



# The Catholic Churches

St. Edward Elmdale St. Francis of Assisi St. Francis St. Mary Upsala



May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

## Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God January 1, 2023

Pastor: Fr. David Grundman- (320) 309-4174  
Sister Mary Pat Burger –St. Francis Rectory (320) 573-2203  
Randi Klasen -Bookkeeper Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 8 am - noon  
Jessie Johnson -Secretary Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 am - 4 pm  
CENTRAL OFFICE 308 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 249,  
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### RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Saturday: St. Edward~ 3:15 - 3:45 pm  
Sunday: St. Francis~ 7:15 -7:45 am, St. Mary ~ 9:15 - 9:45 am

### PRAYER LINES

(SM) Karen Liebsch 573-4127 & Kathy Koehn 573-2363  
(SF) Judy Theisen 573-2933 & Joyce Koopmeiners 573-2728  
(SE) Sally Schleper 573-2127

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chantelle Frie(320) 360-4796 [chantellefrie@gmail.com](mailto:chantellefrie@gmail.com)  
Reba Leither (701) 426-1607 [leitherreba@gmail.com](mailto:leitherreba@gmail.com)  
Roseanne Throener (320) 360-2196 [arthroener@gmail.com](mailto:arthroener@gmail.com)

### ADORATION

St. Edward's –monthly, the 1st Friday of the Month, 12 - 9 pm  
St. Francis– monthly, the 2nd Tuesday of the month 7am-7 pm  
St. Mary– Weekly, every Thursday 12-9 pm

Please update the office if your phone or address has changed.

### Three Saints News

Please note: Our office will be closed on January 2 for the Solemnity of Mary.

### Totus Tuus Coordinator Found

Totus Tuus, which is our vacation bible school will be taking place in our parishes July 8-14 (grades 1-12). We are blessed to have Jamie Heurung from Holdingford coordinate this week for us. Holdingford area parishes will be invited to come join us. Know that you are encouraged to invite to any family or friends to join us who are not members of our three parishes.

### Knights of Columbus

Our next meeting will be on January 3 at 7:30 in Elmdale.

### *Over 80 Blessings for January*



Gene Harren (SM) 1/8  
Ramona Heurung (SM) 1/12  
Viola Wuebkers (SM) 1/16  
Delores O'Hotto (SE) 1/19  
Florence Kurowski (SE) 1/20  
Janet Yurczyk (SM) 1/26



*"I want to ask you all for a special prayer for Pope Emeritus Benedict who sustains the Church in his silence. He is very sick... We ask the Lord to console and sustain him in this witness of love for the Church to the very end." Pope Francis*

### The Solemnity of Mary

When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human.

<https://divinemercuryparish.org/>

### Pray for us:

Raymond Kurowski, Ken Wielenberg, Margaret Carlson, Ken & Pat Euteneuer, Ron Dingman, Kristy Brezinka, Ramona Heurung, Arnold & Donna Scholz, Irene Lashinski, Darwin Binek & Kathy Hennek, Linus & Marjorie Lehner, Carol Langner, Judy Gerads, Bruce Wolters, Rose Beniek, Dennis Binek, Linda Mader, Marlene Vornbrock, Roger Thell, Alan Schumer, Jim Negen, Joe Primus

## Mass, Devotions & Events Schedule

<u>Tuesday 1/3</u>		<i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>
6 pm St. Mary	†	Ed & Irene Harren ~Family *Anointing of the Sick
<u>Wednesday 1/4</u>		Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
8 am St. Francis	†	Richard Boeckermann ~ St. Francis Men's Society *Anointing of the Sick
<u>Thursday 1/5</u>		<i>Saint John Neumann, Bishop</i>
8 am St. Edward	†	Jane Danielson ~ Adeline Molus *Anointing of the Sick
<u>Friday 1/6</u>		<i>Saint Andre Bessette, Religious</i>
7:30 am St. Mary	†	Mary Geise ~Lorene Koopmeiners *Anointing of the Sick
<b>Weekend Masses</b>		<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>
<u>Saturday 1/7</u>		
10 am Senior Living 4 pm St. Edward	†	For the Residents George Casazza
<u>Sunday 1/8</u>		
8 am St. Francis 10 am St. Mary	†	For the People Phyllis Vornbrock

Please note: Fr. David will be on retreat January 9-12 in Buffalo.

### Faith Formation Jan. 1-7

**Grades K-6:** Home Lesson: Becoming a Holy Family

**2nd Grade:** Lesson 13

**Grades 7-10+:** Classroom Lesson: 7-8:30 pm on Jan. 4

### Faith Formation Needs Assessment

Our diocese (Catholic Education Ministry Team) is assessing needs and opportunities for growth in support of religious education throughout the Diocese, from home to parish, school and beyond. They would like ALL PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS of children aged 0-18 take this survey. Go to [www.stcdio.org/in-the-faith](http://www.stcdio.org/in-the-faith). This survey needs to be completed by January 4! This takes less than 10 minutes.

### Youth

**Young Women's Night for 11th & 12th grade: Jan. 8**

Fellowship & Bible Study from 7:30– 8:30 pm at St. Mary's Church, Upsala. We will meet every other Sunday. Contact Brooke (320) 630-3215 for more information.

### Vespers For Life, Sunday, January 15

Held at St. Francis Xavier, 219 2<sup>nd</sup> St N, Sartell. Rosary at 3:30 p.m. and Vespers at 4:00 p.m. with Bishop Donald Kettler presiding. The service includes music, prayer, scripture, and reflection for the millions of children who have been aborted since 1973. Monetary donations accepted to Mother Mary's Fund to assist crisis pregnancy centers in the Diocese of St.

### March For Life, Sunday, January 22 in St. Paul

12 pm Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul  
2 pm March on the state Capitol grounds  
2:30 pm Pro-life program on the Capitol steps hosted by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life.  
The Diocese of St. Cloud is coordinating busses to St. Paul. **Registration required for all buses.** Details are posted on our website <https://stcdio.org/event/march-for-life-in-st-paul-2023/>. A free-will offering may be accepted on the buses to help defer the cost of the bus. Be sure to dress warmly and bring a bag lunch or snack.

Richmond bus – Reserve a spot by contacting Linda at 320-267-6268 or [thepedersonfam@aol.com](mailto:thepedersonfam@aol.com)

### Elevate Pregnancy & Family Resource Center

On Feb.1 guest speakers from Elevate will be at St. Mary's at 7 pm. Watch for more in the next bulletin. Canisters are in the entryways of our churches to collect funds for Elevate's programing and need to be returned on Feb. 1.

## **ST EDWARD'S NEWS**

**Saturday, December 31 - 4pm**

**EM of HC:** Julie Wensmann

**Lector:** Jim Bartkowicz

**Servers:** Volunteers

**Ushers:** Mike Urbanski

**Greeters:** Raymond Kokett

**Gift Bearers:** Scott & Jen Wensmann We will need volunteer Eucharistic Ministers for Sunday Mass on January 14 and 28. Thank you!

**Volunteer Eucharistic Ministers Needed**

Sunday Mass on January 14 and 28. Thank you!

## **ST FRANCIS' NEWS**

**December Ushers:**

Frank & Joyce Koopmeiners

**Sunday, January 1 - 8 am**

**EM of HC:** Colleen Harren

**Lector:** Mary Jane Boeckermann

**Servers:** Carter Roerick

**Gift Bearers:** Dennis & Nancy Young

**Local Bank gifts \$1000!**

Parishioners, please extend your thanks and appreciation to this great kindness given to us! "On behalf of the Freeport State Bank, I wish to extend to you and your parishioners our warmest greetings for a joyful Holiday Season. In the spirit of this Holiday Season, please accept our enclosed Christmas gift." James Hemker, President

## **ST MARY'S NEWS**

**Sunday, December 25 - 10 am**

**EM of HC:** Jan Kilian

**Lector:** Mary Hollenkamp

**Servers:** Emily Ripplinger

**Ushers:** Mary Frie

**Greeters:** Walt & LeAnn Beneke

**Gift Bearers:** Tom & Theresa Lange

**Bank Deposit:** Tom Kilian

**Valentine Mass/Dinner**

February 11 has been set for Saturday evening Mass followed by fine dining, etc. Please note that St Edward's will have the 10am Mass on Sunday.

## **Eucharistic Revival**

**First Fridays Novena: Jan. 6**

Join people from around the diocese for a Cor Jesu (Heart of Jesus) First Fridays Novena: An evening of Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation at 6:30 pm at Assumption Church in Eden Valley. This is the first in a series of nine events at various locations around the diocese on the first Friday of each month.

Join us for one or all nine! Stay tuned to [www.stcdio.org/Eucharistic-Revival](http://www.stcdio.org/Eucharistic-Revival) for future locations!

**BREAD Talks**

Beginning this month, the diocese's Eucharistic Revival initiative is hosting "BREAD Talks" in each of the diocese's five deaneries, each at a different brewery. At each of the events, which are modeled after the popular Ted Talks, local speakers will stand up and give brief testimonies, or "Eucharistic love stories." Following their sharing, a main speaker will give a longer talk, about 20-30 minutes, on a Eucharistic theme. These are in-person events only.

**Thursday, Jan. 5 at 6:30 p.m.,** at The Main Gate, Little Falls, with Father Scott Pogatchnik and special guests: Hidden in Plain View: "Saints Who Mined the Mysteries of the Eucharist"

For more information about the local efforts of the Eucharistic Revival, visit [www.stcdio.org/eucharistic-revival](http://www.stcdio.org/eucharistic-revival).

## **WEEKEND COLLECTION Dec. 25, 2022**

**St. Edward:** Adult: \$1046 Loose: \$397.77, Christmas \$ 2,795, Fall Collection: \$40 **Total: \$4,278.77**

**St. Francis:** Adult: \$1,080, Loose: \$1,133, Votive: \$ 283.26, Christmas: \$2,995, Flowers: \$ 20 **Total: \$5,511.26**

**St. Mary:** Adult: \$1,193, Loose: \$672.24, Christmas: \$215, Christmas: \$ 3,585, Christmas Loose: \$100, Fall Collection: \$100 **Total: \$5,865.24**

# *Hail Mary, Full of Grace!*

## **The Solemnity of Mary**

**Praise of Mary** For centuries, Mary has been praised because she believed. She is Mother of God because of her faith in God. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, celebrates Mary's faith and trust in God alone. <https://www.loyolapress.com/>

## **Mary, Mother of God**

Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace." <https://divinemercuryparish.org/>

## **Peace**

A Hebrew word that many people are familiar with is *shalom*, commonly translated into English as "peace." However, the word is much richer, deeper, and broader than that ... it serves as a summary of the entire blessing: *shalom* is God's wholeness, well-being, longevity, harmony, as well as God's peace. Perhaps Mary prayed for God's *shalom* not only for herself, but also for her child as she reflected on his birth. As we stand at the threshold of a new year, we can likewise pray this blessing, with Mary as our example, pondering the mysteries of Christ in our hearts, praying for the richness, depth, and breadth of God's *shalom*...a prayer for God to look on us in kindness and, even more, to grant us peace. ~Excerpts from the lectionary for Mass

## **Notes from Father David**

How appropriate that on the first day of every year we honor Mary, the Holy Mother of God, for it was her willing obedience to God's plan that enabled the Incarnation and therefore initiated what in time became Christianity. Today is also the World Day of Peace and so we look to Mary, Queen of Peace – who bore the Prince of Peace – as our model and inspiration for holding peace in our hearts, our communities, and in our world.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all your gifts, cards, words of encouragement and prayers! Christmas is such a beautiful time of the year to be in your parishes as your priest. This was the third Christmas; we have been together. Words cannot fully convey my appreciation and gratitude for all the love you bestow upon me. Know that I will offer Mass for you on January 9 when I'm on retreat: "In Gratitude for my Three Parishes".

Thank you for all your prayers as our diocese has been blessed with a new bishop! Bishop-elect Patrick Neary comes to us from Portland, Oregon where he has been pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Portland, Oregon since 2018. He is a member of the religious order of Congregation of Holy Cross at Notre Dame. He was born in La Porte, Indiana where his parents and family members are still parishioners. He is the first-born of six children and has five sisters. He is 59 years of age. He speaks Spanish fluently. He has spent eight years in Kenya, Uganda and east Africa. Thus, he has a great missionary heart. He was also a rector of a seminary in Africa and Notre Dame. He will be ordained Bishop on February 14th at St Mary's Cathedral in St Cloud.

"No one is more surprised than I am to be asked to serve as bishop of the Diocese of St. Cloud," Bishop-elect Neary said. "Yet I have always trusted that Christ has guided me through every stage of my life as a priest. I so look forward to meeting everyone who is a part of this diocese, my new family. I especially ask God to help me build on the legacy of Bishop Kettler and all the clergy and personnel who serve in the diocese with zeal and devotion. Please pray for me that I can be a faithful and loving servant to all of you." Bishop Kettler said, "Father Neary is tremendously qualified with his experiences as a pastor, seminary rector, formation director and missionary. I am very appreciative that he said 'yes' to the call to serve the people of this diocese as their bishop, and I welcome him warmly to central Minnesota."

Lastly, please keep priests from our diocese in prayer who will be taking part in our yearly retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo. This will take place following the weekend Masses January 8-12. Please note there will be no weekday Masses during that time. This retreat proves to be an excellent opportunity for us priests to rest and relax with one another. No doubt, we are spoiled as I know a good number of you would do most anything to have an opportunity like this.