

# 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.



#### Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas, January 28th

We all have doctors to look after our physical health, and the great news for Catholics is that we also have extraordinary physicians to care for our souls! Across history, the church has proclaimed 38 saints as Doctors of the Church, and foremost among them is St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), who mingled philosophy with theology as he wrote some of the most important treatises and books we have on doctrine and church teaching, most notably the *Summa Theologica*, or sum of theology.

In a world where everyone seems obsessed with the future, we can marvel over a saint who believed that reverent understanding of the past is far more important, and St. Thomas spent his relatively brief life deeply reading the church fathers and the great writers of antiquity--most notably Aristotle. His life's work was about striving to teach us all how to know and love God, and his defenses of the Incarnation and the Trinity are definitive. He had many friends including St. Albert the Great and St. Bonaventure, and likely one of them read first his most famous quote of all: *To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.* St. Thomas of Aquinas, pray for us! ~Jeff Johnson

*Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness: for there is no gloom where but now there was distress. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy...Is 8:23-9:3*

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**January 25, 2026**

### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 1/24		<i>St. Francis de Sales, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</i>
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Lorraine Ettel ~Arnie Dobmeier	<b>EM of HC:</b> Rosanne Voss, Janelle Roerick c, Syl Tschida c, <b>Lector:</b> Jane Keppers, <b>Servers:</b> Volunteers, <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, <b>Gifts:</b> Mike & Alice Westrich, <b>Sacristan:</b> Judy Theisen
Sunday 1/25		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> Jim Wensmann, Julie Wensmann c, Jackie Oldakowski c, <b>Lector:</b> Tracey Hartung, <b>Servers:</b> Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> John Kokett & Raymond Kokett, <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers, <b>Gifts:</b> Kris & Carrie Wensmann
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Rose Mary Binek	<b>EM of HC:</b> LeAnn Beneke, Mike Klasen c, Cindy Koehn c, <b>Lector:</b> Tom Kilian, <b>Servers:</b> Riley Klasen & Wyatt Klasen, <b>Ushers:</b> Darren Lange & Mitch Lange, <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers, <b>Gifts:</b> Mikel & Julie Nelson, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Mike Klasen

### Weekday Masses

Monday, 1/26	<i>Sts. Timothy &amp; Titus, Bishops</i>
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy (No Mass)
Tuesday, 1/27	<i>St. Angela Merici, Virgin &amp; Religious Founder</i>
6:00 p.m. St. Mary	† Richard O'Hotto
Wednesday, 1/28	<i>St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Dorothy Gerads ~St. Francis Men's Society
Thursday, 1/29	
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Stanley & Bernetta Czech
Friday, 1/30	
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	† Bernard Koopmeiners



Adoration  
2nd Tuesdays:  
 St. Francis 8am -7pm  
Thursdays:  
 St. Mary's 12 noon - 9 pm  
First Fridays:  
 St. Edward's 12 noon -9 pm

*I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD Ps 27:13-14*

**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 & Sherry Schumer

### The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 1/31		<i>St. John Bosco, Priest</i>
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> Judy Theisen, Brittany Harren c, Colleen Harren c, <b>Lector:</b> Mary Jane Boeckermann, <b>Servers:</b> Emmalyn, Carter & Brayden Harren , <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, <b>Gifts:</b> Dan & Sarah Roerick, <b>Sacristan:</b> Alice Westrich
Sunday 2/1		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Edward Jendro ~ Ione Brezinka	<b>EM of HC:</b> Karla Schneider, Derek Biniek c, Jim Bartkowicz c, <b>Lector:</b> Bill Boser, <b>Servers:</b> Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> Jeron Wensmann & Jim Czeck, <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers, <b>Gifts:</b> Dean & Jackie Wolbeck
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Deceased Members of the Don Wensmann Family ~ Marvin & Shirley Wensmann	<b>EM of HC:</b> Renee Scholz, Jon Leither c, Volunteer c, <b>Lector:</b> Kim Koehn, <b>Servers:</b> Lilli Leither & Volunteer, <b>Ushers:</b> Patrick & Lisa Zabinski, <b>Greeters:</b> Mikel & Julie Nelson, <b>Gifts:</b> Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Judy Michels

## All Cluster News

### Religious Education

K-6: Reba Leither ([leitherreba@gmail.com](mailto:leitherreba@gmail.com)) (701) 426-1607  
K-6: Beth Lange ([bethlange83@gmail.com](mailto:bethlange83@gmail.com)) (320) 630-8390  
7-10: Randi Klasen ([randiklasen@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:confirmation@tworiverscatholic.com).

### Upcoming Confirmation Dates (Holdingford)

Wed., Jan. 28th, 6:15 p.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's,

### Upcoming Faith Formation (Upsala)

Wed., Jan. 28th, at St. Mary's

7-8:00 p.m. 7-10th grade Class

### 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](mailto:fuchschelsea92@gmail.com).

**Youth Group – Sunday, January 25, 5:00-6:30 p.m., at St. Mary's.** Come for Fun, Food, and Faith! All 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders welcome to attend! Bring a friend!

### Steubenville Youth Conference Meeting

The meeting for all those registered for the Steubenville Youth Conference is being **rescheduled** due to multiple conflicts. New date upcoming!

**Castaway Retreat** for Grades 9-12, Friday-Sunday, March 20-22 near Detroit Lakes, MN. An energizing experience filled with prayer, skits, talks, music, and more faith-growing opportunities. Come together with 350 others to strengthen your relationship with God! If interested, text Jim at 320-229-2898 for more details and how to register.



### Festival of Families: Sunday, Feb. 22nd

Join other families from around the diocese to celebrate your Catholic

faith. The day includes a carnival, sessions for children-teens-parents, lunch, service projects, Mass and more! 9:00 AM - 3:00 p.m. St. Francis Xavier, Sartell Cost per family: \$25 (no matter the size) <https://stcdio.org/event/2026-festival-of-families/>.

## St. Edward's News

### St. Edward Corner Group Schedule 2026

January –March: St. John Group

April-June: St. Peter Group

July –September: St. Catherine Group

October –December: St. Theresa Group

Your Corner group is to do an activity within your months. The Chairperson, someone already assigned to your group, will contact you. Our Spaghetti Supper (April 10) will be done by the Parish & St. Edward's parishioners instead of the corner group.

## St. Francis' News

### Matching Grant Breakfast: Sunday, Feb. 22nd

St. Francis Catholic United Financial is sponsoring their annual Breakfast to benefit our Religious Ed. program in the St. Francis Church Basement. If anyone would like to donate towards the breakfast, please contact Chad 573-5667 or Bob: 573-2933. More Details to come.

### Journey with Jesus

The Christmas season has just ended but Easter is very early this year so we have to start planning the Journey with Jesus to Calvary production. There will be a meeting on Sunday, Jan. 25th at 11:30 a.m. in the St. Francis Church Basement. **Anyone** is welcome to attend. If you were part of last year's production and want to be again, come to the meeting and give your input on days and times. If you want to be a part in this year's production but cannot make the meeting, call Bob at 573-2933, especially all speaking parts.

### "Baby shower for Jesus"

On behalf of St Francis Christian Women, we would like to thank everyone who donated to the "Baby Shower for Jesus". We collected 278 items for Elevate. Elevate greatly appreciates everyone's generosity toward their Mom's and their children.



### Saturday, February. 14<sup>th</sup>

5:30 p.m. Mass with a social hour to follow. Candlelit meal at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$70 per couple will be sold after Mass starting January 18<sup>th</sup> or call the office to reserve tickets.

There are 3 choices: prime rib, walleye or bone-in chicken breast along with potato, vegetable, salad, and dessert. Beverages available for purchase. Tips and proceeds will support youth activities in our parishes.



### National Marriage Week: Feb. 7th-14th

Marriage is the bedrock of our society. When that crumbles, our homes and families crumble, our children then struggle, and our communities deal with the ripple effect. Please pray for marriages!

### WEEKEND COLLECTION 1/18/2025

**St. Edward:** Adult: \$570, Loose: \$68, Funeral Fund: \$30, **Total: \$668**

**St. Francis:** Adult: \$630, Loose: \$81, Votive: \$21.99 **Total: \$732.99**

**St. Mary:** Adults: \$1,384, Loose: \$381.61, **Total: \$1,765.61**

## News and Events



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

### **Feb. 8th will be the District Level Free**

**Throw Contest** Check-in begins at 12:30 p.m. with contest at 1:00 p.m. All welcome to support! For questions call Mike Klasen (320) 248-3600 or just come to the school.

### **Mark your calendars**

**Annual Knights of Columbus Breakfast & Raffle** on March 22nd.

**Chili Cook-off** in North Prairie on Feb. 15th.

**More details to come.**

### **Call for Artists**

The Art of Conversation Gallery, Upsala is having an all Community show. All ages and all media around any theme. Email submissions to [steve@upsalacov.org](mailto:steve@upsalacov.org) or text to (218) 428-8010. Gallery Hours: Friday: 4-6 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to noon & Sunday: Noon to 4 p.m.

### **The 29th Annual KC Buffalo Raffle : Jan. 31st**

Join us at the Pierz Ballroom for a meal served from 4-8:00 p.m. \$10 for burger, beans, potato salad & bars. Raffle tickets are \$10 –drawing held at 8:15 p.m. Music by the Old Tyme Country Boys Band. Half the proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

### **Natural Family Planning**

**Alexandria** on Monday, Feb. 16th at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. Contact Jill and Isaac Uphus (320) 290-8751 or at [uphus.nfp@gmail.com](mailto:uphus.nfp@gmail.com).

**Little Falls** on Tuesday, Feb. 3rd at 7:30 p.m. at the NFP Office in the Unity Specialty Center of St. Gabriel's Hospital. Contact Mary at [bontjesmary@yahoo.com](mailto:bontjesmary@yahoo.com) or call the Little Falls NFP Office at 631-5660.

**Sauk Centre** on Thursday, Feb. 19th at St. Paul's Church or CentraCare Health – Sauk Centre Hospital. Contact Jill & Isaac Uphus at [uphus.nfp@gmail.com](mailto:uphus.nfp@gmail.com) or (320) 290-8751.

**St. Cloud** Thurs. Feb 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the Office of Marriage & Family. Contact Sheila Reineke at [omf@gw.stcdio.org](mailto:omf@gw.stcdio.org) or (320) 258-7609.

All classes are approximately 1½ to 2 hours long. \*Most insurance plans cover the cost of NFP!

**2026 Calendars** Take a calendar home for your family- available in the entry of church.

**The Upstage Players performances of *Death by Chocolate*** will be on January 30th and 31st at 7:00 p.m. (dinner-\$35) and an afternoon show (dessert-\$10) on February 1st at 2:00 p.m. Performances are at St. Mary's, Upsala. Call Lisa Hansen (320) 250-2676 for tickets. Dinner tickets must be purchased before Jan. 16th, Matinee tickets will be sold at the door.

real life  
CATHOLIC

## SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Wadena Memorial Auditorium

Wadena, MN 56482

# REBOOT

A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT

This high-energy, 2-hour event with internationally acclaimed speaker **Chris Stefanick** will awaken your faith, reignite your joy, and equip you with tools to live the life God created you for: A life of JOY!

It will help you rediscover the JOY you were created for, and is perfect for everyone... even friends, family, and children (12+) who may not be actively practicing their faith.



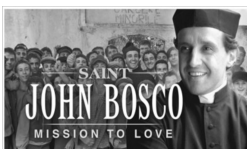
SCAN QR CODE TO SECURE YOUR SPOT OR GO TO:  
[HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/REALLIFECATHOLIC/1765324](https://buytickets.at/reallifecatholic/1765324)

### **This Week on FORMED**



**St. Thomas Aquinas** was given one of the greatest minds in history. He devoted his life to studying God. Not only did St. Thomas cover almost all of theology, but he also did it while maintaining theological accuracy.

**Saint John Bosco: Mission to Love** Flavio Insinna gives a winning performance as John Bosco, the great priest and educator of youth. Beautifully filmed in Italy, this epic movie dramatizes the many challenges that he had to overcome from his childhood all the way to founding his religious order.



**For Kids: The Story of St. John Bosco** Learn the inspiring story of the life of St. John Bosco in this audio reflection intended for kids. We celebrate his feast day on January 31st. Our parish has a Formed subscription. Visit [signup.Formed.org](http://signup.Formed.org) and select our parish name.