*Saint Mary Catholic Church*

*701 East Third Street, Wilton, IA 52778*

**24th Sunday – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**September 14, 2025**

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**Mass Time: Sunday – 8:30 a.m.**

**Religious Education Classes start at 9:30 am during the School year.**

**Website:** [**https://www.stmarywilton.org**](https://www.stmarywilton.org)  **Facebook Page -** [**https://www.facebook.com/stmarysofwilton**](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysofwilton)

**Today’s Readings** – 9-14-25. By his crucifixion, Jesus transformed the cross from a profane instrument of execution to a symbol of triumph. Jesus sanctified the cross, making it holy, by sacrificing his life to win our salvation. We exalt the holy cross in a special way today, but we also exalt it every time we make the sign of the cross to express and bear witness to our faith. May the cross be a sign for us of Christ’s power to overcome death and give new life. **Question of the Week -** How can I imitate Christ by helping someone else carry their cross, as he helps me carry mine?

**Today - Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, which, the day after the dedication of the Basilica of the Resurrection built over the tomb of Christ, is exalted and honored as the trophy of His Paschal victory and the sign that will appear in the sky, heralding to all His second coming.

**St. Mary Parish Schedule:**

* Sun Sep 14th **Mass – Exaltation of Holy Cross**. RE Registration. Parish/Finance Councils.
* Sun Sep 21st **Mass – Catechetical Sunday.** RE Classes start. Bless Students & Teachers.
  + - **Parent meeting** for all Religious Ed. Pre-K – Grade 6. 9:30 am in the Parish Hall.
    - **Parent meeting** for Conformation Class to be held in the Annex Building, 1st floor.
* Sun Sep 28th **Mass**. **Priesthood Sunday**. RE Classes. **2025-26 ADA Kick off**.
* Sat Oct 4th BINGO for Youth & NCYC. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Games start at 5:30 pm.
* Sun Oct. 5th **Mass**. RE Classes
* Tue Oct 7th Faith Formation at 5:30 pm.

**Registration for Religious Education –** Sunday, Sept. 14th after Masses. You may also download a form from our website. Those who have previously registered only have to indicate if they will allow pictures of their children to be published on St. Mary’s Facebook or Website. **Teachers’ children pay NO fees for Religious Education regardless of numbers.**

**Christian Initiation Classes** – Helping those **Becoming Catholic or Joining the Catholic Church**. Candidates, Sponsors, & Friends invited. **All sessions are in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited.**

1. Tue Sep 16th 5:30 pm Deacon Dan #1 Introductory Session & #55 Tour of the Church.
2. Sun Sep 28th 9:45 am Deacon Dan #56 & #57 The Mass Part I & II.
3. Tue Sep 30th 5:30 pm Father Bud #28 Jesus & #27 Trinity.
4. Sun Oct 5th 9:45 am Deacon Dan #31 Introduction to Bible & #32The Old Testament
5. Sun Oct 19th 9:45 am Katy & Jim #33 New Testament $ #30 Communion of Saints.

**Saint for September 14th – Saint Cornelius**, pope and martyr. On the Appian Way in the crypt of Lucina at the cemetery of Callistus, the deposition of Saint Cornelius, pope and martyr, who valiantly opposed the schism of Novatian, received many fallen Christians back into communion with the Church with great charity, and was eventually exiled to Centumcellae by Emperor Gallus, suffering greatly, as Saint Cyprian attests. His memory is celebrated the next day.

**Coordinator of Youth Ministry (CYM)** job opening. Time commitment is approximately 10 hours per month for 10 months (August – May). **Contact Deacon Dan for details**.

**SURVEY** - **Consultation of the Laity:** The USCCB wants to learn how the people of God are living out their baptism and how parish leadership can better support that. The survey is open until the end of September. **Please fill out this survey at** - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6PMVLP3>.

**2024-25 ADA** – we hope that those who haven’t completed their pledge payments for this past year’s ADA can finish their pledges very soon as we will start the new ADA pledge soon. 2024-25 ADA Goal - $19,450. Total Pledged - $31,162. Total Paid as of 8-20-25 is $25,602. Thank you!

**Women’s Faith Group** - Join us for a Ladies Faith Sharing group to begin the week of Oct 6th. Please contact Jodie Dirksen 641-430-5044 for more information. Materials will be provided.

**Coffee & Donuts during Religious Ed. Sundays after Mass.** There is a sign-up board in the Gathering Area for preparation and cleanup. Please sign up early and often.

**Calling all EPIC Volunteers -** We're looking for volunteers to help pick-up donuts, milk and juice from the Muscatine Walmart on Saturdays before Religious Ed classes. **Contact Jess Williams for details, (563) 320-3699 or** [**jesss\_99@yahoo.com**](mailto:jesss_99@yahoo.com)**.** The existing group of ladies would like to round up new volunteers to get the donuts each week during. Religious Ed time. I know we always need families to serve them but we're hoping to get some new ones to go fetch them also.

**Great Resources** – Catholic Moms at <https://www.catholicmom.com/>. Another great resource is <https://www.catholic.org/>.

**Pilgrims of Hope** – The Bishops of Iowa have released a **Pastoral Reflection on Immigration**. This reflection seeks to remind our Catholic community of the authentic teaching of the Church on immigration and of the long-standing Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration. The full document may be accessed at <https://iowacatholicconference.org/>. Following are additional key points:

**Part V - Mary, Comforter of Migrants: Model of Hope and Hospitality**

* Mary experienced firsthand the harsh reality of forced migration when she and Joseph fled to Egypt with the infant Jesus, seeking refuge from persecution.
* As Queen of Heaven and Earth, Mary stands as a powerful intercessor and advocate for those who journey in hope.

**Part VI - A Jubilee of Hope and a Call to Renewed Commitment**

* Christian hope is not passive optimism but an active trust in God’s ongoing work of redemption.
* It is not enough to desire justice; we must commit to shaping systems that sustain it.
* As we proceed through this Jubilee Year, we are called to embody radical hospitality, seeing Jesus in every person.

**Bingo – Saturday, October 4th**doors open at 5:00 pm, Games begin at 5:30 pm. The proceeds will go to our Youth Group activities and NCYC. We would love to have everyone come out to play and support our youth programs. If you are not a Bingo player or otherwise unable to be there perhaps you can still help out. We are looking for “basket” donations to be raffled off and also game “sponsors”. Please contact Amanda Rockow or Dennis Sass for details or to volunteer to help.

**Meal Train Ministry** - Our meal train ministry helps parishioners who have recently had a baby, those who have recently lost a loved one, are going through an illness or rough time, or those who are temporarily homebound and need assistance with meals. If you'd like more information, would like to nominate a parishioner, or would like to be put on the list to make meals when able, please **contact Sarah Costello** at 563-210-3977 or email [slcostello09@gmail.com](mailto:slcostello09@gmail.com).

**JPII Retreat for 8th–10th Graders** - All students in grades 8 - 10 are invited to take part in the Pope John Paul II Retreat at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport on Nov. 8–9, 2025. This overnight retreat gives young people the chance to grow in their faith through inspiring talks, prayer, small group discussion, and time for fun and fellowship. The weekend is designed to help teens take ownership of their faith and to learn more about the life and witness of Pope John Paul II. Registration is open <https://davenportdiocese.org/jpii-retreat>. Cost is $50 and includes meals and lodging. Contact Deacon Ryan Burchett at 563-271-0608 or [retreats@diodav.org](mailto:retreats@diodav.org) for information.

**Mass Intention for Sunday, September 21, 2025 – Ken Grunder**

**Lay Mass Ministers for Sunday, September 21, 2025.**

Announcer & 1st Reading – Judy Freeman 2nd Reading – Renee Cooley

EMHC –Rick Hanney & Henry Bentley Gift Bearers – Jamey Meyer Family

Ushers – Andy Koopmann & Fred Grunder

Servers – Colin & Connor Thornton & Kensington Boorn

**Protecting God’s Children** - To report child abuse contact the Iowa Dept. of Human Services Child Abuse hotline: 800-362-2178 and if clergy involved or church personnel also notify Alicia Owens, Victim Assistance Coordinator, 563-349-5002; [vac@diodav.org](about:blank) or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA.

**Mass Intentions for the deceased** are $5.00 each. Please indicate who the Mass is to be said for and how many Masses are requested. We will try to honor requested Mass dates.

**New Parishioners**: Please complete the Registration form online at <https://www.stmarywilton.org/> or to request a form after Mass. The completed form may be placed in the Contribution Basket or given to Deacon Dan. See the contact information on the Bulletin to contact me with any questions.

**Envelopes** – If you are not receiving Parish Contribution Envelopes, please contact Deacon Dan.

**The Coming Home Network** was established to help non-Catholic Christians, clergy and laity to make the journey home to full communion with the Catholic Church. <https://chnetwork.org/>.

**Fighting to break free from pornography? Get Help!** <https://integrityrestored.com/> or <https://www.strive21.com/>, or <https://www.covenanteyes.com/>. Call **563-334-4505** for a local group.

**Crisis Emergency Phone: 855-581-8111** for those contemplating suicide. Trained counselors are available to meet in person. Mobile outreach is also offered.

A **Women’s Discernment Evening** is scheduled for Thursday September 18 at 5:30 pm at St. Mary in Iowa City. Join sisters from the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia for dinner and a Holy Hour. The public is invited to the Holy Hour as we pray for vocations and all those discerning.

**Sacraments - to schedule participation in any of these please contact Deacon Dan:**

* **Baptism** – A prep class required for family’s first child. Contact Deacon Dan 1 month prior.
* **Confession –** email Father Bud at[**grantrobert@sau.edu**](mailto:grantrobert@sau.edu) for times prior/after Mass.
* **Marriage** – contact Deacon Dan a minimum of 7 months prior to the proposed ceremony.
* **Anointing** – Anyone having surgery or experiencing illness may ask for the Rite of Anointing of the Sick. Father Bud will anoint immediately after Mass. Contact Deacon Dan.
* **Funeral Preparation** – please contact Deacon Dan. A great booklet is available to help.

**STEP Theology Online - Connecting the Catholic intellectual life to the life of the Church:** June 16 classes begin. The Diocese of Davenport has partnered with [STEP at the University of Notre Dame](https://mcgrath.nd.edu/online-courses/step/) to offer online formation for the people of the diocese. [Learn more about certificate offerings](https://mcgrath.nd.edu/online-courses/step/certificates/) through STEP which has 20 years’ experience of offering “satellite” intellectual formation. Individuals receive a 50% discount off $99. Questions, <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/ff-step> or contact Trevor Pullinger at [pullinger@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:pullinger@davenportdiocese.org).

**Questions about our Faith** – here’s your chance to ask any question pertaining to the Catholic Church and our Catholic Faith that you are curious about. Simply email your question to [wiltonstmary@diodav.org](mailto:wiltonstmary@diodav.org) and it will be answered in the Bulletin anonymously.