



The Catholic Churches

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



The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. ~Is 35:1-6a, 10

Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2022

Pastor: Fr. David Grundman- (320) 309-4174
Sister Mary Pat Burger –St. Francis Rectory (320) 573-2203
Randi Klasen -Bookkeeper Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 8 am - noon
Jessie Johnson -Secretary Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 am - 4 pm
CENTRAL OFFICE 308 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 249,
Upsala MN 56384

Phone: (320) 573-2132 Website: www.238catholic.org
Email: 238catholic@sytekcom.com

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

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

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chantelle Frie(320) 360-4796 chantellefrie@gmail.com
Reba Leither (701) 426-1607 leitherreba@gmail.com
Roseanne Throener (320) 360-2196 arthroener@gmail.com

ADORATION

St. Edward's –monthly, the 1st Friday of the Month, 12 - 9 pm
St. Francis– monthly, the 2nd Tuesday of the month 7am-7 pm
St. Mary– Weekly, every Thursday 12-9 pm

Please update the office if your phone or address has changed.

Three Saints News

Upcoming Individual Confession Times:
Dec. 18 (SF) 7-9 pm Dec. 19 (SE) 7-9 pm
Dec. 20 (SM) 6:30-9 pm Dec. 22 (SM) 12-2 pm

Upsala Christmas/Solemnity of Mary Mass Times:

Dec. 24 4 pm St. Edward, Elmdale
5:30 pm St. Mary, Upsala
Dec. 25 8 am St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis
10 am St. Mary, Upsala
Dec. 31 4 pm St. Edward, Elmdale
Jan 1 8 am St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis
10 am St. Mary, Upsala

Holdingford Christmas/Solemnity Mass Times:

Dec. 24 4 pm Immaculate Conception, St. Anna
12 midnight All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford
Dec. 25 8 am All Saints-St. Hedwig's, Holdingford
10 am St. Columbkille, St. Wendel
Dec. 31 5 pm St. Columbkille, St. Wendel
11:30 pm All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford
Jan. 1 8 am All Saint-St. Mary's, Holdingford
10 am Immaculate Conception, St. Anna

Please note: Our office will be closed on December 23 & 26 for Christmas and on January 2 for the Solemnity of Mary.

Retirement Fund for Religious: Dec 10/11

Many elder religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings. Please give generously. You will find an envelope in your December Contribution packet or contribute to the collection basket with an indication for the donation to go to the Religious Retirement Fund.

Pray for us:

Raymond Kurowski, Ken Wielenberg, Margaret Carlson, Ken & Pat Euteneuer, Ron Dingman, Kristy Brezinka, Ramona Heurung, Arnold & Donna Scholz, Irene Lashinski, Darwin Binek & Kathy Hennek, Linus & Marjorie Lehner, Carol Langner, Judy Gerads, Bruce Wolters, Rose Beniek, Dennis Binek, Linda Mader, Marlene Vornbrock, Roger Thell, Alan Schumer, Jim Negen, Joe Primus

Mass, Devotions & Events Schedule

<u>Tuesday 12/13</u>		<i>Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>
6 pm St. Mary	†	Ty Poppenhaugen
<u>Wednesday 12/14</u>		<i>Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church Memorial</i>
8 am St. Francis		The living and deceased members of the St. Francis Men's Society.
<u>Thursday 12/15</u>		
8 am St. Edward	†	Frank & Barbara Jendro ~Ione Brezinka
<u>Friday 12/16</u>		
7:30 am St. Mary		Thanksgiving for Gerry & Mary Boeckermann
Weekend Masses		Fourth Sunday of Advent
<u>Saturday 12/17</u>		
10 am Senior Living 4 pm St. Edward		Communion Service For the People
<u>Sunday 12/18</u>		
8 am St. Francis 10 am St. Mary 7-9pm St. Francis	† † †	Michael Schiller Brian Lange Individual Confessions

ACC Penance Service is today, Dec. 11 at St. Mary's in Upsala from 2-5 pm. Five Priests available for you.

Faith Formation Dec. 11-17

Family Formation Home Lesson: Latin Prayers and Hymns
2nd Grade this week: Lesson 11

Grades 7-Adult including Confirmation: Attend guest speaker Jen Messing on Dec. 14. from 7-8:30 pm.

Youth

Young Women's Night for 11th & 12th grade: Dec. 11
Fellowship & Bible Study from 7:30– 8:30 pm at St. Mary's Church, Upsala. We will meet every other Sunday. Contact Brooke (320) 630-3215 for more information.

Upcoming Speaker, Jen Messing: Dec. 14

Jen Messing, the Founder and Executive Director of *Into the Deep* will speak at St. Mary's at 7:-8:30 pm. on December 14th. She has been giving presentations and leading *Theology of the Body*-based retreats in both outdoor and traditional settings around the United States since 2002. Her particular gift is to inject the universal language of the *theology of the body* into a wide range of ages, populations, and subject matter, showing how applicable it is in everyday life and in every aspect of the Catholic faith.

Jen received a Master of Theological Studies from Ave Maria University's Institute for Pastoral Theology and is pursuing a certificate through the Theology of the Body Institute. Her undergraduate degree is in Social Work and she is a graduate of the NOLS Pacific Northwest Outdoor Educator course. She co-founded the Frassati Society. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Area Church Events

Christmas Concert: Dec. 11

The St. Francis Community Chorale will have a free concert at 2 pm. at the St. Francis Convent, Little Falls on December 11th. All welcome to attend.

Thank You for Being Awesome

"Thank you so much for your help at the Community Thanks giving Dinner and for your encouragement of your parishes to help serve. It is greatly appreciated. It truly is a community effort and I thank you for your support. Blessings in the Holiday Season." Word of Life Church

St. Cloud Mission Office Advent and Christmas Open House

December 1st to 22nd receive 10% off ALL Fair Trade crafts, food, quilts coffee, chocolates, and more. Please consider shopping Fair Trade for all your gifts this Christmas.
11 Eight Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN. (320) 251-1100.

ST EDWARD'S NEWS

Saturday, December 17 - 4pm

EM of HC: Dorene Czeck

Lector: Shari Biniek

Servers: Volunteers

Ushers: Jeron Wensmann & Jim Czeck

Greeters: Jim & Julie Wensmann

Gift Bearers: Scott & Karla Van Wiene

ST FRANCIS' NEWS

December Ushers:

Frank & Joyce Koopmeiners

Sunday, December 18 - 8 am

EM of HC: Janelle Roerick

Lector: Jane Keppers

Servers: Carter Roerick

Gift Bearers: Mark & Barb Moorman

Baby Shower for Jesus

Proceeds will go to ELEVATE (Pregnancy & Family Resource Center) Current Needs: Car Seat Covers, Car Seat Hanging Toys, Teething toys and gels, Nail clippers, Toys, Diaper Bags, Safety plug-ins, Crib Sheets, 18-24 month girl clothes, Target & Walmart Gift Cards, 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.

Church Decorating

We will begin decorating our church after the 8 am Mass, Wednesday, Dec. 14. Everyone welcome to help!

ST MARY'S NEWS

Sunday, December 18 - 10 am

EM of HC: Chantelle Frie

Lector: Mary Frie

Servers: Beau Ripplinger & Anne Ripplinger

Ushers: Patrick & Lisa Zabinski

Greeters: Matt & Ronda Ripplinger

Gift Bearers: Mikel & Julie Nelson

Bank Deposit: Tom Kilian

Thank You

for all the gifts given to the Giving Tree! Christmas Day will be a much brighter day for all the children receiving those gifts. Christmas Blessings to you and your families.

Three Saints News continued

Ministry Volunteers needed: Dec. 24

We have an additional Christmas Mass for 5:30 pm at St. Mary's, Upsala. There is a sign up sheet in the entry of St. Mary's by the Holy Water Font for those willing to serve. Volunteers can be from any of our parishes.

Nativity Scene Blessing

All make the sign of the Cross as the Leader says:
Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R: Who made heaven and earth. Read Luke 2:1-8 or Isaiah 7:10-15

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger: may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen. ~Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

WEEKEND COLLECTION Dec. 4, 2022

St. Edward: Adult: \$1226, Loose: \$122, Immaculate Conception \$5, Christmas Flowers: \$225, Retired Religious: \$10

Total: \$1,588

St. Francis: Adult: \$460, Loose: \$98, Christmas Flowers: \$110, Thanksgiving: \$225, **Total: \$893**

St. Mary: Adult: \$2,315, Loose: \$167, Votive: \$81.53
Thanksgiving: \$5, Fall Collection: \$100, Christmas Flowers: \$220 **Total: \$2,888.53**

Find a way to serve and share the joy of Christ during this Advent season! Here are a few suggestions:

*Bake cookies for neighbors who don't have family and friends nearby.

*Donate clothes, food, and toys to those in need.

*Send Christmas cards to those in nursing homes, those who are in prison, or those serving in the military.

*Go Christmas Caroling and share the joy of Christ in your town!

*Pay for someone's coffee or lunch when going through the drive-thru.

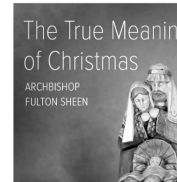
*Offer to babysit for a family that may not be able to regularly afford a babysitter.

*Give money to support local or worldwide missions.

*Volunteer to help decorate and clean your church for Christmas.

*Text or call those who may be lonely or grieving this holiday season.

WATCH ON FORMED:



The True Meaning of Christmas by Fulton

Sheen This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!

Notes from Father David

Halfway through this season of preparation, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, this weekend of joy and gladness. With eager anticipation we prepare our hearts for Christ as we prepare our homes for Christmas. Recalling that Mary and Joseph could not find a proper place to receive our Lord anew into our lives. In Him, the blind see and the deaf hear, the poor are fed and the dead are raised. May we ready ourselves to see the wonder the Lord can do in our midst.

The Lord was in our midst the previous Friday evening at St. Edward's! We were blessed to receive a homeless man (Nicholas). You may recall the high winds and the cold temperatures as he had walked from Upsala. It was later in the evening. He asked to spend the night. I put him up in the church. I found some bedding. He was very comfortable in the cry room as I gave him something to eat as well. The next morning, I brought some breakfast over and he was most grateful. I had an extra winter coat which I gave him. As I left for the day, he was waiting for a ride to Little Falls. No doubt the Lord was in our midst.

The Lord is in our midst as so many of you spend hours decorating their homes/yards for Christmas. This is a beautiful way to bring praise and glory to our God. One in particular recently caught my attention. It is the home of Ted and Sally Lewandowski from St Edward's. It is quite the array of lights with the huge candy canes, nativity scene, etc. It was the home of John Gorka. Simply take the road by Woller Equipment as their house is on the second curve.

The Lord was in our midst last weekend with St Nicholas handing out treats for the children. If you want to read more about Rupert, check out [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rupert_of_Upsala) or other sites. Last weekend was the first time that I ever recall hearing about Rupert. Yet the point is thanks to St Francis Men's Society for how you faithfully reach out to all of our parishes. This is a common theme that I have noticed the past few years. The more that we see our three parishes as one parish, the more we will be blessed.

Due to Christmas falling on Sunday, it was recently decided that we will have an additional Mass December 24 at 5:30pm in St. Mary's. Let us pray that this will allow some flexibility in which all four Masses will be well attended. From now until Christmas, I pray that you will make time to come to Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Indeed, the Lord is in our midst. We have a Penance Service this Sunday, December 11th from 2-5pm at St. Mary's with five priests available. December 21st from 6:30-8pm, we will have four priests available for religious education students and parents. Check out the other individual times to be made available. Remember next weekend you can receive the sacrament after all the Masses. Know that I would more than welcome a phone call if you prefer to meet with me individually.