

# 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](http://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**

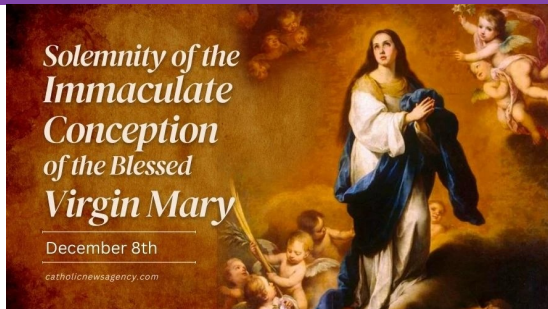
Holy Communion can be brought to you or a loved one at home. Please contact the Central Office if needed.

## **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.



## **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Dec. 8th**

"The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a

singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

In 1854, Pope Pius IX's solemn declaration, "Ineffabilis Deus," clarified with finality the long-held belief of the Church that Mary was conceived free from original sin. Mary was granted this extraordinary privilege because of Her unique role in history as the Mother of God. That is, she received the gift of salvation in Christ from the very moment of her conception.

Even though Mary is unique in all humanity for being born without sin, she is held up by the Church as a model for all humanity in Her holiness and Her purity in her willingness to accept the Plan of God for her.

Every person is called to recognize and respond to God's call to their own vocation in order to carry out God's plan for their life and fulfill the mission prepared for them since before the beginning of time. Mary's "Let it be done to me according to Thy Word," in response of the Angel Gabriel's greeting, is the response required of all Christians to God's Plan.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a time to celebrate the great joy of God's gift to humanity in Mary, and to recognize with greater clarity, the truth that each and every human being has been created by God to fulfill a particular mission that he and only he can fulfill.

"The word of the Lord came to me thus: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you." (Jer. 1:5-6)  
<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/>

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 7, 2025**

## Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday 12/6		
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> Judy Theisen, Rosanne Voss c, Mary Jane Boeckermann c, <b>Lector:</b> Jim Scholz, <b>Servers:</b> Volunteers, <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, <b>Gifts:</b> Isidore & Beverly Schmitz, <b>Sacristan:</b> Jeanette Gerads
Sunday 12/7		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Arnie Molus ~ Carol Molus	<b>EM of HC:</b> Derek Biniek, Julie Wensmann c, Jim Wensmann c, <b>Lector:</b> Jeff Czech, <b>Servers:</b> Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> Mike Urbanski & Nick Schleper, <b>Greeters:</b> Megan Wensmann & Volunteer, <b>Gifts:</b> Greg & Renee Wensmann
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Virgil Berg ~ Marvin & Shirley Wensmann	<b>EM of HC:</b> Lisa Zabinski, Jon Lether c, Renee Scholz c, <b>Lector:</b> Tom Kilian, <b>Servers:</b> Lilli Leither & Volunteer, <b>Ushers:</b> Volunteers, <b>Greeters:</b> Randy & Jane Tretter, <b>Gifts:</b> Randy & Donna Roske, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Marvin Wensmann
Monday 12/8		<b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
6:30 p.m. St. Mary (Rosary at 6:00 p.m.)	† Leona Burggraff-Borg	<b>EM of HC:</b> Mike Klasen, Chantelle Frie c, Cindy Koehn c, <b>Lector:</b> Mary Hollenkamp, <b>Servers:</b> Riley Klasen & Wyatt Klasen, <b>Ushers:</b> Darren Lange & Mitch Lange, <b>Greeters:</b> Mikel & Julie Nelson, <b>Gifts:</b> Andy & Linda Langner, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Mike Klasen

## Weekday Masses

Tuesday, 12/9	<i>St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin</i>
6:00 p.m. St. Mary	† Brian Lange
Wednesday, 12/10	<i>Our Lady of Loretto</i>
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Donald, Betty & Duane Herzog
Thursday, 12/11	<i>St. Damasus I, Pope</i>
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Margaret & Allen Carlson
Friday, 12/12	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	† Eugene Lashinski



### 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

*God, be with me today.  
Help my heart be open to the ways Jesus is at work in my life.  
Amen.*

## Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday 12/13		<i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Audrey Pflueger ~ Darrell & Susan Geise Family	<b>EM of HC:</b> Brittany Harren, Joyce Koopmeiners c, Colleen Harren c, <b>Lector:</b> Barb Moorman, <b>Servers:</b> Emmalyn, Carter & Brayden Harren, <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, <b>Gifts:</b> Jim & Tammy Lehner, <b>Sacristan:</b> Joyce Koopmeiners
Sunday 12/14		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> Jim Bartkowicz, Jerry Theisen c, Joan Theisen c, <b>Lector:</b> Tracey Hartung, <b>Servers:</b> Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> John & Raymond Kokett, <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers, <b>Gifts:</b> Brad & Crystal Hartung
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	Special Intentions of Dave & Renee Scholz	<b>EM of HC:</b> Chantelle Frie, Cindy Koehn c, Jon Leither c, <b>Lector:</b> Kim Koehn, <b>Servers:</b> Lilli Leither & Volunteer, <b>Ushers:</b> Tom Kilian & Mary Frie, <b>Greeters:</b> Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger, <b>Gifts:</b> Mikel & Julie Nelson, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Judy Michels

## All Cluster News

### Religious Education

K-6: Reba Leither ([leitherreba@gmail.com](mailto:leitherreba@gmail.com)) (701) 426-1607  
K-6: Beth Lange ([bethlange83@gmail.com](mailto:bethlange83@gmail.com)) (320) 630-8390  
7-10: Randi Klasen ([randiklasen@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:confirmation@tworiverscatholic.com).

### Upcoming Confirmation (Holdingford)

Wed., Dec. 10th, 6:15 p.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's

### Upcoming Faith Formation (Upsala)

Wed., Dec. 10th, 6:30 p.m. Confessions (parents may join in) at St. Mary's.

**Remember:** Monday, Dec. 8th is The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary-a Holy Day of obligation.

### 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](mailto: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 this Sunday, Dec. 7th. Please tape your tag to your gift. Once again THANK YOU for your generosity.

### Please Note:

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



### Feast of St. Lucy: Dec. 13th

Celebrate by praying a novena to Saint Lucy, attend Mass in her honor, or listen to the song "Sancta Lucia." In Sweden, girls will serve their family a sweet treat while wearing all white and a crown with candles.

### ACC Penance Service Sunday, Dec. 14th

All are welcome to come to Confession from 2-4:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, Upsala. 4 to 5 priest available.

### ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

<b>St. Edward:</b> \$200	Sign-up for Online Contributions by filling out a form on our website or by contacting the Parish Office to have a form mailed/mailed to you.
<b>St. Francis:</b> \$405	
<b>St. Mary:</b> \$1,005	

### St. Mary's Fall Collection

As of Dec. 1st the Fall Collection is at \$6,200. Thank you so much for to those who have given so far!

### WEEKEND COLLECTION 11/30/2025

**St. Edward:** Adult: \$1,245 Loose: \$105, Votive: \$164.06, Thanksgiving: \$615, Thanksgiving loose: \$129, Fire Fund: \$5, Christmas Flowers: \$190, **Total: \$2,458.06**  
**St. Francis:** Adult: \$441, Loose: \$88, Thanksgiving: \$320, Christmas Flowers: \$50, Mass: \$ 20 **Total: \$919**  
**St. Mary:** Adults: \$572, Loose: \$207.86, Fall Collection: \$1,400, Christmas Flowers: \$65, Thanksgiving: \$165, **Total: \$2,409.86**

Mary & the Saints  
St. Edward, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Mary

# YOUTH GROUP

ALL 8-12th Graders Welcome

Theme:  
*The* **BATTLE!**

**SUNDAY, December 7**  
**5:00-6:30pm**  
**St. Mary's - Upsala**

Bring a Friend!

Scan to follow on Instagram

**Steubenville Youth Conference**, July 24-26, St. Paul. - Come encounter Jesus with 2000 other teens! For more information or to save your spot, text Jim @ 320-229-2898. Open to current 8-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Parish registration deadline is **Dec 8<sup>th</sup>!**

### Pray for our Youth

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. Call Mary Jane at 320-333-2472 if interested.



### Christmas Decorating

Please join in to help with decorating our beautiful churches this year. All are welcome to attend!

St. Edward: Thursday, Dec. 18th at 1:00 p.m.  
St. Francis: Saturday, Dec. 20th after Mass.  
St. Mary: Sunday, Dec. 21st after Mass.

### 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

## News and Events



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

### **Meeting:**

December 9th at St. Edward at 7:00 p.m.

### **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!

### **Upsala American Legion Auxiliary**



We are in need of help in getting wreaths on all the area veteran's graves. Everyone is 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. 13th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. 105 S. Main Street, Suite 2, 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.

### **Retirement Fund for Religious Dec. 13 &**

**14** The kindness shown by Catholics across the country since the first collection in 1988 has made a tangible difference in the lives of senior religious. Your generosity has helped the more than 20,500 women and men religious who rely on this collection to help meet their increasing eldercare expenses. There is an envelope in your Sunday Collection packet if you would like to give. Thank you for your generosity!

### **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.



**2nd Week of Advent** Often called the Bethlehem Candle, the second candle of the Advent wreath reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and that after division, destruction, and a dispersion of the kingdom will come a time of peace.



### **The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe:** **Feast Day-Dec. 12th**

The feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16th century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story.

A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady.

Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess.

The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/>