

News and Events



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

**Meeting**

December 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in Elmdale (note time change)

**Mass for the Knights of Columbus**

**Deceased members**

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

**Christmas Potluck**

The Knights Family Christmas Potluck will be on Dec. 15th after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's, Upsala. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

**VA Escorts**

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

**FREE!** 4 used Christmas Trees available:

3 Scottsdale Pine - 7 1/2 ft. tall &

1 Scotch Pine -7 ft. tall.

Call the Parish Office or (320) 249-9162.

**Pastoral Planning Process**

The Diocese of St. Cloud is embarking on a diocesan - wide pastoral planning process: All Things New: Honoring the past, inspiring the future.

Our current reality illustrates we must adapt. Our diocesan demographics are changing, sacramental and Catholic household numbers have decreased for nearly 15 years while the overall population has increased, clergy, staff and laity are bearing a heavier administrative burden than in the past and four out of five parishes in our diocese operate with a consistent budget deficit for their annual collections.

Every one of us can fulfill our baptismal mission by inspiring hope, renewal and a vibrant future for the Church and ensure it remains a living, breathing community of faith across our diocese. We are called to recognize the shifting needs in today's world and anticipate others that will impact the Church. We must use creative approaches to stewardship, evangelization, education and outreach, adapting to these new realities while remaining faithful to the Gospel. To learn more about the pastoral planning process visit [www.stcdio.org/planning](http://www.stcdio.org/planning).



**GUIDING STAR**  
**CYCLE SHOW**

**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.

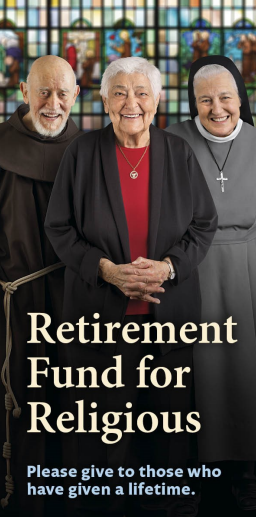
Registration is now open for the Workshop on March 1st. Created for girls 9-12 years old. Cost \$50, Place: St. Mary's, Upsala, Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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](http://GuidingStarProject.com/Cycle-Show).

Contact: Roseanne Throener (320) 360-2196



**Retirement Fund for the Religious**

Aging religious need our help. "Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement," says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Sister Celeste Burgos, 80. Donation provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious next weekend, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Please keep all our priests, nuns, deacons and religious in your prayers!

**Handbook For Catholics by Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND**

In the entry of our churches you will find this book from Loyola Press for you to take home. From common Catholic prayers to Catholic Doctrine, the Liturgical Year Calendar to the Order of the Mass, this easy-to-read, easy to use book will help Catholics grow in their knowledge and love of the faith.

**St. Cloud Mission Office Christmas Fair Trade Sale**

Come in during regular business hours Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. from December 2nd -December 19th and shop all Fair Trade items, quilts, candy & more and receive 10% off your total purchase. This is the perfect opportunity to get Christmas gifts & stocking stuffers or just come in to treat yourself and support Fair Trade too! We look forward to seeing you! Mission Office: 11 8th Ave. S., St. Cloud

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted;  
let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:238catholic@sytekcom.com)

Website: [www.238catholic.org](http://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: 7:30 pm - 7:45 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.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception: December 9<sup>th</sup> Monday**

On December 8, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but this year the feast has been transferred to Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> which references Mary's conception in her mother's womb without the stain of Original Sin. Since Blessed Virgin Mary is the Patroness of the United States, this feast is the Patronal Feast Day and it is a Holy Day of Obligation.

**First Sunday of Advent**

Happy New Year! Today we begin the Church year and the season of Advent – a new Liturgical Year! We begin to prepare for what could be one of the greatest events in our lives, Christ's Christmas coming. Christ will come in glory and power this Christmas if only we have faith to open the door.

Vigilance and waiting come naturally to those in love. The loving father of the prodigal son waited and watched for a long time for his son's return. So vigilant was his watching that he was able to spot his son "while he was still a long way off" (Lk 15:20). "Jacob served seven years" to gain the privilege of marrying "Rachel, yet they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her" (Gn 29:20). Simeon loved God and so waited vigilantly in the temple for the appearance of the Infant Jesus (Lk 2:26ff). Jesus, Who is Love, waited several decades in the obscurity of Nazareth until the right time to begin his public ministry. We will wait enough for what we love enough.

This Advent, some of us will wait hours in line to buy this year's popular gift. Many children will rise well before dawn on Christmas morning and wait for hours until they can open presents. Parents and children will wait in long lines to visit Santa. Who we wait for says a lot about who we really are.

We're tempted to hide from God (Gn 3:10) in Christmas customs, activities, and even in mindless consumerism. There is a Herod in each of us that is threatened by and afraid of Christ and Christmas. We must change, repent, and die to self. We need time to let Him change our hearts. We need the four-week preparation of Advent, or we will run away from Christ and will miss a true Christmas.

**Advent Penance service:** on December 8<sup>th</sup>, Sunday from 2pm-5pm we are having our Communal Penance service with prayer and individual confession for our ACC at St. Mary's, Upsala. I encourage everyone to make use of this opportunity in preparation for receiving abundance of grace during this Christmas celebration.


Have a Blessed Advent!

Fr. Jimmy

**The First Sunday of Advent**

**December 1, 2024**

First Sunday of Advent		
Saturday 11/30		
4:00 p.m. St. Edward	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> Karla Schneider, Jim Bartkowiez c, Jerry Theisen c, <b>Lector:</b> Tracey Hartung, <b>Servers:</b> Isaac Harren & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> Jeron Wensmann & Jim Czeck, <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers <b>Gifts:</b> Chuck & Sheila Biniek
Sunday 12/1		
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Dennis Beuning	<b>EM of HC:</b> Brittany Harren, Colleen Harren c, Alice Westrich c, <b>Lector:</b> Rebecca Schmidt, <b>Servers:</b> Owen & Lily Fuchs, <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, <b>Gifts:</b> Gerry & Mary Jane Boeckermann
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Daniel Gerads	<b>EM of HC:</b> LeAnn Beneke, Jan Kilian c, Volunteer c, <b>Lector:</b> Tom Kilian, <b>Servers:</b> Emily Ripplinger, <b>Ushers:</b> Darren & Mitch Lange, <b>Greeters:</b> Mikel & Julie Nelson, <b>Gifts:</b> Nathan & Laura Ripplinger, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Tom Kilian

Weekday Masses		
Monday, 12/2		<u>Adoration</u>  <u>2nd Tuesdays:</u> Nov. 12th St. Francis 8:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. <u>Thursdays:</u> St. Mary's 12 noon - 9:00 p.m. <u>First Fridays</u> St. Edward's 12 noon -9:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy	
Tuesday, 12/3 *Anointing of the Sick		
6:00 p.m. St. Mary	† Arnold Molus ~Carol Molus	
Wednesday, 12/4		
8:00 a.m. St. Francis *Anointing of the Sick	† Arnold Voss	
Thursday, 12/5 *Anointing of the Sick		<b>Pray for us:</b> Jim Negen, Raymond Kurowski, Florence Kurowski, Pat Euteneuer, Rose Binek, 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
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Abby Beddow	
Friday, 12/6 <i>First Friday</i>		
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	† Virgil Berg ~ Marvin & Shirley Wensmann	

Second Sunday of Advent		
Saturday 12/7		<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
8:00 p.m. St. Edward	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> Julie Wensmann, Jim Wensmann c, Volunteer c, <b>Lector:</b> Tracey Hartung, <b>Servers:</b> Isaac Harren & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> Donald Welinski & Jeff Czech, <b>Greeters:</b> Megan Wensmann & Volunteer, <b>Gifts:</b> Scott & Jen Wensmann
Sunday 12/8		
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Deceased relatives and friends of Jane Keppers	<b>EM of HC:</b> Janelle Roerick, Mary Jane Boeckermann c, Joyce Koopmeiners c, <b>Lector:</b> Jim Scholz, <b>Servers:</b> Emmalyn, Carter & Brayden Harren, <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, <b>Gifts:</b> Ron & Rebecca Schmidt
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Ty Poppenhagen ~ Chad & Amy Poppenhagen	<b>EM of HC:</b> Chantell Frie, Cindy Koehn c, Lisa Zabinski c, <b>Lector:</b> Mary Hollenkamp, <b>Servers,</b> Emily Ripplinger & Lilli Leither, <b>Ushers:</b> Beau Ripplinger & Nathan Ripplinger, <b>Greeters:</b> Walt & LeAnn Beneke, <b>Gifts:</b> Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Marvin Wensmann

ACC Advent Penance Service: Sunday, December 8th from 2-5:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, Upsala

Please Note: The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday –Friday Dec. 25th-27th Blessings to you!

## All Cluster News

### Religious Education

K-6: Reba Leither ([leitherreba@gmail.com](mailto:leitherreba@gmail.com)) (701) 426-1607  
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 [confirmation@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:confirmation@tworiverscatholic.com)

### December 4th

**Grades K-6:** Class 6:30 p.m., 2nd Grade: Lesson 12

**Grades 7-10:** No Class

**Confirmation:** Class at All Saints-St. Mary's

### Children's Liturgy

We are having Children's Liturgy at the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's. Contact Chelsea Fuchs: [fuchschelsea92@gmail.com](mailto:fuchschelsea92@gmail.com) if interested in joining in. All children welcome.



### The "Thanks" Giving Tree

The Holidays are fast approaching!!! This is a reminder to drop off your unwrapped gifts at the church by Dec. 6th. Please tape your tag to your gift. If you have more than one piece to the gift place all pieces in a bag and tape the tag to the bag. Once again THANK YOU!

### Why are you pro-life?

The Morrison County MCCL Chapter invites teens to write a short essay about their pro-life convictions. The essay must answer this question: "Why are you pro-life?" The Essay Contest is offered to students in grades 7-12. Essays must be 300-500 words and are due by December 16, 2024. Winning essays will be presented at the annual Pro-Life Banquet at the Falls Ballroom on Sunday, January 26, 2025. For more information contact Laureen Witt at 320-632-3995.



### Steubenville-St. Paul

Let's Go! We will be bringing a group to the Steubenville Youth Conference in St. Paul on July 25-27, 2025. This is a weekend where high-schoolers are invited into a life-changing encounter with Jesus through the Sacraments, inspiring speakers, live music, prayer, friends, fun, and more! It is a time for teens to get excited about their Catholic faith! Check it out [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJf8abg9UaA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJf8abg9UaA) This is open to current 9-12 graders, but there are limited spots available. For more information or to register, contact Jim @ 320-229-2898.

### WEEKEND COLLECTION 11/24/2024

**St. Edward:** Adult: \$745, Loose: \$78, Votive: \$88.76, Christmas Flowers: \$10, Thanksgiving: \$100 **Total: \$1,021.76**

**St. Francis:** Adult: \$395, Loose: \$90, Thanksgiving: \$100, **Total: \$585**

**St. Mary:** Adult: \$1,503, Loose: \$289.50, Choir: \$150, Funeral Fund: \$180, Thanksgiving: \$50 **Total: \$2,172.50**

## Upcoming Masses

### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass

(Holy Day of Obligation)

6:30 p.m. Mon., Dec. 9th at St. Mary's

This Mass is for all our parishes

### Christmas Vigil

4:00 p.m. (Singing begins)

4:30 p.m., Tues., Dec. 24th at St. Edward's

### Christmas Day

8:00 a.m. Wed., Dec. 25th at St. Francis

10:00 a.m. Wed., Dec. 25th St. Mary's

### New Year's/The Solemnity of Mary Vigil

4:00 p.m. Tues., Dec. 31st at St. Edward's

### New Year's/The Solemnity of Mary

8:00 a.m. Wed., Jan. 1st at St. Francis

10:00 a.m., Wed., Jan, 1st at St. Mary's

### Calendars are in!

The 2025 Calendars are here and in the entry of each church. These are beautiful Catholic calendars with all the Liturgical dates and colors. Available on a first come first serve bases until gone.

## Over 80 Blessings for December



Geraldine George (SE) 12/6

Denis Carlson (SE) 12/6

Wilfred Vos (SM) 12/31

## St. Mary's News

*May Eternal Rest be granted to:*

**Rose Mary Binek**

Passed to Eternal Life: Nov. 15, 2024

Funeral: Nov. 23, 2024

## St. Francis' News

### Baby Shower for Jesus

As Advent is here. The St Francis Christian Women will be hosting a Baby Shower for Jesus with a Basket in their church entry. All are welcome to donate to the shower in helping the Elevate Pregnancy Resource Center. Items currently needed are, baby hygiene kits, Clothes 9 -12 months, socks neutral colors, infant car seat covers, toys/teethers/books, diapers (NB to size 6), wipes, white onesies (long sleeve, neutral color muslin blankets, 8 oz bottles and gift cards (Target, Walmart, gas & grocery). Thank you!

### Men's Society

On Monday, Dec. 2nd the St. Francis Men's Society will be packing the bags for St. Nick at 8:00 p.m. There will be a meeting afterwards.