

News and Events



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

Mass for the Knights of Columbus Deceased members

Mass has been changed from Nov. 21, 2024 to Jan. 9, 2025

VA Escorts

Knights will be assisting with escorts on Dec. 29th at the VA in St. Cloud.

K of C Free Throw Contest



1st Level Contest at the local level will be on January 12th in the Upsala High School Gym for boys & girls ages 9 - 14. Contact Mike Klasen 320-248-3600 or Jeff Czech 320-630-2753

WATCH ON FORMED



Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids

Watch as Margot, Lexi, Miguel, and Logan take your kids on a heartfelt journey through the Christmas story. This retelling will help your family see God's promise fulfilled in Jesus, filling your hearts with hope.



Drawing Closer to God

Creativity and Scripture with Ms. Kim! As your kids draw scenes like the Nativity and the Annunciation, they'll see God's big story come to life—and discover their special place within it.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "Catechism songs" during the 1550-1800's when it was illegal to be Catholic to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged. The songs' gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings. The other symbols mean the following:

- 1 Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ, Son of God
- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testament
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine (Apostle's Creed)



Guiding Star

Today it is more important than ever for young girls to have high self-esteem regarding the changes in their bodies. Research shows it is better to prepare girls for these changes before the onset of puberty not just when they are in the middle of it. Participation in the Guiding Star Cycle Show Workshop helps girls value and respect their bodies in healthy ways as they move into their teenage years. Registration is now open for the Workshop on March 1st. Created for girls 9-12 years old. Cost \$50, Place: St. Mary's, Upsala, Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a Parent Presentation the night before, Feb. 28th at St. Mary's 7-8:30 p.m. To learn more and register visit: GuidingStarProject.com/Cycle-Show. Contact: Roseanne Throener (320) 360-2196

Subscribe to FORMED for free at: www.signup.formed.org. Enter parish zip code (56384). Enter your name and email address. You're in!

Jesus is here and with us always!

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
Please update the office if your phone or address changes.

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE
Saturday: St. Edward: 3:30 pm - 3:45 pm
Sunday: St. Francis: 7:30 am - 7:45 am
St. Mary: 9:30 am - 9:45 am

PRAYER LINES
Karen Liebsch 573-4127 & Kathy Koehn 573-2363 (SM)
Judy Theisen 573-2933 & Joyce Koopmeiners 573-2728(SF)
Sally Schleper 573-2127 (SE)

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.

It is still Christmastime!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. (Is 9:1)

"Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished..." (Lk 2:41-52)

Our children are given to us as a gift from God ...but they are still His. How can we as parents and members of our community help our children to grow in faith and grow in listening to God their Father in all things?

Opening Mass of the Jubilee Year 2025




Jubilee Cross for the St. Cloud Diocese

Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 29th at the Cathedral of St. Mary, St. Cloud at 6:00 p.m. beginning in the lower level and processing by candlelight to the Jubilee Cross and then into church for Mass.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

December 29, 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph		
Saturday 12/28		The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
4:00 p.m. St. Edward	For the People	EM of HC: Jerry Theisen, Joan Theisen c, Volunteer c, Lector: Jim Bartkowicz, Servers: Isaac Harren & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Jeron Wensmann & Jim Czeck, Greeters: Volunteers, Gifts: Brad & Crystal Hartung
Sunday 12/29		
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Edmund & Delores Roerick ~Roerick Family	EM of HC: Joyce Koopmeiners, Chris Fuchs c, Syl Tschida c, Lector: Rebecca Schmidt Servers: Owen & Lily Fuchs, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: Sheldon & Karla Tschida
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Melanie & William Feia ~Russ & Gina Boeckermann Family	EM of HC: Renee Scholz, Dave Scholz c, Volunteer c, Lector: Leonice Prokott, Servers: Volunteers, Ushers: Bob Blonigen & Mikel Nelson, Greeters: Dave & Mary Hollenkamp, Gifts: Andy & Linda Langner, Bank Deposit: Judy Michels

Weekday Masses		
Monday 12/30		
6:30 p.m.	Rosary at St. Mary's	
Tuesday 12/31		Solemnity of Mary Vigil (New Year's)
4:00 p.m. St. Edward	† Deceased members of the Don Beniek Family	EM of HC: Julie Wensmann, Jim Wensmann c, Jim Bartkowicz c, Lector: Tracey Hartung, Servers: Isaac Harren & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Derek Beniek & Scott Biniek, Gifts: Greg & Renee Wensmann
Wednesday 1/1		Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	Living & deceased members of the St. Francis Men's Society	EM of HC: Rosanne Voss, Judy Theisen c, Mary Jane Boeckermann c, Lector: Jim Scholz, Servers: Owen & Lily Fuchs, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Greeters: Volunteers, Gifts: Bob & Gail Wuebkers
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	For the People	EM of HC: Jan Kilian, Christine Weber c, Volunteers, Lector: Tom Kilian, Servers: Alayna Weber & Lauryn Weber, Ushers: Patrick & Lisa Zabinski, Greeters: Walt & LeAnn Beneke, Gifts: Randy & Donna Roske, Bank Deposit: Tom Kilian
Thursday 1/2		 <p>2nd Tuesdays: St. Francis 8:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. Thursdays: St. Mary's 12 noon - 9:00 p.m. First Fridays St. Edward's 12 noon -9:00 p.m.</p>
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Margaret Carlson * Anointing of the Sick	
Friday 1/3 First Friday		
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	Cyrilla Michaels ~Lorene Koopmeiners	

The Epiphany of the Lord		
Saturday 1/4		Epiphany of the Lord
4:00 p.m. St. Edward	† Stanley Czech	EM of HC: Neil Frieler, Peggy Frieler c, Karla Schneider c, Lector: Jerry Theisen, Servers: Isaac Harren & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Jim Wensmann & Justin Wensmann, Greeters: Megan Wensmann & Volunteer, Gifts: Kris & Carrie Wensmann
Sunday 1/5		
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	For the People	EM of HC: Rebecca Schmidt, Alice Westrich c, Janelle Roerick c, Lector: Mary Jane Boeckermann, Servers: Owen & Lily Fuchs, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: Pete & Joan Boeckermann
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Terry Theis	EM of HC: LeAnn Beneke, Cindy Koehn c, Mike Klasen c, Lector: Mary Hollenkamp, Servers: Riley Klasen & Wyatt Klasen, Ushers: Darren Lange & Mitch Lange, Greeters: Mikel & Julie Nelson, Gifts: Jamie & Jenny Leners, Bank Deposit: Mike Klasen

All Cluster News

Religious Education

K-6: Reba Leither (leitherreba@gmail.com) (701) 426-1607
7-10: Randi Klasen (randiklasen@gmail.com) (320) 493-5624
Confirmation: Bob Vouk (320) 249-3398, Jenny Revermann (320) 249-9939, Confirmation Assistant: Katie Urbanski confirmation@tworiverscatholic.com

January 1st

No Class: Attend Mass for the Solemnity of Mary

Children's Liturgy

We are having Children's Liturgy at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Mary's. Contact Chelsea Fuchs: fuchschelsea92@gmail.com if interested in joining in.

Steubenville-St. Paul for 9-12th graders:

We are headed to the Steubenville Youth Conference in St. Paul on July 25-27, 2025! This is a weekend where high-schoolers are invited into a personal encounter of Jesus through the Sacraments, inspiring speakers, lively music, prayer, friends, fun, and more! It is a time for teens to deepen their relationship with Christ and grow in their Catholic faith. Check it out at www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJf8abg9UaA To reserve your spot contact Jim (320) 229-2898.

Please Note:

The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1st for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Blessings to you!



Over 80 Blessings for January

Gene Harren (SM) 1/8
Viola Wuebkers (SM) 1/16
Delores O'Hotto (SE) 1/19
Florence Kurowski (SE) 1/20
Janet Yurczyk (SM) 1/26



Pray for us: Jim Negen, Raymond Kurowski, Florence Kurowski, Pat Euteneuer, Ron Dingmann, Kristy Brezinka, Kathy Hennek, Carol Langner, Judy Gerads, Millie Gerads, Marlene Vornbrock, Roger Thell, Jim Koczur, Alan Schumer, Gary Larson, Helen Heisick, Geraldine George, William Hill, Lorraine Frie, Dee Booth, Rosemary Pundsack, Kevin Lampert, Pat Harren & Ron Schmidt

WEEKEND COLLECTION 12/22/2024

St. Edward: Adult: \$1,580, Loose: \$124, Fall Collection: \$270, Fire Fund: \$100, Immaculate Conception: \$72, Christmas: \$500, Donation: \$ 750, Christmas Flowers: \$60, Retired Religious: \$300, **Total: \$3,756**
St. Francis: Adult: \$730, Loose: \$92, Immaculate Conception: \$20, Christmas: \$255, **Total: \$1,097**
St. Mary: Adult: \$1,485.26, Loose: \$258, Loose Dec. 8th: \$125, Christmas: \$405, Christmas Flowers: \$180, Immaculate Conception: \$163, Ret. Religious: \$85, Fall Collection: \$925 **Total: \$3,626.26**

Mary and the Saints ACC

Our current ACC members are finishing their first 3 year term and are looking for nominations during the month of December to fill 1 position from each parish. The ACC serves as an advisory committee to the priests of the parishes meeting quarterly. If you would like to nominate someone for this position, contact Fr. Jimmy or the Parish Office. New members will be appointed in January to start their term in July.

How can you help?

As an ACC committee, we continue to discuss how we can get more parishioners involved in Faith Formation and church ministry. So many things have taken priority in people's lives. For instance, sports are now 7 days a week and many do not make it a priority to find a Catholic Church to attend Mass that weekend. Our children learn from our example and it is within our families, by parents, that children predominately receive their faith. Do your children see you living our faith and inviting others to live it too? Are you actively participating in Faith Formation within our church programs and in our community? Do you encourage your children to become Mass servers? Are you willing to be a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Usher, Greeter, Gift Bearer, Decorator, Sacristan or Money Counter as an example for our Youth. We, as an ACC council, are asking everyone to prayerfully consider how they can help.

O God, who was pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight, one day, in eternal rewards.

Thank You to everyone who helped decorate our churches for Christmas. We are so blessed by those who came in on their own time or stayed after Mass to prepare for the coming of Jesus! Our churches look beautiful this year!