

Grow in your faith on FORMED this Advent



Rooted presents a beloved tradition in a new light.

This new 22-episode series guides Catholics through a daily Advent reflection using the Jesse Tree model traditionally practiced by families. Each seven-minute episode introduces the ancestors of Jesus Christ, shares a Scripture passage, and offers an engaging, practical reflection. Hosted by Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, *Rooted* helps viewers apply the passage and related teachings to each day of Advent, guided by the Church's teaching.

Advent

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas," But what does that look like at your house? How exactly are we preparing our hearts for the greatest gift we've ever been given? Through an exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus, this Advent study offers an opportunity to experience the joy of the true meaning of Christmas.



Drawing Closer to God prepares your family for the Messiah's coming. Journey through Advent with the whole family! Join art teacher Ms. Kim as she teaches children to draw different scenes from the Christmas story, including the Annunciation, shepherds' visit, the Nativity scene, and more. Ms. Kim points out key details from Scripture and Catholic tradition. As kids follow along and learn new art skills, they also learn to see the connections in God's big picture and their place within it.

The Days of Advent

Each day during Advent Brother Francis leads us on a daily journey in this special seasonal celebration of the coming of the Lord! Featuring meditations, prayers, and suggested activities to keep our focus on Christ this Christmas. **To sign up for FORMED:** Visit our website, click the button for FORMED.org, Under 'Create a new account' type in the Upsala zip code: 56384, Click on St. Francis of Assisi, enter your name and email. You will receive an email to begin watching.



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF Elmdale, Upsala and St. Francis : MARY & 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. Francis: 3:30 pm - 3:45 pm
Sunday: St. Mary: 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.

Advent: a time of renewal

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means Joy. The Mass for the Third Sunday begins with this Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice! The Lord is near" (Phil 4:4-5). The reason for the joy is that in Jesus we have a different kind of God. Jesus is coming not to condemn but to comfort; not to punish but to promote; not to destroy but to save.

Pope Francis invites to celebrate the Joy of Christmas in its fullness. Pope says, "The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. If we do not feel an intense desire to share this love, we need to pray insistently that he will once more touch our hearts. We need to implore his grace daily, asking him to open our cold hearts and shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence. Standing before him with open hearts, letting him look at us, we see that gaze of love which Nathaniel glimpsed on the day when Jesus said to him: "I saw you under the fig tree" (Jn 1:48). How good it is to stand before a crucifix, or on our knees before the Blessed Sacrament, and simply to be in his presence! How much good it does us when he once more touches our lives and impels us to share his new life! There is nothing more precious which we can give to others" (Evangelii Gaudium, n. 264).

As we prepare the way for the Lord in our lives during this Advent season, we are warmly encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and receive the Lord's healing mercy. I will be hearing Confessions before weekdays and weekends Masses until Christmas. The Mass schedule for next weekend will be as follows:

Saturday, Dec. 23, St. Francis at 4pm
Sunday, Dec. 24, St. Mary's at 8am & 10am
Sunday, Dec. 24, St. Francis at 4pm (Christmas Vigil)
Monday, Dec. 25, St. Mary's at 8am & 10am (Christmas Day)

Blessed Advent! Fr. Jimmy

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Mass Schedule	
Monday 12/18	
No Mass	
Tuesday 12/19	
6:00 p.m. St. Mary	† Mike Schiller ~Karen Schiller
Wednesday 12/20	
8:00 a.m. St. Francis	† Irene Lashinski ~SF Christian Mothers
Thursday 12/21	<i>St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>
8:00 a.m. St. Francis Noon-9:00 St. Mary	† Cecilia Fussy Adoration
Friday 12/22	
7:30 a.m. St. Mary	† Dennis Biniek
Weekend Masses	Fourth Sunday in Advent
Saturday 12/23	<i>Saint John of Kanty, Priest</i>
4:00 p.m. St. Francis	For the People
Sunday 12/24	
8:00 a.m. St. Mary 10:00 a.m. St. Mary	For the People † Joe, Elaine & Mark Schumer
<i>Christmas Eve 12/24</i> 4:00 p.m. St. Francis <i>Christmas Day 12/25</i> 8:00 a.m. St. Mary 10:00 a.m. St. Edward	† Donald, Elizabeth & Duane Herzog For the People † Darwin Binek

WEEKEND COLLECTION December 10, 2023
St. Edward: Adult: \$720 Loose: \$70, Christmas Flowers: \$60
 St. Edward Fire Fund: \$20, Retired Religious: \$235,
 Immaculate Conception: \$185 **Total: \$1,290**
St. Francis: Adult: \$500, Loose: \$137, Retired Religious:
 \$128, Immaculate Conception: \$85, Christmas Flowers: \$70
Total: \$912
St. Mary: Adult: \$1,525, Loose: \$141.40, Votive: \$54,
 Immaculate Conception: \$219, Christmas Flowers: \$100,
 Christmas: \$75, Retired Religious: \$175 **Total: \$2,289.40**

Pray for us:
 Raymond Kurowski, Florence Kurowski, Margaret Carlson, Ken &
 Pat Euteneuer, Ron Dingmann, Kristy Brezinka, Donna Scholz,
 Kathy Hennek, Marjorie Lehner, Carol Langner, Judy Gerads, Rose
 Binek, Jim Negen, Marlene Vornbrock, Roger Thell, Alan Schum-
 er, Gary Larson, Helen Heisick & Geraldine George

ST FRANCIS' Ministers

December Ushers:
 Mark Moorman & Syl Tschida
Saturday, December 23rd – 4:00 p.m.
EM of HC: Janelle Roerick
 Brittany Harren (C) Colleen Harren (C)
Lector: Mary Jane Boeckermann
Servers: Volunteers
Gift Bearers: Dennis & Deb Koopmeiners
Sunday, December 24th – 4:00 p.m.
EM of HC: Rosanne Voss
 Rebecca Schmidt (C) M J Boeckermann (C)

ST. EDWARD'S Minsters (at St. Mary's)

Sunday, December 24th 8:00 a.m.
EM of HC: Jerry Theisen
 Joan Theisen (C) Jim Bartkowicz (C)
Lector: Mike Heisick
Servers: Volunteers
Ushers: Nick Schleper
Greeters: Raymond Kokett
Gift Bearers: Mark & Kaye Nienaber
Monday, December 25th 8:00 a.m.
EM of HC: Jim Wensmann
 Jerry Theisen (C) Julie Wensmann (C)
Lector: Jim Bartkowicz
Servers: Volunteers

ST MARY'S Ministers

Sunday, December 24th– 10:00 a.m.
EM of HC: Dave Scholz
 Renee Scholz (C) Volunteer (C)
Lector: Mary Frie
Servers: Riley Klasen & Wyatt Klasen
Ushers: Patrick & Lisa Zabinski
Greeters: Dave & Mary Hollenkamp
Gift Bearers: Mike & Randi Klasen
Bank Deposit: Mike Klasen
Monday, December 25th– 10:00 a.m.
EM of HC: Christine Weber
 Amanda Lampert (C) Jan Kilian (C)
Lector: Chantelle Frie
Servers: Emily Ripplinger
Ushers: Matt & Rhonda Ripplinger

Mass Schedule: Solemnity of Mary
 December 31st: 4:00 p.m. St. Francis

All Cluster News

Faith Formation: Dec. 20th

K-6: Home Lesson-Christmas
 2nd grade: Lesson 12
 6:30 p.m. Penance Service for
 students and parents

Youth

Job Opening

We have a job opening for a Youth
 Director. Fill out an application on
 the website, call the Parish Office
 or let Fr. Jimmy know.

Knights of Columbus

Free Throw Contest

Sunday, January 14th
 Upsala Senior High Gym
 Registration: 12:30 p.m.
 Contest begins: 1:00 p.m.
 Open to Boys and Girls ages 9-14

Knights of Columbus Meeting

We will meet on January 9th at
 7:30 p.m. St. Mary's, Upsala

"May the God of peace make you
 perfectly holy and may you entirely,
 spirit, soul and body, be preserved
 blameless for the coming of our
 Lord Jesus Christ". (1 Thes 5:23)

Gaudete Sunday: The Third Week

"Say to those whose hearts are
 frightened: Be strong, fear not!
 Here is your God...he comes to
 save you." Is 35-6a, 10. The
 readings and prayers of "Gaudete
 Sunday" call us to rejoice as we
 near the celebration of Jesus' birth.
 Does rejoicing mean "making
 oneself happy"? Is that possible?
 Sustainable? Happiness is a fleet-
 ing feeling while Joy is an enduring
 state of soul that comes from God
 and needs tending. Don't settle for
 happiness...seek joy!

dmdiocese.org/advent



Stewardship as a way of Life

"Rejoice always. Pray without
 ceasing. Give thanks in all
 circumstances, for this is the will
 of God for you in Christ Je-
 sus." (1Thes 5:16-19)

This scripture reading sums up
 Stewardship. "Rejoice always"
 means place your trust in God;
 He will provide all that you need.
 "Pray constantly" means prayer
 should be a running conversation
 with God throughout the whole
 day, every day. "Give thanks in all
 circumstances" means even in bad
 situations, thank God. Suffering a
 little bit helps build empathy for
 others in similar situations and
 shows our dependence on God.

Are you called?

"The spirit of the Lord God is
 upon me because the Lord has
 anointed me." God is empowering
 you for a specific purpose! How
 will you respond to so great a
 love? Is He asking you to follow
 Him by serving in the priesthood
 or consecrated life? Talk to your
 priest or reach out to the Vocation
 Office: Fr. Doug Liebsch, Julie
 Jacobs (320) 251-5001 or Ja-
 cobs@gw.stcdio.org

Cemetery Upkeep

Family should have already
 removed all flowers from their
 loved one's grave stones. If you
 haven't yet, please do so before
 the snow. If you have decorated
 for Christmas. Please remove
 afterwards. Thank you!

Calendars 2024 Calendars are
 available in the entry of church.

St. Francis' News

Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating the inside
 of church on Wednesday,
 December 20th after Mass.
 Come and help put up the trees
 and stable if you can.

St. Mary's News

Christmas Decorating

Thank you to all who helped put
 up our Christmas Decorations on
 Dec. 16th. Contact: Marlene
 Lange 630-1309 to see if there is
 some left over decorating to do. St.
 Edward parishioners are
 welcome to join in!

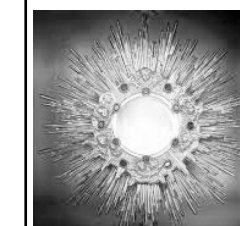
The Giving Tree

"As I have loved you, that you
 also love one another" (Jn 13:34)
 Thank you to all who participated
 in the Giving Tree Program. You
 can take joy in the fact that you
 helped children have a Merry
 Christmas. God bless you and your
 families with Peace and Love
 throughout this holy season!

Hope Peace Love Joy

Perfect Gift

Encourage their faith by giving the
 men in your life a ticket to the
 Catholic Men's Conference taking
 place on Saturday, February 24th.
 Tickets are \$35. Contact Jan Zylla
 at 285-7615



Spend time
 with Jesus
 in Adoration!

ADORATION

2nd Tuesdays (SF) 7 am -7 pm
 Thursdays (SM) 12 - 9 pm.