

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.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE



Guido Reni, Adoration of Shepherds c. 1640, London, Nation Gallery-
<https://imagineinmdei.blogspot.com/> Merry Christmas Everyone!

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent		
Saturday 12/20		Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Dan Lange	EM of HC: Mary Jane Boeckermann, Janelle Roerick c, Joyce Koopmeiners c, Lector: Jim Scholz, Servers: Volunteers, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: Dan & Sarah Roerick, Sacristan: Judy Theisen
Sunday 12/21		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Maxie, Irene & Arnie Molus ~ Adeline Molus	EM of HC: Karla Schneider, Jackie Oldakowski c, Jim Bartkowicz c, Lector: Jerry Theisen, Servers: Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Derek Biniek & Scott Biniek, Greeters: Raymond Kokett & Volunteer, Gifts: Brian & Tracey Hartung
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	For the People	EM of HC: LeAnn Beneke, Mike Klasen c, Lisa Zabinski c, Lector: Chantelle Frie, Servers: Riley Klasen & Wyatt Klasen, Ushers: Nathan Ripplinger & Matt Ripplinger, Greeters: The Ripplinger Family, Gifts: Jamie & Jenny Leners, Bank Deposit: Mike Klasen
Weekday Masses		
Monday, 12/22		
6:30 p.m. St. Mary’s	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy (No Mass)	
Tuesday, 12/23	<i>St. John Kanty, Priest</i>	
6:00 p.m. St. Mary’s	† Eileen Stiller	
Wednesday 12/24	Christmas Vigil	Merry Christmas!
4:30 p.m. St. Edward	† Margaret & Allen Carlson	EM of HC: Joan Theisen, Jerry Theisen c, Derek Biniek c, Lector: Jim Bartkowicz, Servers: Bethany Hartung Jacob Hartung , Ushers: Donald Welinski & Jeff Czech, Gifts: Pat & Kris Blonigen
Thursday 12/25	Christmas Day	
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Alcuin & Loretta Renneker, Frank & Joan Gerads and Amy Jo Jackson	EM of HC: Rosanne Voss, Judy Theisen c, Alice Westrich c, Lector: Jane Keppers, Servers: Volunteers, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: Bob & Sharon Thell, Sacristan: Bob Theisen
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Joe, Elaine & Mark Schumer	EM of HC: LeAnn Beneke, Renee Scholz c, Cindy Koehn c, Lector: Leonice Prokott, Servers: Anne Ripplinger & Emily Ripplinger, Ushers: Darren Lange & Mitch Lange, Greeters: Randy & Jane Tretter, Gifts: Nathan & Laura Ripplinger, Bank Deposit: Marvin Wensmann
Friday, 12/26	<i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i>	
No Mass		
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph		
Saturday 12/27		
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Edmund& Delores Roerick and Rosie Bauer ~ Roerick Family	EM of HC: Janelle Roerick, Joyce Koopmeiners c, Alice Westrich c, Lector: Barb Moorman, Servers: Volunteers, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: John & Marsha Rakotz, Sacristan: Sylvester Tschida
Sunday 12/28		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	For the People	EM of HC: Karla Schneider, Jim Wensmann c, Julie Wensmann c, Lector: Bill Boser, Servers: Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Jeron Wensmann & Jim Czeck, Greeters: Volunteers, Gifts: Mark & Kaye Nienaber
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Nick Stodolka	EM of HC: LeAnn Beneke, Volunteer c, Chantelle Frie c, Lector: Tom Kilian Servers: Ann Ripplinger & Emily Ripplinger , Ushers: Bob Blonigen & Mikel Nelson, Greeters: Nathan & Laura Ripplinger, Gifts: Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger, Bank Deposit: Judy Michels

All Cluster News

Religious Education

K-6: Reba Leither (leitherreba@gmail.com) (701) 426-1607
K-6: Beth Lange (bethlange83@gmail.com) (320) 630-8390
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 (320) 423-2203 or confirmation@tworiverscatholic.com.

Upcoming Confirmation (Holdingford)

No class-Merry Christmas!

Upcoming Faith Formation (Upsala)

No class-Merry Christmas!

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.

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!

Hear the Story: Be Moved

On Wednesday, January 21st the Todd Becker Foundation event will take place at the Upsala High School from 7-9 p.m. This Foundation was started following the death of 18 year-old Todd Becker, who was killed in an alcohol related car accident in 2005. Since its inception, the Todd Becker Foundation ministry has visited over 500 public high schools, reaching nearly 100,000 students with their message that challenges students to take the narrow road in their journey through life.

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 (people respond to an invitation for different reasons), and will show how to help the person take the step. See **Bulletin insert for the 30 day Prayer Challenge for this event which begins Dec. 22nd. Pray with us!**



There will be no Adoration at St. Mary's on Dec. 25th or Jan 1st. Adoration will resume Thursday, Jan 8th. The Parish Office will be closed at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24th through Friday Dec. 26th.

WEEKEND COLLECTION 12/14/2025

St. Edward: Adult: \$1,500, Loose: \$73, Immaculate Conception: \$25, Christmas Flowers: \$95, Fire Fund: \$10, Retired Religious: \$115, **Total: \$1,818**

St. Francis: Adult: \$870, Loose: \$72, Immaculate Conception: \$20, Christmas: \$250, Retired Religious: \$90, **Total: \$1,302**

St. Mary: Adults: \$1,369, Loose \$231.50, Immaculate Conception: \$25, Retired Religious: \$102.25, Christmas Flowers: \$120, Christmas: \$245, **Total: \$2,092.75**

Upcoming Mass Schedule

Christmas Vigil & Day:

Dec. 24th: 4:30 p.m. SE

Dec. 25th: 8:00 a.m. SF & 10:00 a.m. SM

New Year's/Solemnity of Mary:

Dec. 31st: 4:00 p.m. SF

Jan. 1st: 8:00 a.m. SE 10:00 a.m. SM

Youth Group – Sunday, December 21,

5:00-6:30pm, @ St. Mary's. Come prepare you heart for Christmas with a Candlelight Prayer Service, then hang out with friends and enjoy party games, cards, bags, etc. plus pizza!

Pray for our Youth

If you feel called to pray more intentionally for youth, we are looking for people to commit to praying one rosary per week or pray during the time Youth Group meets. Call Mary Jane at 320-333-2472 if interested.

Pray for us: 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, & Jan Kilian

St. Mary's News

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



Oakley Christopher Fuchs
son of Christopher & Abby
December 13, 2025

St. Francis' News

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



Loretta Jane Herzog
daughter of Matthew & Anna
December 14, 2025

"Baby shower for Jesus"

The St. Francis Christian Women are sponsoring a baby shower for Elevate. Everyone is welcome to donate suggested items (from the list). We will be accepting donations till Sunday, Jan. 17th in the bassinet in the entrance of church.

News and Events



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

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 come to the school.

Christmas Caroling

Everyone is welcome to bring joy to the seniors at Vitality Living, Upsala by singing Christmas Carols on Monday, December 22nd at 6:30 p.m. Song sheets provided.

New Year's Eve Party!

Please join at 8:00 p.m. at All Saints-St. Hedwig's, Holdingford for a potluck celebration. Water, hot cocoa, and popcorn provided. Bring a dish to share. Join us for fellowship, cards and games followed by a Candle-light Mass at 11:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Prayer for Peace Vigil and Service

The Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls are offering two opportunities to join them in praying for peace at the end of the year. The first is a 24-hour prayer vigil where you are invited to join the sisters in prayer from home or wherever you may be, starting Tuesday, December 30th, 6:00 p.m. through Wednesday, December 31st, 6:00 p.m. Register for a time slot by contacting Kari Lamb: klamb@fslf.org or (320)632-0680.

The second opportunity is joining the sisters in person for a service of prayer featuring readings, quiet time, and reflective music on Wednesday, December 31st at 7:00 p.m. in Gathering Space, campus of the Franciscan Sisters, 116 8th Ave. SE, Little Falls. All are welcome to attend! (You do not have to participate in the prayer vigil to attend the prayer service.) Refreshments served afterward.



The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love

The fourth candle of Advent represents Love, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the "Angel's Candle, the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas and it is the color purple leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth.

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.

Rooted in centuries of Franciscan spirituality, this retreat offers participants an opportunity to deepen inner peace, cultivate compassionate presence, and explore discernment and the movement of the Holy Spirit in daily life.

The retreat will be led by Sister Michelle L'Allier, OSF, a member of the Franciscan Sisters' Leadership Team and long-time spiritual guide. Sister Michelle holds an MA in Theology and Spirituality from St. John's School of Theology and has completed advanced Franciscan studies at St. Bonaventure University and the Franciscan School of Theology. Her ministry centers on integrating spirituality with daily practice, prayer and discernment.

The retreat schedule is Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Cost options are overnight: \$325 (includes four nights in private room with shared bath and all meals); commuter: \$125 (includes lunches); Zoom: \$75. Register by January 12, 2026, by emailing FLCEvents@fslf.org. For more information, call (320)632-0680 or visit www.fslf.org.

MCCL March for Life, St. Paul: January 22nd

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.

Closing the Jubilee Year of Hope: Dec. 28th The Mass to close the Jubilee Year of Hope will be on Dec. 28, at 6 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral. All the faithful are invited to participate and thank the Lord for all God has done during this special year of prayer and conversion.

Diocesan Choir for the closing of the Jubilee Year of Hope The Diocesan Choir will sing for this Mass. Rehearsal will be at 4:45 p.m. in the Cathedral choir rehearsal room just before the Mass. Repertoire will include familiar Christmas hymns and one choral anthem. Scores and practice recordings will be shared with registered singers on the Diocesan Choir webpage. Interested singers (middle school and up) should contact Abbey Dupuy: Call (320) 356-0113 or abbeyd@stmarystcloud.org. Dress for the choir is concert black: black shirts and black pants or skirts, or long black dresses.