

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

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Confessions are 1/2 hour before all Masses.

Please see Mass Schedule on next page.

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

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.



Advent Wreath

The first candle on the Advent wreath represents Hope -the first Sunday of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. It is purple, the primary color of Advent and a color symbolizing royalty. Sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle," the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Novena

With a few exceptions, we pray novenas for nine days. The St. Andrew Christmas Novena is one such exception – we pray this novena for 25 days, overlapping with much of the liturgical season of Advent. We begin the novena on the feast of St. Andrew on November 30th and conclude on Christmas Eve. Tradition holds that we pray the novena 15 times daily for a particular intention. This being said, pray in a way that works best for you.

Make the Sign of the Cross:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Say the St. Andrew Christmas Novena prayer:

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

Name any intentions or other prayers you wish to share with God. Maybe consider your response to Jesus's call to follow Him; just as he called on Andrew and Peter, he also calls on us to let go and surrender. Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent		
Saturday 11/29		
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Donald, Betty & Duane Herzog	EM of HC: Rosanne Voss, Judy Theisen c, Bob Theisen c, Lector: Jim Scholz, Servers: Emmalyn, Carter & Brayden Harren , Ushers: Mark Moorman & Syl Tschida, Gifts: Andy & Brittany Harren, Sacristan: Alice Westrich
Sunday 11/30		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† George Casazza	EM of HC: Julie Wensmann, Jim Wensmann c, Jackie Oldakowski c, Lector: Jeff Czech, Servers: Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Scott Wensmann & Dennis Trettel, Greeters: Volunteers, Gifts: Jim & Lora Bartkowicz
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	For the People	EM of HC: LeAnn Beneke, Jon Leither c, Volunteer c, Lector: Leonice Prokott, Servers: Anne Ripplinger & Emily Ripplinger, Ushers: Tom Kilian & Mary Frie, Greeters: Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger, Gifts: Nathan & Laura Ripplinger, Bank Deposit: Judy Michels

Weekday Masses

Monday, 12/1	
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy (No Mass)
Tuesday, 12/2	
6:00 p.m. St. Mary *Anointing of the Sick	† Jim Sundermann ~ Jane Keppers
Wednesday, 12/3	<i>St. Francis Xavier, Priest</i>
8:00 a.m. St. Francis *Anointing of the Sick	† Frank Gerads
Thursday, 12/4	<i>St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>
8:00 a.m. St. Edward *Anointing of the Sick	† Frank & Barbara Jendro ~ Bob & Ione Brezinka
Friday, 12/5	<i>First Friday</i>
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	Living & deceased members of the Charles & Loretta Gerads Family



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, Robert 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, & Jan Kilian

This Advent go deeper in your relationship with Jesus!

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday 12/6		
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	For the People	EM of HC: Judy Theisen, Rosanne Voss c, Mary Jane Boeckermann c, Lector: Jim Scholz, Servers: Volunteers, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: Isidore & Beverly Schmitz, Sacristan: Jeanette Gerads
Sunday 12/7		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Arnie Molus ~ Carol Molus	EM of HC: Derek Biniek, Julie Wensmann c, Jim Wensmann c, Lector: Jeff Czech, Servers: Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Mike Urbanski & Nick Schleper, Greeters: Megan Wensmann & Volunteer, Gifts: Greg & Renee Wensmann
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Virgil Berg ~ Marvin & Shirley Wensmann	EM of HC: Lisa Zabinski, Jon Lether c, Renee Scholz c, Lector: Tom Kilian, Servers: Lilli Leither & Volunteer, Ushers: Volunteers, Greeters: Randy & Jane Tretter, Gifts: Randy & Donna Roske, Bank Deposit: Marvin Wensmann

All Cluster News

Religious Education

K-6: Reba Leither (leitherreba@gmail.com) (701) 426-1607
K-6: Beth Lange (bethlange83@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 or confirmation@tworiverscatholic.com.

Upcoming Confirmation (Holdingford)

Wed., Dec. 3rd, 6:15 p.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's

Upcoming Faith Formation (Upsala)

Wed., Dec. 3rd, 6:30 p.m. Family Formation K-6 at St. Mary's

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy will be at the St. Mary's 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass in Upsala. If you have questions or would like to join in contact: Chelsea Fuchs: fuchschelsea92@gmail.com.

The "Thanks" Giving Tree The Holidays are fast approaching!!! This is a reminder to drop off your unwrapped gifts at St. Mary's Church no later than Sunday, Dec. 7th. Please tape your tag to your gift. Once again THANK YOU for your generosity.

Natural Family Planning

Alexandria on Monday, Dec. 15th at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. Contact Jill and Isaac Uphus (320) 290-8751 or at uphus.nfp@gmail.com.

Little Falls on Tuesday, Dec. 2nd at 7:30 p.m. at the NFP Office in the Unity Specialty Center of St. Gabriel's Hospital. Contact Mary at bontjesmary@yahoo.com or call the Little Falls NFP Office at 631-5660.

Sauk Centre on Thursday, Dec. 18th at St. Paul's Church or CentraCare Health – Sauk Centre Hospital. Contact Jill & Isaac Uphus at uphus.nfp@gmail.com or (320) 290-8751.

St. Cloud on Thurs. Dec. 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the Office of Marriage & Family. Contact Sheila Reineke at omf@gw.stcdio.org or (320) 258-7609.

All classes are approximately 1½ to 2 hours long. *Most insurance plans cover the cost of NFP!

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day, We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen. *Henri J.M. Nouwen*

WEEKEND COLLECTION 11/23/2025

St. Edward: Adult: \$840 Loose: \$101, All Saints: \$20, Thanksgiving: \$100, **Total: \$1,061**

St. Francis: Adult: \$1,111, Loose: \$137, Thanksgiving: \$30, Christmas Flowers: \$25 **Total: \$1,853**

St. Mary: Adults: \$838, Loose: \$244, Fall Collection: \$1,110, Christmas: \$400, **Total: \$2,592**



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

Knights of Columbus sponsored Christmas Family Potluck: Sunday, December 14th

Join us following the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's, Upsala. Bring your favorite dish and stories to share. Treats for the kids will be given. Everyone is welcome!

Over 80 Blessings for December



Denis Carlson (SE) 12/6
Geraldine George (SE) 12/6
Wilfred Vos (SM) 12/31



Please Note:

The Parish Office will be closed
Monday, Dec. 8th for the Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Youth Meeting: Sunday, Dec. 7th

All 8-12th grade youth are welcome to join us at our meeting at 5:00 p.m. at St. Mary's,

Christmas Caroling

Everyone is welcome to bring joy to the seniors at Vitality Living, Upsala by singing Christmas Carols on Monday, December 22nd at 6:30 p.m. Song sheets provided.

St. Francis' News

Men's Society Meeting

The SF Men's Society / CUF will be putting together goodie bags for St. Nick on Monday, Dec. 1 at 8:00 p.m. Meeting to follow.

Cemetery Flag Holders

The American Legion graciously provides the star flag holders for all the veterans in our parish cemetery. The flags are put out on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. The last 2 years when the flags were put out on Veteran's Day, two of the flag holders had been removed from a veteran's grave site. For this reason, all of the flag holders have been removed from the cemetery and will go up the day of their use. If by chance, you have removed a flag holder from a Loved one's gravesite, please return it to the church. Just place it on the table in the crying room. Thank you for helping to remedy this situation.

News and Events

Upcoming Mass Schedule

Immaculate Conception:

Dec. 8th: 6:00 p.m. Rosary & Chaplet-6:30 p.m. Mass-SM

Christmas Vigil & Day:

Dec. 24th: 4:30 p.m. SE

Dec. 25th: 8:00 a.m. SF & 10:00 a.m. SM

New Year's/Solemnity of Mary:

Dec. 31st: 4:00 p.m. SF

Jan. 1st: 8:00 a.m. SE 10:00 a.m. SM

Upsala American Legion

Auxiliary

is sponsoring *Wreaths Across America* in local cemeteries, and we need help in getting wreaths for all the area veteran's graves. All are invited to help place wreaths or attend the ceremony on December 13th at the Upsala Area Veterans Memorial, at 10:00 a.m.

Art of Conversation Gallery Christmas Market

Saturday, Dec. 6th & Dec. 13th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Main Street, Upsala.

Women's Advent Reflection:

Friday, December 12th

The women of Magnify warmly invite all women to a special Advent event from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Gathering Barn of Avon (35204 Co. Rd.). Experience a powerful evening of reflection led by National Catholic Speaker, Kristin Molitor. Enter into Praise and Worship with Abby Thomas, whose music beautifully draws hearts to prayer, and share in fellowship with Catholic women from across the area as we await the joy of Christmas. Light refreshments served. Contact: Leah for more information: leahbrixauthor@gmail.com.

**Magnify is an Apostolate of the Harvest of Hope Communities of Albany, Avon, St. Martin, and St. Anthony. It is a platform to create meaningful connections with Catholic women in our area.*

Pray for our Youth

We would like to cover our young people in prayer as they navigate this time in their lives with so many distractions pulling them from God. Please cut out the **Prayer for Youth** and pray daily or as often as you are able. Also, if you feel called to pray more intentionally for youth, we are looking for people to commit to praying one rosary per week or pray during the time Youth Group meets. Reach out to Mary Jane at 320-333-2472 if interested.

**JULY 24-26, 2026 | UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS
ST. PAUL, MN**



steubenville ST. PAUL



**WANT TO GROW IN
YOUR FAITH?**

**COME ENCOUNTER JESUS...
WITH 2,000 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
ON AN INSPIRING AND FUN
WEEKEND TO CELEBRATE AND
DEEPEN YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH!**

Grades 8-12

MASS ADORATION CONFESSIONS INSPIRING TALKS
ENERGETIC MUSIC SMALL GROUPS FUN & FREE TIME

MARY & THE SAINTS – St. Edward, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Mary

**COST: \$490, MEMBERS OF OUR PARISHES RECEIVE DISCOUNTS!!!
FUNDRAISERS WILL ALSO REDUCE FINAL COST**

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!

RESERVE A SPOT BY DEC. 8: TEXT OR CALL JIM @ 320-229-2898

Prayer For Youth

Lord Jesus, we ask that You bless and protect our teenagers as they journey through this special time in their lives.

Send the power of Your Spirit down upon them to give them the desire and courage to seek You with their whole heart.

Strengthen them to resist the temptations of the world and lead them in the path of holiness.

Bless their parents and guide them in raising their children.

Bless those preparing for Confirmation, give them open hearts to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Bless all those who work with young people, make them instruments of Your love and a sign to all teens of Your presence.

May Youth Ministry flourish in our parishes, bless it that it may draw young people into a deeper relationship with You and a love for their Catholic Faith.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

***Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be ***

Patrons of our Parishes St. Edward, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Mary, Pray for Them. St. Aloysius, Patron of youth, Pray for Them. All Angels and Saints of God, ...Pray for Them.