

# 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](http://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.

## The Baptism of the Lord



In the Gospel of Luke, we learn of how astonished John the Baptist was to behold his cousin Jesus descending the banks of the Jordan River as he presented himself for baptism. John proclaims that he is the one who needs to be baptized by the Lord, and Jesus gently tells him *Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.*

The crucial word enlisted by Jesus is “us.” As mysterious as the idea is, Christ was fully God and fully human every minute he was on earth, and in this moment He submits

to baptism to endlessly connect His heart with ours, and we too enter into the waters of the same sacred river when we enter His church through baptism. As Jesus wades ashore, *suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”* This dramatic endorsement from God the Father is nothing less than the greatest gift the universe has ever seen: the Son of God who is our sacrifice, sanctification, and salvation. St. John the Baptist, who exhorted us to *Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path*, pray for us! ~Jeff Johnson

*God is for us a refuge and strength, an ever-present help in time of distress: so we shall not fear though the earth should rock, though the mountains quake to the heart of the sea; even though its waters rage and foam, even though the mountains be shaken by its tumult. The LORD of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Come and behold the works of the LORD, the awesome deeds God had done on the earth. God puts an end to wars over all the earth; breaking bows, snapping spears, and burning shields with fire: “Be still and know that I am God, exalted over nations, exalted over earth!” The LORD of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Ps 46:2-4, 9-12*

The Baptism of the Lord		
Saturday 1/10		<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> Syl Tschida, Rosanne Voss c, Janelle Roerick c, <b>Lector:</b> Barb Moorman, <b>Servers:</b> Volunteers, <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, <b>Gifts:</b> Gerry & MJ Boeckermann, <b>Sacristan:</b> Jeanette Gerads
Sunday 1/11		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Marlys Biniek ~ Don Biniek	<b>EM of HC:</b> Jim Bartkowicz, Jim Wensmann c, Julie Wensmann c, <b>Lector:</b> Karla Schneider, <b>Servers:</b> Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> Scott Wensmann & Dennis Trettel, <b>Greeters:</b> Raymond Kokett & Volunteer, <b>Gifts:</b> Dan & Barb George
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Melvin Pundsack	<b>EM of HC:</b> LeAnn Beneke, Cindy Koehn c, Mike Klasen c, <b>Lector:</b> Chantelle Frie, <b>Servers:</b> Alayna Weber & Lauryn Weber, <b>Ushers:</b> Tom Kilian & Mary Frie, <b>Greeters:</b> Mikel & Julie Nelson, <b>Gifts:</b> Randy & Donna Roske, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Marvin Wensmann

### Weekday Masses

Monday, 1/12		 <b>Adoration</b> <b>2nd Tuesdays:</b> St. Francis 8am -7pm
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy (No Mass)	<b>Thursdays:</b> St. Mary's 12 noon - 9 pm
Tuesday, 1/13	<i>St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>	<b>First Fridays:</b> St. Edward's 12 noon -9 pm
No Mass		
Wednesday, 1/14		
No Mass		
Thursday, 1/15		
No Mass		
Friday, 1/16		
No Mass		

*Oh God, our refuge and strength, you alone are exalted over the earth!*



**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

### The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 1/17		<i>St. Anthony, Abbot</i>
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Eugene Lashinski	<b>EM of HC:</b> Brittany Harren, Colleen Harren c, Alice Westrich c, <b>Lector:</b> Jim Scholz, <b>Servers:</b> Emmalyn, Carter & Brayden Harren, <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, <b>Gifts:</b> Herb & Sharon Wielenberg, <b>Sacristan:</b> Bob Theisen
Sunday 1/18		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> Karla Schneider, Jerry Theisen c, Joan Theisen c, <b>Lector:</b> Jim Bartkowicz, <b>Servers:</b> Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> Mike Urbanski & Nick Schleper, <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers, <b>Gifts:</b> Steve & Kathy Blonigen
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Paul Ampe	<b>EM of HC:</b> Jon Leither, Chantelle Frie c, Lisa Zabinski c, <b>Lector:</b> Leonice Prokott, <b>Servers:</b> Anne Ripplinger & Emily Ripplinger, <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Blonigen & Mikel Nelson, <b>Greeters:</b> Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger, <b>Gifts:</b> Jamie & Jenny Leners, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Nathan Ripplinger

**MCCL's annual dinner** is January 25, 2026 at the Falls Ballroom, Little Falls. Social hour is 12:00-12:45, dinner 12:45-1:45, program starts at 1:45. Meal tickets are \$18.00 each. RSVP is due by January 18th. Please call Sue Houdek at 320-630-7045 to reserve your meal(s) or for more information.

## 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.

### Upcoming Confirmation Dates (Holdingford)

Wed., Jan. 14th at 6:15 p.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's,

### Upcoming Faith Formation (Upsala)

Wed., Jan. 14th, at St. Mary's

7 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).

### First Reconciliation Retreat

On Saturday, Jan. 10th from 9-11:00 a.m. at St. Mary's.

Pray for our First Communion students that they may be comforted by the Mercy of Jesus! Jesus, I trust in you!

**Youth Group – Sunday, January 11, 5:00-6:30pm, 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 on Monday, January 19th from 5-6:00 p.m. at St. Mary's.

### St. Cloud Diocese Winter Spectacular:

January 24th-25th

The 2026 Middle School Lock-in for grades 6-8 will be at the YMCA, St. Cloud. From 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Cost is \$40 until Jan. 15th and \$50 after. Mass with Bishop Neary. Share faith , food, and fun. Contact the Parish Office if interested.



### Valentine's Dinner: Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

Tickets will be sold after Mass starting January 18<sup>th</sup> or call the office to reserve tickets. More information to come.

### ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DECEMBER

St. Edward: \$200

St. Francis: \$405

St. Mary: \$1,005

Sign-up for Online Contributions by filling out a form on our website or by contacting the Parish Office to have a form mailed/mailed to you.

### WEEKEND COLLECTION 1/4/2025

St. Edward: Adult: \$1,535, Loose: \$132.25, Christmas: \$30, Loose: \$554; Fire Fund: \$20, Funeral Fund: \$195, Solemnity: \$50, **Total: \$1,962.25**

St. Francis: Adult: \$588, Loose: \$127, Solemnity: \$20, Funeral Fund: \$140, **Total: \$875**

St. Mary: Adults: \$1,051.25, Loose: \$272.45, Cemetery: \$500, Solemnity of Mary: \$100, Funeral: \$609, **Total: \$2,532.70**

A black and white promotional poster for the "Hear the Story: Be Moved" event. The top right corner features the text "The Todd Becker Foundation Presents" and "HEAR THE STORY" in large, bold letters, with "BE MOVED" in smaller letters below it. Two circular portraits of young men are shown: one on the left and one on the right. Below the portraits, a box contains the text "Hear the life-changing TODD BECKER STORY" and "with Speaker KEITH BECKER". In the center, three men are shown from the chest up, looking towards the right. Below them, a logo for "ATN ALL IN THE HOUSE" is visible. To the right, a t-shirt with the "ATN ALL IN THE HOUSE" logo is shown. Text on the right side of the poster includes "FREE BAND T-SHIRTS TO THE FIRST 15 STUDENTS", "LOCATION: UPSALA HIGH SCHOOL", and "DATE: JAN. 21ST TIME: 7-9 P.M.". At the bottom, the Todd Becker Foundation logo is on the left, the website "toddbecker.org" is in the center, and "A Christian Ministry and Message" is on the right.

### Hear the Story: Be Moved

This is an all area churches, all students event. If you are interested in being a counselor who will respond to those hearing the call of Jesus on this evening, please contact Pastor Steve at Community Covenant Church: (218) 428-8010. There is a training session to attend on 15th at 7p.m. The training will help counselors to find out what step of faith a person is ready to take and will show how to help the person take the step. A 30 day prayer intentions challenge for this event began Dec. 22nd-available church entry. Pray with us!

### Christmas Decorations

St. Francis and St. Mary's will takedown Christmas decorations after Masses this weekend. St. Edward's will be on Tuesday, January 13th at 1:00 p.m.

### St. Francis' News

#### "Baby shower for Jesus"

The St. Francis Christian Women are accepting donations until Sunday, Jan. 17th in the bassinet in the entrance of church for Elevate. Items needed are: Baby wipes, newborn onesies, swaddle blankets, infant bath soap, lotion, diapers cream, diapers of all sizes, Baby bottles, pacifiers-see more on the list near the bassinet.

## News and Events



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

### Annual K of C Free Throw Contest

is being held on January 11th at the Upsala High School. Sign-up begins at 12:30 p.m. with contest at 1:00 p.m. for boys and girls ages 9-14. All are welcome! For questions call Mike Klasen (320) 248-3600 or just come to the school. Feb. 8th will be the District Level Free Throw Contest.

### Mark your calendars

for our annual Knights of Columbus Breakfast & Raffle on March 22nd. More details to follow. If you would like to donate a prize for the raffle please contact John Kokett (320) 573-4239 by Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

### Rural Catholic Young Adult Group: Jan. 17th

Join us for prayer, topical information, discussions, and social activities for people ages 18-30 who are looking to socialized other young adults. We typically meet at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Meetings include socializing, snacks, and games to follow. These meetings are subject to change so please contact Katie (423-2203) or Marissa (630-2433) if you would like to join us.

**Central MN Koinonia** is a weekend Catholic retreat program that is designed to help you know the ways of the Lord. We are called to bring the love of Christ to the world! The next retreat is scheduled for January 23rd-25th at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Cost of the weekend is \$70. Go to [www.centralmnkoinonia.org](http://www.centralmnkoinonia.org)

### Did you know:

All Catholic Women over the age of 19 in our diocese are already members of the DCCW - St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. To learn more visit: [stclouddccw.org](http://stclouddccw.org).



**MCCL March for Life,**  
**Join us at the Capitol in St. Paul: January 22nd**  
Prayer service at the Cathedral of St. Paul is at 10:30 a.m. The March begins at Noon and is followed by a program from 12:30-1:00 on the Capitol steps. To learn more and to make a reservation to ride a bus visit: <https://stcdio.org/event/march-for-life-2026/>. To ride the St. Cloud bus contact Jan at 258-7615. To ride the Richmond bus contact Linda (320) 267-6268.

### 9 Days for Life Novena

Beginning January 16th you can pray each day for life by visiting: <https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-daily-prayers>. Each day contains an Intention, Prayers, Reflection and Acts of reparation.

### January Retreat

The Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls invite the public to their 2026 January Retreat, "Exploring Franciscan Wisdom: Being Peace in a Time of Division," to be held January 19-23, 2026. Participants may join on campus or via Zoom. Explore discernment and the movement of the Holy Spirit in daily life.

The retreat schedule is Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost options are overnight: \$325 (includes four nights in private room with shared bath and all meals); commuter: \$125 (includes lunches); Zoom: \$75. Register by January 12, 2026, by emailing [FLCEvents@fslf.org](mailto:FLCEvents@fslf.org). For more information, call (320)632-0680 or visit [www.fslf.org](http://www.fslf.org).

### Jesus the Teacher

In Luke's Gospel last Thursday, we inhabited one of the most astonishing moments in the Gospels, and world literature. Jesus' fame has quickly spreading, and he returns to his hometown of Nazareth to enter the synagogue on the Sabbath. Because of his ability to teach, he is handed the scroll to read aloud from Isaiah, and *He* is the actual subject of the text written eight centuries before his birth: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. He then proclaims, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."*

Thirty percent of the Bible is prophecy; thirty percent of it is also written in verse. When we remember that the many books of the Old Testament prefigure and predict what happens in the New Testament, everything clicks into place! Across all four Gospels, Jesus recites most often the Psalms when he is teaching the apostles and the many crowds, and after that he quotes again and again from Isaiah. In doing this, he is gently telling us that we should all be reading from these books. Yes, they are ancient, but they explain all manifest reality, and everything we are living through as devoted Catholics making ready the way of the Lord. ~Jeff Johnson