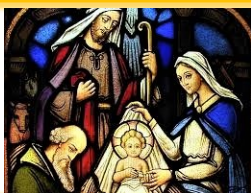


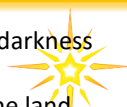


The Catholic Churches

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



The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land
of gloom a light has shone. Is 9:1



The Nativity of the Lord December 25, 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

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



“Enemy occupied territory – that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful King has landed, you might say, landed in disguise.” - C.S. Lewis

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

Knights of Columbus

Our next meeting will be on January 3 at 7:30 in Elmdale.
See you there!



May Eternal Rest be granted to:

Leona Borg
Funeral was Dec. 17, 2022
St. Mary, Upsala

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 Binek, Linda Mader, Marlene Vornbrock, Roger Thell, Alan Schumer, Jim Negen, Joe Primus

Mass, Devotions & Events Schedule

<u>Tuesday 12/27</u>		<i>Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist -Feast</i>
6 pm St. Mary	†	Julie Scholz
<u>Wednesday 12/28</u>		The Holy Innocents, Martyrs-Feast
8 am St. Francis	†	Leonard Czech ~ Sherwin & Deborah Goodrich
<u>Thursday 12/29</u>		<i>Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr</i>
8 am St. Edward	†	Jeff Kalis & Samantha Colbert
<u>Friday 12/30</u>		<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph –Feast</i>
7:30 am St. Mary	†	Claude Yurczyk
Weekend Masses		Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
<u>Saturday 12/31</u>		
10 am Senior Living 4 pm St. Edward	†	Communion Service Maxie & Irene Molus ~Adeline Molus
<u>Sunday 1/1</u>		
8 am St. Francis 10 am St. Mary	†	For the People Dorothy Gerads

Faith Formation Dec. 25-31

Celebrate Christmas!



Christmas in Rome: A Celebration of the Nativity

Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus.

Christmas Symbols

The Gifts *“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage” (Matthew 2:2).*



There were three gifts brought by the Magi to the baby Jesus. They prostrated themselves and did him

homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold was the most precious of all metals which symbolized the preciousness of the child. Frankincense was a type of incense which was used by the priestly caste in the temples and symbolized the baby as the high priest of all humanity. Myrrh was a valuable and aromatic spice. It comes from a large bush with a thin bark. It appears when the bark is pierced and turns red, symbolizing the blood which will be shed when the side of Jesus is pierced. Myrrh was also used to prepare a body for burial. It was a premonition of the future of this baby in the manger.

The Wreath



“ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is laid up for me the crown which the Lord will award to me on that day, and not only to me but to all who have loved his appearing” (2Tim 4:7).

In ancient Rome and Greece, athletes and heroes were rewarded with wreaths as trophies in sports or military battle. “To the victory goes the crown” meant that the winners received a wreath and were paraded before the people. Christ's victory over evil on the cross is also symbolized by a wreath.

<https://bayoucatholic.org/nsymbolsofchristmas>

ST EDWARD’S NEWS

Saturday, December 31 - 4pm
EM of HC: Julie Wensmann
Lector: Jim Bartkowicz
Servers: Volunteers
Ushers: Mike Urbanski
Greeters: Raymond Kokett
Gift Bearers: Scott & Jen Wensmann

ST FRANCIS’ NEWS

December Ushers:
Frank & Joyce Koopmeiners
Sunday, January 1 - 8 am
EM of HC: Colleen Harren
Lector: Mary Jane Boeckermann
Servers: Carter Roerick
Gift Bearers: Dennis & Nancy Young

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.

ST MARY’S NEWS

Sunday, December 25 - 10 am
EM of HC: Jan Kilian
Lector: Mary Hollenkamp
Servers: Emily Ripplinger
Ushers: Mary Frie
Greeters: Walt & LeAnn Beneke
Gift Bearers: Tom & Theresa Lange
Bank Deposit: Tom Kilian

Christmas Symbols continued

The Christmas Tree



“Then shall all the trees of the forest exalt before the Lord, for he comes to rule the earth” (Psalm 96:12).
The tradition of the Christmas tree was brought to this country by German-speaking immigrants. The tree is an “evergreen” and is one of the few trees that does not die (lose its leaves) in winter. For this reason, it is a symbol of everlasting life, the precious gift from Jesus to all believers. Not long ago, our Holy Father gave instructions that a Christmas tree be displayed in St. Peter’s Square during the Holy Season celebrating the birth of Christ, who is our life. The Christmas tree tradition was brought to America by Pennsylvania Germans in the 1820s.

The Word Christmas

Christmas

“This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3).
The word we hear and see often through this season is “Christmas.” But few people are aware of its origin. It is a combination of two Latin words: Christus and missus. These two words mean: “Christ is sent.” Sent where? Into the world by the loving Father who only wishes to give his children the very best – his only Son.

Merry Christmas!

WEEKEND COLLECTION Dec. 18, 2022

St. Edward: Adult: \$685 Loose: \$98, Christmas Flowers: \$20, Retired Religious:\$10, Christmas \$ 270, Christmas Loose: \$100, Fall Collection: \$700 Total: \$1, 883
St. Francis: Adult: \$915, Loose: \$100, Retirement: \$20, Christmas: \$190 Total: \$1,225
St. Mary: Adult: \$1,229, Loose: \$128, Votive: \$28, Christmas Flowers: \$120, Retired Religious: \$25, Christmas: \$20, Total: \$1,550

Christmas Symbols continued

Ornaments



“I myself am the living bread which has come down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread he will live forever” (John 6:51).
Decorating the Christmas tree with ornaments comes from an old European custom when ornaments were made from cookies and bread. These were hung on the tree in thanks for “our daily bread.”

Poinsettias



“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy” (Mt 2:10).
Poinsettias are native to Mexico. They were named after America’s first ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett. He brought the plants to America in 1828. The Mexicans in the eighteenth century thought the plants were symbolic of the Star of Bethlehem. Thus the Poinsettia became associated with the Christmas season. The actual flower of the poinsettia is small and yellow. <https://bayoucatholic.org/news/symbols-of-christmas>

Notes from Father David

With great longing, we have been preparing our hearts and our homes for this day on which we celebrate the birth of our Messiah and Savior. We recall that glorious night when the Blessed Mother bore Jesus into an expectant world, realizing that Jesus is also born in our hearts and in our world here and now, made present through one another and in the Eucharist we celebrate. May this “good news of great joy that will be for all people” continue to be incarnated in our lives and our world.

As we celebrate Christmas, I would like to thank you, the parishioners of St Francis, St Mary’s and St Edward’s. You have blessed me greatly this past year and especially from July through September during my leave of absence. I also extend a special welcome if you are joining us this weekend for the first time, if you are visiting from any other places or faith traditions, or if you do not worship with us on a regular basis. Just as the shepherds were led to a humble stable in Bethlehem to worship the infant Jesus, so have we been led to be together at this time and in this place to sing with the angels: **Glory to God in the highest and peace to all people on earth!** I hope that God’s presence will be made known to you not only today but every day. Know that we pray for you, your loved ones and your intentions. Thank you for lifting us in prayer as well. May you have the grace to find happiness and joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year 2024 ... and may we meet each day in our prayers!

Many of you have experienced death or other losses and can find this time of joy to be anything but joyful. There is nothing like the gathering of family to emphasize the empty place at the table, and with that comes grief. Recently divorced? Your first Christmas as a single parent can be tough (especially if your former spouse has the kids). Struggling financially? There is nothing like the expectation of giving to create a cycle of ever-deepening debt along with guilt or shame at your inability to give generously. We also have families who are estranged from one another for any number of reasons. Please let me know if I can be of any help. Having been a therapist, oftentimes simply an opportunity to give voice and talk about things can be a blessing in and of itself.

I plan to spend Christmas with a few siblings and my mother in Osakis. The afternoon of December 28th, Bishop Kettler, priests, deacons along with their wives will gather in St Augusta celebrating the season of Christmas. This a wonderful time to reconnect with one another. With our new Bishop-elect Patrick Neary being announced, there is a great spirit of excitement among us priests. His installation will be at the Cathedral of St Mary’s on February 14.

Looking ahead, I will be on retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo. Some of the priests from our diocese will gather Sunday evening (January 8) and it will conclude on Thursday. Fr Jon Vander Ploeg from the Archdiocese of Mpls/St Paul will be our Retreat Director. The theme of this retreat is “Surrendering to Jesus.” Please note there will be no weekday Masses in our three parishes January 10-12.