

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.

What is a Godparent?

The entire Church has a share in the development and safeguarding of the grace given in Baptism. In a way, each Christian has a “motherly” or “fatherly” role to every other Member of the Body of Christ. But in a particular way, the Godmother and Godfather are chosen as “able and ready to help the newly baptized – child or adult on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function (CCC 1255).”

The Godparents are to have a strong and living faith, in good standing with the Church, and able to help the parents in raising the child in the faith. In fact, they are swearing before God and man to do just that. And if something is to happen to one or the other of the parents, they have an obligation to do all in their power to raise the child in the faith.

What to Look for When Choosing Godparents

It is important to understand who Godparents can be according to Canon Law. If we do not understand this, it can lead to hurt feeling later if we ask someone who cannot actually fulfill the role.

Godparents must be chosen by the parents with the capacity and intention to serve as Godparents. They must be at least 16 years old. They must be a Catholic in good standing, who has been confirmed and has received the Holy Eucharist. The Godparent cannot be the father or mother of the child. Finally, there can only be one male and one female Baptismal Sponsor.

While some parents might want to ask their non-Catholic friend to be a Godparent, this is not possible. A baptized non-Catholic can serve as a “Christian witness” provided there is one Catholic Godparent in addition.

The Godparent should pray for their Godson or Goddaughter. They should be a source of inspiration as they discern their vocation later in life. They should be available to answer questions about Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church. They should be available to help protect and guide the life of faith for the child.

Godparent: A very Serious Role

To be a Godparent is a profound privilege. It should be treated as a decision with life-long commitment and seriousness. When a man or woman becomes a Godparent, they are taking upon themselves the obligation to helping the parents raise the child in grace, truth, hope, faith, and charity.

<https://catholic-link.org/how-to-choose-godparents-for-your-child/>


MCCL 's annual dinner

is January 25, 2026 at the Falls Ballroom, Little Falls. Social hour is 12:00-12:45, dinner 12:45-1:45, program starts at 1:45. Meal tickets are \$18.00 each. RSVP is due by January 18th. Please call Sue Houdek at 320-630-7045 to reserve your meal(s) or for more information.

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 1/17		<i>St. Anthony, Abbot</i>
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Eugene Lashinski	EM of HC: Brittany Harren, Colleen Harren c, Alice Westrich c, Lector: Jim Scholz, Servers: Emmalyn, Carter & Brayden Harren, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: Herb & Sharon Wielenberg, Sacristan: Bob Theisen
Sunday 1/18		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	For the People	EM of HC: Karla Schneider, Jerry Theisen c, Joan Theisen c, Lector: Jim Bartkowicz, Servers: Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Mike Urbanski & Nick Schleper, Greeters: Volunteers, Gifts: Steve & Kathy Blonigen
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Paul Ampe	EM of HC: Jon Leither, Chantelle Frie c, Lisa Zabinski c, Lector: Leonice Prokott, Servers: Anne Ripplinger & Emily Ripplinger, Ushers: Bob Blonigen & Mikel Nelson, Greeters: Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger, Gifts: Jamie & Jenny Leners, Bank Deposit: Nathan Ripplinger

Weekday Masses

Monday, 1/19		 <p>Adoration 2nd Tuesdays: St. Francis 8am -7pm Thursdays: St. Mary's 12 noon - 9 pm First Fridays: St. Edward's 12 noon -9 pm</p>
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy (No Mass)	
Tuesday, 1/20	<i>St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr</i>	
6:00 p.m. St. Mary	† Eileen Stiller	
Wednesday, 1/21	<i>St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr</i>	
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	Living & Deceased Members of the St. Francis Men's Society	<p>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 & Sherry Schumer</p>
Thursday, 1/22	<i>Day of Prayer for legal protection of the Unborn</i>	
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	Living & Deceased members of the Carlson Family	
Friday, 1/23	<i>St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin</i>	
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	Healing and recovery for Annunciation Church, Mpls	

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 1/24		<i>St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church</i>
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Lorraine Ettel ~Arnie Dobmeier	EM of HC: Rosanne Voss, Janelle Roerick c, Syl Tschida c, Lector: Jane Keppers, Servers: Volunteers, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: Mike & Alice Westrich, Sacristan: Judy Theisen
Sunday 1/25		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	For the People	EM of HC: Jim Wensmann, Julie Wensmann c, Jackie Oldakowski c, Lector: Tracey Hartung, Servers: Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: John Kokett & Raymond Kokett, Greeters: Volunteers, Gifts: Kris & Carrie Wensmann
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Rose Mary Binek	EM of HC: LeAnn Beneke, Mike Klasen c, Cindy Koehn c, Lector: Tom Kilian, Servers: Riley Klasen & Wyatt Klasen, Ushers: Darren Lange & Mitch Lange, Greeters: Volunteers, Gifts: Mikel & Julie Nelson, Bank Deposit: Mike Klasen

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 Dates (Holdingford)

Wed., Jan. 21st, 6:15 p.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's,

Upcoming Faith Formation (Upsala)

Wed., Jan. 21st, at St. Mary's

6:30 –9:00 p.m. 7-10th grade Class * **note time change! We will be attending The Todd Becker Foundation Event.**

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.

Youth Group – Sunday, January 25, 5:00-6:30 p.m., at St. Mary's. Come for Fun, Food, and Faith! All 8th-12th graders welcome to attend! Bring a friend!

Steubenville Youth Conference Meeting

The meeting for all those registered for the Steubenville Youth Conference is being **rescheduled** due to multiple conflicts. New date upcoming!



Back row: Ashton Bartkowicz, Tristan Hellmann, Bryson Fuchs, Jaxson Oldakowski, Isaiah Barthel **Front row:** Skylar Kingston, Dakota Reece, Kendra Goebel, Lexi Ley, Khloe Kaiser, Fr Jimmy Joseph

SOLEMNITY OF MARY COLLECTION 1/1/2026

St. Edward: Adult: \$1,009, Loose: \$44, **Total: \$1,053**

St. Francis: Adults: \$515, Loose: \$218, Votive: \$352.39, **Total: \$1,085.39**

St. Mary: Adult: \$840, Loose: \$118, **Total: \$958**

WEEKEND COLLECTION 1/11/2025

St. Edward: Adult: \$1,280, Loose: \$262, Fire Fund: \$100, Funeral Fund: \$25, Central MN Catholic: \$20, **Total: \$1,687**

St. Francis: Adult: \$675.50, Loose: \$78, **Total: \$753.50**

St. Mary: Adults: \$1,629, Loose: \$236.50, Funeral: \$20, **Total: \$1,885.50**

Christmas Decorations

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas and the ones who helped take it down again in each of our parishes. Our churches looked amazing! All your help was greatly appreciated.

St. Edward's News

St. Edward Corner Group Schedule 2026

January –March: St. John Group

April-June: St. Peter Group

July –September: St. Catherine Group

October –December: St. Theresa Group

Your Corner group is to do an activity within your months. The Chairperson, someone already assigned to your group, will contact you. Our Spaghetti Supper (April 10) will be done by the Parish & St. Edward's parishioners instead of the corner group.

St. Francis' News

Journey with Jesus

The Christmas season has just ended but Easter is very early this year so we have to start planning the Journey with Jesus to Calvary production. There will be a meeting on Sunday, Jan. 25th at 11:30 a.m. in the St. Francis Church Basement. **Anyone** is welcome to attend. If you were part of last year's production and want to be again, come to the meeting and give your input on days and times. If you want to be a part in this year's production but cannot make the meeting, call Bob at 573-2933, especially all speaking parts.

Thank you!

Thank you to the parishioner who donated the cabinet in the Mother's Room. It is working out very well!

St. Francis Men's Society/CUF

There will be a meeting on Monday, January 19th at 8:00 p.m. in the church basement. It's that time of year again to start planning for our Matching Grant Breakfast coming up on Feb. 22nd. If you would like to help plan, you are more than welcome to attend.

"Baby shower for Jesus"

The St. Francis Christian Women are accepting donations until Sunday, Jan. 17th in the bassinet in the entrance of church for Elevate. Items needed are: Baby wipes, newborn onesies, swaddle blankets, infant bath soap, lotion, diapers cream, diapers of all sizes, Baby bottles, pacifiers-see more on the list near the bassinet.

News and Events



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

Annual K of C Free Throw Contest

Congratulations to the winners of the Free Throw Contest held on January 11th.

Girls: Joelle Vetsch, Faith Huston, Peyton Quirk, Aria Tanner, Ellie Loehlein, Hallie Boeckermann

Boys: Clayton Fuchs, Gabriel Barthel, Benjamin Ripplinger, Jacob Dierenfeld

Feb. 8th will be the District Level Free Throw Contest

Check-in begins at 12:30 p.m. with contest at 1:00 p.m. for boys and girls ages 9-14. All welcome to support! For questions call Mike Klasen (320) 248-3600 or just come to the school.

Mark your calendars for our annual Knights of Columbus Breakfast & Raffle on March 22nd. More details to follow. If you would like to donate a prize for the raffle please contact John Kokett by Jan. 20th. (320) 573-4239.



**MCCL March for Life,
Join us at the Capitol in St. Paul: January 22nd**

Prayer service at the Cathedral of St. Paul is at 10:30 a.m. The March begins at Noon and is followed by a program from 12:30-1:00 on the Capitol steps.

To learn more and to make a reservation to ride a bus visit: <https://stcdio.org/event/march-for-life-2026/>. To ride the St. Cloud bus contact Jan at 258-7615. To ride the Richmond bus contact Linda (320) 267-6268.

9 Days for Life Novena

Beginning January 16th you can pray each day for life by visiting: <https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-daily-prayers>. Each day contains an Intention, Prayers, Reflection and Acts of reparation.

Central MN Koinonia is a weekend Catholic retreat program that is designed to help you know the ways of the Lord. We are called to bring the love of Christ to the world! The next retreat is scheduled for January 23rd-25th at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Cost of the weekend is \$70. Go to www.centralmnkoinonia.org for more information and

The Upstage Players performances of Death by Chocolate will be on January 30th and 31st at 7:00 p.m. (dinner-\$35) and an afternoon show (dessert-\$10) on February 1st at 2:00 p.m. Performances are at St. Mary's, Upsala. Call Lisa Hansen (320) 250-2676 for tickets. Dinner tickets must be purchased before Jan. 16th, Matinee tickets will be sold at the door.

The Todd Becker Foundation Presents

HEAR THE STORY

BE MOVED



Hear the life-changing
TODD BECKER STORY



with Speaker
KEITH BECKER

Featuring: **ATN ALL THE NOISE**

FREE BAND T-SHIRTS TO THE FIRST 15 STUDENTS

LOCATION: UPSALA HIGH SCHOOL
DATE: JAN. 21ST TIME: 7-9 P.M.

toddbecker.org A Christian Ministry and Message

12th Annual

Valentine

Mass & Meal

Saturday, February. 14th
5:30 p.m. Mass with a social hour to follow. Candlelit meal at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$70 per couple will be sold after Mass starting January 18th or call the office to reserve tickets. There are 3 choices: prime rib, walleye or bone-in chicken breast along with potato, vegetable, salad, and dessert. Beverages available for purchase. Tips and proceeds will support youth activities in our parishes.

St. Cloud Diocese Winter Spectacular: January 24th-25th

The 2026 Middle School Lock-in for grades 6-8 will be at the YMCA, St. Cloud. Cost is \$50 Mass with Bishop Neary. Share faith, food, and fun. Contact the Parish Office if interested.

Hear the Story: Be Moved- 7-9pm, Wednesday, Jan. 21st

This Foundation was started following the death of 18 year-old Todd Becker, who was killed in an alcohol related car accident in 2005. Since its inception, the Todd Becker Foundation ministry has visited over 500 public high schools, reaching nearly 100,000 students with their message that challenges students to take the narrow road in their journey through life. See poster.

A 30 day prayer intentions challenge for this event began December 22nd-available church entry. Pray with us!