

respect life month novena



OCTOBER 22-30
respectlife.org

ST. MARY'S PARISH

703 Monroe St., Ellis, KS 67637

October 18, 2026
29th 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 17 - Sept. 13, 2026

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 19 - October 25

Mon: Ephesians 2:1-10; Luke 12:13-21
Tue: Ephesians 2:12-22; Luke 12:35-38
Wed: Ephesians 3:2-12; Luke 12:39-48
Thu: Ephesians 3:14-21; Luke 12:49-53
Fri: Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 12:54-59
Sat: Ephesians 4:7-16; Luke 13:1-9
Sun: Exodus 22:20-26; Matthew 22:34-40

Parish Personnel

Pastor	Fr. Dana Clark
Parish Secretary	Mrs. Emily Mattheyer
School Principal	Mrs. Patti Park
Pastoral Council President	Mr. Brian Serpan
Liturgy Chairpersons	Ruth Bollig and Alyson Johnson
School Council President	Mrs. Sarah Fischer
Home & School President	Mrs. Megan Honas
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 17	5:30 p.m.	Jake & Regina Schuster+ Family (liv/dec)
Sun	Oct 18	7:00 a.m.	For the Parishioners
Sun	Oct 18	9:00 a.m.	Leo & Agnes Otter+ Family (liv/dec)
Mon	Oct 19	5:30 p.m.	Ginger Schoenthaler
Tues	Oct 20	8:10 a.m.	Daughter of Isabella Members (liv/dec)
Wed	Oct 21	8:10 a.m.	Ann Milam
	EGSC	8:10 a.m.	Kathy Wiesner+
Thurs	Oct 22	8:10 a.m.	Larry M. Cox+ (anniv)
Fri	Oct 23	8:10 a.m.	Eddie & Fidelia Honas+
Sat	Oct 24	5:30 p.m.	Larry M. Cox+
Sun	Oct 25	7:00 a.m.	For the Parishioners
Sun	Oct 25	9:00 a.m.	Ralph Waldschmidt+ (anniv)

Ministries for October 24 & 25

Ministry	5:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
Lector	Richard Bollig	Mindy Eck
Presentation of Gifts	Matt & Jessica Meagher Family	Gordon & Geri Augustine
Eucharistic Minister(s)	Terry & Cindy Zerfas	Curtis Weber Sarah Eck Mindy Eck
Servers	Schild Brothers	Seibel Siblings
Cantor / Musician	Abby Serpan Emily Mattheyer	Brad Deines Nancy Cunningham
Ushers & Greeters	Clarence Rupp Eugene Schuster	Eric & Kristen Gaschler Family Bailey Dinkel Family

Other Ministries

7:00am Lector	October 25 (Sun)	Becky Metzler
Communion to Homebound	October 23 (Fri)	Barney Boos
Ellis Good Samaritan	October 25 (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	Geoff & Mindy Eck Family
Rosary Leaders	October 24 (Sat) 5:30 p.m. October 25 (Sun) 9:00 a.m.	Andrea Zody Craig Seibel
Monthly Money Counters	October	Bob & Margie Mickelson

Parish Offering: October 10 & 11

Weekly Budget Fiscal Year 2026-27: \$7,291.54

Offertory Loose Plate.....\$1,337.00

Adult Envelopes.....\$2,725.00

Total Giving.....\$4,062.00

This weekend's collection is under by \$3,229.54

Meetings & Events

Tues	Oct 20	LOFT Lunch for 3rd Gr.
Wed	Oct. 21	Creed Repertory Theatre visits SMS Pray Rosary at Leonard's @ 5:00pm
Thurs	Oct 22	Eucharistic Adoration: 9am-5pm
Fri	Oct 23	Pumpkin Patch Field Trips for PK-2nd Gr. LOFT Lunch for 5th Gr.
Mon	Oct. 26	Early Dismissal at 12:40pm Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm

Parish Announcements

- We Celebrate 100 Years of World Mission Sunday!**
 This World Mission Sunday marks the 100th anniversary of its establishment by Pope Pius XI in 1926. This centenary is an opportunity to celebrate with renewed missionary zeal! Last year, Pope Leo XIV made an appeal to us in a personal video for World Mission Sunday. His request echoed around the world: "Please help me help missionaries everywhere." That's what World Mission Sunday does: it helps Pope Leo care for 1,130 missionary dioceses and territories under his supervision through the Dicastery for Evangelization. We are all called to be a part of this missionary work and we are a singular means to do so: World Mission Sunday. The second collection today helps extend the Church's evangelization work to missionary lands where the Gospel is being proclaimed for the first time, as well as to places where the Church barely exists, or is too younger, too persecuted, or too poor to sustain herself. Thank you for responding to Pope Leo's call to help him help missionaries everywhere!
- CCD Students in 6th-8th Grade:** Remember to return your Holy Fire permission slip back to your teacher this Wednesday if you are able to attend the event with us.
- YDisciples! Bring Your Best Poker Face (again) & Your Thinking Caps!** We have special guests joining us this week, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters! Supper served at 6:00pm, with a Q & A panel and a game of "Poker Face" to follow.
- Join thousands of Catholics praying a **Respect Life Month novena** Thursday, October 22 - Friday, October 30. Get daily prayers, reflections, and more by visiting respectlife.org/respect-life-month-novena or scan the QR code. Daily intentions will be posted on the church's website and Facebook page each day at 3:00pm.



Notes from the Pastor

Respect for Life Month. Check out the insert "Death Penalty: Catholic Q & A" and the pamphlets in back of the church.

Remembering Prayer Service. We will be conducting our Remembering Prayer Service Sunday, November 1 at 4:00pm for parish family members who have lost a loved one during the past year (or for loved ones who were laid to rest during the past year). *It is not necessary for your loved one to have had the funeral here or buried here for them to be remembered.*

Letters were sent out to points of contact for each family. They can then inform other family members who may wish to attend. All members of the parish are invited to attend, even if they have no loved ones to remember.

Below is a list of names we have thus far. If we're missing someone or if you have a deceased love one you wish to add to our list, please let us know.

*Edna Augustine, Gilbert Augustine, Maralene Balthazar,
Glenn Bieker, Pat Bieker, Gordon Burgardt, Deb Clore,
Rose Dorzweiler, Cory Eberle, Katie Eberle, Caroline Flax,
Glenn Fondoble, Hudson Gottschalk, John Helget, Ron Herl,
Shirley Higgins, Marvin King, Andrea Klaus,
Lawrence Locker, Linus Pfannenstiel, Rosemary Pfeifer,
Syl Rome, Chad Schuster, Rose Ann Schippers,
Bernie Waldschmidt, Marilyn Waldschmidt, Jeanne Werth,
Greg Wiesner, Kathy Wiesner, Betty Younger,
Richard Younger, Tom Zimmerman.*

November 1st: Sunday, November 1 is the Feast of All Saints. We will be celebrating that feast day instead of the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Times. We will also hold our traditional **Cemetery Prayer Service** following Sunday 9:00 Mass.

Catholic Trivia

466. Why must human life be respected? Human life must be respected because it is sacred. From its beginning human life involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. It is not lawful for anyone directly to destroy an innocent human being. This is gravely contrary to the dignity of the person and the holiness of the Creator. "Do not slay the innocent and the righteous" (Exodus 23:7). *Further reading: CCC 2258-2262, 2318-2320*

467. Why is the legitimate defense of persons and of society not opposed to this norm? Because is choosing to legitimately defend oneself one is respecting the right to life (either one's own right to life or that of another) and not choosing to kill. Indeed, for someone responsible for the life of another, legitimate defense can be not only a right but a grave duty, provided only that disproportionate force is not used. *Further reading: CCC 2263-2265*

468. What is the purpose of punishment? A punishment imposed by legitimate public authority has the aim of redressing the disorder introduced by the offense, of defending public order and people's safety, and contributing to the correction of the guilty party. *Further reading: CCC 2266*

These excerpts are from the Compendium of the CCC.

Have a good week! Fr. Dana

Parish Organizations

- **Mother/Daughter Potluck & Bingo:** The Ellis Daughters of Isabella invite all mothers & daughters to come to the Knights Hall on Thursday, October 22 at 6:00pm for a Potluck & Bingo! Bring your favorite main dish, side or dessert to share, then enjoy time together playing Bingo. No need to be a D of I member to come have fun!

- **Good Hope Quilters Request** donations of blankets or batting for our quilts for the Samaritan House. Call the Parish Office for more information!



Rosary for Couples Experiencing Infertility:

Mark your calendar for November 5th at 7:00pm to join St. Anna the Prophetess Ministry in praying for couples experiencing infertility in honor of St. Elizabeth's feast day at the St. Joseph's back chapel. All are welcome! People carrying the cross of infertility need your prayers. For more information, contact Chloe Prout at stannaprophetessministry@gmail.com.

- **Weekly Meals for YDisciples:** We are asking for help in feeding our YDisciples high school student group the months of November and December! We have a group of about 25 students mentors who meet every Wednesday from 6:00-7:45pm! There are sign up sheets in the back of church for upcoming dates we are needing meals for. If you can provide a meal and/or are willing to donate towards providing a meal for the group and mentors, please write your name on "Weekly Meal Planner" sheets or contact Emily at the Parish Office to see which dates are available! Your support will be greatly appreciated!

Parish Prayer List

Please Remember in Prayer

Denice Allen, Juanita Augustine, Baby Noah & Parents,
Emma Brouk, Preston Browning, Roman Carroll,
Ed Collins, Marilyn Denning, Fr. Richard Daise,
Dianne Durler, Joe & Arlene Erbert, Sr. Doris Flax,
Gary Flax, Bob Gabel, Debbie Haas, Edna Hejny,
Steve Hejny, Nathan Hively, Nathan Honas,
Gilbert Kinderknecht, Agneta Kuhn, Kevin LaBarge,
Shawna LaBarge, Martin & Debbie LaBarge, Norma Lang,
Marge Metzler, Riley Moore, Elizabeth Newton,
Cheryl Noles, Ramona Patten, Shirley Pitner,
Kelly Sanderson, Bernie & Laura Schoenberger,
Leonard Schoenberger, Cathy Sherfick, Lee Stueve,
Tanner Sullivan, Jill Urban, Shirley Wagner, Dale Wasinger,
Leon Wiesner, 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

Tuesday, October 20

LOFT Lunch for 3rd Grade

Wednesday, October 21

Creed Repertory Theatre visits

Friday, October 23

PreK-2nd Grade to Cottage Lane Pumpkin Patch

LOFT Lunch for 5th Grade

Dominic Savio Cart



Halloween Special: St. Mary's School has chocolate bars for sale for your Halloween treats! While supplies last! Limited amount of flavors available: Almond, Dark Chocolate, Caramel, Peanut Butter and Crisp. Each chocolate bar is \$2.50 or you can purchase an assorted box of 36 bars for \$90.00! Call the School Office to place your order! *Orders will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.*

- **It's Book Fair Time!** Everyone is invited to attend the Scholastic Book Fair on Tuesday, October 27 & Wednesday, October 28 from 4:00-8:00pm at Washington Grade School Library! It's a great place to get a head start on early stocking stuffers for your students! Mrs. Hensley said "Funds for this Book Fair will benefit all Ellis school libraries—including St. Mary's School!" Link to shop online: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/washingtonelementaryschool154>



Book Fair Giveaway: Ellis Public Library is giving away \$10.00 to students to use at the book fair! To get signed up: Students need to visit the Library, say hello to Ms. Tracey and sign up—that easy! She will choose two lucky winners—one from SMS and one from WGS!

- **Early Dismissal on Monday, October 26:** So our teachers can prepare for the upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences, we will have a short day on October 26th with dismissal at 12:40pm. There will be No SMART available on this day or on the days of Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences - October 27 & 29:** Watch for an email to sign up for a time with your student's teacher.

Community Announcements



Make Reservations for Ellis Food Box Pantry Christmas Boxes: If you or someone you know could benefit from what a Christmas Box provides, you will need to reserve one by November 2nd with Rita Y (785-650-4225) or Millie W. (785-726-1127). Christmas Box Pick up is the week of December 14th.

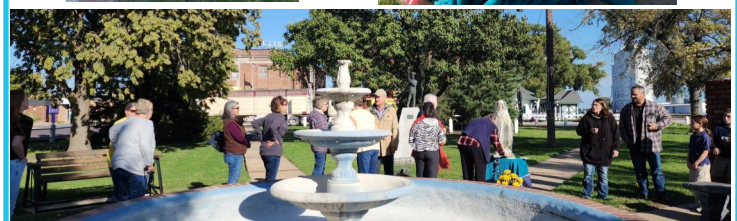
Diocese of Salina News

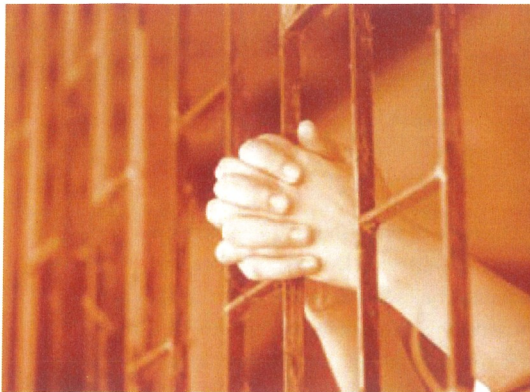


Save The Date! Holy Fire, a day of encounter, will be on November 7th, 2026 in Hays! This is an event for our 6th-8th grade students. St. Mary's Parish is planning to take our 6th –8th graders as preparation for Confirmation next year. An anonymous donor has offered to purchase their tickets (\$50/person). Information went home with student this past week. If your student would like to attend, please contact the St. Mary's Parish Office before Wednesday, October 21st. This was a very powerful event for our Junior High Students last year. We would love for your student(s) to attend!

Thank you

to all who came to pray the Rosary with us in the park for our Rosary Rally in the presence of Our Lady of Fatima.





Death Penalty: Catholic Q & A

For people committed to upholding the sanctity of human life, the need to respect and protect innocent human life is apparent. For some, however, issues like the death penalty may seem less clear.

Although nothing can substitute for thorough catechesis, the following may be helpful as a starting point for considering the death penalty within the context of respect for God's gift of human life.

WHO ARE WE?

The essence of our identity and worth as human beings, the source of our dignity, is that we are loved by God and made in his image and likeness. God's love doesn't change; even sin cannot diminish God's love for each person. As we are reminded in Sacred Scripture, "Can a mother forget her infant...? Even should she forget, I will never forget you" (Isaiah 49:15).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PUNISHMENT?.....

Although "legitimate public authority has the right and the duty to inflict punishment proportionate to the gravity of the offense," it is not for the sake of vengeance. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* goes on to say, "in addition to defending public order and protecting people's safety, [punishment] has a medicinal purpose: as far as possible, it must contribute to the correction of the guilty party."¹

AREN'T SOME CRIMES SO EVIL THE OFFENDER DESERVES TO DIE?.....

Consider how God responded when Cain took the life of his brother, Abel. God punished Cain greatly, but also mercifully spared and protected his life by marking him "so that no one would kill him at sight" (Genesis 4:15). No sin is a barrier to God's immense and merciful love, and nothing diminishes how much God cherishes each person and his or her life. As God's people, we are called to follow his example, drawing from the grace of Christ's Redemption.

DIDN'T THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW ALLOW THE PUNISHMENT OF DEATH?....

For Israelites in the Old Testament, legal punishment of personal injury did allow "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth" (Exodus 21:23-24). However, when Jesus came, he fulfilled the Old Testament Law and deepened our understanding of both justice and mercy: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (John 13:34).

We see the fulfilled law every time we participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In justice, after confessing our sins, we receive a penance to complete. Yet any penance we could do would never fully "make up" for the ways we turn away from God. That is precisely why Jesus came to redeem us, and took our rightful punishment upon himself. Although justice does require some action of reparation on our part, at the same time, because of God's mercy, our penance is medicinal, helping to restore us to union with God.

SO, IS THE DEATH PENALTY WRONG?.....

The *Catechism* teaches, "in the light of the Gospel, that 'the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person.'"²

While the death penalty "was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes," its use is no longer necessary to safeguard the common good. The *Catechism* notes that in our modern world, "more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption."³ No sin or crime is greater than God's mercy. The sacrifice of the Cross reveals that Christ's greatest desire is to forgive those with a repentant heart.

WHAT DO THE UNITED STATES BISHOPS SAY ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY?

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has long opposed the use of the death penalty in our country. While recognizing that the Church has previously permitted its use in extreme circumstances, the bishops have said that in the United States, there are other, non-lethal means of defense against unjust aggressors that should be used instead.

In 2015, the tenth anniversary year of the bishops' Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty, a letter reaffirming the bishops' opposition to the death penalty offered a reflection on our justice system: "Our faith tradition offers a unique perspective on crime and punishment, one grounded in mercy and healing, not punishment for its own sake. No matter how heinous the crime, if society can protect itself without ending a human life, it should do so. Today, we have this capability."⁴

WHAT ABOUT VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME?

The victims and families of violent crimes face unimaginable pain, and the effects extend well beyond the initial shock and trauma. As Catholics we are all "called to stand with victims in their hurt and in their search for healing and genuine justice."⁵ Victims and their families often have spiritual, physical and emotional needs that are not simply satisfied by the criminal justice system. Christ Himself "was delivered into the hands of the wicked, yet he prayed for his persecutors and overcame hatred with the blood of the cross."⁶ Following the example of our Lord, we pray that God would relieve the suffering of all victims, grant them peace, and renew their faith in his protection and care.⁷

IS DISCUSSION OF THE DEATH PENALTY A CATHOLIC, PRO-LIFE MATTER?

Earlier in 2015, the chairmen of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities and Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development responded to a Supreme Court decision related to the death penalty: "We bishops continue to say, we cannot teach killing is wrong by killing. ... Institutionalized practices of violence against any person erode reverence for the sanctity of every human life."⁸

Christ came to liberate us from the cycle of violence by showing us how to love and be merciful. As reflected in his life and teaching, as well as in saints' lives throughout history, "the antidote to violence is love, not more violence."⁹ As the culture of death threatens to electively select who does and who does not deserve life, we must uphold that *all* human life has invaluable dignity and worth.

When we feel that sin and evil are overwhelming, we must not be afraid. Jesus Christ has already conquered sin and death, and we know that his is the ultimate victory. Let us work to defend the dignity of all human life, made in the image and likeness of God, through prayer, education, and advocacy. Be not afraid; God is with us.

1 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2nd ed., 2266.

2 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2267, citing Francis, *Address to Participants in the Meeting organized by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization*, 11 October 2017: *L'Osservatore Romano*, 13 October 2017, 5.

3 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2267.

4 Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski and Seán Cardinal O'Malley (July 16, 2015), <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/criminal-justice-restoration-justice/upload/joint-dp-message-dsd-pro-life-2015-07-16.pdf>.

5 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice*, (Washington: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 15, 2000).

6 Book of Blessings, *Order for the Blessing of a Victim of Crime or Oppression*, no. 443.

7 *Ibid.*

8 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Cardinal O'Malley and Archbishop Wenski Welcome Supreme Court Decision to Review Protocols for Use of Lethal Injection," News release, January 17, 2015, <http://www.usccb.org/news/2015/15-019.cfm>.

9 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics*, (Washington: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1998), 21.

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UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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