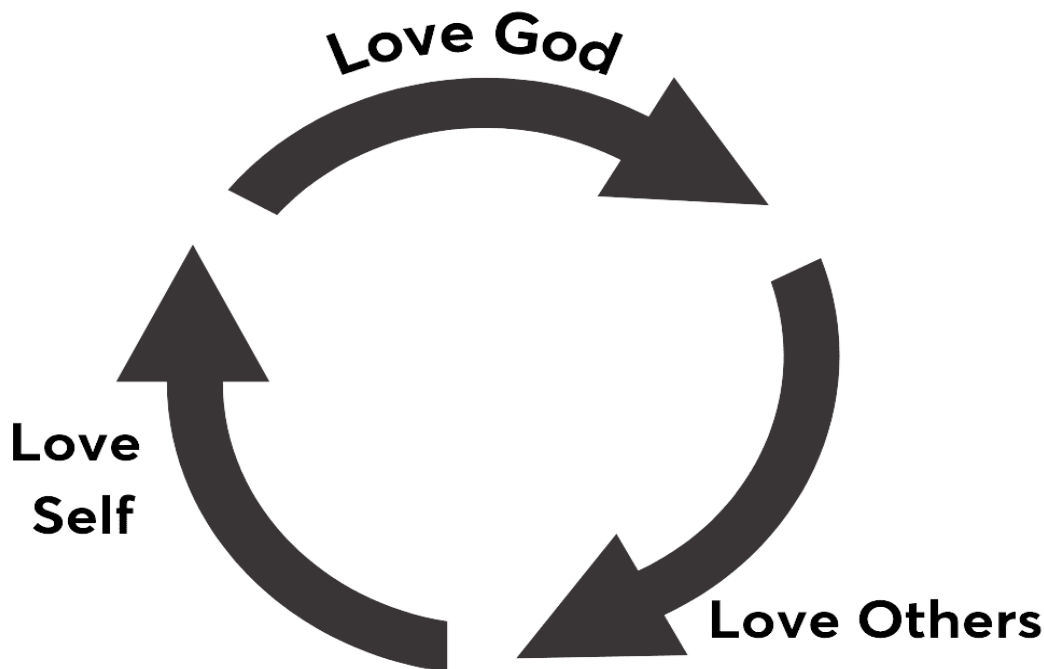




St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish

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

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



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 25/26, 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@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 - 4:45pm, 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,

A few weeks ago, I mentioned that Sharon Adams, who has been laundering our Mass Linens for twenty-six years, is stepping down. We are still looking for a volunteer who would be willing to fill this role. Cleaning Mass linens is more than just throwing them in the washer and dryer. There is a special way to clean, fold and iron them. This is an important role in assisting in the celebration of Holy Mass. Consequently, St. Mary's/Holy Cross is looking for a volunteer to take on this responsibility. If you love our Lord and doing laundry, this may just be the calling for you. If you are interested, please reach out to me or Barb in the parish office.

Friday October 23rd is the feast of St. John of Capistrano (d. 1456), priest. He was a reformer of the Franciscans and the Poor Clares. He preached devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus and sought an end to the Western Schism, a time when the Church had up to three men claiming the papal throne. He rallied Christian forces to victory with the banner of the Holy Name at the siege of the city of Belgrade by the Muslim Ottoman Turks, of which the feast of the Transfiguration was instituted to commemorate. One of the California Missions is named after him. He is the patron of military chaplains.

Saturday October 24th is the feast of St. Anthony Mary Claret (d. 1870). He was born in Catalonia and became a vigorous reforming bishop of Santiago, Cuba. He founded the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretians). He fostered credit unions and the apostolate of the Press.

Wednesday October 28 is the feast of Saints Simon and Jude, apostles and martyrs. Simon, called "the Canaanite" and "the Zealot," preached in Egypt and Persia. Jude, or Thaddeus, which means "Courageous," preached in Palestine and Persia. He is patron of those in despair or helpless situations. This is likely due to the similarity of his name with Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus and despaired. Both are mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I).

This year November 1st, the feast of All Saints, falls on a Sunday. As a result, Saturday night and Sunday morning mass will fulfill that obligation. All saints is one of a few feasts that has a companion feast on November 2nd, the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed, commonly known as All Souls. While it's great to celebrate the saints in heaven it's also equally important to pray for the poor souls in purgatory. Please join me in a Mass for the feast of All Souls on Monday November 2 at 6:00 PM.

Fr. Pisut



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



October 21, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enjoy the season of football, leaf raking, and pumpkins, there are senior members of our faith communities who may not be able to join us for parish activities. Some of our parishioners have experienced health issues or needed more assistance getting around and have moved to senior living facilities.

Often, these members of our parishes, who've supported the mission of the Church for a lifetime, feel alone.

As we celebrate Respect Life Month in October, let us remember that God sees them. His Spirit is sowing a new outreach that is taking root and growing across the country including here in the Diocese of Des Moines. The Rosary Team is a way for volunteers to spend just one hour a week, often on a rotating basis, at their local senior residential center to pray the rosary. Residents feel like they're remembered by and continue to be a part of their church family. We've seen this cultivation of connections play out at St. John Parish in Adair and All Saints Parish in Stuart, where volunteers go to the local senior care center one day a week to pray the rosary with residents. Not only do the volunteers help others encounter Jesus through prayer, they build friendships and help the seniors feel like they continue to be in communion with their parish.

I encourage you to learn more about The Rosary Team at therosaryteam.org and consider forming a team in your parish to go on mission within your own neighborhoods by becoming an instrument of Christ's hope and love to our elderly friends in faith.

During Respect Life Month, we highlight our Blessed Mother, Mary, Mother of Life. Let's respect the continuum of life from conception to natural death by accompanying our longtime parishioners who are unable to join us in our churches by forming Rosary Teams and praying with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.
Bishop of Des Moines

Mass and Reconciliation

Tuesday, October 27

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

Wednesday, October 28

5:30pm Mass, Holy Cross † *Stephen & Michael Carpenter*

Thursday, October 29

8:00am Mass, St. Mary † *Joe Rubendall*

Friday, October 30

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

Saturday, October 31 — *Rosary 20 min. before Mass*

4:00 - 4:45pm *Reconciliation, St. Mary*

5:00pm Mass, St. Mary *Healing for Chris Pritchard*

Sunday, November 1

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

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

Monday, November 2 -- **All Souls Day**

6:00pm Mass, St. Mary † *Deceased Parish Members*

Memorare

Remember O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help,



or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

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@dmdioocese.org.

Pray the Rosary With Us

Please join us in praying the Rosary 20 minutes before Mass next Saturday.

Laundering Church Linens

Would you be interested in taking on this task? For additional information or to volunteer, please contact Father Pisut, cpisut@dmdioocese.org. We are grateful for Sharon Adams many years of dedicated and excellent service to the Parish!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Have some great Halloween fun this Wednesday, October 28, from 6:00-7:00pm in the parking lot at St. Mary (if rain, in the Social Hall). All Parish families, friends and surrounding community members are welcome to attend! Wear your non scary costumes and "trunk or treat" at the cars.

We are collecting new socks and underwear for local clothing closets.

Could you donate 1 or 2 large bags of wrapped candy, snack cakes, clean stuffies, small books or small toys (from happy meals) to hand out to the 200+ trunk or treaters?

A container is by the cry room for your donations through October 25. If you are interested in *helping in any way or hosting a trunk*, please contact Melissa Kahler, 515-290-2830 or Andrea Fisher, 515-240-5059. Thank you!

Parish Council

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

Finance Council

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

Stewardship

Meeting: Nov. 9, 6:00pm, **Ed Center**

OCIA

Meetings: Thursdays Oct. 29, Nov. 5 & 12, 6:00-7:30pm, Social Hall. Rite of Acceptance & Welcome for participants during 10:00am Mass November 15.

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Oct. 19, 7:00pm, Social Hall

Funeral Luncheon Food Donations

Team 2: Maxwell, Colfax, Collins, Nevada

The Parish Office is closed Wednesday, October 28 through Wednesday, November 4

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

- ✚ **Thursday, October 29:** Informational meeting for Fr. Pisut's Ireland Pilgrimage, 6:00pm, St. Augustine or via Zoom
- ✚ **Next Weekend:** Coffee & Donuts after 8:00am and 10:00am Masses.
- ✚ **Work of Our Hands Festival**, Saturday, Nov. 7, 3:00-4:45pm and after Mass until 7:00pm and Sunday, Nov. 8 after 10:00am Mass until 12:30pm



Baby Bottle Campaign

Thank you to those who have contributed to InnerVisions HealthCare. If you have not returned your donation yet, please do so by next weekend. To learn more about InnerVisions please go to <https://innervisionshealthcare.org/>

Fall Back! Daylight Savings Time ends
Sunday, Nov. 1st.



Religious Education: Preschool - 6th Grade

Coordinator

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

This week our evening sessions are canceled so you can attend Trunk or Treat with your families.

Upcoming dates

Oct. 28: Regular morning sessions -- no evening sessions due to Trunk or Treat

Nov. 4: Regular sessions

Nov. 11: 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

Wed. Oct. 28: TRUNK or Treat 6:00-7:00pm (EDGE and High School youth need to help set up and clean up 5:30pm-7:30pm)

Confirmation (9th & 10th Grades)

Sunday, Nov. 1: 11:00am-12:15pm, Confirmation Student Session, Social Hall

Saturday, Nov. 7: 8:00am-12 Noon, Community Service Day. See email to sign up. Our rain date is Saturday, Nov. 14.

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

Youth Gatherings (Grades 9-12), 7:30-9:00pm, Youth Room

Wed. Oct. 28: TRUNK or Treat 6:00-7:00pm (High School and EDGE youth need to help set up and clean up 5:30pm-7:30pm).

Friday, October 30

In preparation for winter, please remove all grave site decorations at Holy Cross Cemetery by October 30. Any remaining decorations after this date will be collected and disposed of by the cemetery committee. Thank you.

Book of Remembrance



This Book will be in the Sanctuary next weekend. You are invited to write in the names of your deceased loved ones to be remembered at our Masses during November.

† All Saints Day and All Souls' Day

The Holy Day of All Saints falls on a Sunday so no additional Masses. All Souls' Day is Monday, November 2; we will have Mass at 6:00pm that evening at St. Mary's.

Conversation and Refreshments!



Please join us Friday, November 6 after 8:00am Mass at St. Mary's for refreshments and conversation. *If you would like to host refreshments December 4, please contact the Office.*

Game Night — Mark Your Calendar!!

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

Weekly Collection Financial Update

October 18

Budget Week 16

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Tithes/Plate/Youth/Bldg. Fund	\$9,946	\$5,727

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

<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
\$94,496	\$91,639	\$87,826

Food Pantry Collection: \$535.00

Mass Attendance: October 17/18: 317

2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Unpaid Balance: \$3,002

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

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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@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 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.

Ireland Pilgrimage Information Meeting

Interested in finding out more about Fr. Pisut's pilgrimage to Ireland September 7-16, 2027? Join us Thursday, October 29 at 6:00pm for an in-person gathering hosted at St. Augustin Catholic Church in the Parish Hall. We encourage those who cannot join the meeting in-person to join the meeting remotely by clicking this Zoom link at the time of the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89881556820#success>.

Community Service Day

Saturday, November 7 the Confirmation students will team up with the K of C for their Annual Fall Community Service Day. The rain makeup date will be November 14. If you or someone you know are looking for some help with yard work or anything around the house, please fill out a form in the vestibule and drop it in the box provided. You are also welcome to contact Nicole Cory at 515-313-3014.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

OCIA sessions take place on Thursdays from 6:00-7:30pm in the Social Hall at St. Mary. They 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. If you know someone who'd be a good fit, please contact Nicole Cory.*

Ministers for October 31 & November 1

Saturday, October 31, 5:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Lector	John Roberts
Host Distributor	Linda Froehlich
Cup Bearers	Tom Froehlich, Joe Rumbaugh
Ushers	Joe Rumbaugh, Bill Schmitt
Music	Garrett McClain, Mary Snyder

Sunday, November 1, 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross

Lector	Anne Davis
Cup Bearer	Michele Hand
Altar Servers	Claire & Oliver Hand
Usher	Mike Veasman
Music	Drew & Lorrie Hanlon

Sunday, November 1, 10:00am Mass, St. Mary

Lector	Greg Feldmann
Host Distributor	Mike Nehring
Cup Bearers	Greg Feldmann, Tracy Miller
Altar Servers	Gabriel Miller, Aubrey Conover
	<i>Cross Bearer: Amelia Muehlenthaler</i>
Ushers	Bill & Kelly Dunbar
Music	Sue Harrington, Karon Lacey, Mary Ortmann

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Money Counters

October 25: Kathy Petersen, Sue White
November 1: Dona Cowman, Kathy Petersen



The Great Pacific Garbage Patch covers an estimated surface area of about twice the size of Texas!

Join Us for Work of Our Hands Festival!

Join us November 7 & 8 as we celebrate the unique gifts, creativity and talents God has blessed us with! Work of Our Hands is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners and support our Parish Community. We look forward to celebrating the many gifts that make our Church Family so special! *We hope to see you there!*

Event Times:

Saturday, November 7: 3:00-4:45pm, after Mass to 7:00pm
Sunday, November 8: 11:00am-12:30pm



You Can Save Lives!

Please plan to attend our Blood Drive on Thursday, November 12 from 3:00-7:00pm in St. Mary's Social Hall. There will be Yummy Soups and Homemade Treats to enjoy after your donation. To schedule an appointment please go to <https://www.lifesevebloodcenter.org/> (use zip code 50073 to find our sign-up). Walk-ins are also welcome! Thank you for your gift of life to those in need. 😊

Thank You

On behalf of the Huett Family in Montgomery, Alabama my sincere thanks for the prayers during Judson's last days. He passed on September 27 and we had his "farewell" on October 3. I shall be coming home after the November elections, and look forward to seeing everyone at SMHC again. I know God has plans for me and my "angel with wickers" Princess, as a new chapter will be written in my life.

Blessed amid tears, *Paula Huett*

The 4 Keys to Heaven

This booklet is found on the table at church and contains an exclusive collection of prayers, poems, meditations, Stations of the Cross, Promises of the Rosary and Scapular, the fifteen prayers revealed by Our Lord to St. Bridget, and many more. Hopefully you will find these prayers useful and that you will heed the Blessed Virgin Mary's words: "Pray, dear children. Pray from your heart." Listen to Her call, hear Her request; it will be your gateway to eternal salvation.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 25

Theme: The Greatest Commandment - "Love".

Reading I: Exodus 22:20-26 • Take care to be just, especially to widows and the poor.

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10 • Your faith is an example for others.

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40 • The great commandment.

Question for Children: We show our love for Jesus by loving our friends and family. Share one way that you show your love.

Question for Youth: Jesus tells us that we are to love others as we love ourselves. Do you love yourself? Can you see the good that God has put within you? Do you find it easier to love others or yourself?

Question for Adults: Share how each of these two commandments has become part of your life.