



The Catholic Churches

St. Edward St. Francis of Assisi St. Mary
Elmdale St. Francis Upsala



Behold, the Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Mt 1:18

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2022

Pastor: Fr. David Grundman- (320) 309-4174
Sister Mary Pat Burger –St. Francis Rectory (320) 573-2203
Randi Klasen -Bookkeeper Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 8 am - noon
Jessie Johnson -Secretary Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 am - 4 pm
CENTRAL OFFICE 308 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 249,
Upsala MN 56384
Phone: (320) 573-2132 Website: www.238catholic.org
Email: 238catholic@sytekcom.com
RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE
Saturday: St. Edward~ 3:15 - 3:45 pm
Sunday: St. Francis~ 7:15 -7:45 am, St. Mary ~ 9:15 - 9:45 am
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
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Chantelle Frie(320) 360-4796 chantellefrie@gmail.com
Reba Leither (701) 426-1607 leitherreba@gmail.com
Roseanne Throener (320) 360-2196 arthroener@gmail.com
ADORATION
St. Edward's –monthly, the 1st Friday of the Month, 12 - 9 pm
St. Francis– monthly, the 2nd Tuesday of the month 7am-7 pm
St. Mary– Weekly, every Thursday 12-9 pm

Please update the office if your phone or address has changed.

Three Saints News

Ministry Volunteers needed: Dec. 24

We have an additional Christmas Mass for 5:30 pm at St. Mary's, Upsala. There is a sign up sheet in the entry of St. Mary's by the Holy Water Font for those willing to serve. Volunteers can be from any of our parishes.

Upsala Solemnity of Mary Mass Times:

Dec. 31 4 pm St. Edward, Elmdale
Jan 1 8 am St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis
10 am St. Mary, Upsala

Holdingford Christmas/Solemnity Mass Times:

Dec. 24 4 pm Immaculate Conception, St. Anna
12 midnight All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford
Dec. 25 8 am All Saints-St. Hedwig's, Holdingford
10 am St. Columbkille, St. Wendel
Dec. 31 5 pm St. Columbkille, St. Wendel
11:30 pm All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford
Jan. 1 8 am All Saint-St. Mary's, Holdingford
10 am Immaculate Conception, St. Anna

Please note: Our office will be closed on December 23 & 26 for Christmas and on January 2 for the Solemnity of Mary.

Area Church Events

St. Cloud Mission Office Advent and Christmas Open House

December 1st to 22nd receive 10% off ALL Fair Trade crafts, food, quilts coffee, chocolates, and more. Please consider shopping Fair Trade for all your gifts this Christmas.
11 Eight Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN. (320) 251-1100.

Advent Reconciliation Service

Come to St. Mary's Cathedral on Dec. 20 to celebrate God's love and forgiveness at 6:30 pm.

Pray for us:

Raymond Kurowski, Ken Wielenberg, Margaret Carlson, Ken & Pat Euteneuer, Ron Dingman, Kristy Brezinka, Ramona Heurung, Arnold & Donna Scholz, Irene Lashinski, Darwin Binek & Kathy Hennek, Linus & Marjorie Lehner, Carol Langner, Judy Gerads, Bruce Wolters, Rose Beniek, Dennis Biniak, Linda Mader, Marlene Vornbrock, Roger Thell, Alan Schumer, Jim Negen, Joe Primus

Mass, Devotions & Events Schedule

Monday 12/19		
7-9 pm St. Edward		Individual Confessions
Tuesday 12/20		
6 pm St. Mary 6:30-9 pm St Mary	†	James Scepaniak Individual Confessions
Wednesday 12/21		Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
8 am St. Francis	†	Mark Kociemba
Thursday 12/22		
8 am St. Edward 12-2 pm St. Mary	†	Bev Fosler ~Margaret Carlson Individual Confessions
Friday 12/23		Saint John of Kanty, Priest
7:30 am St. Mary	†	Tim Roelike
Weekend Masses		The Nativity of the Lord
Saturday 12/24		
10 am Senior Living 4 pm St. Edward 5:30 pm St. Mary	†	Communion Service Joe Korman ~Linda Langer Healing & Strength for Julie Jensen
Sunday 12/25		
8 am St. Francis 10 am St. Mary	†	For the People Joe, Elaine & Mark Schumer

Faith Formation Dec. 18-24

Family Formation Home Lesson: Christmas Activities

All Grades: Attend the Reconciliation Service Dec. 21 at St. Mary's from 6:30-8 pm.

The Fourth Advent Candle : Love

"And in the end, everything else will turn out to be unimportant and inessential, except for this: Father, Child, and Love."

~St. Pope John Paul II

The fourth candle of Advent represents **Love**, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the "Angel's Candle," the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the color purple, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth.

<https://hallow.com/>

The Three Masses of Christmas

Christmas is celebrated with three separate and distinct Masses. This tradition is very ancient, and it has been suggested that in this respect the Roman Church may have adapted an already established custom of the Jerusalem Church.

Mass during the night In the Roman Rite, the first Mass is the *Missa in nocte* ("Mass during the Night"). The stational church is the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, where the Popes used to celebrate this Mass at the Altar of the Crib (where the relics of the original manger are enshrined). The Gospel for this first Christmas Mass ("the Angels' Mass") is Luke 2:1-14, the familiar account of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and of the angelic appearance to the shepherds [at midnight].

Mass at dawn

In earlier centuries, after this Mass, the Popes went to the nearby Church of Saint Anastasia, who was martyred on Dec. 25, 304. There the Popes celebrated the second Christmas Mass, the *Missa in aurora* ("Mass at Dawn"). The Gospel for this second Christmas Mass ("the Shepherds' Mass") is Luke 2:15-20, the account of the shepherds' adoration of the newborn Jesus.

Mass during the day

Then the Popes went back to Saint Mary Major for the main Mass of Christmas at the main altar, the *Missa in die* ("Mass during the Day"). The Gospel for this third Christmas Mass is John 1:1-18, the famous "Prologue" to John's Gospel, which triumphantly proclaims that the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

~Fr. Ronald Fanco, CSP, VF, Paulist Fathers, Diocese of Knoxville

ST EDWARD'S NEWS

Saturday, December 24 - 4pm

EM of HC: Jerry Theisen

Lector: Tracey Hartung

Servers: Volunteers

Ushers: Derek Biniek & Scott Biniek

Greeters: Sally Schleper

Gift Bearers: Greg & Renee Wensmann

Church Decorating: Dec. 20th

Everyone is welcome to come help decorate the church at 1 pm.
Call Dorene Czeck 584-5253 with questions.

ST FRANCIS' NEWS

December Ushers:

Frank & Joyce Koopmeiners

Sunday, December 18 - 8 am

EM of HC: Brittany Harren

Lector: Rebecca Schmidt

Servers: Volunteers

Gift Bearers: Sheldon & Karla Tschida

Baby Shower for Jesus

Proceeds will go to ELEVATE (Pregnancy & Family Resource Center) Current Needs: Car Seat Covers, Car Seat Hanging Toys, Teething toys and gels, Nail clippers, Toys, Diaper Bags, Safety plug-ins, Crib Sheets, 18-24 month girl clothes, Target & Walmart Gift Cards, Cash Donations. All are welcome to Donate Wishlist items at St. Francis Parish in the Bassinet. A Blessed Thank You in advance by the St. Francis Christian Women.



Congratulations

Jonathan David Bauer & Sara Teri Herzog
Married on December 10, 2022,
St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis

ST MARY'S NEWS

Sunday, December 25 - 10 am

EM of HC: Renee Scholz

Lector: Jan Kilian

Servers: Alayna Weber & Lauryn Weber

Ushers: Bob Blonigen & Mikel Nelson

Greeters: Randy & Jane Tretter

Gift Bearers: Randy & Donna Roske

Bank Deposit: Mike Klasen

Decorating for Christmas: Dec. 23

Please come to help decorate at 1 pm. Everyone is welcome to come and help.

Three Saints News continued

Totus Tuus: July 8-14, 2023

Please mark your calendars as our Vacation Bible School will be coming to our three parishes! This is for all grades 1-12. We requested a week in June, but this will be the week in which four collegians come to teach about our Catholic faith.

Stewardship as a Way of Life:

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." ~Mt1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

WEEKEND COLLECTION Dec. 8 & 11, 2022

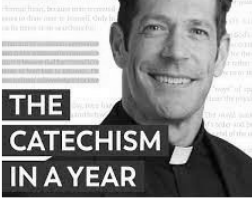
St. Edward: Adult: \$1,453 Loose: \$66, Immaculate Conception \$430, Loose: \$14, Christmas Flowers: \$105, Retired Religious: \$100, Christmas \$ 300, Thanksgiving: \$5 **Total: \$2,473**

St. Francis: Adult: \$526, Loose: \$108, Christmas Flowers: \$25, Immaculate Conception: \$ 400, Loose: \$57.25, Retirement: \$125, Christmas: \$ 150 **Total: \$1391.25**

St. Mary: Adult: \$2,490.37, Loose: \$268, Thanksgiving: \$50, Christmas Flowers: \$400, Immaculate Conception: \$522, Loose: \$71 Retired Religious: \$208.00, Christmas: \$100, Solemnity of Mary: \$50 **Total: \$4,159.37**

On Christian Hope: Absolute Love

The human being needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (*Rom 8:38- 39*). *If this* absolute love exists, with its absolute certainty, then—only then—is man "redeemed", whatever should happen to him in his particular circumstances. ~On Christian Hope ~ Pope Benedict XVI



Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days.

Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter. Transform your relationship with the Church that Christ founded.
www.ascensionpress.com/ciy

Notes from Father David

We are now only a week away from the day when we celebrate the Lord's coming in the Incarnation. In Jesus – Emmanuel – God is with us, as we are reminded in our scripture readings. For thousands of years, a waiting world yearned for this momentous event. Now we know that God's actual, physical presence in the world has been realized. Amid all the hustle and bustle of these final days before Christmas, let us not overlook the great gift of all. It's been said, let's keep Christ in Christmas.

To God be the glory as so many people are receiving Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation! Our Penance Service last Sunday had five priests busy nearly the entire three hours! The Sacrament of reconciliation is one of the most unique and beautiful aspects of Catholicism. Jesus Christ, in His abundant love and mercy, established the Sacrament of Confession, so that we as sinners can obtain forgiveness for **our** sins and reconcile with God and the Church. The sacrament "washes us clean," and renews us in Christ. If you haven't been to Confession in a while, I welcome you back, and invite you to participate in this beautiful sacrament of healing. Take a step in faith. You'll be surprised about how free you feel after taking part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. So many Catholics describe incredible feelings of peace, joy, relief, and love that they never expected. Jesus is calling you to experience His mercy in this way too. Please check out the times still available for you to come to Jesus. Know that you are more than welcome to call me to schedule a time that is more convenient during this holy time of the year.

Thank God for all the elders in our parishes! Please let me know if I am failing to reach out to them. To date, I have brought the sacraments to: (St Francis) Gene & Irene Laskinski, Evelyn Locknikar, Melvin & Ruth Pundsack, Arnold & Donna Scholz, Juanita Roerick, Arnie Voss and Bernie Voss. (St Edward's) Margaret Carlson, Arnie Czech, Sylvester Czech, Helen Heisick, Richard & Delores Ohotto and Ray & Flossy Kurowski. (St Mary's) Rose Binek, Darwin Binek & Kathy Hennek, Ron & Judy Dingmann, Larry Duevel, Ramona Heurung, Linus & Marge Lehner, Marietta Mueller, Marlene Scepaniak, Rita Schiller and Wilfred Voss. Thank you for visiting them, sending them cards, calling them, etc. ... know that it means a million dollars to them! I hope this list will help you keep them in your prayers.

Thanks to Catholic United Financial Foundation as they recently blessed each of our parishes \$1000 grant (\$500 for technology and \$500 for chastity and abstinence education). That is a total of \$3000 for our three parishes! "The Foundation recognizes the importance of the work you are undertaking on behalf of the Catholic community, especially with students, and encourages you to continue in your efforts. Catholic parishes and schools continue to advance the academic, religious, and moral development of the members and students in their care." Gregory Gall (Regional Sales Director) came to our office and presented the checks. Thank you, members, of Catholic United Financial as these grants are made possible by your gifts and other donors who make this possible for them to "support the Catholic communities where their members live, work, and worship together to build a stronger more vibrant Church."