

ST. MARY'S PARISH

703 Monroe St., Ellis, KS 67637

October 29, 2023
30th Sunday
in Ordinary Time



Phone #s

Rectory: 726-4522
School: 726-3185

E-Mail

Parish: stmary@gbta.net
SMS Principal: ppark@stmarysellis.net

Website

Parish: www.stmarysofellis.org
Diocese: <http://salinadiocese.org>

Mass Schedule

Monday 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday 8:10 a.m.
Wednesday 10:00 a.m. (EGSC)
Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 7:00 a.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m. Cedar Bluff, May 21 - Sept. 10, 2023

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Anytime by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Bulletin Deadline

By 4:30 p.m. Wednesday

Baptism

By appointment. Contact the Pastor

Weekly Readings

October 30 - November 5

Mon: Romans 8:12-17; Luke 13:10-17

Tue: Romans 8:18-25; Luke 13:18-21

Wed: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; Matthew 5:1-12a

Thu: Wisdom 3:1-9; John 6:37-40

Fri: Romans 9:1-5; Luke 14:1-6

Sat: Romans 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; Luke 14:1, 7-11

Sun: Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10; Matthew 23:1-12

Parish Personnel

Pastor	Fr. Dana Clark
Parish Secretary	Mrs. Emily Mattheyer
School Principal	Mrs. Patti Park
Pastoral Council President	Mr. John Zody
Liturgy Chairpersons	Ruth Bollig and Alyson Johnson
Finance Council President	Mr. Melvin Augustine
School Council President	Mr. Matt Fondoble
Home & School President	Mrs. Jenni Bongartz
Director of Religious Education	Mrs. Judy Schuler

Marriage

Contact the pastor at least six months prior to the anticipated wedding date. No wedding will be scheduled without premarital instruction.

Mass Intentions

Sat	Oct 28	5:30 p.m.	Bailey DeSjarlais+
Sun	Oct 29	7:00 a.m.	For the Parishioners
Sun	Oct 29	9:00 a.m.	Alex Riedel+ (anniv)
Mon	Oct 30	5:30 p.m.	Eddie & Fidela honas+
Tues	Oct 31	8:10 a.m.	Joe & Anna Dreiling+ Family (liv/dec)
Wed	Nov 1	8:10 a.m.	William & Catherine Dreiling+
	EGSC	10:00 a.m.	Norma Brungardt+
Thurs	Nov 2	8:10 a.m.	<i>Pour Souls Novena</i>
Fri	Nov 3	8:10 a.m.	<i>Pour Souls Novena</i>
Sat	Nov 4	5:30 p.m.	<i>Pour Souls Novena</i>
Sun	Nov 5	7:00 a.m.	<i>Pour Souls Novena</i>
Sun	Nov 5	9:00 a.m.	<i>Pour Souls Novena</i>

Ministries for November 4 & 5

Ministry	5:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
Lector	Barney Boos	Melvin Augustine
Presentation of Gifts	Allen & Kim Weber Family	Ethan & Britny Cox Family
Eucharistic Minister(s)	Duane Dorzweiler Richard Bollig	Eldon & Stephanie Jerauld Sarah Eck
Servers	Alyssa Rome	Taylor, Brendan, and Sophie Seibel
Cantor / Musician	Alyson Johnson Cristi Werth	Brad Deines Emily Mattheyer
Ushers & Greeters	Duane & Karen Dorzweiler Pat & Diane Kuhn	Geoff & Mindy Eck Danny & Lacie Haas

Other Ministries

7:00am Lector	Nov. 5 (Sun) 7:00 a.m.	Eldon Pfeifer
Communion to Homebound	Nov. 3 (Fri)	Mindy Eck
Ellis Good Samaritan	Nov. 5 (Sun) 10:15 a.m.	John Gnad
Rosary Leaders	Nov. 4 (Sat) 5:30 p.m. Nov. 5 (Sun) 9:00 a.m.	Cindy Zervas Greg Augustine

Parish Offering: Weekend of Oct. 21 & 22

Weekly Budget Fiscal Year 2023-24: \$7,433.34

Offertory Loose Plate.....\$1,187.00

Adult Envelopes.....\$7,995.00

Total Giving this week.....\$9,182.00

For this weekend the collection is above by \$1,748.66.

Meetings & Events

Sun	Oct. 29	Guitar Practice after 9am Mass
Tues	Oct. 31	SMS Fall Festival Class Parties
Wed	Nov. 1	Feast of All Saints Mass at 7:00am, 8:10am, & 7:00pm
Thurs	Nov. 2	Feast of All Souls Eucharistic Adoration 9am-5pm
Sun	Nov. 5	Remembering Prayer Service @ 4pm

Parish Announcements

- **Feast of All Saints Day:** November 1st is a holy day of obligation this year. We will celebrate mass on the Feast of All Saints on Wednesday, Nov. 1st at 7:00am, 8:10am with the school children, and 7:00pm. *All ministries for these masses are covered by volunteers.*
- **CCD Students & YDisciples!** This Wednesday, November 1st is the beautiful Holy Day of Obligation -the Feast of All Saints! Let's honor and celebrate the Saints, known and unknown to us, by gathering in church! *CCD students*, please meet with your teacher in the school cafeteria by 6:45pm, if possible, to walk over together and *YDisciples*, no meal will served this evening, so please meet in the south wing in front of the piano/organ at 7:00pm. We encourage and invite parents to join us at Mass!
- **Daylight Savings Ends:** Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on November 4th as Daylight Savings Ends on November 5th.
- **No Cemetery Prayer Service:** Due to Father Dana being out of town, we will not be having our annual Cemetery Prayer Service for All Souls Day on Sunday, Nov. 5th.
- **Remembering Prayer Service-Nov. 5 @ 4:00pm:** We invite you to join us for our annual Remembering Prayer Service at the church to remember those we have lost this past year.
- **Box of Joy Project:** We invite your family to take a box and fill it with joy for a boy and/or girl for Christmas! Boxes may be found at the back of church. More information about this project can be found on the back page of this bulletin! We've included an insert about what is best to fill the box with for each child! If you have any questions, please contact Emily in the Parish Office!

Notes from the Pastor

A Thank You. Thanks to all who sent cards or expressed their condolences at the death of my father, Riley, or kept my father their prayers. It was greatly appreciated. My father was 93 years old and lived a good life, raising 17 children and leaving a legacy for his 44 grandchildren, 51 great grandchildren and 2 great-great children. My mother is still alive. She is 92 years old and lives at home with 24-hour care provided by my sisters, brothers, and nieces who live in Salina.

Respect for Life Month. Check out the insert "Life Matters: To the End of Our Days" and the display on the table in the back of the church.

All Saints Day. This Wednesday, November 1 is the Feast of All Saints. It is a holyday of obligation this year. It is a day we honor all the faithful departed (our loved ones included) whose souls are in heaven. Masses will be on Wednesday at 7:00am, 8:10am (school children's Mass) and 7:00pm (including our CCD students).

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is scheduled for next weekend, November 3-5. This retreat is for anyone affected by an abortion: mothers, fathers, grandparents, or friends. Since I'm on the retreat team, I'll be gone that weekend. Fr. Rich, and possibly his associate will be covering the Masses here for me.

Cemetery Prayer Service. The cemetery prayer service that we traditionally do after the 9:00am Mass on the Sunday after All Souls Day (November 5 this year) *will not* be held, since I will still be at the Rachel's Vineyard retreat until early afternoon. I will, however, be back for the Remembering Prayer Service at 4:00pm.

Remembering Prayer Service. Our Remembering Prayer Service will be Sunday, November 5 at 4:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Parish Auction. We are still finalizing the auction details. This year's special item to date took in \$21,650. The net income from other sources will be between \$81,000-\$83,000. In comparison to last year, the special item took in \$14,270 and net income was \$71,174. In 2021, the special item took in \$15,391 and net income was \$100,116.

Have a good week! Fr. Dana

*"When you have free moments,
go faithfully to prayer. The good God is
waiting for you there."*

-St. Julie Billiart

Parish Organizations

- **Munjoy Knights of Columbus 11492 Stag** will be held on **Tuesday, November 7th** at the Munjoy School Gymnasium. Social from 6:00 to 7:00pm, Dinner begins at 7:00pm. Menu includes mountain oysters, potatoes and beans. Tickets are \$15.00 each. Gun raffle, need not be present to win. Raffle for prizes will be held for those present. Tickets available from David Leiker 785-623-0094 or any Munjoy K of C member. Tickets will also be available at the door.
- **Ellis K of C Council Christmas Cash Drawing** is happening again this year!!! TEN Days of Winnings!!! The Ellis Knights are hosting a cash raffle for 10 days in December. Daily drawing for cash prizes will begin December 1 through December 10. Three (3) winning tickets will be drawn each day at the Knights Hall at 5:30pm. Winning tickets will be returned in the hopper for future drawings. Get your ticket(s) today for a donation of \$20.00 per ticket. Contact a Knight to get your tickets. All proceeds will go to the Ellis Council. For more info, contact Gary Kohl (785-726-1400) or Allen Weber (785-249-8443 cell or 726-3113 Equity Bank). The drawing will be live-streamed from the Knights Hall on Ellis Knights of Columbus Facebook page each day.
- **Mark Your Calendars - Ellis Knights of Columbus Stag, Nov. 10:** Ellis Knights of Columbus Annual Stag is set for Nov. 10th from 5-7pm. Everyone is invited to attend! Cost is \$15.00/person. Doors open at 5pm with Meal served at 6:30pm. Drawing at 7pm.

Prayer List

Please Remember in Prayer

Congratulations! **Evenlynn Marie Windholz**, who was baptized on October 21st.

Daughter of Tyler & Melanie (Flax) Windholz and
Maddux Jack Pfeifer, who was baptized on October 22nd.
Son of Cole & Lanie (Schmidt) Pfeifer.

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Dean Augustine, Gilbert Augustine, Juanita Augustine,  
Mark Boos, Janice Collins, Patty Dreiling, Dianne Durler,  
Rose Egger, Sister Doris Flax, Robert Gerhardt,  
Debbie Haas, Edna Hejny, Lawdy Herman, Nathan Hively,  
Rob Hrabe, Gilbert Kinderknecht, Doug Kingsley,  
Clifford Kreutzer, Agneta Kuhn, Lucille Kuhn,  
Irene LaBarge, Kevin LaBarge, Joey LaBarge,  
Shawna LaBarge, Martin & Debbie LaBarge, Holly Metzler,  
Bob Mickelson, Riley Moore, Elizabeth Newton,  
Jeanna Plante, Megan Ptascheck, Doug Rohr,  
Toyna Sterling, Tanner Sullivan, Marlene Tribble,  
Brandy Womack, and the residents of EGSC.

*If any one has names they would like added to the list, they  
may call the rectory at 726-4522.*

## School Announcements

**October 31** - 4th Grade Book Club Lunch  
Fall Parties

**November 1** - *Mass at 8:10am for All Saints Day*  
Saints Presentations by 6th Graders

**November 3** - Virtue Crews Activity on "Charity"

- **Thank You:** St. Mary's School would like to thank all who provided fleece material for blankets that the students are making for the Ellis Good Sam. We appreciate your support and generosity!
- **Celebrating our Fall Fundraiser:** The students were rewarded for their excellent efforts in reaching their fall fundraiser goal with an afternoon of fun at FHSU.



- **Million Children Praying:** St. Mary's School participated in the Million Children Praying on Oct. 18. This is an initiative from Pope Francis asking a million children to pray the rosary for peace and unity throughout the world. The last count reported was 1,036,309! Thank You, 6th Grade, for leading the rosary!



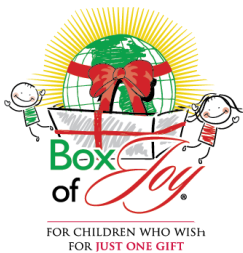
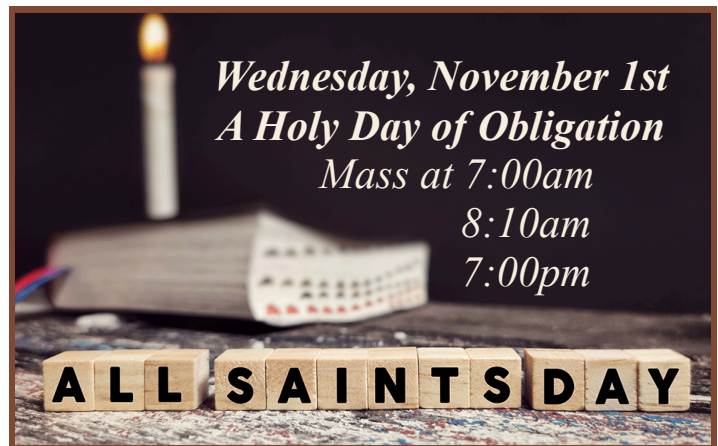
## Community Announcements



The Ellis VFW and Auxiliary are selling tickets for the *Stars and Stripes Breakfast on Sunday, November 12th* at the Hays VFW!!!

All pre-ticket sales come back to the Ellis VFW and Auxiliary! Advanced Tickets are \$11.50 for Adults and \$6.50 for Children 5-12yrs. Breakfast is served from 7:30am -12:00pm at the Hays VFW Post. All You Can Eat: Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, Hash browns, Biscuits & Gravy, Toast, OJ & Coffee. Contact Jenni Holmgren at 785-650-7270 or Taft Yates at 785-693-1006.

- **Ellis High School Alumni Cash Bash Tickets Available!** The EHS Alumni Association is doing their Cash Bash again this year! Get your Cash Bash tickets for a \$10.00 donation - **Only 300 tickets available!** Drawings will begin on December 12 through December 19 for (3) \$50.00 winners each day!!! On December 20, the Grand Prize Drawing will award a lucky person \$250.00! Cash Bash tickets can be purchased from any EHSAA Alumni Board Member or by calling 785-656-1955!



## Help Fill A "Box of Joy"

Bishop Vincke along with Diocese of Salina would like our parish to participate in an event to help children across the globe. What is the Box of Joy program? It is a Christmas shoebox, that is donated and packed with toys, clothing, school supplies and other treasured items by parishes, schools, and groups bring joy to a boy or girl suffering from extreme poverty! Each child who receives a **Box of Joy** also receives a rosary and a booklet in their own language that tells *The Story of Jesus*. Box of Joy provides hope to children in need, each gift represents Christ's love, and may be the only Christmas gift they receive.

We would like to invite your family to fill a box if you are able to and bring it back to the church by **November 20th**.

Fill the box with \$20.00 worth of necessities and toys to bring joy to a boy or girl. A list of items that are great to include are on the bulletin insert or found near the boxes in church. **Please do not include cash or checks in the box.** We ask that you purchase items for a boy or a girl and mark off the age group that you bought for on the sheet provided, and put it back in the box; we will adhere it to the box accordingly. If you're able to fill a box, we ask that you follow the gift ideas page provided with the box and bring joy to those in need.

**Boxes may be found on the table in the back of church!!!**

If you rather make a monetary donation, you may visit [boxofjoy.org](http://boxofjoy.org) or scan the QR code to process your donation, or talk to Emily at the Parish Office and you can give money towards a box or help towards shipping for each filled box (\$9 for each gift box).

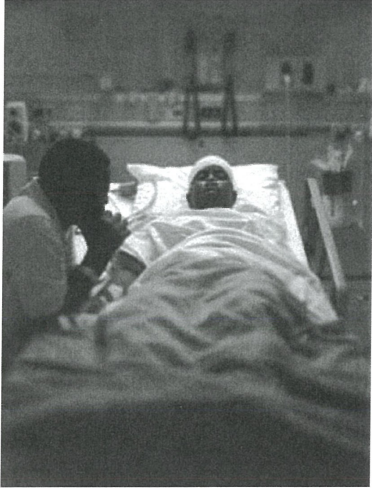




# Life Matters: To the End of Our Days

Some of our most challenging moral decisions come in the final months and even hours of life, as we navigate the complex issues of nurturing life and respecting the dignity of the human person.

Advances in medical science have made it possible to extend life, even for those with incurable illnesses. In times past, many of these conditions would have resulted in death much sooner.



How we deal with persons in the last stages of life, when they may be completely dependent on others, says a great deal about the kind of society we live in and the kind of persons we are.

We owe to those who are dying or severely impaired the same respect and love we give to anyone else, regardless of

condition. And as a Church we must be particularly committed to defending the rights of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, just as we are for the unborn and for those challenged by disabilities.

## Euthanasia

Sadly, many people now believe that it is permissible to deliberately hasten the death of persons who are gravely ill. Admittedly, it can be painful and heart wrenching to watch a loved one slowly die. After all, our intentions seem to be good: to put someone out of his pain and “needless suffering.”

But where is the sacrificial love and recognition of a loved value when, for example, a husband smothers his frail wife with a pillow, or shoots her in the head, or executes what he terms a suicide pact by poisoning them both with carbon monoxide in the garage of their luxurious home because she had arthritis and moderate dementia?

To bring about the death of a person in order to ease his or her suffering is always wrong. It is *“always a serious violation of the law of God because it is the deliberate and morally unacceptable killing of a human person”* (*The Gospel of Life*, no. 65).

This applies equally to withholding nutrition and hydration (food and fluids) from incurably ill or dying persons to ensure their death. A common way to hasten anyone’s death is simply to stop feeding him or her. But everyone

has a right to basic care, including food and fluids, even if at times it has to be administered through a tube. This is the *ordinary care we owe to everyone*, even when we cannot foresee a turnaround in their condition.

Withholding nutrition or hydration in order to bring about a person’s death by starvation and dehydration is contrary to the dignity of the person and his or her right to life. We should be careful that living wills or any advance directives do not contain broadly worded directions to withhold such basic care.

A person certainly does have the right to refuse treatment that is unduly burdensome and offers little benefit and little hope of recovery. In such a case, a person can make a good moral choice in conscience to refuse such a treatment. Food and fluids, however, are not considered medical treatment, but normal care given to any human being.

## Assisted Suicide

Often exploited by euthanasia organizations, a person with a terminal illness or chronic condition may ask for assistance in ending his or her own life. Tragically, there are people prepared to help them—not to recover their joy in life and appreciate the gift of each day—but to be asphyxiated with a bag over their head. A 91-year-old California woman sells suicide kits online. A retired anesthesiologist in Baltimore claims he has helped direct nearly 300 deaths of clients of the Final Exit Network, which sends “exit guides” to make house calls to be sure the helium-induced deaths are made to look like the victim died in his or her sleep.

Medical experts, like Herbert Hendin, MD, note that nearly 95% of those who kill themselves have been shown to have a diagnosable mental illness in the months preceding their death—the majority suffering from treatable depression. Several studies have found that, especially among the elderly, more patients kill themselves out of fear of having cancer than do patients actually *diagnosed* with cancer.<sup>1</sup>

However, none of us has a right to take our own lives: life is a gift from God, and only he is the master of human life. It is always morally wrong to assist a person in taking his own life. This is not a peculiarly Catholic teaching. Centuries before the birth of Christ, the Hippocratic Oath, written by the father of Western medicine and pledged by graduating doctors for millennia, stated: “I will neither give a deadly drug to anybody if asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect.”

Slogans such as “death with dignity” abound, but miss a fundamental truth: our dignity is in our humanity and how it reflects the goodness of God. When we love and affirm each other even in the most extreme circumstances, we witness to the dignity of persons. Pain and suffering do not

undermine our dignity. Abandoning the suffering brother or sister to death does. True compassion means accompanying another person in his suffering, alleviating that suffering with respect for the person's dignity, and never abandoning him or her.

Today we are surrounded by a culture of death that proclaims that only productive and pleasure-filled lives are worth living. A life that faces suffering is deemed to be a waste and something that should be ended. This ignores the mysterious reality that suffering can lead to great things in the human person.

Persons approaching the end of life often face loneliness and depression, and want to end their isolation and pain. They need love and understanding, not an expedited death. True solidarity and love require us to address these serious problems and affirm the suffering person, enabling him to feel that he is cherished and valued and that his life still has meaning. Terminally ill persons in pain should be offered pain relief and compassionate care to keep them comfortable. Today modern medicine is remarkably effective in minimizing pain; there is little to the contention that people need die agonizing deaths, and nothing to the claim that it is more "dignified" to take one's life.

In truth, it is the rising cost of medical care—not compassion for the dying—that is driving the promotion of assisted suicide and euthanasia. It is a sad commentary that, in a society as advanced as ours, financial concerns should trump the intrinsic value of a human life. Since assisted suicide became legal in Oregon, state officials have been candid about offering suicide in lieu of costly medications. In refusing to approve requests for expensive drugs that could prolong several residents' lives, Oregon Health Care officials reminded them that the cost of suicide pills would be fully covered.

### People in PVS

People in what is commonly referred to as a "persistent vegetative state" also have a claim on our love and our attention. They may have suffered such severe brain damage that they no longer seem to be aware of themselves or their environment. But human beings are never reduced to anything less than human no matter what disability or medical condition they face. Blessed John Paul II has written movingly of their human dignity:

*A man, even if seriously ill or disabled in the exercise of his highest functions, is and always will be a man, and he will never become a 'vegetable' or an 'animal'. Even our brothers and sisters who find themselves in the clinical condition of a 'vegetative state' retain their human dignity in all its fullness. The loving gaze of God the Father continues to fall upon them, acknowledging them as his sons and daughters, especially in need of help.*<sup>2</sup>

These patients have a right to basic care that keeps them comfortable and pain free. This means they deserve food and fluids, cleanliness, and protection from infection.

On many occasions, patients in this condition have experienced remarkable recoveries. On Christmas Eve, 1999, Patricia White Bull of New Mexico emerged from a 16-year PVS, speaking to nurses, asking for her children, catching up on family news, and eating her favorite foods again. Eleven-year-old Haleigh Poutre was hospitalized in 2005 with severe brain injuries inflicted by her adoptive father. The day after a court ordered removal of her respirator, nurses found she could breathe on her own and follow simple commands. Her rehabilitation continues and she has been able to make statements about the abuse she suffered.

"True 'compassion' leads to sharing another's pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear."  
(*The Gospel of Life*, no. 65)

Some former patients in PVS have related that while ill they still understood conversations around them. Belgian Rom Houben, for example, was diagnosed in PVS for 23 years, following a car accident. He recently "awakened" and explained he had been conscious the entire time. This is all the more reason for us to speak to them with great care and affection.

In recent years, doctors have been astonished to discover that as many as one in five patients in PVS are able to communicate with them through the use of brain scans, giving yes and no answers to the doctors' spoken questions. Yet some people in this condition have been euthanized, possibly fully aware of what was happening but unable to plead for their lives. To trust in God's timing for our passing into eternity requires courage, humility, and sometimes great spiritual strength. This final stage of life, when we focus our attention on the things that really count, can be a time of deep reflection, of forgiveness and reconciliation within the family, and of finding peace in one's relationship with God. When dying persons and their families give witness to their love for each other and their trust in God, we can say "This was a beautiful life and a beautiful and holy death."

<sup>1</sup> Herbert Hendin, MD, *Seduced by Death*. (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1998), 34-35.

<sup>2</sup> "Address to the Participants in the International Congress on Life-Sustaining Treatments and the Vegetative State," March 20, 2004,

[www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/speeches/2004/march/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_spe\\_20040320\\_congress-fiamc\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/2004/march/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20040320_congress-fiamc_en.html) (accessed May 23, 2011). Used with permission of Libreria Editrice Vaticana (LEV). All rights reserved.

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