William Joensen as the main celebrant of Mass and as the leader of the memorial stone dedication ceremony. You are welcome to prepare your own memorial stone ahead of time, personalizing it with a name, date, or other meaningful inscription in honor of an unborn child or infant lost too soon. Please bring your completed stone with you to place during the dedication ceremony. Learn more at www.stjohnsadel.org/memorial-garden-for-the-unborn.

Ireland: In the Footsteps of St. Patrick

Travel on a 10-day pilgrimage with Fr. Pisut to Ireland September 7-16, 2027. Find out more information or register at stcharlespilgrimages.com/pisut or use this QR code. An **Information Meeting** will be Thursday, October 29, 6:00pm at St. Augustin Catholic Church in the Parish Hall. If you cannot attend in person, please join the meeting remotely via Zoom (meeting link available closer to meeting date).

Counseling Available

Catholic Charities has licensed, professional therapists working with clients who are addressing depression, anxiety, stress, marital issues, relationship problems, child behavior problems, trauma, abuse and more. For an appointment call 515-237-5045 or email bgraham@catholiccharitiesdm.org.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing-

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sept. 13

Theme: We are called to forgive others as Jesus forgives us.

Reading I: Sirach 27:30-28:7 • Forgive your neighbor's faults, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Reading II: Romans 14:7-9 • Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35 • I did not say to forgive seven times but seventy times seven.

Question for Children: Jesus says we should forgive from our heart. When did you ask forgiveness of someone you hurt? How did you feel?

Question for Youth: Jesus challenges us to forgive. Who needs your forgiveness? From whom do you need to ask forgiveness?

Question for Adults: Jesus tells us to forgive seventy times seven, which means always and forever. Name a time this past week when you forgave someone. Name, too, a time when you accepted another person's forgiveness.