



# The Catholic Churches

St. Edward    St. Francis of Assisi    St. Mary  
Elmdale        St. Francis        Upsala



Welcome one another,  
then, as Christ welcomed  
you, for the glory of God.  
Rom 15:4-9

## Second Sunday of Advent December 4, 2022

Pastor: Fr. David Grundman- (320) 309-4174  
 Sister Mary Pat Burger –St. Francis Rectory (320) 573-2203  
 Randi Klasen –Bookkeeper Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 8 am - noon  
 Jessie Johnson –Secretary Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 am - 4 pm  
CENTRAL OFFICE 308 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 249,  
 Upsala MN 56384  
 Phone: (320) 573-2132 Website: www.238catholic.org  
 Email: 238catholic@sytekcom.com  
RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE  
 Saturday: St. Edward~ 3:15 - 3:45 pm  
 Sunday: St. Francis~ 7:15 -7:45 am, St. Mary ~ 9:15 - 9:45 am  
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  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
 Chantelle Frie 360-4796 chantellefrie@gmail.com  
 Reba Leither 701-426-1607 leitherreba@gmail.com  
 Roseanne Throener 573-9780 arthroener@gmail.com  
ADORATION  
 St. Edward's –monthly, the 1st Friday of the Month, 12 - 9 pm  
 St. Francis– monthly, the 2nd Tuesday of the month 7am-7 pm  
 St. Mary– Weekly, every Thursday 12-9 pm  
 Please update the office if your phone or address has changed.

### Three Saints News

#### Daughters of Isabella meeting: Dec. 5

We will meet at 1 pm in basement of Our Lady of Lourdes in Little Falls.

#### Knights of Columbus: Dec. 6

Our next council meeting will be at St. Edward's, Elmdale at 7:30 pm. (note time change).

#### Celebration in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Dec. 10

7:00 p.m. Live Music, 8:00 p.m. Salsa Dancing/ tacos and more!  
Share in a Candlelight Vigil with Outdoor Rosary at 6:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. Spanish Mass! Festivities are at All Saints-St. Hedwig's, Holdingford. For more information contact Rachelle at 320-200-8331. *Sponsored by the Frassati Outdoor Club and Knights of Columbus #16455.*

#### Upcoming Speaker, Jen Messing: Dec. 14

Jen Messing, the Founder and Executive Director of *Into the Deep* will speak at St. Mary's at 7:-8:30 pm. on December 14th. She has been giving presentations and leading *Theology of the Body*-based retreats in both outdoor and traditional settings around the United States since 2002. Her particular gift is to inject the universal language of the *theology of the body* into a wide range of ages, populations, and subject matter, showing how applicable it is in everyday life and in every aspect of the Catholic faith.

Jen received a Master of Theological Studies from Ave Maria University's Institute for Pastoral Theology and is pursuing a certificate through the Theology of the Body Institute. Her undergraduate degree is in Social Work and she is a graduate of the NOLS Pacific Northwest Outdoor Educator course. She co-founded the Frassati Society. Everyone is welcome to attend!

### Pray for us:

Raymond Kurowski, Ken Wielenberg, Margaret Carlson, Ken & Pat Euteneuer, Ron Dingman, Kristy Brezinka, Ramona Heurung, Arnold & Donna Scholz, Irene Lashinski, Darwin Binek & Kathy Hennek, Linus & Marjorie Lehner, Carol Langner, Judy Gerads, Bruce Wolters, Rose Beniek, Dennis Biniek (SE), Linda Mader (SF), Marlene Vornbrock (SM), Roger Thell (SF), Alan Schumer (SM), Jim Negen (SF), Joe Primus (SM)

## Mass, Devotions & Events Schedule

<u>Tuesday 12/6</u>		<i>Saint Nicholas, Bishop</i>
6 pm St. Mary		For the Koehn Family *Anointing of the Sick
<u>Wednesday 12/7</u>		<i>Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>
8 am St. Francis	†	Donald, Betty & Duane Herzog
6:45 am St. Mary	†	*Anointing of the Sick Sr. Marie Gerads
<u>Thursday 12/8</u>		<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
8 am St. Edward	†	For the People
12 noon St. Mary	†	Julie Scholz
8 pm St. Francis	†	Dolores Czech ~Ione Brezinka
<u>Friday 12/9</u>		
7:30 am St. Mary	†	Ed & Irene Harren ~ Lorene Koopmeiners
<b>Weekend Masses</b>		<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
<u>Saturday 12/10</u>		
10 am Senior Living		Communion Service
4 pm St. Edward		For the People
<u>Sunday 12/11</u>		
8 am St. Francis	†	Edmund & Delores Roerick ~Roerick Family
10 am St. Mary		Thanksgiving for Dave Scholz
2-5 pm St. Mary		ACC Penance Service

### Faith Formation

**Family Formation K-6:** Class 6:30-8 pm (before & after Mass)

**2nd Grade this week:** Lesson 10

**Grades 7-Adult including Confirmation:** Attend Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

### Youth

**Young Women's Night for 11th & 12th grade: Dec. 11**

Fellowship & Bible Study from 7:30– 8:30 pm at St. Mary's Church, Upsala. We will meet every other Sunday. Contact Brooke (320) 630-3215 for more information.

**Praise & Worship Adoration: Dec. 5**

Bring your friends and join in at 7 pm at All Saints-St. Mary's to praise Jesus!

**Retirement Fund for Religious: Dec 10/11**

Many elder religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings. At the same time, fewer religious are able to serve in compensated ministry. Like many Americans, religious communities face the monumental challenge of funding eldercare. Please give generously. You will find an envelope in your December Contribution packet or contribute to the collection basket with an indication for the donation to go to the Religious Retirement Fund.

### Area Church Events

**Pancake Sausage & Egg Breakfast/Bargain Bin Sale: Dec 4**

We will be serving from 8 am - noon. Adults: \$8, Children 6-10 years: \$4, and 5 years and under FREE. Little Falls Senior Center 510 NE. 7th Street, Little Falls, MN

**Christmas Bazaar: Dec. 10/11**

St. Mary's in Little Falls will host their Bazaar with a Bake Sale, Cake Walk, Cash Bingo, Games of Chance, Crafts Sale, Trinkets & Treasures. On Saturday, Turkey Noodle Soup, Turkey Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes and Sweet Rolls will be served from 8 am - 6:30 pm. On Sunday, Breakfast with Helen's Rolls will be served from 9 am -12 pm with the Christmas Raffle Drawing to follow.

**Christmas Concert: Dec. 11**

The St. Francis Community Chorale will have a free concert at 2 pm. at the St. Francis Convent, Little Falls on December 11th. All welcome to attend.

## **ST EDWARD'S NEWS**

**Saturday, December 10 - 4pm**

**EM of HC:** Jim Wensmann

**Lector:** Jeff Czech

**Servers:** Volunteers

**Ushers:** Brent Prokott & Andrew Prokott

**Greeters:** Megan Wensmann

**Gift Bearers:** Ken & Deb Wensmann

### **New Child of God**

Welcome Summer Marie Wensmann, the daughter of Justin and Anna who was baptized this Sunday at Mass. Congrats to her grandparents Jim and Julie Wensmann. Blessings to her god-parents: Jeron Wensmann and Jackie Oldakowski. What can our parishes do to help encourage more parents to have their child baptized into our faith communities?

## **ST FRANCIS' NEWS**

### **December Ushers:**

Frank & Joyce Koopmeiners

**Thursday, December 8 - 8 pm**

**EM of HC:** Chad Koopmeiners

**Lector:** Chad Koopmeiners

**Servers:** Carter Roerick

**Gift Bearers:** Mike & Melissa Tschida

**Sunday, December 11 - 8 am**

**EM of HC:** Mary Jane Boeckermann

**Lector:** Jim Scholz

**Servers:** Volunteers

**Gift Bearers:** Bob & Gail Wuebkers

### **Baby Shower for Jesus**

Proceeds will go to ELEVATE (Pregnancy & Family Resource Center) Current Needs: Car Seat Covers, Car Seat Hanging Toys, Teething toys and gels, Nail clippers, Toys, Diaper Bags, Safety plug-ins, Crib Sheets, 18-24 month girl clothes, Target & Walmart Gift Cards, Cash Donations. All are welcome to Donate Wishlist items at St. Francis Parish in the Bassinet. A Blessed Thank You in advance by the St Francis Christian Women.

## **ST MARY'S NEWS**

**Wednesday, December 7 - 6:45 pm**

**EM of HC:** Christine Weber

**Lector:** Tom Kilian

**Servers:** Alayna Weber

**Ushers:** Darren Lange & Mitch Lange

**Greeters:** Elmer Frie & Jan Kilian

**Gift Bearers:** Dave & Renee Scholz

**Bank Deposit:** Cindy Koehn

**Sunday, December 11 - 10 am**

**EM of HC:** Dave Scholz

**Lector:** Leonice Prokott

**Servers:** Riley Klasen & Wyatt Klasen

**Ushers:** Tom Kilian

**Greeters:** Mikel & Julie Nelson

**Gift Bearers:** Mike & Randi Klasen

**Bank Deposit:** Marvin Wensmann

### **Three Saints News continued**

#### **Stewardship as a Way of Life**

*"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." ~Mt 3:10.*

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Our time, talent and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season? [www.stcdio.org/annualappeal](http://www.stcdio.org/annualappeal).

### **WEEKEND COLLECTION November 27, 2022**

**St. Edward:** Adult: \$740, Loose: \$59, Votive: \$40, Fall Collection: \$ 3,000, Christmas Flowers: \$25, Thanksgiving: \$215, Thanksgiving loose: \$105 **Total: \$4184**

**St. Francis:** Adult: \$453, Loose: \$81, Chair rental: \$20, Christmas Flowers: \$75, Thanksgiving: \$725, Thanksgiving: \$35 **Total: \$1,389**

**St. Mary:** Adult: \$1,470, Loose:\$148, Thanksgiving: \$264, Thanksgiving Loose: \$68, Fall Collection: \$100, Wine: \$100 **Total: \$2,150**

### **The Incarnation changes everything.**

At the root of the holiday season, sometimes buried beneath the well-intentioned array of lights, decorations and wrapping paper, remains the single transformational moment that we celebrate.

Jesus being born.

God entering our world.

That night in Bethlehem, in a humble manger, remains so awe-inspiring, that it's difficult to imagine it ever being forgotten or overlooked during the holidays.

And then our calendars begin to fill up.

Holiday parties. School concerts. Cookie baking. Card writing. It's not uncommon for Catholics who appreciate and embrace the "reason for the season" to get swept up into the trappings of Christmastime. <https://hallow.com/>

This year, prepare for Christmas with prayers of gratefulness and begin this, our new liturgical year, knowing that God loves us so much that he sent His only Son, Jesus, to teach and guide us!

### **Notes from Father David**

"Welcome one another," St Paul commands us, "as Christ welcomed you." Indeed, the Lord welcomes us to His House each weekend as we gather together to celebrate the Eucharist. But let us not forget the first part, that we are also called to welcome one another. Moreover, as St Paul welcomes Gentiles, and the wolf became a guest of the lamb, we are called to welcome those who are not like us: those coming from other cultures, speaking other languages, or expressing other viewpoints. Let us welcome continually all to this celebration.

Amazing fourteen young people (11<sup>th</sup> graders) who took part in a confirmation retreat held the Friday after Thanksgiving at St Mary's. Parents and parishioners, you must be very proud of them. It was beautiful to see 100% participation as every one of them attended! I loved their involvement from 10:30am until after 6pm. Their participation throughout the day was most impressive. Our day concluded with Holy Mass. A special thanks to Chantelle Frie as Confirmation Coordinator who organized the day as well as Marcia Krebs from the Sobieski, Flensburg and Randall parishes.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make Thanksgiving Day most blessed. Our two Masses were very well attended! You continually amaze me! The graces were also most present at the Word of Life Church as an estimated 100 people were served. It was truly amazing as nearly the entire serving line were people from our three parishes! A precious moment came when I introduced myself to a gentleman and he said that he heard this was non-denominational church. He was confused when he pointed to my white roman collar and saw a priest here. I simply stated how we all are on the same team and how our churches love working together. Indeed, we need to strengthen our community muscles by working together as three parishes as well as six parishes (with Holdingford area parishes) along with the Christian Churches in our communities.

It has been quiet on the home front regarding any interest from you about a possible Parish Life Committee (PLC) for each of our parishes. This committee which is recommended by our diocese could help bring about more social and spiritual activities. As far as how often this committee would meet will be determined by its members (perhaps quarterly). Unlike Pastoral Councils in the past, the Pastor need not be present at these meetings. With fewer and fewer priests and parishioners, a topic that no one wants to address is how long will some of our parishes be able to remain open? I cannot help but think the more vibrant and active each one of our churches become will bring more graces and blessings. We have been blessed by those who went before us. Will we leave our parishes in a better place when we are long gone? PLC's have a unique opportunity to build up parish life. The pandemic of 2020 isolated parishioners from one another, and it has been difficult to reengage social and emotional relationships in the same manner.

Our six parishes (including the three from the Holdingford area) will be hosting Penance Service: Sunday, December 11 from 2-5pm at St Mary's in Upsala. Mercy is a strong kind of love. It hangs in whatever. To experience it can be life-changing and a compass to live by, whether as people living out faith or as people who have known strong rejection. It is central to us as Catholics. We will be blessed to have four priests available of which three are retired: Fr Bob Harren, Fr David Maciej, Fr Gregory Mastey and Fr Eb Scheffers. During those three hours, come when works best for you.