

The Catholic Churches of

St. Edward
Elmdale

St. Francis of Assisi
St. Francis

St. Mary
Upsala



Gaudete Sunday

December 13, 2020

Pastor Fr. David Grundman 320-309-4174 (cell)

Sister Mary Pat Burger St. Francis Rectory 573-2203

CENTRAL OFFICE PO Box 249 Upsala, MN 56384

Office Hours 8am – 3:30pm

Mon. – Thurs. – Fri. *Modified*

Janice Wuebkers Office Manager

Tuesday at Royalton Church Office

Wednesday at Holdingford Church Office

Central Office 320-573-2132

FAX: 320-573-9133

Central Office email: 238catholic@sytekcom.com

Web site: www.238catholic.org

Diocesan web site: www.stclouddiocese.org

Elevate (Birthline) Hotline: 1-800-786-0200

St. Cloud Chancery: 320-251-2340

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chantelle Frie, Confirmation: 320-360-4796

Beth Lange, St. Mary/St. Edward, Gr 1-10: 320-630-8390

Niki Koopmeiners, St. Francis, Gr 1 - 10: 320-248-7553

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Saturday St. Mary 3:15 – 3:45pm

Sunday St. Edward 7:15 – 7:45am

St. Francis 9:15 – 9:45am

Tuesday St. Mary 5 – 5:45pm

Also by appointment

PRAYER LINE

Karen Liebsch (SM): 573-4127 Kathy Koehn (SM): 573-2363

Judy Theisen (SF): 573-2933 Joyce Koopmeiners (SF): 573-2728

Sally Schleper (SE): 573-2127

MINISTRY TO THE SICK & THOSE WHO CANNOT GET TO CHURCH

Holy Communion can be brought to you or a loved one at home, please contact the Central Office, 573-2132

Sacrament of Marriage: Couples need to begin preparations with the priest nine months in advance and must call the Pastor before setting a date.

Sacrament of Baptism: Contact the office before desired baptism date.

Remember in prayer those in need of the Lord's healing and strength:

Raymond Kurowski, Ken Wielenberg, Don Maciej, Margaret Carlson, Rodney Bartkovicz, Brenda Wuebkers

Additional Confession Times

Before and after daily Masses during the season of Advent will be an opportunity for you to receive Jesus. Additional times to come to Jesus: Dec 15 at SM from 7-9pm; Dec 16 at SF from 7-9pm; and Dec 17 at SE from 7-9pm. Please call Fr David if you would like to schedule a time that works better for you. At All Saints-St Mary's in Holdingford: Dec 21st 1-2pm and at 7-8pm.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS

St. Mary: Adult \$2,519.00; Loose \$58.00; Votive \$23.75; Fall Collection \$50.00; Religious Retirement \$120.00; Immaculate Conception \$30.00; Christmas Flowers \$250.00; Christmas \$250.00; Online Giving \$250.00 - **\$3,550.75**

St. Edward: Adult \$770.00; Loose \$71.00; Votive \$29.00; Abuse Settlement \$400.00; Immaculate Conception \$5.00; Flowers \$140.00; Religious Retirement \$97.00; Cemetery Maintenance \$6,225.00 - **\$7,737.00**

St. Francis: Adult \$1,506.00; Loose \$31.00; Votive \$48.00; Immaculate Conception \$65.00; Thanksgiving \$415.00; Christmas Flowers \$150.00; Utilities \$500.00; Christmas \$100.00; Online Giving \$255.00 - **\$3,070.00**

Mass Schedule

Dec. 14 - 20, 2020

Monday: 12/14 NO MASS SCHEDULED

Tuesday: 12/15

St. Mary 6:00pm Special Intentions of Dave & Renee Scholz

Wednesday: 12/16

St. Francis 8:00am Special Intentions of G & MJ Boeckermann

Thursday: 12/17

St. Edward 8:00am ++ Vern & Marcy Levine

Friday: 12/18

St. Mary 7:30am † Dorene Stueve

Saturday: 12/19

St. Mary 4:00pm People of the Parishes

Sunday: 12/20 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

St. Edward 8:00am ++ Don & Ken Bartkovicz

St. Francis 10:00am ++ Edmund & Delores Roerick

2020 Contributions

All 2020 Contributions have to be in by Dec. 31, 2020. If a check comes in mid-January and the check is dated 2020, it will be counted as a 2021 contribution in the church's books.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

St. Mary 12 – 4pm First Wed. (1/6)

St. Edward 12 – 4pm First Fri. (1/1)

St. Francis 7am - 8pm 2nd Tues. (1/12)

Benediction follows Adoration in all parishes

Christmas Mass Schedule

3 Saints Schedule:

Christmas Eve-Dec. 24th:

4pm St. Mary, Upsala

5pm St. Francis (Fr. Virgil Helmin)

8pm St. Edward, Elmdale

Christmas Day-Dec. 25th:

8am St. Edward, Elmdale

10am St. Francis

Holdingford Schedule:

Christmas Eve-Dec. 24th:

4pm Immaculate Conception, St. Anna

6pm St. Columbkillie, St. Wendel

Midnight Mass, All Saints-St. Mary's

Christmas Day-Dec. 25th:

9am All Saints-St. Hedwig's

Surrounding Churches:

St Rosa: 7pm December 24th

St Stanislaus-Sobieski: Dec 24th 5pm; Dec 25th 8:30am

Sacred Heart-Flensburg: Dec 24th 3pm; Dec 25th 12am Midnight Latin Mass, 10am Latin Mass

St Stanislaus-Bowlus: Dec. 25th 10am

Youth News

Mass Servers Needed

Even though we still have many restrictions and you are still required to wear a mask, would you be willing to help out for our Christmas Masses in our three parishes? It would be great to have three servers at each Mass: two candle bearers and a cross bearer. Please call the office or Fr David if you are interested in helping out.



THREE SAINTS NEWS

Thank You!

The Social Justice committee wants to thank those who donated so generously to the Thanks Giving Tree. The gifts have been bought and delivered to Morrison County Social Services Department. Your love and support have brightened Christmas Day for children in our area. We hope to have our Giving Tree in place next year. Blessing to you and your families! Merry Christmas!

Catholic Century Farm Awards

Catholic Charities Social Concerns is now taking applications for the diocese's third annual Catholic Century Farm Awards. If your family or members of your parish have been working the same land for 100 years or more, please visit the following link for requirements and application form: https://ccstcloud.formstack.com/forms/catholic_century_farm_award.

Collection Assists Elderly in Religious Orders

Parishes throughout our diocese took a special collection this weekend for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Nearly 30,000 elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests benefit from this collection. Last year, our diocese donated \$149,687 to the collection. Many religious communities lack sufficient retirement savings. Rising health care costs and a growing number of senior members compound the challenge to meet retirement expenses. If you forgot your envelope this weekend or you did not have a special envelope given to you, please place your gift in a marked envelope in next week's collection.

Ministry of Ushering

Thank you for all your help during the past nine months of this pandemic. Remember to help escort people at communion time with a single line while maintaining social distance. Ushers, please come forward when the Eucharistic Minister comes forward as you help assist the people. Also, immediately after petitions to come forward with your baskets. There is no need to wait for any children bringing up their collection.

Struggle with Pornography

This is such a disfiguring sin that it is so hard to talk about. That is why the devil gets you to keep it a secret. Remember that Jesus wants to heal you and He wants you to reach out for help. Contact Fr David for possible resources or getting together with him 1:1 or with a group of men struggling with this sin. Parents, perhaps for our boys and young men we could have a separate group. Statistics says, 51% of 11 to 13-year-olds and 66% of 14 to 15-year-olds reported that they had seen pornography at some point.

ST. MARY'S NEWS

Saturday, December 19 – 4pm

EM of HC: Beth Lange *Lector:* Michelle Fleischhacker

Greeter: Rosemary Mehr

Ushers: Duke Lange & Michael Lange

Thank you for the anonymous \$200 Christmas Donation. May God bless your generosity!

Church Decorating

We will be decorating the church after the 6pm Mass on Dec. 22nd. All are welcome to come help decorate. Confirmation students needing hours can come too.

Bells of St Mary's

Please be patient with us as we try to figure things out. Fr This was very astute in this ministry of bell/chimes ringing. We are thinking of ringing the bells at 12noon and 6pm. We hope to have the chimes sound with Christmas music. This will take time to come about. Please let us know your thoughts as this is your Church!

Mary Statue

By our parish office door, the statue is being touched up. Fr David knows an artist who has done amazing things with other statues. It may be one month before it is finished.

ST. EDWARD'S NEWS

Sunday, December 20 – 8am

EM of HC: Julie Wensmann *Lector:* Shari Biniek

Greeter: Megan Wensmann

Ushers: Donald Welinski & Jeff Czech

Online Giving

St. Edward has a new trial link for online giving on the website. You can give once, or set up recurring donations. You can donate with a credit card or with your checking account. Right now, 'tiles' are set up for Weekly donations, Christmas, and Cemetery Maintenance, if there is enough interest, more 'tiles' can be set up for other things such as Easter, flowers, etc. Check it out at 238catholic.org

Cemetery Improvements

You are amazing as the past week, you came forth and already gave \$6,225 for our 'Cemetery Maintenance'! People of St

Edward's your generosity is off the charts! This winter will be a time to plan, raise the necessary funds and pray that God's will be done for our cemetery. In the spring of 2021, we will begin the necessary improvements.

Confessional Updated

A parishioner sent a text to Fr David: "I noticed the confessionals. Wow! The confessionals look absolutely amazing! Whoever did the remodeling of the confessionals did a fantastic job!" Thanks to Raymond Kokett, Jim Wensman and Jim Bartkowicz among others. Confessional is not fully completed.

ST. FRANCIS' NEWS

Sunday, December 20 – 10am

EM of HC: Chad Koopmeiners *Lector:* Mary Jane Boeckermann

Greeter: Rita Lange

Christmas Gift Ideas

St Francis sewing circle has embroidered dish towels, hot pads, hand towels, scrubbies, clothes pin bags, quilts for sale. Interested or questions call 573-2509. If no answer leave a message. Pictures of some items are on the website.

Baby Shower For Jesus

During advent season St. Francis Christian Women will once again have a bassinet at church to accept items for Elevate. Items most needed: Newborn to 12 months clothes, boy and girl, baby toys, bath toys, diapers(newborn to size 3), gift cards, and cash donations (put in envelope/collection) labeled. Please only these items at this time. All are welcome to Donate Wishlist items. A Blessed Thank you in advance from St. Francis Christian Women

Thank You Judy Theisen

It was great that Judy stepped forward to keep our church cleaned. It seems that in years past, we would have groups of people clean on a regular basis. However, times have changed and many of our young people are now busy with various jobs, etc.

NOTES FROM FR. DAVID

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for rejoice. We rejoice this weekend, for the coming of the Lord is so near that we cannot help but think about it. Perhaps we are starting to feel overwhelmed by all of what we need to do between now and Christmas. Let this be an opportunity to refocus our attention on the true reason we celebrate this time of year. Rejoice, the Lord is near.

I pray that you are rejoicing more in having received Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation last Sunday! You are amazing how you came forth and opened up your soul to Jesus. We knew that it would not be easy for you, yet you did it! Thank you for coming to Jesus amidst this pandemic. All of the four other priests commented how beautiful it was to be a part of returning to God. We all were busy for nearly the entire three hours! Please check the schedule for remaining times to go to confession. Know that you can call to schedule a time that works best for you.

Thanks for attending the Holy Day Immaculate Conception Masses. How beautiful is it to witness your love for Mother Mary! It was awesome to see young people joining us and in particular at the 7:30am Mass. It is always hard to know when might be the best times to have these Masses. The attendance at our 8pm Mass in St Francis was the best. The church was filled! In the future, I think having another evening (Feast Day) Mass may be helpful. Yet the morning Mass in Upsala can be good for our children and young people before school.

With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from today, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

The Minnesota Bankruptcy Court approved a plan Dec. 3 for reorganization jointly submitted by the Diocese of St. Cloud and the creditors' committee of clergy abuse survivors, according to a news release from the Diocese Dec. 4th.

"I again want to apologize on behalf of the Church to the survivors of clergy sexual abuse," Bishop Donald Kettler said. "Coming forward took a great deal of courage. The Church failed them, and I hope this helps them to move further along the path of healing and peace. I remain committed to ensuring the Church does everything it can to prevent sexual abuse."

"This reorganization plan represents the culmination of several years of respectful negotiations among all the parties involved," Bishop Kettler added. "Because of that, we were able to make today's announcement less than six months after the Diocese filed its bankruptcy petition with the court. This rapid process reduced the administrative expenses that would have been incurred in a longer process and preserved more funds for the survivors."