

News and Events



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

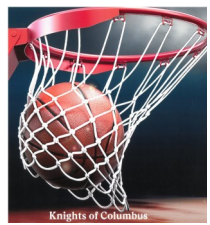
Mass for the Knights of Columbus Deceased members

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

VA Escorts

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

K of C Free Throw Contest



1st Level Contest at the local level will be on January 12th in the Upsala High School Gym for boys & girls ages 9 - 14. Contact Mike Klasen 320-248-3600 or Jeff Czech 320-630-2753



WATCH ON FORMED

Oh Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph and others as they make way for our Savior.

Grow in Your Relationship with Jesus

Let us bear this in mind: God is hidden in our life, he is always there – he is concealed in the commonest and most ordinary situations in our life. He does not come in extraordinary events, but in everyday things; he manifests himself in everyday things. He is there, in our daily work, in a chance encounter, in the face of someone in need, even when we face days that seem grey and monotonous, it is right there that we find the Lord, who calls to us, speaks to us and inspires our actions. Pope Francis (Angelus on November 27, 2022)

Lord, Jesus, be present in our hearts!

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 in our parishes?



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.



Bring Glad Tidings

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!" Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout of joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God. (Is 52:7-10)

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.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024



The Octave of Christmas

The octave of Christmas is celebrated as an eight-day feast which begins on the Nativity, December 25th, and continues to January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

Since at least the fourth century, Christians have celebrated the most important liturgical feasts with "octaves" — eight days of celebration. Christmas has been celebrated as an octave since at least the seventh century.

During the Christmas octave, the "Gloria" is sung each day during Mass, and each day is generally regarded as a day of great feasting. We also have the liturgical season of Christmas, which ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, celebrated in 2025 on January 12th.

After the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, "ordinary time" begins on the liturgical calendar. There are a lot of Christian cultures which continue to celebrate Christmas until Candlemas which takes place on February 2nd the feast commemorating the presentation of the Lord in the Temple.

The Presentation Feast is called "Candlemas" because it is the day on which the Church has traditionally blessed candles for liturgical use. Why? Because when the infant Jesus was presented in the Temple, St. Simeon called him a "light to the Gentiles" — and the light of Christ has been central to celebrating the presentation ever since. <https://www.pillaratholic.com/>.

Fourth Sunday of Advent		
Saturday 12/21		Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00 p.m. St. Edward	† Arnold Molus	EM of HC: Joan Theisen, Jim Bartkowiec c, Volunteer c, Lector: Jerry Theisen Servers: Isaac Harren & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Scott Wensmann & Dennis Trettel, Greeters: Volunteers, Gifts: Ron & Nancy Stewart
Sunday 12/22		
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	For the People	EM of HC: Rebecca Schmidt, Rosanne Voss c, Alice Westrich c, Lector: Jane Keppers Servers: Emmalyn, Carter & Braden Harren, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: Herb & Sharon Wielenberg
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Joe, Elaine & Mark Schumer	EM of HC: Christine Weber, Lisa Zabinski c, Volunteer c Lector: Jan Kilian, Servers: Alayna Weber & Lauryn Weber, Ushers: Darren Lange & Mitch Lange, Greeters: Mikel & Julie Nelson, Gifts: Elmer, Mary & Lorraine Frie, Bank Deposit: Marvin Wensmann
Weekday Masses		
Monday 12/23		<i>Merry Christmas from Fr. Jimmy and Staff!</i>
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary	
Tuesday 12/24		Christmas Vigil
4:30 p.m. St. Edward Singing begins at 4:00 p.m.	† Stanley Czech	EM of HC: Julie Wensmann, Jim Wensmann c, Jim Bartkowiec, Lector: Jeff Czech, Servers: Isaac Harren & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Brent Prokott & Andrew Prokott, Greeters: Raymond Kokett, Gifts: Steve & Kathy Blonigen
Wednesday 12/25		The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas)
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Audrey Pflueger ~Susan Geise	EM of HC: Janelle Roerick, Brittany Harren c, Colleen Harren c, Lector: Mary Jane Boeckermann, Servers: Emmalyn, Carter & Braden Harren Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: Mike & Alice Westrich
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	For the People	EM of HC: Cindy Koehn, Chantelle Frie c, Mike Klasen c, Lector: Kim Koehn, Servers: Riley Klasen & Wyatt Klasen, Ushers: Tom Kilian & Mary Frie Greeters: Mitchell & Brook Kingston, Gifts: Mikel & Julie Nelson, Bank Deposit: Mike Klasen
Thursday 12/26		
No Mass		<i>Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be Emmanuel. (Is 7:14)</i>
Friday 12/27		
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	† Leona Borg-Burggraff	
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph		
Saturday 12/28		The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
4:00 p.m. St. Edward	For the People	EM of HC: Jerry Theisen, Joan Theisen c, Volunteer c, Lector: Jim Bartkowiec, Servers: Isaac Harren & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Jeron Wensmann & Jim Czech, Greeters: Volunteers, Gifts: Brad & Crystal Hartung
Sunday 12/29		
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Edmund & Delores Roerick ~Roerick Family	EM of HC: Joyce Koopmeiners, Chris Fuchs c, Syl Tschida c, Lector: Rebecca Schmidt Servers: Owen & Lily Fuchs, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: Sheldon & Karla Tschida
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Melanie & William Feia ~ Russ & Gina Boeckermann Family	EM of HC: Renee Scholz, Dave Scholz c, Volunteer c, Lector: Leonice Prokott, Servers: Volunteers, Ushers: Bob Blonigen & Mikel Nelson, Greeters: Dave & Mary Hollenkamp, Gifts: Andy & Linda Langner, Bank Deposit: Judy Michels

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 25th

No Class: Attend Christmas Mass *Merry Christmas!*

Children's Liturgy

We are having Children's Liturgy at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Mary's. Contact Chelsea Fuchs: fuchschelsea92@gmail.com if interested in joining in.

Steubenville-St. Paul for 9-12th graders:

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

Limited spots available so reserve your spot before they are gone! For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Jim @ 320-229-2898.

Please Note:

The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday –Friday Dec. 25th-27th for Christmas & on Wednesday, January 1st for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Blessings to you!

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

ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

St. Edward: \$0 Sign-up for Online Contributions by filling out a form on our website or by
St. Francis: \$405 contacting the Parish Office to have a
St. Mary: \$705 form mailed or emailed to you.

WEEKEND COLLECTION 12/15/2024

St. Edward: Adult: \$1,075, Loose: \$31, Fall Collection:

\$1,950, Fire Fund: \$25, Immaculate Conception: \$10,

Total: \$3,091

St. Francis: Adult: \$487, Loose: \$128, Thanksgiving: \$25, Christmas Flowers: \$20, **Total: \$635**

St. Mary: Adult: \$2,420, Loose: \$286.55, Christmas: \$100, Christmas Flowers: \$220, Immaculate Conception: \$30, Ret. Religious: \$30, Fall Collection: \$560 **Total: \$3,646.55**

Upcoming Masses

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



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.

*Drop down dew from above, you heaven,/
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;/
let the earth be opened and bring forth a
Savior. Is 45:8*

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 and finish on Monday starting at 2:00 p.m. Join us!

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!