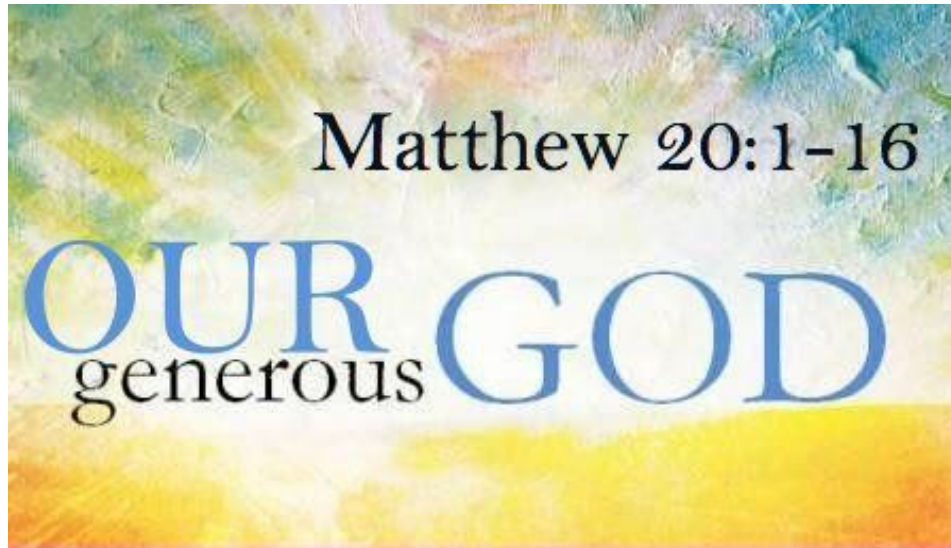




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 19/20, 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,

The restored windows for Holy Cross were installed last week. This is my first chance to see all the windows in place since I've been here. They sure look nice, especially compared to the boarded-up windows I've been looking at for the past several months. Likewise, I'm aware that the parking lot at St. Mary's was paved just this past May. That must be a marked improvement. Indeed, while a parish is for the spiritual well-being of the faithful, the salvation of our souls, we live in an incarnate world where we have to take care of our physical being. Indeed, the physical world is part of God's creation and it is good. His truth speaks through beauty, that's why we build beautiful churches (or should anyway) to glorify God and draw people to His truth. In addition, the Church speaks very strongly that one of the key roles of the pastor is care for the physical goods of the parish entrusted to him to that end. I have always taken that very seriously. I especially appreciate how St. Mary's/Holy Cross has a monthly collection to help in this regard. I look forward to working on many projects with you, both large and small, to beautify and maintain the structures entrusted to me as pastor to draw people into the Church for the care of souls.

With September things get busy again in parish life. Religious Education/Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) started last week. This week the Edge youth program kicks off as well as the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). Next week Confirmation formation will begin. I look forward to working with all those who so generously give of their time and talent to help to run these programs. I pray that it will be a fruitful year.

This Saturday September 19 is the feast of St. Januarius (d. 305), bishop and martyr. He died during the last great Christian persecution under the Emperor Diocletian. According to legend he was thrown to bears. He was bishop of Benevento. As early as 1389 his blood has liquified on this day and other days each year. He is the patron of Naples.

Sunday September 20 is the feast of St. Andrew Kim Taegon and St. Paul Chong Hasang and Companions (d. 1846). The evangelization of Korea began in the seventeenth century by France, at first by lay missionaries though later missionary priests were sent. Three bishops, seven priests and 113 lay members were martyred.

Monday September 21 is the feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist. He is considered the author of the gospel that bears his name. It is thought to be written about the year 85 A.D. Matthew was a tax collector before he was called by Jesus. Tradition holds that he preached in Judea and Ethiopia, where he was martyred. He is mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). He is patron of accountants and customs officers.

Wednesday September 23 is the feast of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (d. 1968). Commonly called Padre Pio, he was born in 1887 in the same town of his name. He was a Capuchin priest who received the stigmata, the wounds of Christ on his hands, feet and side. He spent fifty-five years in the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo where he was sought after as a spiritual advisor, confessor and intercessor. His life was dedicated to the Eucharist and to prayer. He is known for saying, "I only want to be a poor friar who prays." He is the patron of civil defense volunteers and Catholic adolescents.

Let us look to the saints for inspiration and intercession. Never think it is impossible to live the life of a saint, after all that is what God calls us to. That is what we were created to be.

Fr. Pisut

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, September 22

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

Wednesday, September 23

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Mark Block*

Thursday, September 24

8:00am Mass, St. Mary *Emmerson & Atticus Ward*

Friday, September 25

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Larry Vogel*

Saturday, September 26

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

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Jo Ann Meusburger*

Sunday, September 27

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

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@dmdioocese.org

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!



Can You Lend a Helping Hand?

We are in need of a host for Wine & Cheese after 5:00pm Mass on October 3 and a host for Coffee & Donuts on Sunday after 10:00am Mass on October 4. It's easy to host! No cost to you! Please contact Barb at the Office if you would like more information or to volunteer.

Pray the Rosary With Us

Please join us in praying the Rosary 20 minutes before weekend Masses in October. — *If you'd like to lead the Rosary please email Anne Davis, annedavis06@gmail.com.*

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 (Order of Christian Initiation in Adults). Our sessions take place on Thursdays from 6:00 - 7:30pm in the Social Hall at St Mary, and 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 OCIA. If you know someone who would be a good fit, please reach out to Nicole Cory.

Prayer

Lord of all creation,
I lay before You the goals, plans,
and priorities that are on my heart.
The needs and tasks are many —
work responsibilities, academic commitments,
family events, and church activities.
In all these, help me to discern
what is truly important,
aligning my priorities with Your will.
Grant me the wisdom to plan effectively
and the strength to execute those plans.
I commit my uncertainties to Your hands.
You know what each day holds,
and while my plans may go awry,
Your purposes never fail.
Even when I face unexpected hurdles or detours,
help me to trust in Your sovereign will,
recognizing that You can use all things
for good for those who love You. Amen.



Parish Council

Meeting: Oct. 20. 15, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Finance Council

Meeting: Oct. 27, 6:30pm, Social Hall

Stewardship

Meeting: October 12, 6:00pm, Social Hall

OCIA

Meetings: Thursday, Sept. 24 & Oct. 1,
6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Oct. 19, 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@dmdioocese.org or 515-473-2743.*

Coming Events

✚ **This Weekend:** Collection for the Maxwell Food Pantry

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

Diocesan Collection: Clergy Formation Appeal

This Appeal provides support for the education of men who are discerning priesthood and for the men who are now, and will soon start, deacon formation. A mailing has been sent; please return your gift directly to the Diocese or donate online: <https://www.dmdioocese.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

Regular session times begin this week for our evening sessions. Morning session will stay shortened for one more week.

Upcoming dates

Sept. 23: Regular evening sessions;
—Shortened morning session

Sept. 30: Regular sessions

Oct. 7: 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 23: No Session

Wed. Sept 30: EDGE Session

Wed. Oct. 7: EDGE Session

Wed. Oct. 14: EDGE Session

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

As a reminder, both 9th and 10th grades should attend all sessions this year.

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), 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room

Wed. Sept 23: No Gathering

Wed. Sept 30: Youth Gathering

Wed. Oct. 7: Youth Gathering

Wed. Oct. 14: Youth Gathering

Refreshments and Conversation

You are invited to join us for 8:00am Mass on First Friday, October 2, followed by refreshments and conversation. 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 13

Budget Week 11

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$6,368	\$5,727

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$62,474	\$63,001	\$55,027

Mission Collection total: \$3023.00

Mass Attendance: Sept. 13: 278

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 - millerjtimothy@gmail.com

Bill Sexton - billsextn@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 - millerjtimothy@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@midiaowa.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

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.

Parish Genealogy

Please access our updated form through our website at <https://www.saintmaryhc.org/events-opportunities>. These will be kept electronically for the next Parish book.

Christ Our Life Conference

Sept. 26 & 27 at Casey's Center. Have you bought your tickets to this life-changing conference? Come for all or stay for some! Do you know someone from out of town who would like to attend — encourage them to Livestream!

In Person or Livestream All-Weekend Adult Pass \$30. Age 23 and under FREE! —All those in-person or livestreaming, PAID or FREE, must obtain tickets by going online at ChristOurLifeIowa.com.

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

Church Sign

**Worry does not improve the future.
It only ruins the present.**

Congratulations!

All couples who this year are reaching a milestone wedding anniversary are invited to join Bishop William Joensen for a special Mass celebrating your marital longevity. This Mass is at 4:00pm on Saturday, October 10 at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines. For more information please go to dmdioocese.org/events.

Ministers for September 26 & 27

Saturday, September 26, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Garrett McClain
Host Distributor	Joe Rumbaugh
Cup Bearers	Garrett McClain, Mike Devereux
Ushers	Joe Rumbaugh, Mike Devereux
Music	Lisa Jones, Mary Schmelzer

Sunday, September 27, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Anne Davis
Cup Bearer	Laurie Phelan
Altar Servers	Titus & Zeke Weber
Ushers	Mike Veasman
Music	Drew Hanlon, Stacey Rooney

Sunday, September 27, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Jim Stoelk
Host Distributor	Greg Feldmann
Cup Bearers	Bob & Julie Coash
Altar Servers	Rex Roberts, Amelia Muehlenthaler
	<i>Cross Bearer:</i> Charlie Muehlenthaler
Ushers	Andrew Cory, Gregg Richwine
Music	Jen Linderblood, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

Sept. 20: Trish Morris, Sue White
Sept. 27: Kathy Daup, Kathy Petersen



Approximately 75,000 to 79,000 aluminum cans are produced worldwide every 5 seconds.

Beatification of Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

The much-anticipated beatification of Venerable Fulton J. Sheen is set for Sept. 24 in St. Louis, marking a historic moment for the Catholic Church in the United States. Not only is Sheen the first television host to be formally recognized by the Church as "blessed," but he also will become the first American-born bishop to be beatified.

Several bishops described Sheen as a man whose influence as an evangelist and communicator flowed from a deeply rooted life of prayer and sacrifice — and whose example remains relevant to the Church's mission today.

An auxiliary bishop of New York from 1951 to 1966, Sheen left an indelible mark on the Church in the United States and beyond. Yet when he arrived in New York, he was no stranger to the city. For two decades, while teaching at The Catholic University of America in Washington, he had traveled regularly to NBC studios to broadcast his popular weekly radio program. As an auxiliary bishop in New York, he also directed the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (one of The Pontifical Mission Societies), connecting American Catholics to the Church's missionary work throughout the world.

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen's ministry offers a lesson the Church still needs today: evangelization must lead people into the mission of the Church.

Life Chain 2026!

Join pro-lifers from Central Iowa for the thirty-seventh annual Life Chain on Sunday, October 4 from 2:00-3:30pm. We will stand for all the lives that God has created and spend the time in prayer and praise. Parking and signs will be available at Des Moines Fellowship Church, 950 - 35th St., Des Moines. We will stand on the south side of University Ave. and 35th Street and on the west side of 31st Street and Kingman Blvd. Life Chain will take place rain or shine. Stand with us as we give glory to our Creator and thank Him for life! —St. Pius X will be hosting a Life Chain as well on October 4, 2:00-3:30pm. People will line up on the sidewalk on Douglas Avenue in front of the Church.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sept. 20

Theme: It is never too late to enter the reign of God.

Reading I: Isaiah 55:6-9 • Seek the Lord while he may be found.

Reading II: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a • Life means Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a • The parable of the vineyard.

Question for Children: How do you experience God being generous to you: through your family, friends, school, or parish?

Question for Youth: God is always seeking us out and welcoming us into his generous love. Through whom has God reached out to you? Who is always encouraging you to say "yes" to God?

Question for Adults: Using Jesus' parable, describe in your own words how God will treat those who come to be part of the church, even those who come late.