

# The Catholic Churches of

St. Edward  
Elmdale

St. Francis of Assisi  
St. Francis

St. Mary  
Upsala



## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 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](mailto:238catholic@sytekcom.com)

Web site: [www.238catholic.org](http://www.238catholic.org)

Diocesan web site: [www.stclouddiocese.org](http://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

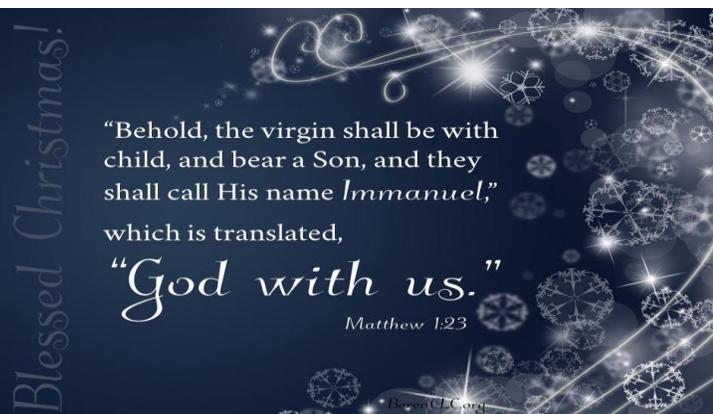
Saturday St. Mary 3:15 – 3:45pm

Sunday St. Edward 7:15 – 7:45am

St. Francis 9:15 – 9:45am

Tuesday St. Mary 5 – 5:45pm

Also by appointment



### 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 Ty Poppenhagen

### Surrounding Churches Christmas Mass Schedule:

St Rosa: 7pm December 24<sup>th</sup>

St Stanislaus-Sobieski: Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 5pm; Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 8:30am

Sacred Heart-Flensburg: Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 3pm; Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 12am

Midnight Latin Mass, 10am Latin Mass

St Stanislaus-Bowlus: Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 10am

### WEEKEND COLLECTIONS

**St. Mary:** Adult \$1,805.00; Loose \$103.02; Religious Retirement \$147.00; Immaculate Conception \$115.00; Christmas Flowers \$165.00; Online Giving \$150.00 - **\$2,485.02**

**St. Edward:** Adult \$767.00; Loose \$133.00; Cemetery Maintenance \$1,100.00; Fall Collection \$100.00; Christmas \$175.00; Immaculate Conception \$105.25; Flowers \$30.00; Religious Retirement \$30.00 – **\$2,440.25**

**St. Francis:** Adult \$556.00; Loose \$53.01; Votive \$171.00; Immaculate Conception \$115.00; Fall Collection \$1,500.00; Christmas \$100.00; Online Giving \$100.00 - **\$2,595.01**

## Mass Schedule Dec. 21 - 27, 2020

Monday: 12/21 NO MASS SCHEDULED

Tuesday: 12/22

St. Mary 6:00pm † Fr. Art Vogel

Wednesday: 12/23 *St. John of Kanty*

St. Francis 8:00am † Mary Ziegler

Thursday: 12/24 *Christmas Eve*

St. Mary 4:00pm † Elmer Sadlowsky  
- Caroline Sadlowsky

Incense

*Immaculate Conception, St. Anna* 4:00pm

St. Francis 5:00pm † Howard Krebs  
- Lorene Koopmeiners

No Incense

*St. Columbkille, St. Wendel* 6:00pm

St. Edward 8:00pm People of the Parishes

No Incense

*All Saints (St. Mary), Holdingford* Midnight

Readings – Mass During the Night

Friday: 12/25 *Christmas*

St. Edward 8:00am †† Joe & Delores Maciej  
- Leonard Czech

Incense

*All Saints (St. Hedwig), Holdingford* 9:00am

St. Francis 10:00am † Edna Boeckermann

Incense

Mass at Dawn

Saturday: 12/26 *St. Stephen*

St. Mary 4:00pm People of the Parishes

Sunday: 12/27 *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

St. Edward 8:00am † Jeffery Kalis

St. Francis 10:00am † Leo Fuchs

- Don & Rita Lange

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. (1/12)

Benediction follows Adoration in all parishes

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass Schedule

#### Holy Day of Obligation

#### 3 Saints Schedule:

Solemnity of Mary Eve-Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>:

4pm St. Mary, Upsala

Solemnity of Mary – Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>:

8am St. Edward, Elmdale

10am St. Francis

#### Holdingford Schedule:

Solemnity of Mary Eve-Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>:

6pm Immaculate Conception, St. Anna

11:30pm All Saints- St. Mary

Solemnity of Mary – Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>:

9am St. Columbkille, St. Wendel

A light will shine on us  
this day: the LORD  
is born for us.



### THREE SAINTS NEWS

#### **Christmas Decorations**

Thanks to everyone involved in helping decorating as you beautify our churches for this holy time of the year. It's been said, that since not as many people will be attending due to the pandemic that we need not decorate as much. That is most unfortunate for even if it is only one person who is affected by this beauty, it is well worth it.

#### **Confession Times Available**

Have you come to Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent? No greater graces and blessings than when you come to Him in the sacraments. Jesus says, "Come to Me all you who are weary ... " (Mt 11:28). Come this Tuesday evening before or after our 6pm Mass or from 7-9pm at St Mary's. Know that there is no greater joy in Heaven than when people who have been away for years from Jesus in this sacrament. Contact Fr David if you prefer an individual time.

#### **Awesome Fall Collections!**

It is so wonderful during these trying times of the COVID-19 that you still support your parishes so faithfully. Know that your sacrifices are most greatly appreciated. It is essential that we remain working together so that once we come out of this pandemic, we will be all the stronger because of it. Your gifts: SE: \$7,090; SF: \$11,470 and SM \$9,965.

#### **Retirement Fund for Religious**

"We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support this special collection every year. Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters." says a Catholic sister. Praise GOD has our three parishes donated \$419! Years of serving for little to no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift helps provide medication, nursing care, and other necessities.

#### **Monthly/Daily Missal**

A parishioner wrote, "Thanks so much for these monthly missals. They really help me to stay close to God as I begin my morning reading from it." For the next year, we will have 15 copies in the entrance of our churches. Next weekend, the January edition will be available.

#### **Seminarian's Birthday**

Please consider sending a card/note to our seminarians. Joseph VanDenheuvel from the Bertha parish has a b-day Dec 23. He is in his final year of college. His address: St Mary's University, 700 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987. Jean-Claude Duncan is in his final year of studies. He is from the parish in Wadena and his b-day is Dec 20. His address: St John's University, Colledgeville, MN 56321.

### ST. MARY'S NEWS

#### **Thursday, December 24 – 4pm – Christmas Eve**

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

*Greeter:* Rosie Harren

*Ushers:* Volunteer & Bob Blonigen

#### **Saturday, December 26 – 4pm**

*EM of HC:* Karen Liebsch      *Lector:* Leonice Prokott

*Greeter:* Jayne Lange

*Ushers:* Darren Lange & Mitch Lange

#### **Church Decorating**

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

#### **No Outdoor Nativity**

Would it not be wonderful to have a Nativity Scene next year? Perhaps there could be some deals after Christmas? It would speak volumes to the world having three different scenes along Hwy 238 all within a few miles.

### ST. EDWARD'S NEWS

#### **Thursday, December 24 – 8pm – Christmas Eve**

*EM of HC:* Dorene Czeck      *Lector:* Tracey Hartung

*Greeter:* Raymond Kokett

*Ushers:* Dennis Biniek & Nick Schleper

#### **Friday, December 25 – 8am - Christmas**

*EM of HC:* Jim Wensmann      *Lector:* Jeff Czech

*Greeter:* Sally Schleper

*Ushers:* Jim Wensmann & Justin Wensmann

#### **Sunday, December 27 – 8am**

*EM of HC:* Dorene Czeck      *Lector:* Adeline Molus

*Greeters:* Jim & Julie Wensmann

*Ushers:* John Kokett & Raymond Kokett

#### **Church Decorating**

We will be decorating the church on Monday, Dec. 21 at 1pm. All are welcomed to come help. Confirmations students can come too if they need service hours.

#### **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**

Your kindness and generosity is off the charts as this past week you gave \$1,100 for our Cemetery Maintenance! You are amazing. Remember that your generosity can never be outdone as God will bless you a hundredfold.

#### **Confessional Updated**

Please be patient with us as we strive to make the necessary final touches. We are devising a system in which a light will indicate when there is someone in there with the priest. Thanks to the generosity of Don and Bernie Bartkowicz who helped underwrite the expenses.

### ST. FRANCIS' NEWS

#### **Thursday, December 24 – 5pm – Christmas Eve**

*EM of HC:* Joyce Koopmeiners

*Lector:* Rebecca Schmidt      *Greeter:* Gerry Boeckermann

#### **Friday, December 25 – 10am – Christmas**

*EM of HC:* Rebecca Schmidt      *Lector:* Chad Koopmeiners

*Greeter:* Mary Jane Boeckermann

#### **Sunday, December 27 – 10am**

*EM of HC:* Rosanne Voss      *Lector:* Barb Moorman

*Greeter:* Bob Theisen

#### **Christmas Gift Ideas**

St Francis sewing circle has items 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. A Blessed Thank you in advance from St. Francis Christian Women.

### NOTES FROM FR. DAVID

Our season of fervent anticipation is nearly over. The promise of these four weeks, the coming of our Lord and Savior, will soon be reaching its fulfillment. Have we prepared a place in our hearts for him even as we have made preparations for the holiday? Once more we hear Mother Mary accept the invitation to bear the Son of God. Let her response be a model for us to accept God's invitation to bear Christ to one another.

Thanks to the great many of you who come to daily Mass and/or the weekend Mass. With the pandemic, it can be most challenging to know if you should come or stay home and watch Mass on TV. As Catholics, we believe that the Holy Eucharist is the source and summit in our lives. So yes, that is a hard decision. Because everyone needs that Jesus strength especially when COVID-19 is wanting to take us down. Daily Mass provides an ideal opportunity as there are fewer people in attendance. I know that there are many, many elders especially who have likely not received the Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick for many months. Please, please give me a call if you or a loved one would like a home visit. First ask your children if they think that it is a good idea for me to come. You/they have to know best regarding how best to keep you safe. Know that if I am feeling sick, I will not come. Also, know that I will wear a face covering and keep my distance as much as possible.

Thank you for coming forth to receive Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As a priest, next to praying the Mass, there is no greater graces present. It is truly a most beautiful experience listening in on your conversation with God. When giving the absolution or God's forgiveness to witness your peace while hearing and seeing your joy is truly an out-of-world experience!

With Christmas we will celebrate, for the Blessed Virgin Mary has brought into this world, our world, the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah, fully divine and fully human, the One who became for us, who redeemed us, who is with us still, and who will come again in glory on the last day. In this little infant, God's promise of salvation is fulfilled. Together we lift our hearts and raise our voices to sing praises to God for this greatest gift of all. Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones! You so bless me as I love nothing more than being your priest. These times are exciting simply being in your parishes as well as remaining hopeful that the Good Lord will allow me to stay here for many years. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!