

# 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.

## Epiphany!

Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany January 4<sup>th</sup>, and at the heart of this story is the idea of *manifestation*, which we have when we bring that Greek word into English. Through the Gospel of Matthew we learn of the wealthy wise men who journey to inhabit the first moment the infant Jesus appears outside the Holy Family as King of the entire Universe.

For us, the lessons of this vital story are clear and urgent. Like the Magi, we are called to journey, to look up, and also fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah: *Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come*" (Is. 60:1ff). At the same time, we must be aware that the spirit of hateful, murderous Herod is the spirit of the world that endlessly wants to stop our sacred impulse to pursue the light of Christ. With complete faith and hope in the Divine Will of God, symbolized by all our Christmas candles, we "return home by another way," saying no to sin, and yes to the promises of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, and the silence of the manger. Across this new year, look for the quiet, small ways Jesus manifests in our lives in the forms of grace, and blessings from God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. ~ Jeff Johnson




Epiphany is a flash of deep insight or a moment when a hidden truth is revealed. Everything changed with Jesus!

## The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday 1/3		
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Don Stiller	<b>EM of HC:</b> Brittany Harren, Colleen Harren c, Mary Jane Boeckermann c, <b>Lector:</b> Jane Keppers <b>Servers:</b> Emmalyn, Carter & Brayden Harren, <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, <b>Gifts:</b> Kurt & Jackie Goebel, <b>Sacristan:</b> Jeanette Gerads
Sunday 1/4		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Jeffrey Kalis & Samantha Colbert	<b>EM of HC:</b> Derek Biniek, Joan Theisen c, Jerry Theisen c, <b>Lector:</b> Jeff Czech, <b>Servers:</b> Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> Jim Wensmann & Justin Wensmann, <b>Greeters:</b> Megan Wensmann & Volunteer, <b>Gifts:</b> Scott & Jen Wensmann
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> Lisa Zabinski, Jon Lether c, Renee Scholz c, <b>Lector:</b> Mary Hollenkamp, <b>Servers:</b> Lilli Leither & Volunteer, <b>Ushers:</b> Darren Lange & Mitch Lange, <b>Greeters:</b> Nathan & Laura Ripplinger, <b>Gifts:</b> Andy & Linda Langner, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Judy Michels

## Weekday Masses

Monday, 1/5	<i>St. John Neumann, Bishop</i>	 <p><b>Adoration</b>  <b>2nd Tuesdays:</b>          St. Francis 8am -7pm  <b>Thursdays:</b>          St. Mary's 12 noon - 9 pm  <b>First Fridays:</b>          St. Edward's 12 noon -9 pm</p>
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy (No Mass)	
Tuesday, 1/6	<i>St. Andre Bessette, Religious</i>	
6:00 p.m. St. Mary's *Anointing of the Sick	Holy Souls in Purgatory ~ Dave & Renee Scholz	
Wednesday, 1/7	<i>St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest</i>	
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Eileen Stiller~ Lorene Koopmeiners	<p><b>Pray for us:</b> 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, &amp; Jan Kilian</p>
Thursday, 1/8		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Neil Meyer	
Friday, 1/9		
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	† Marianne Johnson	
		Believe in Jesus!

## 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

2026 Calendars The new calendars available in the entry of church. Holy Days and Saints are included. Take one home for your family. Supplies limited.

## 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. 7th at 6:15 p.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's,

### Upcoming Faith Formation (Upsala)

Wed., Jan. 7th, at St. Mary's

6:30 p.m. Family Formation K-6 at St. Mary's

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

### 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.

### Thank you

to all who gave to the "Thanks" Giving Tree We had such a good response and many children received Christmas gifts this year. Thank you for your generosity!

*"We want to take a moment to thank everyone for your kindness and generosity. Your gifts for Children that are currently in care and need will bring them so much joy and brighten their Christmas and holiday Season. Thank you again for sharing the true spirit of the Season. We wish you a Christmas filled with joy and happiness." Kind Regards~ Morrison County Child protection and Children & Family Services Departments.*

### Thank you

to all who helped with our Christmas celebration this year: The Eucharistic Ministers, servers, sacristans, choirs, musicians, greeters, lectors, ushers, gift bearers, decorators & all who volunteered. Special thanks to those who helped with cleaning and maintenance of our churches.

### WEEKEND COLLECTION 12/28/2025

**St. Edward:** Adult: \$1,700, Loose: \$159, Christmas: \$4300, Loose: \$554, Fire Fund: \$100, Votive: \$75.64, Funeral Fund: \$5, Solemnity: \$25, **Total: \$6,918.64**


**St. Francis:** Adult: \$715, Loose: \$167, Solemnity: \$25, Christmas: \$3,750, Loose: \$172, Christmas Flowers: \$55, **Total: \$4,284**

**St. Mary:** Adults: \$3,112, Loose: \$189.36, Christmas: \$ 3,356, Loose \$392.25, Votive: \$218.25, Fall Collection: \$450, Funeral Lunch: \$10, Thanksgiving: \$50, **Total: \$7,777.86**

The Todd Becker Foundation Presents


# HEAR THE STORY

BE MOVED




Hear the life-changing TODD BECKER STORY

with Speaker KEITH BECKER




Featuring **ATN ALL-THE-NOISE**

FREE BAND T-SHIRTS TO THE FIRST 15 STUDENTS



**LOCATION:** UPSALA HIGH SCHOOL  
**DATE:** JAN. 21ST **TIME:** 7-9 P.M.

 [toddbecker.org](http://toddbecker.org) A Christian Ministry and Message

### 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 Jan. 6th or 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!**

**Youth Group – Sunday, January 11, 5:00-6:30pm, at St. Mary's.** All 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders welcome to attend! Bring a friend!

## St. Francis' News

**Thank you** to Freeport State Bank for the \$1000 gift to St. Francis of Assisi Church!

### "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 onsies, 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**

### Meeting:

Jan. 6th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Edward's Elmdale

### 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

### Rural Catholic Middle Ages Singles Group: Jan. 10th

Join us for prayer, topical information, discussions, and social activities for people ages 30-60 who are looking to socialize with other single adults. We meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month at All Saints-St. Mary's Church basement in Holdingford. Contact: Janel at 290-2877.

### 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.

### Youth Event!

Barn Dance & Games on **Sunday January 4<sup>th</sup>** from 5:30 to 8:30 a.m. Hosted by the Kroll's in the Gathering Barn 35204 County Road 155, Avon, MN (320) 229-9253.

### Save the Date:

The Upstage Players will be Having a dinner Theater on January 30th and 31st at 7:00 p.m. and an afternoon show on February 1st at 2:00 p.m. Performances are at St. Mary's, Upsala.

**formed™** Grow  
Forming Catholics for Life. **in your faith this year!**

### Subscribe to FORMED for free at:

www.signup.formed.org. Enter parish zip code (56384). Enter your name and email address. movies, talks, prayers and kid's content.

### 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.



### 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 (320) 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.

Central MN Koinonia is a weekend Catholic retreat program that is designed to help you know the ways of the Lord. The next retreat is scheduled for January 23rd-25th, 2026, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Cost of the weekend is \$70. Go to [www.centralmnkoinonia.org](http://www.centralmnkoinonia.org) for more information and to register for retreats.

Reboot-A Life Changing Event Chris Stefanick will be the speaker on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at this high-energy, 2 hour event that will awaken your faith, reignite your joy, and equip you with tools to live the life God created you for: A Life of JOY! This is perfect for ages 12 & up. The event takes place at the Wadena Memorial Auditorium (249 Dayton Ave. S.W., Wadena) Tickets can be purchased at <https://buytickets.at/reallifecatholic/1765324>.

### Need Help Paying Your Energy Bills?

Greater Minnesota Gas would like to remind residential homeowners or renters of the Energy Assistance Program (EAP). This program helps pay for home heating costs, may assist with furnace repairs, and could offer energy efficiency home upgrades for income qualified customers. Please call 1-800-657-3710 for assistance.



### FORMED KIDS

Watch & draw as the Solemnity of the Epiphany and the importance of the wise men's gifts is explained while drawing the 3 wise men. Ms. Kim challenges kids to do an act of kindness for someone, offering it as a gift to Jesus in this video.