

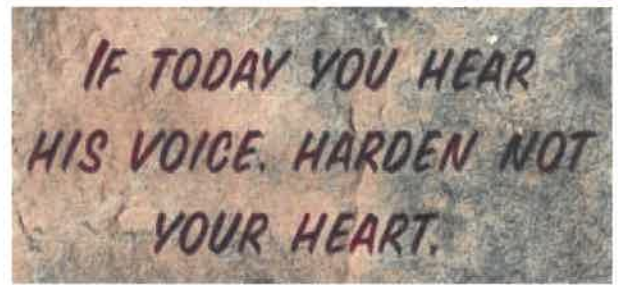
The Catholic Churches

of

St. Edward
Elmdale

St. Francis of Assisi
St. Francis

St. Mary
Upsala



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 31, 2021

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

email – frdgrund@gmail.com

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 (Classes resume Feb. 3)

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 Fr. David nine months in advance and must call him 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, Ron Dingman, Kya Bartkovicz, family of + Dennis Koroll (SE), Paul Ampe (SM, in hospice, pancreatic cancer), Jackie (recovering from Covid) & Jerry Johnson (Parkinson) from Upsala, Lori Momany (heart surgery most successful and recovering well), the daughter of Larry and Mary Erickson (SM), granddaughter of + Marie Atkinson

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS

St. Mary: Adult \$801.00; Loose \$97.00; Online \$310.00 - \$1,208.00

St. Edward: Adult \$1,095.00; Loose \$26.00; Christmas \$50.00; Cemetery Maintenance \$100.00; Online \$160.00 - \$1,431.00

St. Francis: Adult \$635.00; Loose \$90.50; Online \$160.00 - \$885.50

Lenten Eucharist Adoration

"This week a member of the Upsala community told me that we need to put on the armor of God: "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph 6:11). Come and spend time with our Lord in adoration so you can hear God's word and be clothed in truth and righteousness. Our Three Saints Parishes welcome you to come and attend weekly Eucharistic Adoration each Thursday of Lent at St. Mary's beginning February 18th. Adoration hours will be from 12noon – 9pm ending with benediction. Please contact me to sign up for your holy hour at 320-250-4688." Tamara Lange

Mass Schedule

Feb. 1 - 7, 2021

Monday: 2/1

NO MASS SCHEDULED

Tuesday: 2/2

Presentation of the Lord

St. Mary 6:00pm † Denis & Irene Notch

Anointing of the Sick

Wednesday: 2/3

St. Blaise, St. Ansgar

St. Francis 8:00am † Audrey Pflueger

Anointing of the Sick

Thursday: 2/4

St. Edward 8:00am † Don Bartkovicz

Anointing of the Sick

Friday: 2/5

St. Agatha

St. Mary 7:30am † Dave Schneider

Anointing of the Sick (donated landscape rocks)

Saturday: 2/6

St. Paul Miki & Companions

St. Mary 4:00pm People of the Parishes

Sunday: 2/7

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Edward 8:00am † Dennis Koroll

St. Francis 10:00am † Sherwin Tschida

- Charlie & Sandy Boeckermann



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

St. Mary 12 – 4pm First Wed. (2/3)

St. Edward 12 – 4pm First Fri. (2/5)

St. Francis 7am - 8pm 2nd Tues. (2/9)

Benediction follows Adoration in all parishes

YOUTH NEWS

Religious Education at Home

The website has homework assignments and videos posted. Click on Religious Education at Home. Click on the chalkboard for assignments and click on the images of the books to access the videos. Any questions about homework, contact Niki or Beth. Questions about the website, call the office.



Over 80 Blessings! (February)

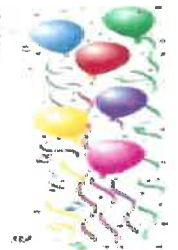
Arnold Scholz (2/9)

Arnold Voss (2/14)

Peter Prokott (2/21)

Christine Wuebkers (2/24)

Anna Schulte (2/28)



FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

January 31, 2021



LECTIO: MARY: EPISODE 1
THE NEW EVE

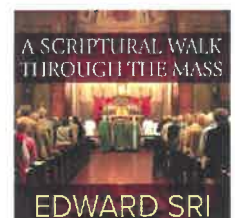
This week as we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Mary's role in it, join Dr. Brant Pitre, Professor of Sacred Scripture at the Augustine Institute Graduate School, as he examines what the Old Testament reveals about the life and identity of Mary, the Mother of God.

LEARN

LISTEN

A SCRIPTURAL WALK THROUGH
THE MASS BY EDWARD SRI

Have you ever wondered about the meaning behind the Mass? Are you looking to stop going through the motions at Mass? Join Dr. Edward Sri as he dives into the Scriptural roots of the Mass that will help you to pray the Mass like never before.



www.238catholic.formed.org (Google Chrome)

THREE SAINTS NEWS

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT COUNCIL #12604



The February meeting of the Knights of Columbus Council #12604 will be held on Tues., Feb. 2 at 8pm at St. Edward's in Elmdale.

Adoration in our Parishes

Remember to come and spend time with Jesus this Wednesday at St Mary's and Friday at St Edward's. Even if you have only a few minutes, please stop by and say hello to Jesus. In St Francis the following week on Tuesday from 7am-8pm Jesus will be placed on the altar as He awaits you coming for a visit.

Anointing of the Sick

Remember this week following the Gospel, all those who are seriously ill, physically or mentally, or those 65 years of age and older are encouraged to receive this sacrament for healing and strength. In light of the pandemic and other illnesses it is important that people be anointed on a regular basis. Weekend Masses: Feb 13-14 the sacrament will be made available as well.

First Friday Devotions

Come to St Mary's for 7:30am Mass which will include: Anointing of the Sick and Litany to Sacred Heart of Jesus. Home visits will take place Thursday afternoon and Friday. Throat blessings will take place along with the sacraments. A small perk for being elderly/homebound! 😊

2021 Catholic Men's Conference

Our Men's Conference will be held virtually on Saturday, February 27 from 9:00 am-noon. As Lent begins, this retreat/Bible study will have five presenters who will facilitate reflection opportunities on the Sunday Gospels of the Lenten season. For more information or to register online visit: www.stcdio.org/mensconference21/.

Honoring Marriage Day

This day will be held Saturday, May 1, 2021 at the Cathedral of Saint Mary in Saint Cloud at 1pm with Bishop Kettler. This is for couples celebrating their 5th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60 plus anniversaries. This is a wonderful time of couples coming together to thank God. Those celebrating these anniversary milestones in 2021 should contact your parish office to confirm ASAP that you are on the list.

Finance Committee Members Needed

For our parishes of St Edward's and St Mary's, we are in need of someone from each parish to step forward who is interested in helping out with this ministry. We meet quarterly to look over our financial statements as well as make any necessary decisions. Please contact our office or Fr David if you have any questions or if you see such gifts in others that would make a great finance committee member.

Fishers of People

Check out the pictures of our seminarians in the entrance of our Churches. We have twelve seminarians and they would most greatly appreciate hearing from you. There are also small trifolds available for you to take home. No doubt they'd look great on your fridge or bulletin board. Let's remember to pray for them and that all of our young people would be open to the priesthood or religious life.

ST. MARY'S NEWS

Sat., Feb. 6 – 4pm

EM of HC: Beth Lange *Lector:* Chantelle Frie

Greeters: Nathan & Laura Ripplinger

Ushers: Dave Brezinka & Nathan Ripplinger

Library Committee

There has been some talk about starting a library or making some books available in a book shelf. Where could this be located among others questions are all topics of discussion. Please contact parish office if you and others might be interested in looking into this much needed ministry.

Smelt Fry/Raffle

It has been decided that there will be a Smelt Fry & Raffle this year on March 26. The meals will be take-out only. More details will follow as we get closer.

ST. EDWARD'S NEWS

Sun., Feb. 7 – 8am

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

Greeter: Sally Schleper

Ushers: Dennis Biniek & Nick Schleper

ST. FRANCIS' NEWS

Sun., Feb. 7 – 10am

EM of HC: Rosanne Voss

Lector: Barb Moorman

Greeter: Bob Theisen

JOURNEY WITH JESUS TO CALVARY

Can we, should we, or wait until 2022? There will be two short meetings to give your input - Wed., Feb. 3 after religious education classes and Sun., Feb. 7 after the 10:00am Mass. Both will be in the church basement. If you cannot make either one call Bob at 573-2933 and leave a message.



NOTES FROM FR. DAVID

We begin Catholic Schools Week this week. You may not have a child in Catholic school or even have a child of school age, but that does not mean that this week is not important to you, too. Catholic education is a key way we transmit our faith, beliefs, and traditions onto the next generation, as well as teaching reading and math and all the subjects that young ones need to succeed and contribute to society. Let us recall those who have taught us – our parents, teachers, other family members, priests, sisters, and brothers – and thank them for the worlds they have opened to us.

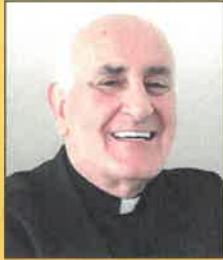
Next week you will be blessed to have Fr Virgil Helmin (320-293-6220) cover for me. I will be on vacation Feb 6-12 to Mesa, AZ. My 88-year-old mother spends the winter in the warmer climates. My parents purchased a nice home down there years ago. Most of my ten siblings are able to get down there to visit her. I am ever grateful to Fr Virgil for filling in during this time. This coming weekend, he will be blessing your throats communally following the petitions. Due to the pandemic, we are not allowed to bless throats individually. Remember to read and pray more about St Blasé as he is a saint known for miracles.

In-person gatherings and social activities will be permitted again at parishes in the Diocese of St. Cloud effective Sunday, Jan. 31. Bishop Donald Kettler announced in a [letter to pastors](#) Jan. 22: "This includes faith formation and sacramental preparation gatherings, youth gatherings, board and council meetings, organizational meetings and social activities." For Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, ashes will be sprinkled on the top of people's heads rather than using them to make a cross on people's foreheads. Sprinkling ashes on the top of people's heads, rather than marking foreheads with ashes, is the customary practice at the Vatican and in Italy. Given the spread of the coronavirus, the practice has the advantage of not requiring the priest to touch multiple people. Lenten fish fries are permissible as drive-thru or take-out options only. These events must follow the food preparation safety provisions that Bishop Kettler outlined in the "Quick Guide to COVID-19 Protocols" on the diocese's [coronavirus updates page](#). In light of the pandemic, the bishop had previously granted permission for outdoor weddings to take place through Nov 1, 2020, with the consent of the pastor. Outdoor weddings are now permissible until further notice, he said. As before, they must be held on church property and physical-distancing must be observed.

Thanks for your prayers as this past Tuesday evening (about 20 in attendance), St Mary's decided to go ahead with the Smelt/Fish Fry and Raffle March 26. With the pandemic, there can be no dining so we are counting on you coming to get your "take-outs"! We also will be selling raffle tickets. I assured those at our meeting that the parishes of St Francis and St Edward will be supporting this as much as possible.

Gifts OFFERED BY human hands

BISHOP'S ANNUAL
Appeal
2021



BISHOP DONALD J. KETTLER
Diocese of Saint Cloud

"The ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal advance the Church's mission by providing essential education, pastoral care and other assistance. Your generosity makes this work possible."

Among the ministries and outreach supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal:

VOCATIONS/SEMINARIANS

Discerning a vocation to the priesthood requires time, prayer and significant self-searching. We are blessed in the Diocese of Saint Cloud with good, dedicated priests who nurture us through the Eucharist, teach us through the Word and serve the other spiritual needs of God's people.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic schools provide an excellent education grounded in Gospel values, community and service to others. They are key to the Church's evangelizing mission, building up the kingdom of God in our local communities and beyond.



YOUTH AND FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS



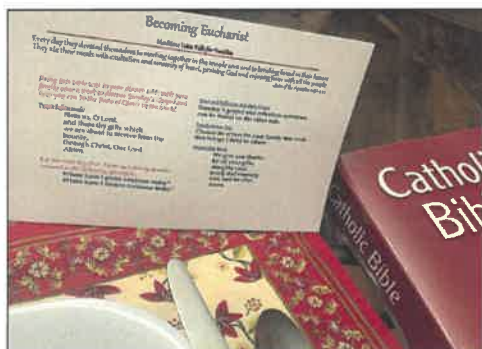
We honor God by passing on our faith to the next generation, teaching them the power of love, mercy, forgiveness and sacrifice. Solid faith formation programs provide lifelong, meaningful faith experiences that enrich our families, Church and communities.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

Healthy families are essential for advancing the Church's mission. A strong "domestic Church" nurtures loving relationships, prayer, holiness and service to others. The diocese offers retreats for engaged couples, an annual men's conference, respect-for-life education and other family enrichment programs.



MINISTRY DURING THE PANDEMIC



The weekly diocesan TV Mass continues to keep homebound parishioners connected to their faith. The Church also has engaged in new and creative forms of ministry during the last year to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This included a three-day "virtual" Stewardship Week event, launch of an online faith formation resource for families, and a three-part webinar series focused on the Eucharist. An online men's conference is also planned.

Thank you for discerning a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Your generosity supports ministries at the core of our Church's mission. These include vocations, Catholic education, faith formation, marriage preparation, family life, pastoral planning, multicultural ministries, ministry to the divorced, and the TV Mass for the homebound.

EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

To give to Bishop's Annual Appeal visit:
www.stcdo.org/annualappeal

Use your
 smartphone
 to donate
 online.



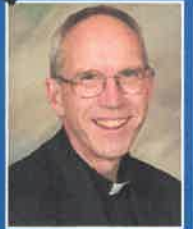
COVID-19



Vaccines are one way to gain immunity from a virus. They have various origins, traditionally relying on a weakened or harmless form of the targeted pathogen. More recently, molecular technology, thanks to advances in genetics, can provide the effect of vaccination without using the pathogen itself.

Some vaccines are developed (and tested) using animal cells. Some use human cells taken from ethically-acquired umbilical cord or placental tissue. Others, as noted, do not involve the use of cells at all, but rather the synthesis of proteins that have the desired effect. These three origins of vaccines do not carry ethical objections.

By
Fr. Tom
Knobloch



Ethical considerations in vaccine creation

A fourth source for vaccines, however, involves cell lines that originated with tissue from two aborted fetuses some 60 years ago. Guidance from the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life in 2005 (updated in 2019) and the 2008 instruction "Dignitatis Personae" from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith address this concern in detail.

In summary, these documents permit the use of such vaccines under a specific set of considerations: the disease and its potential impact on individual and communal health is proportionately grave; there is no alternative vaccine; one does not condone or accept the vaccine specifically because of its tainted origin; and the vaccine in question is sufficiently "causally remote" from the immoral origin.

"Causally remote" here means that the two abortions in question (giving rise to two cell lines) took place in the early 1960s. After the many thousands of generations of cells originating

from that tissue, there are no actual descendant cells that were part of the fetal bodies. Further, the abortion did not take place specifically to develop the vaccine, and abortions are not done today to provide a continual source for these cells; the same cell line is self-perpetuating.

The two vaccines using mRNA technology that have currently shown the most promise for COVID-19 (from Pfizer and Moderna) do not have ethical concerns in their origins. However, both used a morally compromised cell line for one of the confirmatory lab tests of their products, as do other current vaccines available under the emergency-use protocols.

The same ethical considerations apply to both production and testing of vaccines, especially the remote causal distance from the tainted origin of cells and their use today. The Pontifical Academy for Life urges the faithful to pressure companies producing vaccines to create alternatives free of all of these concerns.

In addition, vaccine testing requires appropriate informed consent for human





trials and faces the challenge of testing in a sufficiently broad cross-section of the population to verify efficacy and safety. In a health crisis, the need for speedy vaccine development must be balanced with adequate testing and time to uncover and monitor side effects. One factor in COVID-19 vaccine development is that research into the coronavirus family has been ongoing for decades; while this is a "novel" form from this virus family, it is easier to develop an effective vaccine for this virus than for a completely unknown agent.

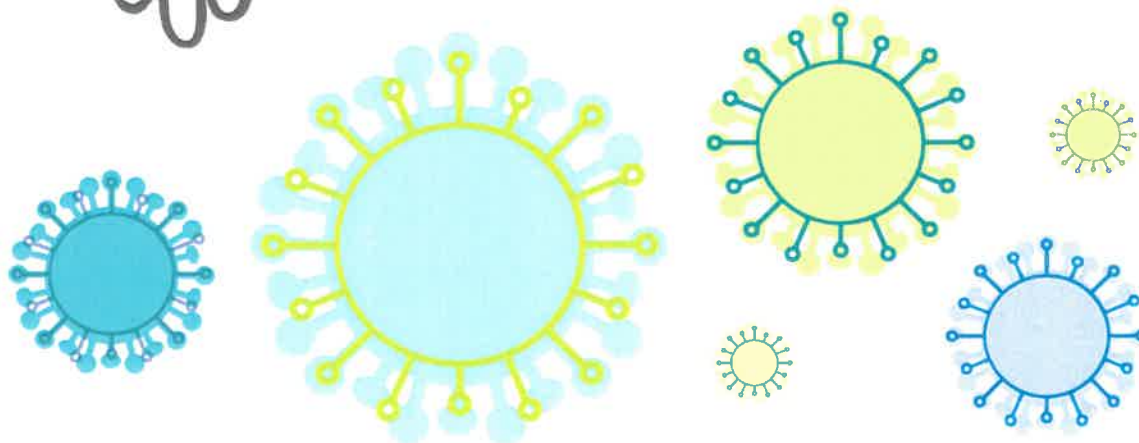
Should a Catholic accept vaccination?

Choosing vaccination is a prudential decision that each must make for oneself and at times for those who depend on one's decision (for example, children or those lacking decisional capacity due to mental status or disability). This decision must be informed by reliable facts about the vaccine's origin, safety and efficacy; one's own risk for infection and the consequences for self and others if sickened; the severity of the illness and the public health crisis; the relative

risk of side effects to the vaccine; availability; cost; and related factors.

While these are serious considerations, the refusal of vaccines may itself involve a degree of moral culpability, depending on the harms that are risked. Those who refuse a vaccine due to general concern about the relation of some vaccines to the use of aborted tissues have a stronger foundation, but this must be fact-based in the context of the actual proposed vaccine. One must be cautious of adopting the same logic rightly criticized in the pro-choice position: that it is my body, and my decision is a private one that is up to my own conscience. While Catholic teaching upholds and values autonomy and self-determination, it also understands that autonomy is not an absolute right but conditioned by the common good.

In the current situation, with a pandemic approaching its one-year anniversary and the widespread social, economic, educational and relational harms we have seen, and a significant portion of the population still at risk, accepting a proven and safe vaccine is justified as a moral good, an act of solidarity and charity and arguably a work of mercy.



Father Knobloch serves as consultant for healthcare ethics for the Diocese of St. Cloud. He is pastor of Sacred Heart in Sauk Rapids and Annunciation in Mayhew Lake.