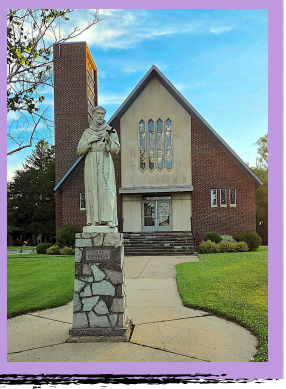
Elmdale, Upsala and St. Francis: Mary & the Saints ACC





Saint Edward
Saint Mary
Saint Francis of Assisi



Pastor:
Fr. Sebastian Painappillil VC
(320) 573-2975
frpainappillil@yahoo.com

Parish Office: St. Mary's Church
308 S. Main Street P.O. Box 249
Upsala, MN 56384
(320) 573-2132
Email: 238catholic@sytekcom.com
Website: 238catholic.org

Bookkeeper: Randi Klasen
Tuesday & Thursday 8 a.m. - Noon
Secretary: Jessie Johnson
Monday & Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wednesday: 8 a.m. - Noon

Reconciliation: Confessions are 1/2 before all Masses. See Mass Schedule.

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

Sick & Homebound Ministry: Contact the Parish Office if you need Holy Communion or Anointing for you or a loved one.

Marriage: Couples need to begin preparations with our pastor nine months in advance.

Baptism & Marriage: Contact the office before setting a date.

The Season of Advent

Both Lent and Advent are seasons of waiting, preparation, and penance. During Lent, we await Christ's return from 40 days in the desert, His loving sacrifice for us, and Resurrection. In Advent, we prepare for His birth. The birth and resurrection of Christ are intertwined, and their connection is quite significant theologically. Yet, these seasons of waiting look different for us – Advent is a uniquely joyous and hopeful season in the Church.We light candles amidst the darkness. We find warmth in the cold, dark winter season. And we come together as friends and family to celebrate the coming of our Savior.

Advent is also the beginning of a new liturgical year. We begin the year anew, renewed by His birth.Though it's never explicitly mentioned in the Bible, Advent is inspired by scripture. Isaiah, a messianic prophet, foretold Jesus's birth centuries before it took place: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign; the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

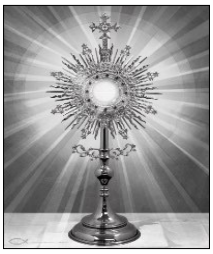
In the Gospels, we see the fulfillment of this prophecy. Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. (Matthew 1:18-25) ~hallow.org
To pray with Hallow this Advent visit: https://onboarding.hallow.com

Ministry Schedule

Saturday11/28		Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
4:00 p.m. St. Edward	† Betty Brezinka	**EM of HC**: Derek Biniek, Karla Schneider c, Jerry Theisen c, **Lector**: Tracey Hartung, **Servers**: Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, **Ushers**: Jeron Wensmann & Jim Czeck, **Gift Bearers**: Jim & Lora Bartkowicz
Sunday 11/29		
8:00 a.m. St.Francis	For the People	**EM of HC**: Brittany Harren, Colleen Harren c, Alice Westrich c, **Lector**: Barb Moorman, **Servers**: Emmalyn, Carter & Braden Harren, **Ushers**, Mark Moorman & Syl Tschida, **Gift Bearers**: Sheldon & Karla Tschida, **Sacristan**: Sylvester Tschida
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Jack & Lue Zabinski ~Pat & Lisa Zabinski	**EM of HC**: LeAnn Benek, Chantelle Frie c, Jon Leither c, **Lector**: Leonice Prokott, **Servers**: Lilli Leither, **Ushers**: Darren Lange & Mitch Lange, **Greeters**: Jerome & Theresa Ludwig, **Gift Bearers**: Patrick & Lisa Zabinski, **Bank Deposit:** Judy Michels

Monday, 11/30	
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy (No Mass)
Tuesday, 12/1	
6:00 p.m. St. Mary *Anointing of the Sick	† Melvin Gerads
Wednesday, 12/2	
8:00 a.m. St. Francis *Anointing of the Sick	† Delores Notch ~Lorene Koopmeiners
Thursday, 12/3	*St. Francis Xavier, Priest*
8:00 a.m. St. Edward *Anointing of the Sick	† Marlys Biniek ~Don Biniek
Friday, 12/4	*St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church*
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	† Kristi Rose Welle



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

Pray for us: Pat Euteneuer, Roger Thell, Kristy Brezinka, Carol Langner, Judy Gerads, Millie Gerads, Marlene Vornbrock, Jim Koczur, Gary Larson, Helen Heisick, Kevin Lampert, Pat Harren, Geraldine George, William Hill, Devota Nilson, Rosemary Pundsack, Ron Schmidt, Ken Welle, Dave Hollenkamp, Eleanor Tschida, Eileen Koroll, Linda Strom, Andy Langner, Christine Wuebkers, & Marlene Carlson

Saturday 12/5		Second Sunday of Advent
4:00 p.m. St. Edward	For the People	**EM of HC**: Julie Wensmann, Jim Wensmann c Jackie Oldakowski, **Lector**: Jim Bartkowicz, **Servers**: Jasmyn Oldakowski, **Ushers**: Donald Welinski & Jeff Czech, **Greeters**: Raymond Kokett, **Gift Bearers**: Pat & Kris Blonigen
Sunday 12/6		
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	Living & Deceased Members of the St. Francis Parish ~Jane Keppers	**EM of HC**: Bob Theisen, Judy Theisen c, Alice Westrich c, **Lector**: Mary Jane Boeckermann, **Servers**: Evan Welle, **Ushers**: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, **Gift Bearers:** Herb & Sharon Wielenburg, **Sacristan**: Alice Westrich
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Virgil Burg ~Marvin & Shirley Wensmann	**EM of HC**: LeAnn Beneke, Lisa Zabinski c, Jon Leither c, **Lector**: Tom Kilian, **Servers**: Alayna Weber & Lauryn Weber, **Ushers**: Patrick Zabinski, **Greeters**: Elmer Frie & Mary Frie, **Gift Bearers**: Jamie & Jenny Leners, **Bank Deposit:** Marvin Wensmann

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do no know when the time will come." ~Mk 12:33

Religious Education

K-6: Beth Lange- bethlange83@gmail.com (320) 630-8390

7-10: Randi Klasen randiklasen@gmail.com (320) 493-5624

Confirmation: Bob Vouk 249-3398, Jenny Revermann 249-9938

Katie Urbanski: confirmation@tworiverscatholic.com.

Upcoming Class: Wednesday, December 2nd

6:30 p.m. Family Formation-SM

6:15 p.m.Confirmation -ASSM

Children's Liturgy

Each week, during the 10:00 am Mass at St. Mary's, children are invited back during the Liturgy of the Word to enjoy a child-friendly message related to the Mass readings. No need to sign up, all children are welcome! Recommended for preschool and elementary aged children.

Next Youth Group: join us on December 6th in the evening for all 8th -12th graders. Come and bring your friends!

Upcoming Mass Schedule

Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 7th: 7 p.m. St. Francis of Assisi

Tuesday, December 8th: 6 p.m. St. Mary, Upsala

7 p.m. St. Edward, Elmdale

ACC All Parish Confessions:

Sunday, December 13th, 2-4:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, Upsala

Parish Confessions

Wednesday, December 2nd, 6 p.m., for Rel. Ed 3-6 gr-SM

Wednesday, December 9th, 6 p.m. for Rel. Ed. 7-10 gr.-SM

Wednesday, December 16th, 6 p.m. (if needed for Rel. Ed)-SM

Monday, December 14th: 6 p.m., St. Edward, Elmdale

Tuesday, December 15th: 6 p.m. , St. Francis of Assisi

Thursday, December 17th: 6 p.m., St. Mary, Upsala

Christmas

Vigil Eve

Thursday, December 24th: 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary, Upsala

6:00 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25th: 8:00 a.m. at St. Edward, Elmdale

The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary -New Year's Day

Thursday, December 31st: 4:00 p.m. at St. Edward, Elmdale

Friday, January 1st: 8:00 a.m. at St. Francis, St. Francis

10:00 a.m. at St. Mary, Upsala

The New 2027 Calendars are in!

A big THANK YOU to Freeport State Bank for supplying the calendars again this year. You will find them available in the back of all three churches. This is a Catholic calendar with feast days listed. Please take one for your family!

The "Thanks" Giving Tree

Jesus asks us to love our neighbor as ourselves-what a better way to do this than share your generosity with local children in need. The Social Justice Committee is working with the Morrison County Human Services Dept. to provide gifts for children. There is a great need for educational books and toys for infants, toddlers, elementary and high school age children. You'll notice Our "Thanks" Giving Tree in the entry of St. Mary's from Nov. 8th until Dec. 6th. Help make Christmas Day a happy time for these children. Please see the sign-up book and follow the instructions given. Your generosity has been greatly appreciated by many year after year. Thank you!

The Gift of Christmas Community Covenant Church welcomes all to come enjoy their 40th annual Christmas banquet on Thursday, December 3rd at 5:30 p.m. Free Will donation. Call (320) 573-2672 to register.

St. Francis' News

The St. Francis Men's Society will have a meeting on Thursday, December 3rd at 8:00 p.m. We will meet at 7:30 p.m. to put the bags together for St. Nick for the weekend. If you are interested in joining the Men's Society come to fill the bags and stay for the meeting. Dues are only $2 per year.

St. Francis Commemorative Cookbook!

Beginning November 30th, remaining cookbooks will be sold for $15 to non-parishioners on the Wait List. Those on the list will receive a call and you'll be able to pick up and pay at the Parish Office.

St. Francis Group 2027 Chairs/Co-chairs

Group 1: Sandy Boeckermann/Lisa Dobmeier

Group 2: Jeanette Gerads/Melissa Tschida

Group 3: Tammy Lehner/Julie Roerick

Group 4: Colleen Harren/Brittany Harren

Las year 2026 charts & co-chairs please return books. New chairs please pick up book & envelope once books returned. Chair Group 3& Co-chair Group 2 books are updated and in back of church. All are labeled. Group 3 is up for next church function.

WEEKEND COLLECTION 11/22/2026

Totals will be available in next week's bulletin.

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

Save the date:

Next Meetings: Dec. 1st at St. Edward's, Elmdale at 7:30pm

St. Cloud VA Escorts :
6 to 8 Knights needed on Nov. 29th

Knights Mass of Remembrance Dec. 2nd, 8 a.m. at St. Stanislaus, Bowlus.

Family Christmas Potluck
Dec. 6th following the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's, Upsala.



First Advent Candle/Sunday:Hope

"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world." – C.S. Lewis

It is only fitting that the first candle on the Advent wreath represents Hope – the first Sunday of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. The first candle is purple, the primary color of Advent and a color symbolizing royalty. Sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle," the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus. ~hallow.org

Jesus, we await you!

Remember and Honor Local Heroes! Upsala American Legion Auxiliary would like to honor our veterans for National Wreath Across America Day on December 19th. Sponsor a wreath for $17 to be placed on a veteran's grave at St. Mary's, St. Edwards and St. Francis Church Cemeteries or another Upsala area cemetery. Grave specific requests can be made.Visit: www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/MN0085P or call Kristi612-202-5974. Orders are due by Dec. 1st. All are invited to help place wreaths or attend the ceremony on December 19th at the Upsala Area Veterans Memorial, at 10:00am.

Men's Retreat: Saturday, December 12th

The Journey to Bethlehem Through the Eyes of Joseph. Join Fr. Derek Wiechmann as we reflect on Joseph's courage, sacrifice and unwavering trust in God. Eucharistic Adoration begins at 6:00 a.m. at Mary of the immaculate Conception, Rockville. Mass, light breakfast, retreat reflection to follow. Register tiny url.com/mensadventretreat26

Pray This Advent

Dear Lord, please allow me to embrace Advent in the way the Church intends: as a way to prepare for Your arrival. May everything I do– every gift I send, every party I attend, every meal I share–remind me to prepare space in my heart for You. Amen.

The Advent Wreath Tradition

The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God's infinite love for us – it is never-ending, just like the true Light of the World, Jesus, who leads us into eternal life with Him. The materials of the Advent wreath similarly lead us to reflect on the everlasting nature of God; traditionally, Advent wreaths have been made of evergreen leaves, such as pine or fir, which maintain their green color beyond the season in which they are collected. ~hallow.org

Light the First Candle of Your Advent Wreath

Make the Sign of the Cross then say, "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Then, read Scripture from the Book of Isaiah. The USCCB points us toward Isaiah 9, Isaiah 63, or Isaiah 64. Pray with the following blessing written by the USCCB.

"Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
He is the Savior of every nation.
Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation
May He come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen."