

## News and Events



**Knights of Columbus  
St. Gregory Council  
Grand Knight Jeff Czech  
(320) 630-2753**

### Mass for the Knights of Columbus

#### Deceased members

Mass has been changed from Nov. 21, 2024 to Jan. 9, 2025

#### Christmas Potluck

The Knights Family Christmas Potluck will be on Dec. 15th after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's, Upsala. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

#### VA Escorts

Knights will be assisting with escorts on Dec. 29th at the VA in St. Cloud.

#### "O Antiphons"

From December 17th through Christmas Day, the "O" Antiphons are special antiphons traditionally sung during Evening Prayer. Referencing Old Testament passages that speak of the anticipated messiah, they announce the coming birth of Jesus and renew our hope during this season. Each antiphon is based on a different title for Jesus taken for the Old Testament—titles like Emmanuel, Key of David, Dayspring, and Wisdom. When gathered together as in hymns, these titles give voice to the Israelites' longing for the Messiah, as well as our own longing for Jesus to come—both at Christmas and the Second Coming. "O come, O come, Emmanuel— And ransom captive Israel—That mourns in lonely exile here—Until the Son of God appears" Rejoice, Rejoice!

#### An Extraordinary Opportunity for the Jubilee Year—Two Plenary Indulgences a Day

As a generous grace for this Jubilee, the Holy Father has permitted that, contrary to the usual rule that allow the reception of only on Plenary Indulgence a day, each of the faithful may, with a second reception of Holy Communion in the context of a Eucharistic Liturgy and the completion of a second act to which a Plenary Indulgence is attached, apply that indulgence to the dead. "Though indulgences the faithful can obtain the remission of temporal punishment resulting from sin for themselves and also for the souls in Purgatory."  
(CCC, No. 1498).

### Mary and the Saints ACC

Our current ACC members are finishing their first 3 year term. We are opening nominations during the month of December to fill 1 position from each parish. The ACC serves as an advisory committee to the priests of the parishes. As an ACC member, you meet with Fr. Jimmy, Fr. Gregory and all the other members quarterly to discuss and plan events involving all parishes. Members are also involved in discussing topics brought to the ACC by the diocese and any issues that are brought up by members or parishioners. If you have questions about the position, please feel free to contact any of the council members. If you would like to nominate someone for this position, please contact Katie at the parish office in Holdingford by the end of December. New members will be appointed in January to start their term in July. How can you get involved?

As an ACC committee, we continue to discuss how we can get more involvement in church and our faith formation programs. Across our parish communities, we discovered a common theme that we are all looking for more help with ministry and faith formation. So many things have taken priority in people's lives and attending mass and prayer are no longer a first priority. Sports are now 7 days a week and as parents we are not asking coaches to work around mass. When traveling, many do not make it a priority to find a Catholic Church to attend and rather skip mass that weekend. Our lives have become busy with so many things. Our children learn from our example. It is not the responsibility of the faith formation program to be the sole teachers of faith formation, this should start in our homes. As community members, are we inviting people to church? Are we encouraging our neighbors, friends, relatives to join us or come back to the faith if they have fallen away? Our faith community relies on everyone to be involved. Are you able to give back to the faith community through involvement in ministry or by assisting in some way with faith formation? We as an ACC council are asking everyone in our communities to prayerfully consider how you can help.

### *Spiritual Bouquet: A Gift of Prayer*

*The Following prayers will be offered up for you*

*--Rosary --Chaplet --Holy Hour --Mass Intention*

*Novena* -----

*Litany* -----

*Acts of Penance: Fasting, Forgiving, Almsgiving,*

*Service:* -----

### *Merry Christmas!*

*From*-----

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF Elmdale, Upsala and St. Francis : MARY & THE SAINTS ACC

*Parish Office*  
**308 South Main St., P.O. Box 249  
Upsala, MN 56384  
238catholic@sytekcom.com  
320 573 2132**



**St. Edward's, Elmdale  
St. Mary's, Upsala  
St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis**

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

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

**PARISH OFFICE:**  
308 South Main Street,  
P.O. Box 249, Upsala, MN 56384  
(320) 573-2132 : 238catholic@sytekcom.com  
Website: www.238catholic.org

**Bookkeeper:** Randi Klasen  
Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 8 am - 12 noon  
**Office Secretary:** Jessie Johnson  
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 am.- 4pm  
Please update the office if your phone or address changes.

**RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE**  
Saturday: St. Edward: 3:30 pm - 3:45 pm  
Sunday: St. Francis: 7:30 am - 7:45 am  
St. Mary: 9:30 am - 9:45 am

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

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND**  
Holy Communion can be brought to you or a loved one at home. Please contact the Central Office if needed.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**  
Couples need to begin preparations with Fr. Jimmy nine months in advance and must call him before setting the marriage date.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**  
Contact the office before the desired date.



Opening Mass of the  
2025 Jubilee Year  
December 29th, 6-7:30 p.m.

Pope Francis has declared the new Jubilee Year as the Year of Pilgrims of Hope. This Jubilee Year will officially open at the diocesan level on Sunday, December 29, 2024, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, with a solemn Mass for Opening the Jubilee Year at the Cathedral of St. Mary in St. Cloud at 6:00 p.m., beginning in the lower level. After gathering, a candlelight pilgrimage procession will proceed from the lower level to the front doors of the cathedral and veneration of the diocesan Jubilee Cross.

#### Jubilee Passport

In the papal bull announcing the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis asks the faithful to find "suitable ways for the Holy Year to be planned and celebrated with deep faith, lively hope and active to charity." To assist in this Journey, the Diocese of St. Cloud presents the "jubilee Passport: Pilgrims of Hope" project, sponsored by Catholic United Financial. This activity can be completed individually, as a family or as a group. Just as the jubilee logo features "four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth," people are encouraged to pilgrimage across the diocese by serving as beacons of hope ignited by prayers and actions. By participating in these holy pilgrimages and practices, participants may be eligible to receive plenary indulgences. During the Jubilee Year, pilgrims are encouraged to visit the sites listed in the passport or come up with their own pilgrimage options. Additionally, the Bishop's Choice stamp encourages pilgrims to visit other parishes around the diocese, particularly those in your Area Catholic Community. Passports are available in the entry of our churches, in the December issue of The Central Minnesota Catholic Magazine or by visiting the diocesan website: stc.dio.org.

**The Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 15, 2024**

### Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday 12/14		
4:00 p.m. St. Edward Youth Mass	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> Karla Schneider, Joan Theisen c, Volunteer c, <b>Lector:</b> Bethany Hartung & youth volunteer, <b>Servers:</b> Isaac Harren & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> John Kokett & Lydia Kokett, <b>Greeters:</b> Youth Volunteers, <b>Gifts:</b> Jasmyn & Jaxson Oldakowski & Bentley Hartung
Sunday 12/15		
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	Audrey Pflueger ~ Susan Geise	<b>EM of HC:</b> Syl Tschida, Chris Fuchs c, Judy Theisen c, <b>Lector:</b> Mary Jane Boeckermann, <b>Servers:</b> Owen & Lily Fuchs, <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, <b>Gifts:</b> Mike & Melissa Tschida
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	Special Intention ~Dave & Renee Scholz	<b>EM of HC:</b> Dave Scholz, Renee Scholz c, LeAnn Beneke c, <b>Lector:</b> Chantelle Frie, <b>Servers:</b> Beau Ripplinger & Anne Ripplinger, <b>Ushers:</b> Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger <b>Greeters:</b> Elmer Frie & Jan Kilian, <b>Gifts:</b> Nathan & Laura Ripplinger, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Judy Michels

### Weekday Masses

Monday, 12/16	
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Tuesday, 12/17	
6:00 p.m. St. Mary	† Terry Theis
Wednesday, 12/18	
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† James Theisen ~ Bob & Judy Theisen
Thursday, 12/19	
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Stanley Czech
Friday, 12/20	
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	† Marietta Mueller



2nd Tuesdays:  
St. Francis 8:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m.  
Thursdays:  
St. Mary's 12 noon - 9:00 p.m.  
First Fridays  
St. Edward's 12 noon -9:00 p.m.

**Pray for us:** Jim Negen, Raymond Kurowski, Florence Kurowski, Pat Euteneuer, Ron Dingmann, Kristy Brezinka, Kathy Hennek, Carol Langner, Judy Gerads, Millie Gerads, Marlene Vornbrock, Roger Thell, Jim Koczur, Alan Schumer, Gary Larson, Helen Heisick, Geraldine George, William Hill, Lorraine Frie, Dee Booth, Rosemary Pundsack, Kevin Lampert, Pat Harren & Ron Schmidt

For the sick : May you receive God's complete healing.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday 12/21		<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
4:00 p.m. St. Edward	† Arnold Molus	<b>EM of HC:</b> Joan Theisen, Jim Bartkowicz c, Volunteer c, <b>Lector:</b> Jerry Theisen <b>Servers:</b> Isaac Harren & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> Scott Wensmann & Dennis Trettel, <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers, <b>Gifts:</b> Ron & Nancy Stewart
Sunday 12/22		
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> Rebecca Schmidt, Rosanne Voss c, Alice Westrich c, <b>Lector:</b> Jane Keppers <b>Servers:</b> Emmalyn, Carter & Braden Harren, <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, <b>Gifts:</b> Herb & Sharon Wielenberg
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Joe, Elaine & Mark Schumer	<b>EM of HC:</b> Christine Weber, Lisa Zabinski c, Volunteer c <b>Lector:</b> Jan Kilian, <b>Servers:</b> Alayna Weber & Lauryn Weber, <b>Ushers:</b> Darren Lange & Mitch Lange, <b>Greeters:</b> Mikel & Julie Nelson, <b>Gifts:</b> Elmer, Mary & Lorraine Frie, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Marvin Wensmann

Please Note: The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday –Friday Dec. 25th-27th Blessings to you!

### All Cluster News

**Religious Education**  
K-6: Reba Leither (leitherreba@gmail.com) (701) 426-1607  
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 confirmation@tworiverscatholic.com  
**December 18th**  
**Grades K-6:** Home Lesson, 2nd Grade: Christmas Activities  
**Grades 7-10:** 7:00 p.m. Class  
**Confirmation:** Class at All Saints-St. Mary's

**Children's Liturgy**  
We are having Children's Liturgy at the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's. Contact Chelsea Fuchs: fuschschelsea92@gmail.com if interested in joining in. All children welcome.

**Steubenville-St. Paul for 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders:** July 25-27  
We are headed to the Steubenville Youth Conference in St. Paul on July 25-27, 2025! This is a weekend where high-schoolers are invited into a personal encounter of Jesus through the Sacraments, inspiring speakers, lively music, prayer, friends, fun, and more! It is a time for teens to deepen their relationship with Christ and grow in their Catholic faith. Check it out at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJf8abg9UaA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJf8abg9UaA)  
Limited spots available so reserve your spot before they are gone! For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Jim @ 320-229-2898.

**Advent Reflections**  
**Prayers** centering on joy and hope are perfect for the Advent season. Ideas include specific Advent devotionals or Advent readings, meditating with passages like Luke 1:34-38 or Isaiah 40:3, singing the "O" Antiphons, and praying novenas or prayers like the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love. Other passages from different books of the Bible include Luke 1:26-2:20, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 40:3, Amos 9:11-13, and the Acts of the Apostles. Meditating with figures like St. John the Baptist, the shepherds at the Nativity scene, and other biblical characters can also aid us in preparing the way for the Messiah. **The color of the Advent candle** lit each Sunday of Advent represents a different theme. The rose candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent to illustrate the joyful, anticipatory nature of the season.

**WEEKEND COLLECTION 12/8/2024**  
**St. Edward:** Adult: \$600, Loose: \$47, Fall Collection: \$275, Christmas Flowers: \$165, Retired Religious:\$100, Immaculate Conception: \$61 **Total: \$1,248**  
**St. Francis:** Adult: \$860, Loose: \$86, Votive: \$168.43, Thanksgiving: \$25, Christmas Flowers: \$70, Immaculate Conception: \$40, Christmas: \$100, **Total: \$1,424.43**  
**St. Mary:** Adult: \$1,235, Loose: \$192, Funeral: \$20, Christmas Flowers: \$160, Immaculate Conception: \$15, Retired Religious: \$77, Fall Collection: \$1,390 **Total: \$3,089**

### Upcoming Masses

**Christmas Vigil**  
4:00 p.m. (Singing begins)  
4:30 p.m., Tues., Dec. 24th at St. Edward's  
**Christmas Day**  
8:00 a.m. Wed., Dec. 25th at St. Francis  
10:00 a.m. Wed., Dec. 25th St. Mary's  
**New Year's/The Solemnity of Mary Vigil**  
4:00 p.m. Tues., Dec. 31st at St. Edward's  
**New Year's/The Solemnity of Mary**  
8:00 a.m. Wed., Jan. 1st at St. Francis  
10:00 a.m., Wed., Jan, 1st at St. Mary's

### St. Edward's News

**Christmas Decorating**  
We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Thursday, December 19th at 1:00 p.m. Everyone welcome to help!

### St. Mary's News

**Sacristan Duties**  
Volunteers are needed at St. Mary's in Upsala for the following Sacristan and decorating duties: Wash and iron purificators and other cloths used during Mass, Change altar cloths as needed, Maintain candles in votive stands and on the altar, Set up items before Mass, Put away items after Mass, Seasonal decoration in the Gathering Space - Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time, Water plants Please contact Kim Koehn (320) 232-3986 or Fr. Jimmy if interested in helping out.

**Christmas Decorating**  
We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 22nd after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Everyone welcome!

### St. Francis' News

**Christmas Decorating**  
We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 22nd after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. Join in!

**Baby Shower for Jesus**  
As Advent is here. The St Francis Christian Women will be hosting a Baby Shower for Jesus with a Basket in their church entry. All are welcome to donate to the shower in helping the Elevate Pregnancy Resource Center. Items currently needed are, baby hygiene kits, Clothes 9 -12 months, socks neutral colors, infant car seat covers, toys/teethers/books, diapers (NB to size 6), wipes, white onesies (long sleeve, neutral color muslin blankets, 8 oz bottles and gift cards (Target, Walmart, gas & grocery). Thank you!