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.

Third Sunday

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. It takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, it is called the "Shepherds Candle." and its color is pink the liturgical color for joy.

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.

A healthy soul promotes physical, emotional and psychological health. Jesus as the Divine Physician came to make us whole. He came to heal what was wounded and to mend what was broken because of our sinful condition. Jesus did not come to condemn the sinner. He came, rather, to save what was lost. Jesus came to make visible God's healing love and mercy. The good news is that God does not withhold his mercy! Christ, his son, continues to offer to all this same divine love and mercy made humanly accessible by what we see, hear and touch in the sacrament of Reconciliation through the ministry of his priests.

Polls show that more Catholics are going to Reconciliation. Perhaps many people are seeing cracks in society that deeply trouble them and make them wonder: What really matters? Perhaps Reconciliation—this bridge to Our Lord—is the solace for the soul, the unburdening of our sins and the flood of grace that we need to see the future with more hope.
~excerpts from catholicecho.org/Karen Nelsen

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

Weekday Masses	
Monday, 12/15	
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy (No Mass)
Tuesday, 12/16	
6:00 p.m. St. Mary's	† Rita Wensmann ~ Marvin & Shirley Wensmann
Wednesday, 12/17	
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Doris Burggraff ~ Arnie Dobmeier
Thursday, 12/18	
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Stanley & Bernetta Czech
Friday, 12/19	
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	† Richard O'Hotto

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Fourth Sunday of Advent		
Saturday 12/20		**Fourth Sunday of Advent**
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Dan Lange	**EM of HC:** Mary Jane Boeckermann, Janelle Roerick c, Joyce Koopmeiners c, **Lector**: Jim Scholz, **Servers**: Volunteers, **Ushers**: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, **Gifts**: Dan & Sarah Roerick, **Sacristan**: Judy Theisen
Sunday 12/21		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Maxie, Irene & Arnie Molus ~ Adeline Molus	**EM of HC:** Karla Schneider, Jackie Oldakowski c, Jim Bartkowicz c, **Lector**: Jerry Theisen, **Servers**: Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, **Ushers**: Derek Biniek & Scott Biniek, **Greeters**: Raymond Kokett & Volunteer, **Gifts**: Brian & Tracey Hartung
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	For the People	**EM of HC:** LeAnn Beneke, Mike Klasen c, Lisa Zabinski c, **Lector**: Chantelle Frie, **Servers:** Riley Klasen & Wyatt Klasen, **Ushers**: Nathan Ripplinger & Matt Ripplinger, **Greeters**: Volunteers, **Gifts:** Jamie & Jenny Leners, **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 (Holdingford)
Wed., Dec. 17th, 6:15 p.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's
Upcoming Faith Formation (Upsala)
Wed., Dec. 17th, 7-8pm Rel. Ed 7-10th grade

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.

Rural Catholic Young Adult Group: Dec. 20th
Join us for prayer, topical information, discussions, and social activities for people ages 18-30 who are looking to socialized other young adults. We typically meet at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints -St. Mary's, Holdingford on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Meetings include socializing, snacks, and games to follow. These meetings are subject to change so please contact Katie (423-2203) or Marissa (630-2433) if you would like to join us.

Hear the Story: Be Moved
On Wednesday, January 21st the Todd Becker Foundation event will take place at the Upsala High School from 7-9 p.m. The Todd Becker 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.
This is an all area churches, all students event. If you are interested in being a counselor who will respond to those hearing the call of Jesus on this evening, please contact Pastor Steve at Community Covenant Church, (218) 428-8010. There is a training session to attend on Jan. 6th or 15th at 7p.m.

First Reconciliation Retreat
Sat., Jan. 10th Pray for our First Communion students that they may be comforted by the Mercy of Jesus! Jesus, I trust in you!

WEEKEND COLLECTION 12/7/2025
St. Edward: Adult: $1,033.15 Loose: $92, Immaculate Conception: $40, Christmas Flowers: $156, **Total: $1,321.15**
St. Francis: Adult: $476, Loose: $85.57, Immaculate Conception: $75, Christmas Flowers: $90 **Total: $726.57**
St. Mary: Adults: $1,629, Loose 12/7: $417, Loose 12/8: $184, Immaculate Conception: $550, Retired Religious: $200, Fall Collection: $250, Christmas Flowers: $70, Christmas Offering: $100, **Total: $3,400**

Steubenville Youth Conference, July 24-26, St. Paul. All spots for Steubenville have been filled! If your are still interested you can be put on a waiting list-text Jim (320) 229-2898. Open to current 8-12th graders.

Youth Meeting:
It was great to have 34 teens at our last Youth Group!!! Our next meeting is on Sunday, Dec. 21st at 5:00-6:30 p.m.
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
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

Stewardship as a Way of Life *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." John 3:16* God created us to be in relationship with Him. Sin broke that relationship. Jesus came to earth so that we may reconcile our relationship with God. Following Jesus' example, we can be blessed with a joy-filled life on earth and eternal life in Heaven. These four points are known as the "kerygma" – the first proclamation of the Gospel. This core message is the basis of our Catholic faith. How do you live this out in your daily life?

St. Francis' News

"Baby shower for Jesus"
The St. Francis Christian Women are sponsoring a baby shower for Elevate. Everyone is welcome to donate suggested items (from the list). We will be accepting donations till Sunday, Jan. 11th in the bassinet in the entry of St Francis. Thank you in advance!

News and Events

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

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!

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.

Going to Confession

Anyone entering the confessional should know that the priest is bound by the "seal of confession." This means that what is told in the confessional may not be revealed by the priest under penalty of automatic excommunication. Retired diocesan priest Father Thomas Cebula explains, "The priest hears Confessions '*in persona Christ*,' that is, 'in the person of Christ.' He operates like a heart surgeon—not on physical hearts, but on spiritual hearts and souls wounded and broken by sin and in need of healing and repair. What an awesome experience it is to witness what the Lord's healing grace and mercy can accomplish within a heart truly given over to repentance and conversion!"

Arguably the most misunderstood of all the seven sacraments both by Catholics and non-Catholics, Reconciliation is one of two sacraments of healing, the other being the Anointing of the Sick. Formerly known as "Confession," the name "Reconciliation" indicates the beautiful outcome of making a good confession—the reconciliation of our souls with God and our neighbors.

God never distances Himself from us—not even when we sin. It is we who distance ourselves because we feel guilty and ashamed. Mistakes—such as forgetting to attend Mass on a Holy Day—are not sins. Sin is not doing something we do not know to be wrong, such as a young child using a bad word he heard somewhere. Although morally wrong, sin is always presented under the appearance of good at the beginning. If sin were like getting burned by a hot pan, no one would sin. For it to be sin, we must know something is wrong, and with free will, do it anyway.

Helpful Tips Regarding Reconciliation:

Call upon the Holy Spirit to make an examination of conscience. This might be one time that using your cell phone would be just fine. Just search, "Examination of Conscience," and there are several good websites that will lead the reader through a series of questions to guide them.

Reflect and pray on passages from the Bible that relate to sin and God's remedy for it.

Ask for light and discernment from the Holy Spirit to get to the root of your sins.

Speak to the priest as though he was your personal physician. Remember, the most important person in the Confessional is Jesus Christ.

Avoid the laundry list approach. Use a more conversational method and just talk to the priest. This way you can add context to your situation and help him understand you better.
Confess every mortal sign and the number of times it was committed.

We are not required to name all of our venial sins or the number of times committed. This sacrament is about confessing, but it is also about repentance.

Pray the Act of Contrition from your heart and perhaps even in your own words.

Reconciliation is for confessing our sins. If you need to talk about problems that you are having, make a private appointment with the priest for more extended spiritual direction and guidance. Be thoughtful of those who may be waiting in line.
https://catholicecho.org/2025/03/11/the-gift-of-reconciliation/

Praying the O'Antiphons: Dec. 17th –Dec. 23rd

During the final days of Advent, anticipation heightens as the birth of the Savior draws nearer. This anticipation is marked by something special in the prayers of the Liturgy of the Hours.
What is this special something?
The "O Antiphons." (Antiphons are short sentences sung or chanted before the recitation of a psalm or canticle.) The antiphons of Evening Prayer which we see in the week before Christmas welcome the birth of the Savior by heralding one of His resplendent Biblical titles along with a special petition related to that title. It is a liturgical tradition that was started in the earliest centuries of the Church—one that has continued to the present day in monasteries and convents, and even in the homes of the Catholic faithful who make portions of the Divine Office part of their daily prayers. You might recognize these antiphons from the beautiful Advent hymn "O Come O Come Emmanuel."
You can pray the O'Antiphons along with the Divine Office daily by signing up for a free Morning Offering Daily Devotional Email at: https://www.morningoffering.com/. Read more about the O'Antiphons at https://www.catholiccompany.com/blogs/magazine/the-o-antiphons-an-ancient-advent-tradition-5951.

Oh Lord, make me to be humble and find my joy in your salvation.