

Elmdale, Upsala
and St. Francis:
Mary & the Saints
ACC



Saint Edward

Saint Mary

Saint Francis of Assisi



Pastor: Fr. Jimmy Joseph
(320) 573-2975
triparishcom@gmail.com

Sr. Mary Pat Burger: St. Francis
Rectory (320) 573-2203

Parish Office: St. Mary's Church
308 S. Main Street P.O. Box 249
Upsala, MN 56384
(320) 573-2132

Email: 238catholic@sytekcom.com
Website: 238catholic.org

Bookkeeper: Randi Klasen
Tuesday & Thursday 8 a.m. - Noon
Secretary: Jessie Johnson
Monday & Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wednesday: 8 a.m. - Noon

Reconciliation: Confessions are 1/2
before all Masses. See Mass
Schedule

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

Sick & Homebound Ministry:

Contact the Parish Office if you need
Holy Communion brought to you or
a loved one.

Marriage: Couples need to begin
preparations with Fr. Jimmy nine
months in advance.

Baptism & Marriage: Contact the
office before setting a date.

Matching Grant Breakfast

St. Francis Catholic United Financial is sponsoring their annual breakfast to benefit our Religious Ed. program in the St. Francis Church Basement (44055 State Hwy 238, Freeport) this Sunday! We will be serving sausage, scrambled eggs, pancakes with toppings, hash browns, sweet bread and beverages—all you can eat from 9:00 a.m. –12:30 p.m.. Free will offering. Catholic United Financial will give a matching grant of up to \$1000. Come & enjoy and support our youth!

Lent dates back to the 4th century, a time when it began to be observed as a period of penance and renewal for the entire Church through sacrifice, fasting, and abstinence. Although in the West, this time is not as rigorously observed, there has never been any debate that it is a period that we need to approach with a penitential and conversion spirit.

It is about the 40 days leading up to Holy Week during which we prepare our spirit through conversion. The 40 days correspond to a biblical symbolism: 40 days in the desert, 40 days of the flood, 40 years of the Israelites' journey, etc. The number 40 holds a special significance in the scriptures and refers to times of trial and conversion. In this symbolism, "the number 4 represents the material universe, and the 0 represents the time of our life on earth followed by trials and difficulties" (Aciprensa).

The Lenten season is a time characterized by sacrifice through penance, fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. While sacrifice in any sphere of human activity is considered a value when it is related to the effort to achieve a result, the sense of sacrifice for a Christian goes much further: it is directly related to love. Lent is an ideal time to discover this sense. The renunciations and mortifications we impose on ourselves during this time serve to begin to understand or deepen our understanding of the true meaning of love. It is a love that can endure all, bear all, and forgive all—a love that comes from God Himself, who sacrifices for us.

As Saint John Paul II said, it is about 'everything that helps the Gospel pass from the mind to the heart and from the heart to life.'

<https://catholic-link.org/how-can-catholics-live-an-authentic-lent-a-visual-guide/>

Ministry Schedule

Saturday 2/21		First Sunday of Lent
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Eileen Stiller ~ Christian Mothers	EM of HC: Brittany Harren, Colleen Harren c, Alice Westrich c, Lector: Jane Keppers, Servers: Emmalyn, Carter & Brayden Harren, Ushers: Allen Herzog & Leroy Pflueger, Gift Bearers: Craig & Rosanne Voss, Sacristan: Judy Theisen
Sunday 2/22		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	For the People	EM of HC: Jerry Theisen, Jackie Oldakowski c, Derek Biniek, Lector: Jim Bartkowicz, Servers: Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Gerard Oldakowski Jr. & Greg Larson, Greeters: Volunteers, Gift Bearers: Kris & Robyn Bartkowicz
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Deceased parents of Dave & Renee Scholz	EM of HC: Chantelle Frie, Jon Leither c, Renee Scholz c, Lector: Leonice Prokott, Servers: Lilli Leither & Volunteer, Ushers: Tom Kilian & Mary Frie, Greeters: Walt & LeAnn Beneke, Gift Bearers: Randy & Donna Roske, Bank Deposit: Marvin Wensmann

Monday, 2/23	<i>St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr</i>
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy (No Mass)
Tuesday, 2/24	
6:00 p.m. St. Mary Stations of the Cross	† David Heim ~ Beth Lange
Wednesday, 2/25	
8:00 a.m. St. Francis Stations of the Cross	† Herbert Gerads
Thursday, 2/26	
8:00 a.m. St. Edward Stations of the Cross	† Don Maciej ~ Jeanette Maciej
Friday, 2/27	<i>St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church</i>
7:30 a.m. St. Mary Stations of the Cross	† Connie Harren



Adoration
2nd Tuesdays:
 St. Francis 8am -7pm
Thursdays:
 St. Mary's 12 noon - 9 pm
First Fridays:
 St. Edward's 12 noon -9 pm

Pray for us: Dee Booth, Pat Euteneuer, Roger Thell, Kristy Brezinka, Carol Langner, Judy Gerads, Millie Gerads, Marlene Vornbrock, Jim Koczur, Gary Larson, Helen Heisick, Geraldine George, Kevin Lampert, William Hill, Lorraine Frie, Pat Harren, Devota Nilson, Rosemary Pundsack, Ron Schmidt, Dave Hollenkamp, Shailyn Welinski, Bob Blonigen, Ken Welle, Sherry Schumer, Leonard & Eileen Koroll

Strengthen us to withstand temptation by the power of your grace.

Saturday 2/28		
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	For the People	EM of HC: Rosanne Voss, Brittany Harren c, Janelle Roerick, Lector: Mary Jane Boeckermann, Servers: Evan Welle, Ushers: Allen Herzog & Leroy Pflueger, Gift Bearers: Sheldon & Karla Tschida, Sacristan: Sylvester Tschida
Sunday 3/1		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Jerry Gohman ~ Jerry & Joan Theisen	EM of HC: Jim Bartkowicz, Karla Schneider c, Kerek Biniek, Lector: Bill Boser, Servers: Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Jim Wensmann & Justin Wensmann, Greeters: Volunteers, Gift Bearers: Greg & Renee Wensmann
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Joe, Elaine & Mark Schumer	EM of HC: Lisa Zabinski, Renee Scholz c, Jon Leither c, Lector: Kim Koehn, Servers: Lilli Leither & Volunteer, Ushers: Patrick Zabinski & Volunteer, Greeters: Mikel & Julie Nelson, Gift Bearers: Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger, Bank Deposit: Judy Michels

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help. Heb. 4:14-16

Religious Education

K-6: Reba Leither-leitherreba@gmail.com, (701) 426-1607

Beth Lange- bethlange 83@gmail.com (320) 630-8390

7-10: Randi Klasen randiklasen@gmail.com (320) 493-5624

Confirmation: Bob Vouk (320) 249-3398 Jenny Revermann (320) 249-9939, Confirmation Assistant: Katie Urbanski (320) 423-2203, confirmation@tworiverscatholic.com

This Week's Classes

Confirmation: Wed., Feb., 25th at 6:15 p.m. All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford

7-10 grade: Wed., Feb., 25th at 7-8:00 p.m. St. Mary, Upsala

Children's Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's. Contact Chelsea Fuchs fuchschelsea92@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Confirmation will be on March 1st at 2:00 p.m. at All Saints-St. Hedwig's. Please come to celebrate with us and encourage our youth. Keep them in your prayers!

Youth Group Sunday, February 22nd from 5-6:30 p.m. all 8th-12th grade youth are welcome to join us at St. Mary's for Faith, food, and Youth Group Olympic Games! Bring a friend!

Spring Campaign for Life! Feb 18 - Mar 29, 2026

Opening Rally was on Saturday, Feb 21st. Please sign up for an hour time slot to walk near Planned Parenthood on Monday-Friday from Feb.18th -March 28th. Help us promote LIFE! Contact: judy4life@meltel.net

Rosary Walk for Life

Meet at 4:00 p.m. outside or inside All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford to pray for life! Tuesdays Feb. 24th, March 10th, 17th and 24th.



St. Mary's Fish Fry & Raffle will be on Friday, March 27th from 4-8 p.m. with the Cash Raffle Drawing at 7:30 p.m. We will be selling raffle tickets (\$100 each) after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Tickets are also available at the Parish Office. We are asking each parishioner (St. Mary's) to sell at least one ticket. Thank you for your support.

WEEKEND COLLECTION 2/15/2026

St. Edward: Adult: \$1,190, Loose: \$113, Central MN Catholic: \$140, **Total: \$1,443**

St. Francis: Adult: \$285, Loose: \$112, **Total: \$397**

St. Mary: Adults: \$2,751, Loose: \$369, Central MN Catholic: \$125, Stained glass windows: \$150, Youth Group: \$100, Solemnity: \$50, Churches East Central: \$ 100, **Total: \$3,645**



Lenten Penance Service: Our ACC Penance Service will be at All Saints-St. Mary's on March 8th from 2-4:00 p.m. Many priests will be available.

Have you thought about how you can serve our church?

Everyone is welcome to become a Greeter, Usher, Sacristan, Gift Bearer, Server, Lector, Rosary Leader, Quilter, Social Justice Member, Knight of Columbus, Rel. Ed. Teacher, Chaperone for Youth, Choir Member or help at any event. Students who have completed 1st Communion can be servers. Those who have been Confirmed are considered adults in our parish and can join any ministry. Time and Talent Forms distributed with this bulletin can be put in the collection basket or sent to the Parish Office. Are you ready to join in the celebration?

St. Mary

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



Colton Joseph Tomsche &
Tessa Joy Tomsche
Son & Daughter (Twins!) of
Myles & Kaitlyn
February 22, 2026

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



Emerson Jae Minette
Daughter of Logan & Sadie
February 22, 2026
Congratulations to our
newly Baptized!

St. Francis

Journey with Jesus to Calvary

Upcoming Rehearsals:

March 1: 1:00 p.m. Main speaking parts

March 7: 11:00 a.m. Main speaking parts

March 7: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Costume fitting for all actors. There is still time to be a part of this year's production. We can still use actors, sheep, choir members and backstage.

Call Bob at 573-2933.

Performances are:

Wed., Mar. 25: 7pm, Fri., Mar. 27: 7:30pm,

Sat., Mar. 28: 7:30pm & Sun., Mar. 29: 1pm



**Knights of Columbus
St. Gregory Council
Grand Knight: Jeff Czech**

Winners of the Chili Cook-off:

Congratulations: Lori Bentfield, Lori Kokett, Ann Borash and Ember & Gary Borash

Thank you to all the entries and community that came to support. The proceeds are going to Elevate.

Annual Knights of Columbus Breakfast & Raffle will be on March 22nd.

Final Call: Catholic Men’s Conference

This Saturday! Don’t miss the final opportunity to register for the 2025 Catholic Men’s Conference happening this coming Saturday, February 28, 2026, at St. John’s University. The cost is just \$40 or \$10 for young men ages 15-22. Register today at <https://stcdio.org/event/catholic-mens-conference-2026/> and get fortified, strengthened, and coached to live the battle of life.



Adoration
at the Capitol

Join the bishops and staff of Minnesota Catholic Conference for Adoration at the Capitol, an opportunity for Catholics to come together in prayer for our state and our elected officials.

FRIDAYS | 9 AM – 2 PM
MARCH 6, APRIL 10, AND MAY 1, 2026
CAPITOL VAULT ROOM B15

MINNESOTA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Adoration at the Capitol

We’d love for you to join us in prayer! When you RSVP, you will receive a free parking pass and instructions on navigating the capitol. Visit: mncatholic.org/adoration. Pray with us!

Central Minnesota Koinonia

Are you living the Be-Attitudes? Koinonia is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St. Cloud Diocese designed for adults to help you on your faith journey. The next retreat is scheduled for March 20-22, 2026, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. \$70. Go to www.centralmnkoinonia.org to sign-up.



Bishop’s Annual Appeal

Thank you to all who generously gave to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. If you still have your envelope from home you can drop it in the Collection Basket or drop off in the Parish Office to be mailed. There are some envelopes in the entry of church also.



CRS Rice Bowl Feb 18th - April 3rd. Bowls are in the entry of our churches to take home. Learn more at csrricebowl.org/donate. Return to church by April 3rd so we can mail our donation together.

Upsala Housing Survey Help us plan for housing in our community by taking a survey (located in the entry of church).

This isn’t about raising taxes-it’s about understanding what kinds of homes people would like to see here in the future. Survey’s can be returned to the bill slot at the Upsala City Hall.

Catholic Movies & Series for Lent

The Last Supper: A powerful cinematic Biblical journey that brings to life the ultimate act of love and sacrifice as seen through the eyes of those who walked alongside Jesus. This reimagining unveils untold perspectives, offering a deeply human and spiritual exploration of the moments that shaped history and faith. Through the diverse voices surrounding Him, the story invites audiences to witness a powerful and intimate portrayal of redemption and grace. Embark on an extraordinary cinematic journey where a timeless story comes to life, faith finds new depth, and the power of belief unfolds in a way you’ve never experienced before.

The Chosen: Not specifically Lent related, but this series is incredible to watch any time of the year!

Full of Grace: There is one person in the gospel that had the experience of living thirty years with Jesus—from birth through His resurrection: Mary, His Mother. After a full life with the Son of God – fleeing into Egypt, losing him in the temple, and seeing him placed on the cross – Mary lives her final earthly days in reflection.

The David Movie: From the songs of his mother’s heart to the whispers of a faithful God, David’s story begins in quiet devotion. When the giant Goliath rises to terrorize a nation, a young shepherd armed with only a sling, a few stones, and unshakable faith steps forward. Pursued by power and driven by purpose, his journey tests the limits of loyalty, love, and courage —culminating in a battle not just for a crown, but for the soul of a kingdom.