

# 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

Please update the office if your phone or address changes.

#### RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Saturday: St. Edward: 3:30 pm - 3:45 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 Presentation of the Lord

(Mal 3:1-4, Heb 2:14-18, Lk 2:22-40)

**GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY,**  
**STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE** Mary and Joseph bring their 40-day-old infant Jesus to the temple in order to fulfill the Mosaic law. There, they are met by Simeon and Anna, the faithful prophets who have spent their lives waiting for the coming of the King of Glory. These many years of waiting were like the “refiner’s fire” which the prophet Malachi describes in the first reading. Refined like gold by prayer and fasting, Simeon and Anna are prepared to meet their Lord. And in this moment, the Old and New Testaments meet and the fulfillment of the Old is foreseen. Imagine the splendor of the moment when they finally laid their eyes on this king of light and glory – the culmination of a lifetime of hope, prayer, and preparation. Overcome with peace and joy at seeing his Lord, Simeon declares, “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace,” for he had seen the glory of God.

**GO EVANGELIZE |** Have you ever marveled at the beauty of a shiny, gold ring? Gold has long been regarded as one of earth’s greatest treasures, yet the gold we admire today doesn’t emerge in its pure, radiant form. To produce such beauty, gold must first undergo a process of intense refinement. A crude material is exposed to extreme heat to be melted and purified – until something of profound value emerges. Like gold, we, too, must be forged in fire to be made pure and holy. This is one way we can understand the prophet Malachi’s words. The “fires” we experience in our lives are not without purpose – God is purifying us so that one day we may live with him in eternity. He isn’t afraid of our “crude material”; rather, he gazes upon us with such intense love that our own beauty is revealed. As we undergo personal purification, let us stand in holy confidence like Simeon and Anna, witnessing to the truth that it is through the refiner’s fire that we are brought to glory.

**REFLECT:** We can become discouraged, feeling that our prayers are unanswered or that a life devoted to Christ is too difficult. When these moments arise, consider the prophets Simeon and Anna, who gave their lives in quiet devotion, trusting in God’s promises. Pray Simeon’s canticle, meditating on the glorious gift we have been given in our salvation, and the promise that even in the darkest of days a bright and shining light awaits us.

The Presentation of the Lord		
Saturday 2/1		
4:00 p.m. St. Edward	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> Peggy Frieler, Neil Frieler c, Jim Bartkowicz c, <b>Lector:</b> Jerry Theisen, <b>Servers:</b> Isaac Harren & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> Scott Wensmann & Dennis Trettel, <b>Greeters:</b> Megan Wensmann & Volunteer, <b>Gifts:</b> Scott & Karla Van Wienen
Sunday 2/2		
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Deceased members of the Gerads Family ~Gilbert & Carol	<b>EM of HC:</b> Bob Theisen, Judy Theisen c, Chris Fuchs c, <b>Lector:</b> Mary Jane Boeckermann, <b>Servers:</b> Owen & Lily Fuchs, <b>Ushers:</b> Allen Herzog & Craig Voss, <b>Gifts:</b> Allen & Janelle Roerick
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	† Deceased parents of Dave & Renee Scholz	<b>EM of HC:</b> Chantelle Frie, Cindy Koehn c, Jon Leither c, <b>Lector:</b> Kim Koehn, <b>Servers:</b> Emily Ripplinger & Lilli Leither, <b>Ushers:</b> Beau Ripplinger & Nathan Ripplinger, <b>Greeters:</b> Mitchell & Brooke Kingston, <b>Gifts:</b> Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Judy Michels

### Weekday Masses

Monday, 2/3	<i>St. Blaise, Bishop &amp; Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop</i>
6:30 p.m. St. Mary	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Tuesday, 2/4	
6:00 p.m. St. Mary *Anointing of the Sick	† Marlene Scepaniak
Wednesday, 2/5	<i>St. Agatha, Virgin &amp; Martyr</i>
8:00 a.m. St. Francis *Anointing of the Sick	† Dorothy Thell
Thursday, 2/6	<i>St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i>
8:00 a.m. St. Edward *Anointing of the Sick	† Jim Theisen
Friday, 2/7	<i>First Friday</i>
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	† Brian Wensmann ~ Marvin & Shirley



**Adoration**  
**2nd Tuesdays:**  
 St. Francis 8am -7pm  
**Thursdays:**  
 St. Mary's 12 noon - 9 pm.  
**First Fridays**  
 St. Edward's 12 noon-9 pm

**Pray for us:** Jim Negen, Raymond Kurowski, Florence Kurowski, Pat Euteneuer, Roger Thell, Ron Dingmann, Kristy Brezinka, Kathy Hennek, Carol Langner, Judy Gerads, Millie Gerads, Alan Schumer, Marlene Vornbrock, Jim Koczur, Gary Larson, Helen Heisick, Geraldine George, Dee Booth, William Hill, Lorraine Frie, Rose Burg Rosemary Pundsack, Kevin Lampert, Pat Harren, Ron Schmidt & Sherry Schumer

### The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 2/8		
4:00 p.m. St. Edward	† Stanley Czech	<b>EM of HC:</b> Julie Wensmann, Jim Wensmann c, Karla Schneider c, <b>Lector:</b> Bill Bozer, <b>Servers:</b> Isaac Harren & Jacob Hartung, <b>Ushers:</b> Brent Prokott & Andrew Prokott, <b>Greeters:</b> Raymond Kokett & Volunteer, <b>Gifts:</b> Dean & Jackie Wolbeck
5:30 p.m. St. Mary (followed by the Valentine's Meal)	† Arnold Scholz	<b>EM of HC:</b> Jon Leither, Lisa Zabinski c, Jan Kilian, <b>Lector:</b> Mary Hollenkamp, <b>Servers:</b> Emily Ripplinger & Lilli Leither, <b>Ushers:</b> Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger <b>Greeters:</b> Randy & Jane Tretter, <b>Gifts:</b> Randy & Donna Roske, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Tom Kilian
Sunday 2/9		
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Jordan Wensmann	<b>EM of HC:</b> Volunteer, Alice Westrich c, Colleen Harren c, <b>Lector:</b> Barb Moorman, <b>Servers:</b> Volunteers, <b>Ushers:</b> Allen Herzog & Leroy Pflueger, <b>Gifts:</b> Syl & Ellie Tschida
10:00 a.m. St. Mary	For the People	<b>EM of HC:</b> LeAnn Beneke, Renee Scholz c, Dave Scholz c, <b>Lector:</b> Leonice Prokott, <b>Servers:</b> Alayna Weber & Lauryn Weber, <b>Ushers:</b> Darren Lange & Mitch Lange, <b>Greeters:</b> Dave & Mary Hollenkamp, <b>Gifts:</b> Andy & Linda Langner, <b>Bank Deposit:</b> Marvin Wensmann

## 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)

### February 5th

**Grades K-6:** 6:30 p.m. Class, 2nd Grade: lesson 1

**Grades 7-10:** 7:00 p.m. No class

**Confirmation:** 6:15 p.m. Class at All Saints-St. Mary's

### Children's Liturgy

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

### Castaway Retreat : 9-12 graders March 28-30

Castaway is a retreat put on by the St Cloud Diocese in Detroit Lakes where hundreds of area youth gather to learn about, and deepen their faith. There is a bus that will be leaving from Melrose. For more information visit the diocese website and search for Castaway or contact Mike Klasen at 320-248-3600 or email at [mklasen486@gmail.com](mailto:mklasen486@gmail.com). Deadline to sign up is Saturday February 1st.

### Steubenville Youth Conference: 9-12th graders July 25-27

Come together with 2,000 other teens for a powerful encounter with Jesus Christ to ignite your prayer life, strength your faith, and empower you to live with courage and joy! Join with your friends for this transformative, energetic, and fun gathering. A short introductory and registration meeting for parents and teens will be **Sun, Feb 2, 11:00-11:30am** (after the 10:00am Mass) at St. Mary's. Contact: Jim @ 320-229-2898.

**Guiding Star Cycle Show: Sat., Feb. 29th** Sign-up for this workshop for girls ages 9-12 helping them to learn how to value and respect their bodies in healthy ways through their teenage years. 9am-2pm at St. Mary's Cost: \$50 Contact Rosanne: (320) 360-2196, Visit: [GuidingStarProject.com/Cycle-Show](http://GuidingStarProject.com/Cycle-Show).



### *Over 80 Blessings for February*

Eileen Koroll (SE) Feb. 23rd

Christine Wuebkers (SM) Feb. 24th



### **Catholic Financial Matching Grant Breakfast: Sun., Feb. 23**

Join us at St. Francis of Assisi (44055 State Hwy 238, Freeport, MN) for: sausage, scrambled eggs, pancakes, hash browns, sweet bread & beverages from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free will offering. Proceeds to benefit the Rel. Ed. program. Catholic United Financial will give a matching grant of up to \$1000.

### **WEEKEND COLLECTION 1/26/2025**

**St. Edward:** Adult: \$1045, Loose: \$89, Votive: \$56.10, Fall Collection: \$200, Funeral Fund: \$10, **Total: \$1,490**

**St. Francis:** Adult: \$163, Loose: \$61, **Total: \$224**

**St. Mary:** Adult: \$1,248, Loose: \$326.28, Funeral Fund: \$75, **Total: \$1,649.28**

## *Valentine Mass & Meal*

The St. Mary's Valentine Mass & Meal will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> beginning with Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Social Hour. A Candlelight Meal begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets (\$70 per couple) will be available to purchase after 10:00 a.m. Mass or by contacting the Parish office.



### **St. Mary's Mission Quilt Bingo**

The Quilting Ladies have done it again! Please join us on Sunday, February 9th at 1:00 p.m. for your chance to win a hand stitched quilt. \$10 a card. Free lunch provided afterwards. If you are interested in learning how to quilt from master quilters stop in at St. Mary's on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. Bring a friend!

### **The Resurrected Artists Dinner Theatre**

at Shady's Sunset Bay in St. Anna! **Evening Dinner Theatre:** Fri. & Sat., Feb. 21 & 22 and Feb, 28 & March 1. Dinner 5:30 p.m., performance 7:30 p.m. **Afternoon Dinner Theater:** Sun., Feb. 23: Dinner, 12 noon, performance 1:30 p.m. Call 845-7738 for tickets \$ 38 (non-refundable). **Sunday Matinee:** Sun., March 2. at 1:30 p.m. Tickets \$8:00. Come see our own Bob Theisen!

## **St. Francis' News**

### **St. Francis CUF Matching Grant Breakfast: Feb. 23**

If anyone would like to donate items or cash towards the breakfast please contact Chad 573-5667 or Bob 573-2933. Men and boys of the parish are asked to help. 1st shift A-L 8 to 10:30am. 2nd shift M-Z 10:30 to finish. Thank you"

**Journey with Jesus** It is time to start planning this year's production of "Journey with Jesus to Calvary." There will be a planning meeting on Sunday Feb. 9th at 11:30 a.m. in the St. Francis Church Basement. If you had a speaking part last year, please try to come. If you cannot make it call 573-2933 and let Bob know if you plan on being in the play or not. I will be signing up the elementary students at their next R.E. Classes. We need help in all areas of the production, so come to the meeting if you have any interest in helping.



## News and Events



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

All are welcome to these upcoming events  
**Chili Cook-Off: Feb. 9th** will be in North Prairie following the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Anyone is welcome to enter a chili and vote. A prize is given to the top 3 winners. Donations go to Elevate.

**World Day of the Sick: Feb. 11th** Knights are needed to assist. Fr. Sauer will be anointing the sick at St. Stanislaus, Bowlus.



### **K of C Free Throw Contest**

Winners at the Local Level Competition on January 12th were: Girls: Morgan Ripplinger, Peyton Quirk, Chloe Goebel. Boys: Levi Stuns, Gabe

Barthel, Ben Ripplinger, Cody Johnson.

District Level Contest will be on **February 16th** in the Upsala High School Gym. Knights are needed to help. Please wear your blue shirts.

### **Catholic Men's Conference: Feb. 22nd**

Knights are encouraged to attend.

### **Upstage Players Presents: The Play that Goes Wrong**

by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry Shields. Jan. 31st & Feb. 1st at 7:00 p.m. and February 2nd at 2:00 p.m. at the Upsala High School Auditorium. Adults \$8, Students & Seniors \$6.

### **Rural Catholic Middle Ages Singles Group: Feb. 8th**

Join us for prayer, discussions, and social activities for people ages 30-60 who are looking to socialize with other single adults. We meet at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's Church basement, Holdingford. Contact: Janel at 290-2877.

### **Life Awareness Retreat: Feb. 8th**

The religious communities in the St. Cloud Diocese are hosting a Life Awareness Retreat for Catholic singles ages 18 through 30 to help them discern the next steps God is asking of them. Join us from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at St Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph! Cost: A donation of \$20 is appreciated but not required. To register or for more information, contact: Benedictine Sister Laura Suhr at lsuhr001@csbsju.edu or 363-7100.

Jesus, I trust in you!

### **Valentine's Day Mass & Dinner: Fri., Feb. 14th**

BBQ ribs, potato, vegetable/salad, dinner roll, dessert, milk, coffee. Mass at 5:00 p.m. with Fr. Gregory Sauer with Dinner to follow. Tickets \$20 per person available at Psych's Grocery in Bowlus or call Tom Fussy at 232-5703.

### **Valentine's Banquet: Sat. Feb. 15th**

Word of Life Church ( 3328 1st Ave. W.) invites you to share a relaxing evening with family and friends at 6:00 p.m. A Roast beef and chicken meal will be catered by Jordie's Café. Cost is \$20 payable at the door. RSVPs appreciated by Feb. 10th. Call (320) 573-4450.

### **Catholic Men's Conference**

**Date:** Saturday, Feb. 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Bishop Patrick Neary will celebrate Mass at 4:00 p.m. and attend the conference **Location:** St. John's University in Colleagueville **Keynote speaker:** Father Scott Traynor, JCL, a priest in the Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Various Workshops will be available, including topics for young men ages 15 and up.

**Cost:** \$40 or \$35/each for groups of 5, includes morning refreshments and lunch. Cost for young men ages 15 – 22: \$10, scholarships available for the first 50 registrants

**Registration:** deadline: Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025 Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025CMC>

**Questions:** Janet 320-258-7616 or [janet.dusek@gw.stcdio.org](mailto:janet.dusek@gw.stcdio.org). Visit: <https://stcdio.org/event/2025-catholic-mens-conference/> for more information.

### **Discern Your Charisms with Called & Gifted**

St. Mary's, Upsala Saturday, March 8, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Would you like to discern the unique mission God has for you and empowers you to carry it out? God calls each of us to a unique purpose, a work of love that only you can do. You have received gifts in baptism and confirmation through which God intends to reach others. In his workshop you will take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory and learn the signs and characteristics of the twenty-three most common charisms. This workshop lays the foundation for your discernment and includes church teaching on the nature of charisms, call, and vocation Leadership development around spiritual gifts is critical. It helps support personal growth, ministry development, service to the wider community, and identifying new leaders for our diverse communities. This workshop is being led by Barbara Sutton. There is no cost to attend <https://forms.csbsju.edu/LHRE7KQZLW> Contact: Tamara Lange: (320) 250-4688 for more information.

### **TEC - Together Encountering Christ**

is a three-day retreat supported by the St. Cloud Diocese. The retreat is intended for both youth (age 16+) and adults and is modeled after the Paschal Mystery. Upcoming retreat is on Feb. 15-17, To learn more and sign-up contact [www.cmtec.org](http://www.cmtec.org) or call (320) 532-4455.

### **Skywarn Spotting Weather Training: Sun., March 16th**

Everyone is welcome to join us at St. Mary's from 2-4pm to learn about the weather. Contact: Tom Kilian 232-5705