

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.

Why do we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family?

This feast day honors Jesus, the Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph as the holiest of families, and therefore a model for all Christian families. They were holy because they placed God at the center of their family life, they loved and sacrificed for one another, and they radiated that love to others in the redemptive mission of the Word Incarnate. Pope St. John Paul II said, "The Redeemer of the world chose the family as the place for his birth and growth, thereby sanctifying this fundamental institution of every society" (Angelus message, December 30, 2001). <https://missions.ewtn.com/>

In 1981, Pope John Paul II, in his apostolic exhortation *Familiaris Consortio* (The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World), reinforced the concept of the family as the "domestic church" with its role in fostering prayer, teaching the faith, and nurturing Christian virtues. He highlighted that in the family, the Christian faith is first proclaimed to children, making the family vital to the mission of the Church, and the most fundamental institution in the world.

As we honor the Holy Family, one of the best ways to do so is to prayerfully ponder the daily life that the Holy Family shared. Because Scripture does not record many of their

family interactions in Nazareth, much is left to our prayerful imagination. What we do know is that human familial virtue within the Holy Family, especially between mother and Son, was at a level of perfection. The kindness, respect, obedience, unity, charity, and every other Christian virtue that they lived must become the model for Christian living and for family life.

Excerpts from: <https://mycatholic.life/the-holy-family>.




The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 28, 2025

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

Weekday Masses

Monday, 12/29		 <p>2nd Tuesdays: St. Francis 8am -7pm Thursdays: (cancelled Jan. 1st) St. Mary's 12 noon - 9 pm First Fridays: St. Edward's 12 noon -9 pm</p>
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy (No Mass)	
Tuesday, 12/30		
6:00 p.m. St. Mary's	For Scott & Sam and the Twins	
Wednesday 12/31		The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Arnold Voss	EM of HC: Janelle Roerick, Colleen Harren c, Brittany Harren c, Lector: Mary Jane Boeckermann, Servers: Emmalyn, Carter & Brayden Harren, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: Mike & Shelly Harren, Sacristan: Alice Westrich
Thursday 1/1		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Raymond Kurowski	EM of HC: Jackie Oldakowski, Jim Bartkowiec c, Volunteer c, Lector: Shari Biniek, Servers: Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Gerard Oldakowski & Greg Larson, Greeters: Volunteers, Gifts: Ken & Deb Wensmann
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	For the People	EM of HC: Mike Klasen, Lisa Zabinski c, Volunteer c, Lector: Kim Koehn, Servers: Riley Klasen & Wyatt Klasen, Ushers: Bob Blonigen & Mikel Nelson, Greeters: Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger, Gifts: Patrick & Lisa Zabinski, Bank Deposit: Mike Klasen
Friday, 1/2		Celebrate Christmas until Jan. 11th The Baptism of Our Lord
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	† Doris Burggraff	

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday 1/3		The Most Holy Name of Jesus
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	† Don Stiller	EM of HC: Brittany Harren, Colleen Harren c, Mary Jane Boeckermann c, Lector: Jane Keppers Servers: Emmalyn, Carter & Brayden Harren, Ushers: Bob Theisen & Craig Voss, Gifts: Kurt & Jackie Goebel, Sacristan: Jeanette Gerads
Sunday 1/4		
8:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Jeffrey Kalis & Samantha Colbert	EM of HC: Derek Biniek, Joan Theisen c, Jerry Theisen c, Lector: Jeff Czech, Servers: Bethany Hartung & Jacob Hartung, Ushers: Jim Wensmann & Justin Wensmann, Greeters: Megan Wensmann & Volunteer, Gifts: Scott & Jen Wensmann
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	For the People	EM of HC: Lisa Zabinski, Jon Lether c, Renee Scholz c, Lector: Mary Hollenkamp, Servers: Lilli Leither & Volunteer, Ushers: Darren Lange & Mitch Lange, Greeters: Nathan & Laura Ripplinger, Gifts: Andy & Linda Langner, 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-Solemnity of Mary-attend Mass

Upcoming Faith Formation (Upsala)

No class-Solemnity of Mary-attend Mass

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. **A 30 day prayer intentions challenge for this event began Dec. 22nd-available church entry. Pray with us!**



There will be no Adoration at St. Mary's on Jan 1st. Adoration will resume Thursday, Jan 8th. The Parish Office will be closed on Thurs., Jan. 1st for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and Fri. Jan. 2nd.

WEEKEND COLLECTION 12/21/2025

St. Edward: Adult: \$1,445, Loose: \$123, Christmas Flowers: \$25, Christmas: \$365, Retired Religious: \$200,

Total: \$2,158

St. Francis: Adult: \$730, Loose: \$319, Christmas: \$395, Christmas Flowers: \$80, **Total: \$1,524**

St. Mary: Adults: \$1,612, Loose: \$297.30, Retired Religious: \$25, Christmas Flowers: \$45, Christmas: \$150, Fall Collection: \$150, **Total: \$2,279.30**

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

The Todd Becker Foundation Presents

HEAR THE STORY

BE MOVED



Hear the life-changing TODD BECKER STORY

with Speaker KEITH BECKER




Featuring **ATN ALL-THAT-NOISE**

FREE BAND T-SHIRTS TO THE FIRST 15 STUDENTS



LOCATION: UPSALA HIGH SCHOOL

DATE: JAN. 21ST TIME: 7-9 P.M.

 toddbecker.org A Christian Ministry and Message

St. Cloud Diocese Winter Spectacular: January 24th-25th

The 2026 Middle School Lock-in for grades 6-8 will be at the YMCA, St. Cloud. From 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Cost is \$40 until Jan. 15th and \$50 after. Mass with Bishop Neary. Share faith, food, and fun. Contact the Parish Office if interested.

St. Francis' News

"Baby shower for Jesus"

The St. Francis Christian Women are accepting donations until Sunday, Jan. 17th in the bassinet in the entrance of church for Elevate. Items needed are: Baby wipes, newborn onsies, swaddle blankets, infant bath soap, lotion, diapers cream, diapers of all sizes, Baby bottles, pacifiers...see more on the list near the bassinet.

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.

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.

Natural Family Planning

Alexandria on Monday, Jan. 19th & Feb. 16th at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. Contact Jill and Isaac Uphus (320) 290-8751 or at uphus.nfp@gmail.com.

Little Falls on Tuesday, Jan. 6th & Feb. 3rd at 7:30 p.m. at the NFP Office in the Unity Specialty Center of St. Gabriel's Hospital. Contact Mary at bontjesmary@yahoo.com or call the Little Falls NFP Office at 631-5660.

Sauk Centre on Thursday, Jan. 15th & Feb. 19th at St. Paul's Church or CentraCare Health – Sauk Centre Hospital. Contact Jill & Isaac Uphus at uphus.nfp@gmail.com or (320) 290-8751.

St. Cloud Mon., Jan. 26th & Thurs. Feb. 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the Office of Marriage & Family. Contact Sheila Reineke at omf@gw.stedio.org or (320) 258-7609.

All classes are approximately 1½ to 2 hours long. *Most insurance plans cover the cost of NFP!

Jubilee Year of Hope: Dec. 28th

Jubilee 2025 opened last Dec. 29th on the Feast of the Holy Family with a solemn Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. This Sunday, Dec. 28th at 6:00 p.m. will be the closing Mass of the Year of Hope 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.

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 Candlelight Mass at 11:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Congratulations to Collin Prom!

Catholic United Financial Foundation announces that Mr. Collin Prom is a 2025 recipient of a grant from the Monsignor Schuler Seminarian Fund. The Monsignor Schuler Fund exists to help seminarians with basic living expenses so they can concentrate on their studies and answer their call to the priesthood. As the Fund grows, so does our ability to help seminarians. To learn more about the Fund or the foundation, email: foundation@catholicunited.org, visit: catholicunited-financial.org/foundation, call 877-275-7145. Our seminarians are truly the future of the church who will become the next 'Fishers of Men'. Please keep Collin in your prayers!



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

To learn more and to make a reservation to ride a bus visit: <https://stedio.org/event/march-for-life-2026/>. To ride the St. Cloud bus contact Jan at 258-7615, For the Richmond bus contact Linda (320)

9 Days for Life Novena

Beginning January 16th you can pray each day for life by visiting: <https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-daily-prayers>. Each day contains an Intention, Prayers, Reflection and Acts of reparation.



St. John the Apostle was one of the Twelve Apostles and the "beloved disciple" of Jesus Christ. He is well-known for being one of the four evangelists (or Gospel writers). Called by the Greeks "the Divine," John was a Galilean, the son of Zebedee and Salome, and younger brother of St. James the Great. St. John is the author of the Gospel of John, the three Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation. The Church celebrates the Feast day of St. John the Apostle on December 27th. He is the Patron Saint of Love, Friendship & Authors. <https://missions.ewtn.com>.

