

The Catholic Churches of

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19, 2021

Pastor: Fr. David Grundman (320) 309-4174 (cell)
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Sister Mary Pat Burger –St. Francis Rectory (320) 573-2203
Randi Klasen –Bookkeeper Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 8 am -noon
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RECONCILIATION Schedule

Saturday: St. Francis ~ 3:15-3:45 pm,
Sunday: St. Edward ~ 7:15-7:45 am, & St. Mary ~ 9:15-9:45 am
Tuesday St. Mary ~ 5- 5:30 pm

Bulletin deadlines

Deadline for the Dec. 26th bulletin is Dec. 20
Deadline for the Jan 2 bulletin is Dec. 27
The Office will be closed on Friday

Three Saints News

Grateful for doing your part!

Thanks for nominating so many people for our ACC Committee. Thanks to all those who expressed a willingness to serve in this ministry. Thank you, Holy Spirit choosing the right individuals this weekend for this ever-important time in the life of our Church. As Bishop Kettler reminds us, we (our six parishes) can work together better and develop more resources which will help each of our parishes grow stronger than ever!

Penance Service last Sunday afternoon

Thanks for so many people who took part in our service at St. Mary's. The priests all commented on how sincere and devout were the people who came to Jesus. Fr Virgil commented how he has noticed that more and more people are coming each year! Please note the additional dates and times this week for individual confession. Call Fr David if you prefer to meet with him 1:1 at a more convenient time.

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

Raymond Kurowski, Ken Wielenberg, Margaret Carlson, Brenda Wuebkers, Ron Dingman, Kristy Brezinka, Ramona Heurung, Arnold Scholz, Irene Lashinski, Frank Gerads, Lorene Koopmeiners, Linus & Marjorie Lehner, Donna Scholz, Brayden Harren, (SF, Chemo in St. Paul), Millie Spring (chemo, 1 1/2 years old), Judy Gerads (SF, cancer), Bobby Pierskalla (St. Wendel), Joe Korman (SE, hospitalized), Geri Klimek (Covid, hospitalized), Bruce Wolters (burn victim, at home, rehab), **Mariene Vornbrock (SM, recovery from Covid), Joe Schumer (SM, cancer),**
family of +Rudy Cazeau (brother-in-law of Fr. David), **family of +Brian Lange**

WEEKEND COLLECTION December 5, 2021

St. Edward: Adult: \$2,135, Loose: \$100 Retired Religious: \$50, Christmas Flowers: \$175, Fall Collection: \$250 Immaculate Conception: \$532, IC loose: \$104
Total: **\$3,346**

St. Francis: Adult: \$1010, Loose: \$200, Votive:\$107.75, Christmas Flowers: \$50, Christmas: \$165, Immaculate Conception: \$137, IC Loose: \$47 Total: **\$1,716.75**

St. Mary: Adult: \$1,530, Loose: \$153, Votive: \$23 Christmas Flowers: \$75, Bishop's Annual Appeal: \$10, Immaculate Conception: \$225. IC Loose: \$139.26 Cemetery: \$100 Total: **\$2,255.26**

ADVENT

Mass, Devotions & Events Schedule

Sunday 12/19	Fourth Sunday of Advent
7-9 pm St. Francis	Reconciliation
Monday 12/20	
7-9 pm St. Edward	Reconciliation
Tuesday 12/21	Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
6 pm St. Mary 7-9 pm St. Mary	+Rich Boeckermann Reconciliation
Wednesday 12/22	
8 am St. Francis 3-5 pm St. Mary	+Michael Freihammer ~Kathy Thell Reconciliation
Thursday 12/23	
8 am St. Edward	+Mary Saalome Oopuda
Friday 12/24	The Nativity of Our Lord –Vigil Christmas Mass Readings: Mass During the Night
4 pm St. Francis 5pm St. Mary	+Edmund & Delores Roerick ~Carol Dobmeier +Brian Lange *4 pm Mass: Fr. Virgil (no incense)
Saturday 12/25	The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day Readings: Mass at Dawn
8 am St. Edward 10 am St. Francis	For the People +Eleanor Thell ~Kathy Thell
Sunday 12/26	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8 am St. Edward 10 am St. Mary	+Irene Molus ~Adeline Molus +Leo Fuchs ~Don & Rita Lange

Holdingsford Christmas Schedule

Friday 12/24

5 pm Immaculate Conception, 8 pm St. Columbille,
12 midnight All Saints-St. Mary's

Saturday 12/25

9 am All Saints-St. Hedwig's

Sunday 12/26

8 am All Saints, 10 am Immaculate Conception

Friday 12/31

11:30 pm Immaculate Conception

Saturday 1/1

10 am All Saints-St. Mary's, 5pm St. Columbille

Sunday 1/2

8 am All Saints, 10 am Immaculate Conception

Faith Formation

Sacrament of Reconciliation

All eleven of our second graders were awesome in their First Confession! Unfortunately, about one-half of the students in grades 3-10 showed up for confession/class.

Grades K-6 Parents

This week's assignment is to work on various Christmas activities. The following week will be learning about Mary, Mother of God.

Grades 7-10 Christmas Party: Dec 22

Thanks for a most blessed first half of the year. Come this evening to deepen your love for Jesus as we have a Christmas Party planned for you with many surprises!

Confirmation Class: Jan 5

Regular class from 7:30-9pm. Remember you are expected to bring either one of your parents or your sponsor.

ST EDWARD'S NEWS**Sat., Dec. 25, 8:00 am The Nativity of Our Lord****EM of HC:** Jim Wensmann **Lector:** Shari Biniek**Server:** Isaac Harren**Ushers:** Dennis Biniek & Nick Schleper**Greeters:** Raymond Kokett**Gift Bearers:** Arnie & Carol Molus**Sun., Dec. 26, 8:00 am The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph****EM of HC:** Julie Wensmann **Lector:** Tracey Hartung**Server:** Isaac Harren**Ushers:** Jim Wensmann & Justin Wensmann**Greeters:** Sally Schleper**Gift Bearers:** Brad & Crystal Hartung**Newly Baptized Everly Lucille Templin**

Congrats to her parents Joshua and Emily as well to her deceased grandparents: + Ray and Virginia and great grandparents Ray and Sharon Skroch and Clarence and + Virginia Maciej! Blessings to her godparents Brian and Raylynn Skroch who have taken on the responsibility of helping Everly grow in her Catholic faith.

Decorating the Church for Christmas

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Wed. Dec. 22 at 1pm. Many hands make light work. If you have questions call Dorene Czeck

ST FRANCIS' NEWS**Fri., Dec. 24, 4:00 pm The Nativity of the Lord-Vigil****EM of HC:** Chad Koopmeiners**Lector:** Chad Koopmeiners**Server:** Volunteers**Ushers:** Bob Theisen & Dan Lange**Gift Bearers:** Barry & Colleen Harren**Sat., Dec. 25, 10:00 am The Nativity of the Lord****EM of HC:** Rebecca Schmidt**Lector:** Clara Pflueger**Server:** Carter Roerich**Ushers:** Bob Theisen & Dan Lange**Gift Bearers:** Mike & Shelly Harr

St Francis men's society / CUF Meeting Dec. 27th
at 8:00 p.m. in the St Francis Church basement.

Baby Shower for Jesus Proceeds will go to ELEVATE (Pregnancy & Family Resource Center)

Current Needs: Clothing needs NB-9 months, Swaddlers, Sleep Sacks, Warm Fleece Sleepers/Pajamas, Muslin Swaddle Blankets, Car Seat Covers, Car Seat Hanging Toys, Target & Walmart Gift Cards, Baby Girl Long Sleeved Onesies, Baby Wipes, Boy & Girl Pants and 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**Fri., Dec. 24, 5pm The Nativity of the Lord-Vigil****EM of HC:** Cindy Koehn **Lector:** Leonice Prokott**Server:** Christian Ripplinger & Emily Ripplinger**Ushers:** Duane & Rosie Harren**Greeters:** Nathan & Laura Ripplinger**Gift Bearers:** Mike & Randi Klasen**Bank Deposit:** Marvin Wensmann**Sun., Dec. 26, 10am The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph****EM of HC:** Christine Weber **Lector:** Tom Kilian**Server:** Lilli Leither & Alayna Weber**Ushers:** Bob Blonigen & Mikel Nelson**Greeters:** Elmer Frie & Jan Kilian**Gift Bearers:** volunteers needed**Bank Deposit:** Cindy Koehn**St Mary's Church Decorating**

We will be decorating our church for Christmas on Thursday, Dec. 23rd at 2pm. Bring your Christmas Spirit and join in the fun!

Three Saints News continued**Retired Religious**

Thanks for your generous gift to all the retired religious brothers and sisters. Your gift to date from our parishes has been \$535. Covid-19 has compounded decreasing income making it a struggle for many religious communities.

The Giving Tree

"As I have loved you, that you also love one another" (John 13:34)

Thank you to all who participated in the Giving Tree Program.

You can take joy in the fact that you helped children have a Merry Christmas. God bless you and your families with Peace and Love throughout this holy season!

Getting to know your Secretary ...I love the Advent season and all the waiting. The waiting is time to prepare for our Christmas celebration but also a time to prepare our hearts for the Birth of Our Lord and Savior. Advent always feels too short for me but it is a good reminder that preparing our hearts is ongoing. ~Jessie

Notes from Fr David

We draw close to the end of this season of expectation, this season of preparation, this season of waiting. For three weeks we have been anticipating that glorious day that is now just over the horizon. Let us break from all the hustle and bustle that threaten to overwhelm the true meaning of this holy event and share in the pure joy of Mary and Elizabeth, two mothers expecting their first children, who in our weekend's Gospel exult in each other's blessedness.

I loved the powerful testimonies given at the end of our Sunday 10am Mass last weekend. Emily Blonigen (daughter of Pat and Kris) from St Edward's: "I and so many others kids went on a NCYC trip in Indiana. This was the first time for me. I didn't know what to expect, but I knew that it would be fun. My friends told me about it two years ago and I would regret it if I didn't go. It was eye-opening to see 10,000 people praying and worshipping together in a stadium. Seeing so many people singing together is a moment that I never want to forget. I recommend 100% younger kids to go on the trip next year. It changed the way I see God and Church. I had conversations with my friends about religion that we have never talked about before. Adoration was so different from any time I have gone. It helped me grow closer to God to see things in a different light. I am so grateful that I was able to go on this trip. I appreciate all the people who prayed for us, who chaperoned and all who helped put this trip together."

Katie Jensen (daughter of Eric and Julie) from St Mary's: "This was my second year going on the trip. I was a sophomore back in 2019. I was so excited to go on the trip again, but super nervous that I wasn't going to have the same experience. But this trip was so different from the first one. It was really similar but with not having as many people. Last time there was 22,000 people and this year it was 10,000. It caused a more intimate experience that I never had. Through adoration and confession, I had an amazing 'God-experience'! It was really great! When we went back to our hotel room, I shared it with Gracie, Katelyn and Emily. We talked about two hours about adoration. I never had that with anyone else. I just knew that those are the graces that God brings on trips like these. It was an absolutely amazing experience. I am really grateful for this opportunity."

And so, what can our parishes do to help our young people continue to deepen their relationship with Jesus? With their fire and enthusiasm for their faith, we are compelled to come forth in new and life-giving ways that will help develop their faith which will impact our faith.