

The Catholic Churches of

St. Edward
Elmdale

St. Francis of Assisi
St. Francis

St. Mary
Upsala



Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

Pastor Fr. David Grundman 320-309-4174 (cell)

Sister Mary Pat Burger St. Francis Rectory 573-2203

CENTRAL OFFICE PO Box 249 Upsala, MN 56384

Office Hours 8am – 3:30pm

Mon. – Thurs. – Fri. *Modified*

Janice Wuebkers Office Manager

Tuesday at Royalton Church Office

Wednesday at Holdingford Church Office

Central Office 320-573-2132

FAX: 320-573-9133

Central Office email: 238catholic@sytekcom.com

Web site: www.238catholic.org

Diocesan web site: www.stclouddiocese.org

Elevate (Birthline) Hotline: 1-800-786-0200

St. Cloud Chancery: 320-251-2340

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chantelle Frie, Confirmation: 320-360-4796

Beth Lange, St. Mary/St. Edward, Gr 1-10: 320-630-8390

Niki Koopmeiners, St. Francis, Gr 1 - 10: 320-248-7553

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Saturday St. Mary 3:15 – 3:45pm

Sunday St. Edward 7:15 – 7:45am

St. Francis 9:15 – 9:45am

Tuesday St. Mary 5 – 5:45pm

Also by appointment

PRAYER LINE

Karen Liebsch (SM): 573-4127 Kathy Koehn (SM): 573-2363

Judy Theisen (SF): 573-2933 Joyce Koopmeiners (SF): 573-2728

Sally Schleper (SE): 573-2127

MINISTRY TO THE SICK & THOSE WHO CANNOT GET TO CHURCH

Holy Communion can be brought to you or a loved one at home, please contact the Central Office, 573-2132

Sacrament of Marriage: Couples need to begin preparations with the priest nine months in advance and must call the Pastor before setting a date.

Sacrament of Baptism: Contact the office before desired baptism date.

Remember in prayer those in need of the Lord's healing and strength:

Raymond Kurowski, Ken Wielenberg, Don Maciej, Margaret Carlson, Rodney Bartkowicz, Brenda Wuebkers

Additional Confession Times

Before and after daily Mass will be an opportunity for you to receive Jesus. Also, Fr David will be in the confessional Dec 15 at SM from 7-9pm; Dec 16 at SF from 7-9pm; and Dec 17 at SE from 7-9pm. Why do we punish ourselves and work so hard to hide our wrongs and sins? Sometimes our pride gets in the way of our admission. We refuse to confess to God or those we have offended because it expresses our deepest human fault. Our pride and ego can hold us back. It could also be that we feel bad because we have missed the mark spiritually and morally. But the good news is that we can take inventory and confess our sins to God.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS

St. Mary: Adult \$1,510.00; Loose \$39.00; Thanksgiving Tree \$ 200.00; Abuse Settlement \$300.00; Religious Retirement \$25.00; Christmas Flowers \$85.00; Thanksgiving \$90.00; Online Giving \$180.00 - **\$2,429.00**

St. Edward: Adult \$506.00; Loose \$18.00; Votive \$22.50; Thanksgiving \$112.00 - **\$658.50**

St. Francis: Adult \$311.00; Loose \$110.00; Fall Collection \$850.00; Thanksgiving \$335.00; Christmas Flowers \$25.00 - **\$1,631.00**

Mass Schedule Dec. 7 - 13, 2020

Monday: 12/7 *Immaculate Conception Vigil*
St. Francis 8:00pm † JoAnn Zenzen
- Lorene Koopmeiners

Tuesday: 12/8 *Immaculate Conception*
St. Mary 7:30am † Brian Boeckermann
- C & S Boeckermann

St. Edward Noon People of the Parishes

Wednesday: 12/9

St. Francis 8:00am † Janice Vogel

- Lorene Koopmeiners

Thursday: 12/10 *Our Lady of Loreto*

St. Edward 8:00am † Don Bartkowicz

Friday: 12/11 *St. Damasus I*

St. Mary 7:30am †† Elaine & Mark Schumer

Saturday: 12/12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

St. Mary 4:00pm People of the Parishes

Sunday: 12/13 *Third Sunday of Advent*

St. Edward 8:00am †† Norbert & Hellen Dehn

- Jim & Julie Wensmann

St. Francis 10:00am † Audrey Pflueger

2020 Contributions

All 2020 Contributions have to be in by Dec. 31, 2020. If a check comes in mid-January and the check is dated 2020, it will be counted as a 2021 contribution in the church's books.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



St. Mary 12 – 4pm First Wed. (1/6)

St. Edward 12 – 4pm First Fri. (1/1)

St. Francis 7am - 8pm 2nd Tues. (12/8)

Benediction follows Adoration in all parishes

PENANCE SERVICE

Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020

2 - 5pm

Church of St. Mary, Upsala

Five priests will be available to hear confessions



I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (Luke 15:7)

THREE SAINTS NEWS

Holy Day Mass Time Change

Sorry about the inconvenience, but please note that December 8th Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass will be at 7:30am at St. Mary and not at 7am as previously stated.

Church Decorators

Thanks for all the ever-beautiful advent decorations. They are simple yet most meaningful in helping us prepare to bring Jesus into our world.

Freeport Penance Service

Come to Sacred Heart Church December 9th at 7pm to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be a number of priests available.

Centralized Office Address

Parishioners from St Edward's and St Francis - note that when you mail items, please send it to our office in St Mary's. The more that we can streamline makes it easier for us.

Struggle with Pornography

The sin against purity and chastity is huge struggle for many men and young boys. The sooner that one can address these issues, the more likely one will not become addicted. Some people may find it helpful to meet with Fr David 1:1 or maybe if there is an interest in having regular group meetings. Please contact Fr David.

Take Home Missalettes

This is the last weekend in which missalettes will be made available in our parishes. Please consider taking them home to help prepare for the weekend Mass and/or bring them for Mass. Also, be open to giving extra copies to others.

Catholic Century Farm Awards

Catholic Charities Social Concerns is now taking applications for the diocese's third annual Catholic Century Farm Awards. If your family or members of your parish have been working the same land for 100 years or more, please visit the following link for requirements and application form: https://ccstcloud.formstack.com/forms/catholic_century_farm_award. Recipients will be honored at the annual Rural Life Celebration (pending pandemic regulations) or a special awards Mass with Bishop in August.

ST. MARY'S NEWS

Tues., Dec. 8 – 7:30am – *Volunteer lector needed*

Saturday, December 12 – 4pm

EM of HC: Dave Scholz *Lector:* Jan Kilian

Greeter: Jan Kilian

Ushers: Brian Lange & Matt Ripplinger

Bells of St Mary's

What do you think about hearing our bells and chimes once again? When might be the best times for the bells? ... for the chimes? Please talk to Fr David or contact the parish office for your suggestions. It's been said that many non-Catholics in year's past have enjoyed the chimes with various Christmas songs.

ST. EDWARD'S NEWS

Tues., Dec. 8 – Noon – *Volunteer lector needed*

Sunday, December 13 – 8am

EM of HC: Jim Wensmann *Lector:* Dennis Biniek

Greeters: Jim & Julie Wensmann

Ushers: Jeron Wensmann & Jim Czek

Cemetery Maintenance

Thanks for all the prayers as this winter will be a time for raise monies to help with some of the expenses. In addition to the road, there is discussion about pouring cement rows or ribboning for the new plots. Take a look at the parish cemetery in Sobieski as they made ribbons for their entire cemetery. If you are able to donate for these and other improvements, please make out your check to St Edward's and in the memo simply state: 'Cemetery Maintenance'.

Confessional Updated

What do you think about our confessional? Fr David is excited as he thinks that this will work much better than the cry room. Especially with some of our elderly with hard of hearing and difficulty to kneel can make it very challenging. By having face-to-face and behind-the-screen available is what the church has asked of all parishes.

Edward Jendro 92 yrs. old

When was the last time you attended a Latin Mass? Ed, longtime parishioner and his family would frequent the Latin Mass in Flensburg. Come join us this Monday, Dec 7th at 11am at St Edward's for Ed's funeral. Visitation will be at Shelly Funeral Home in Little Falls from 4-7pm Dec 6th.

ST. FRANCIS' NEWS

Monday, December 7 – 8pm – Immaculate Conception

EM of HC: Judy Theisen *Lector:* Clara Pflueger

Greeter: Dan Lange

Sunday, December 13 – 10am

EM of HC: Mary Jane Boeckermann

Lector: Barb Moorman *Greeter:* Rosanne Voss

Church Cleaner Found

Thanks to Judy Theisen for her openness to this position. No doubt she is busy like everyone else, so it is great that she can fit this into her schedule. Please remember to thank her for taking on this position.

Church Decorating

Church decorating will be after Mass on Dec. 13th. Outside decorating will be this week. If you are interested contact Bob or Chad. Confirmation students who are looking for hours are welcomed to come help.

Christmas Gift Ideas

St Francis sewing circle has embroidered dish towels, hot pads, hand towels, scrubbies, clothes pin bags, quilts for sale. Interested or questions call 573-2509. If no answer leave a message. Pictures of some items are on the website.

Baby Shower For Jesus

During advent season St. Francis Christian Women will once again have a bassinet at church to accept items for Elevate. Items most needed: Newborn to 12 months clothes, boy and girl, baby toys, bath toys, diapers (newborn to size 3), gift cards, and cash donations (put in envelope/collection) labeled. Please only these items at this time. All are welcome to Donate Wishlist items. A Blessed Thank you in advance from St. Francis Christian Women

NOTES FROM FR. DAVID

Twice this weekend we hear Isaiah's directive: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths." How are we preparing for the Lord to make roads into our lives, into our hearts? What obstacles has our self-centeredness placed in the way and how can we remove them? For what do we need forgiveness and what repentance can we make?

This Tuesday, we celebrate Mary's Immaculate Conception. Chosen by God to bear the Son of God, free from the stain of original sin from the moment of her own conception, Mary was uniquely qualified to carry Jesus in her womb. Let Mother Mary's obedience inspire us to give God our assent to bring Christ to the world. Please note the change of Mass time Tuesday morning to 7:30am.

I'm praying that your schedule will allow you and your family to join this Sunday, December 6th from 2-5pm at St Mary's in Upsala. With the children and youth's penance service cancelled last week, I hope that they will be able to come to Jesus as well. There are many graces available when we come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will have five priests available, so please join us. Would it not be awesome if everyone would receive this sacrament this Advent Season?

'Retirement Fund for Religious' is a yearly collection (Dec 12-13) in which you should have an envelope. Did you know that nearly 30,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit from this your generosity? Donations from across the United States helps provide for their needs. They know that our own parishes and parishioners are also confronting financial difficulties being brought about by Covid-19. Thank you for doing your part and remember that God is never outdone in generosity.

After much prayer and discernment along with discussions with others, I have decided to resume the 'Sign of Peace' at Mass. Know that with your family handshakes, kisses and hugs are just fine, however with others please refrain from touching others as we have to keep the six feet social distance. I pray that more of us would wear face coverings during Mass. I had my yearly visit with my medical doctor recently and she just couldn't understand why many people don't wear masks in church. She shook her head stating that she other health professionals wear them 8-10 hours each day.

Bishop Kettler writes, "Staying alert and being watchful require some different things from us at this time. We prepare well for the coming of Christ when we put the needs of others ahead of our own needs — when we sacrifice for the good of others. This means wearing a mask to lessen the threat of spreading COVID-19, practicing physical distancing and washing our hands frequently. We've been asked to do these things for a long time, and some days we are understandably tired of doing them. But these simple practices demonstrate love and compassion for others, especially for the most vulnerable. They are an important way of showing love for our neighbors during what is a difficult time for everyone." Go online to 'Central MN Catholic' for Bishop's entire Nov 29 article.