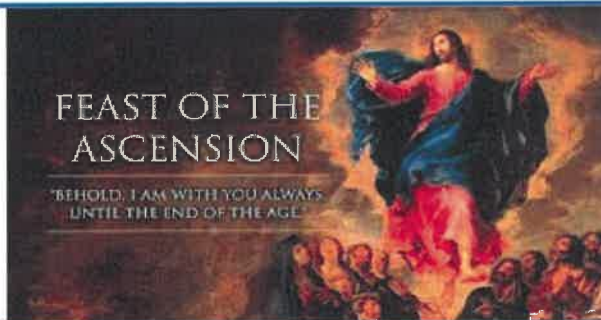


The Catholic Churches of

St. Edward
Elmdale

St. Francis of Assisi
St. Francis

St. Mary
Upsala



FEAST OF THE
ASCENSION

"BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS
UNTIL THE END OF THE AGE"

Ascension of the Lord

May 16, 2021

Pastor Fr. David Grundman 320-309-4174 (cell)
email – frdpgrund@gmail.com

Sister Mary Pat Burger St. Francis Rectory 573-2203
CENTRAL OFFICE PO Box 249 Upsala, MN 56384

Office Hours 8am – 3:30pm
Mon. – Tues. – Thurs. – Fri.

Janice Wuebkers Office Manager
Wednesday at Holdingford Church Office

Central Office 320-573-2132
FAX: 320-573-9133

Central Office email: 238catholic@sytekcom.com

Web site: www.238catholic.org

Diocesan web site: www.stclouddiocese.org

Elevate (Birthline) Hotline: 1-800-786-0200

St. Cloud Chancery: 320-251-2340

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chantelle Frie, Confirmation: 320-360-4796

Reba Leither, Family Formation, Gr K - 6: leitherreba@gmail.com

Tamara Lange, Gr. 7 - 10: 320-250-4688, tlange44@yahoo.com

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 Bartkowicz, Brenda Wuebkers, Ron Dingman, Kristy Brezinka, Ramona Heurung, Arnold Scholz, Irene Lashinski, Cody Pappenfus (SE, at home recovering), Brayden Harren (SF, chemo begins June 14), Bernadine Bartkowicz (soon back to Serenity Village in Avon), Bruce Wolters (Bowlus, 2nd & 3rd degree burns), Karen Liebsch (SM, at home recovering), family of +Betty Zwilling (mother of Kari Hartung, SM)

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS

St. Mary: Adult \$2,090; Loose \$143.63; Votive \$21.10; NCYC Donation \$250 - **\$2,504.73**

St. Edward: Adult \$1,215; Loose \$47; Votive \$17.50; Religious Education \$50 - **\$1,329.50**

St. Francis: Adult \$1,245; Loose \$28; Easter \$100; Ascension \$20 - **\$1,393.00**

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

III – Jeron Wiechman & Kelly Schmitz May 22 @ St. Francis

I – Lawrence Mettler & Peyton Guthrie June 5 @ St. Mary

Youth News

Totus Tuus Coming This Summer

Please mark your calendars: July 17-23 as grades K-6 will be meeting in Holdingford from 8am-2:30pm while grades 7-12 will be meeting 7-9pm. Please call the office if you have any questions.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make our Matching Grant breakfast in St. Francis on May 4 a big success! Special thanks to all the guys who came to help and cleanup, everyone who donated items or cash, everyone who helped organize and especially to all those who picked up meals! We made 224 take out meals this year. God bless all of you for your generosity in supporting religious education for our children in St. Francis! St. Francis Men's Society / CUF

Mass & Devotions Schedule May 17 - 23, 2021

Monday:	5/17	NO MASS SCHEDULED
Tuesday:	5/18	<i>St. John I</i>
St. Mary	6:00pm	Healing & Strength for Brayden Harren
Wednesday:	5/19	
St. Francis	8:00am	† Lori Schroeder
Thursday:	5/20	<i>St. Bernardine of Siena</i>
St. Edward	8:00am	Healing & Strength for Cody Pappenfus
Friday:	5/21	<i>St. Christopher Magallanes & Companions</i>
St. Mary	7:30am	† Deb Poster - Mary Koczur
Saturday:	5/22	<i>St. Rita of Cascia</i>
St. Mary	4:00pm	† Deceased Relatives of Dave & Renee Scholz
Sunday:	5/23	<i>Pentecost Sunday</i>
St. Edward	8:00am	† Virgil Burg
St. Francis	10:00am	† Connie, Ethel & Jeff Middendorf - Diane Herzog



Parent Meeting Last Week

Thanks so much for your prayers. Many parents were able to join us. We got some great feedback. Continue to reach out to Reba (grades K-6) and Tamara Lange (grades 7-10) with any suggestions. Remember we need you to consider helping out as a teacher.

Mass Time Change:

Starting Friday, June 4th Mass will be at 9am instead of 7:30am at St. Mary's.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

St Marys Catholic Church - Wednesday, June 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Call 1-800-733-2767 and enter Upsala as Sponsor code. Help Save Lives and make a big difference in the lives of others!

Updates:

Superboy Brayden

Thanks to the St Francis Christian Women for making the 500 "Prayer Warrior Cards". We love the prayer you chose as it is very "user-friendly" for all denominations. Please remember to give these prayer cards to your Non-Catholic family and friends as well. They can be found in the entrance of our churches and in our Central Office. To think that at least 500 prayers daily are going up to Heaven for Brayden and his family!

Update on Brayden

Brayden Harren is doing well. He recently returned to school. His appetite is returning. He starts chemo treatment at Children's Hospital in St Paul June 14th. Family: "Brayden never complains and he never gives up! He really is a little super boy! Thank you for your prayers as we truly appreciate the army of people that God has sent us."

Update on Cody

Praise the Lord as Cody Pappenfus from St Edward's came home this past Thursday! Family: "Cody is walking, climbing stairs and doing everything himself. There is short memory loss. In time, his brain will continue to heal as the doctors are confident his memory will fully return." As you know he was in a tragic car accident. He is a Senior at Holdingford High School. The family is so grateful for all your prayers.

THREE SAINTS NEWS

Peter's Pence Collection

Next weekend is a way to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including helping Pope Francis with the funds to carry out his charitable works. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please be generous. St Francis parish has special envelopes while for St Mary's and St Edward's the loose collection will be used for this purpose.

High School Graduation Mass

Come let us fill our lawn at St Francis with hundreds of people as we show support for our graduates at our 10am Mass on May 30. Pray that we will have beautiful weather. In case of rain, we will meet in the Church. Remember to bring your own lawn chair. There is no need for you to wear a face covering unless you prefer. Fr David and Eucharistic Minister will still wear masks while distributing Holy Communion.

Memorial Day Celebration

This is a sacred day of observance, centered on acknowledging, remembering, and thanking the millions of people in uniform who gave their lives for this country. Before anything else, it's about those brave heroes and the incredible sacrifice they made. Join us May 31: 9am Mass at St Mary's, 10am Commemoration at Upsala High School, followed by Memorial Service held at the Upsala Area Veterans Memorial Park and concluding with lunch at the Upsala Recreation Building.

Parishioners in Active Military Duty?

How many from our parishioners are currently in active duty and serving our country? Would it not be nice for us to know who are serving and in what branch? How about praying for them on a regular basis by name? Please let our Central Office know if you might be interested in finding out this information for us.

Cemetery Masses

"What is the Holy Spirit placing on your hearts? I am thinking Wednesday evenings might work best for me and begin in June. We are looking at having two Masses for each of our parishes. What time do you think would work best for each of your parish? Next weekend (May 22/23), at the end of Mass, I will ask for a show of hands what time you might prefer as I am open: 6pm, 7pm or 8pm or on the half hour? Special graces are flowing when we spend time praying in our cemeteries." Fr David

Invite Father David

In my previous parishes, I have found during the summer months is an ideal time for me to get out and meet you. For anyone interested, we'd come to our Blessed Mother to pray the Scriptural Rosary on Wednesday evenings. I could also bless your home/farm. You would decide the evening time which work bests, who you'd want to invite or extend it to anyone, in your home or outdoors, have refreshments afterwards, etc. What might work best for you? This rosary would probably take about one-half hour.

ST. MARY'S NEWS

Saturday, May 22 – 4pm

EM of HC: Brian Lange *Lector:* Michelle Fleischhacker

Greeter: Randy & Jane Tretter

Ushers: Duane & Rosie Harren

Side Walk Repaired

Did you notice the cement slabs/sidewalk in front of our church entrance is no longer uneven? "Level Ground" is a business from Grey Eagle which specializes in this very thing. They drill holes and pump cement underneath which lifts the slabs. This cost was \$700. Thanks for doing your part in helping our parish become more viable.

Funeral for + Betty Zwilling

Betty the mother of Kari Hartung went Home to Jesus on Mother's Day. Her funeral will be in Mayhew Lake on Monday at 11am. Visitation will take place Sunday 4 to 8pm at Dingmann Funeral Home in Sauk Rapids.

ST. EDWARD'S NEWS

Sun., May 23 – 8am

EM of HC: Jim Wensmann *Lector:* Dennis Biniek

Greeter: Sally Schleper

Ushers: Bob Brezinka & Ralph Schleper

ST. FRANCIS' NEWS

Sunday, May 23 – 10am

EM of HC: Joyce Koopmeiners

Lector: Clara Pflueger

Greeter: Bob Theisen

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who brought food & sent cards at the lost of Gilbert. Also, thank you to Fr. David Grundman for the Mass.
- The families of Gilbert Schmitz

July Saturday Mass Time?

"What time are you thinking? In 2018/2019, you had Mass at 8pm throughout the year. In 2015/2016 (when our cluster consisted of four parishes including Bowlus and when I was an assistant with Fr John), you had Mass at 4pm as Bowlus had the 8pm Mass. What time works best - not necessarily just for yourself but for the whole parish-at-large and even our three parishes? Please voice your thoughts to your parish leadership: Chad Koopmeiners, Mary Jane Boeckermann, Mark MacArthur, Colleen Harren, Craig Voss, Alice Westrich, Matt Herzog, Tammy Lehner, Allen Roerick, Bob Theisen, LeRoy Pflueger, Ron Schmidt, Rosanne Voss. We will be meeting May 25th at 8pm to make the final decision." Fr David

June Outdoor Masses

For our Sunday 10am Mass, we will be outdoors these four Sundays taking in the beauty of God's creation which will also allow those who are concerned about the virus an opportunity to join us. People can keep their social distance, bring their own lawn chairs, etc. Thanks to the Slew Foot Family Band/Becker Family for their willingness to sing and play outdoors for us. By the way, check out online some of their performances! Does anyone want to help organize a Corpus Christi Procession following Mass on June 6th?

NOTES FROM FR. DAVID

This weekend, we celebrate a special day in the history of the Church. On the day Jesus ascended to Heaven to remain with His Father, He commanded His disciples to carry on His ministry, proclaiming the good news to the whole world. Now we are that whole world. Now we are those disciples. May Christ, whom we encounter as we gather together and receive in the Eucharist on this holy day, strengthen our resolve to spread the good news in our world today.

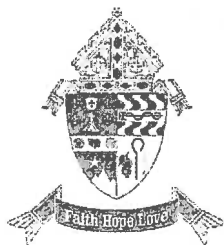
Next weekend, we celebrate Pentecost ("the fiftieth day") is a Holy Day commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the fiftieth day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Apostles began to speak in many languages and received other spiritual gifts. The event was foretold by Jesus before his Ascension. We celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the Church's mission in the world. Empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are to go out into our neighborhoods and the wider world witnessing to the risen Christ. I'd love nothing more than to look into making available ways to open ourselves more to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Peter's Pence Collection (next weekend) is a significant way we all fulfill our obligation to support the ongoing activities of the Holy See and the Church's ministry of solidarity to the poor around the world. By participating in this collection, you join our Holy Father Pope Francis' efforts to show mercy to all in two ways: you support the ongoing activities of the Holy See, and you contribute to the charitable works of the Holy Father on behalf of those who are most in need. Thank you for your generosity.

A special thanks to Fr Benedict Mwangi for coming to visit our parishes. Our help will make a difference to feed, educate, and support financially 50 orphans; to help in the formation and education of 45 major seminarians and to buy medicine for 80 children and 20 adults who are HIV positive in their two diocesan hospitals. If you forgot your gift, please leave it in next week's collection in a special marked envelope or bring it to the office.

Don't know if you read the bulletin last week. I made known the new Mass schedule beginning in July: Sat in St Francis, Sunday 8am in St Edward's (alternate yearly) and 10am in St Mary's (permanent). The rationale for this decision making was based on not one of our communities wanted the Saturday Mass on a permanent basis. Holdingford area churches has St Wendel who loves having the Saturday 5pm Mass over a Sunday Mass. No doubt as we learned with the pandemic, everything can change in the blink of an eye. Yet for the foreseeable future, this will be our new Mass schedule. St Francis will have to decide what time on Saturday will work best for them.

The St. Francis Fall Festival will be happening this year!!



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Saint Cloud

214 3RD AVENUE SOUTH - BOX 1248
ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA 56302
TELEPHONE (320) 251-2340
FAX (320) 258-7618

May 10, 2021

Dear pastor,

Gov. Walz's most recent executive order eliminates most of the state's COVID-19 restrictions by May 28. In light of this order, I will be making significant changes to our diocese's pandemic protocols for parish events and liturgies that will take effect later this month. Please read this letter in its entirety and consider making it available to your parishioners via a pulpit announcement and/or in your Sunday bulletins.

First, I want to thank all of our clergy, parish and school staff, and parishioners who have abided by our protocols for over a year now. I firmly believe that adherence to these protocols prevented many more people from becoming ill and saved lives. We Catholics are called to protect life and care for our neighbors, and your willingness to follow our diocese's requirements have been a great witness to these teachings.

In light of the governor's announcement, these changes will be made to our diocesan protocols:

Effective May 23, the Solemnity of Pentecost (including vigil Masses on the evening of May 22), the following will be allowed:

- Holy water in stoups and fonts
- Altar servers holding the Roman Missal/Book and assisting with the lavabo
- Music: The four hymns (for the gathering, preparation of gifts, Communion and recessional) along with sequences
- Passing collection baskets
- Gift procession
- Sign of peace
- Communion under both species and on the tongue

Face coverings must still be worn at Mass and indoor parish events. The Sunday Mass obligation remains suspended until further notice.

Please remind parishioners to be sensitive to those in your parish who may choose to not yet come to Mass or participate in some aspects of the liturgy (e.g. handshaking at the sign of peace) because of health conditions or other concerns. Please make a special effort to ensure all feel welcomed and included during these times of ongoing transition.

Effective Friday, May 28:

- In line with the governor's executive order, all remaining capacity and physical-distancing limits will come to an end, including for Mass and other indoor parish events and gatherings.
- Parishes may resume funeral luncheons and wedding receptions as they are able. Food may once again be served at parish events.
- Festivals and similar parish celebrations may resume in their pre-pandemic forms.
- Face coverings are still required at all indoor events, including Mass. Masks are also required at outdoor events that exceed 500 people.


Effective Thursday, July 1:

- Face coverings will no longer be required at Mass and other events.

Although these restrictions are being removed at the diocesan level, pastors have the authority and my support to retain any of the current protocols past the dates listed above if they deem them to be in the interest of the health and safety of their parishioners. Catholic schools will continue to follow the protocols specific to them until the end of the school year.

As we continue to make progress against the coronavirus and our state returns to a degree of normalcy, I encourage you — if you haven't already — to receive one of the available COVID-19 vaccines and encourage your parishioners to do the same. The availability of the vaccine is a key reason we are able to take these steps in our state and our diocese, and our continued progress against the virus is contingent on as many people as possible receiving the vaccine.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


+Donald J. Kettler
Bishop, Diocese of Saint Cloud