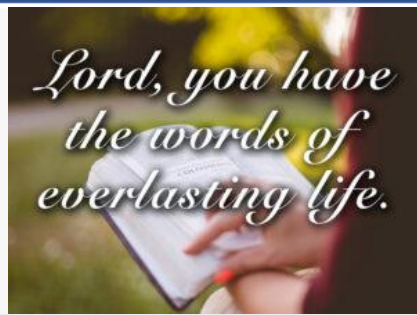


The Catholic Churches of

St. Edward
Elmdale

St. Francis of Assisi
St. Francis

St. Mary
Upsala



Third Sunday of Lent

March 7, 2021

Pastor Fr. David Grundman 320-309-4174 (cell)
email – frdgrund@gmail.com

Sister Mary Pat Burger St. Francis Rectory 573-2203
CENTRAL OFFICE PO Box 249 Upsala, MN 56384

Office Hours 8am – 3:30pm
Mon. – Thurs. – Fri. *Modified*

Janice Wuebkers Office Manager

Tuesday at Royalton Church Office
Wednesday at Holdingford Church Office

Central Office 320-573-2132

FAX: 320-573-9133

Central Office email: 238catholic@sytekcom.com

Web site: www.238catholic.org

Diocesan web site: www.stclouddiocese.org

Elevate (Birthline) Hotline: 1-800-786-0200

St. Cloud Chancery: 320-251-2340

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chantelle Frie, Confirmation: 320-360-4796

Beth Lange, St. Mary/St. Edward, Gr 1-10: 320-630-8390

Niki Koopmeiners, St. Francis, Gr 1 - 10: 320-248-7553

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Saturday St. Mary 3:15 – 3:45pm

Sunday St. Edward 7:15 – 7:45am

St. Francis 9:15 – 9:45am

Tuesday St. Mary 5 – 5:45pm

Also by appointment

PRAYER LINE

Karen Liebsch (SM): 573-4127 Kathy Koehn (SM): 573-2363

Judy Theisen (SF): 573-2933 Joyce Koopmeiners (SF): 573-2728

Sally Schleper (SE): 573-2127

MINISTRY TO THE SICK & THOSE WHO CANNOT GET TO CHURCH

Holy Communion can be brought to you or a loved one at home, please contact the Central Office, 573-2132

Sacrament of Marriage: Couples need to begin preparations with Fr. David nine months in advance and must call him before setting a date.

Sacrament of Baptism: Contact the office before desired baptism date.

Remember in prayer those in need of the Lord's healing and strength:

Raymond Kurowski, Ken Wielenberg, Don Maciej, Margaret Carlson, Rodney Bartkovicz, Brenda Wuebkers, Ron Dingman, Kya Bartkovicz, Paul Ampe (SM, Assisted Living at Mother of Mercy, visitors must have a vaccine), Virgil Burg, Brayden Harren (recovering from surgery), family of + Rich Boeckermann (SF), Kristy Brezinka; Carol Spencer (broken hip/surgery, lives in Apartments next to St Mary's)

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS

St. Mary: Adult \$1,294.00; Loose \$202.71; Votive \$26.25; Choir \$100.00; Central MN Catholic \$40.00; Online \$490.00 - **\$2,152.96**

St. Edward: Adult \$964.00; Loose \$109.00; Votive \$47.50; Central MN Catholic \$70.00; Easter Flowers \$25.00; Cemetery Maint. \$1,050.00; Online \$450.00 - **\$2,715.50**

St. Francis: Adult \$430.00; Loose \$38.00; Central MN Catholic \$40.00; Easter Flowers \$20.00; Online \$260.00 - **\$788.00**



Tuesdays @ St. Mary's after 6pm Mass
Wednesdays @ St. Francis after 8am Mass
Thursdays @ St. Edward after 8am Mass
Fridays - 8pm, alternating parishes:
St. Francis – March 19
St. Mary – March 5 & 26
St. Edward – March 12

Mass & Devotions Schedule

March 8 - 14, 2021

Monday: 3/8 *St. John of God*
NO MASS SCHEDULED

Tuesday: 3/9 *St. Frances of Rome*
St. Mary 6:00pm † Brian Boeckermann
- C & S Boeckermann

6:30pm Stations of the Cross

St. Francis 7am – Adoration, 8pm - Benediction

Wednesday: 3/10
St. Francis 8:00am † Rich Boeckermann

8:30am Stations of the Cross

Thursday: 3/11
St. Edward 8:00am † Edward Jendro

8:30am Stations of the Cross

St. Mary Noon – Adoration, 9pm - Benediction

Friday: 3/12
St. Mary 7:30am † Pete & Anne Michels
- Pete & Judy Michels

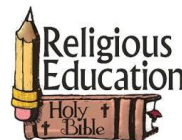
St. Edward 8:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday: 3/13
St. Mary 4:00pm † Francis 'Sunny' Zwilling
First Reconciliation: 9am – Noon @ St. Mary
(Rescheduled)

Sunday: 3/14 *Laetare Sunday*

St. Edward 8:00am † Lois Maciej
- Annette Lange

St. Francis 10:00am † Ty Poppenhagen



Religious Education

March 10:

Grades 1 – 6: Class 6:30 – 7:30pm

Confirmation: 7:30 – 9pm

Religious Ed

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our children and young people received Jesus in this beautiful sacrament with much devotion. Thanks to parents and teachers for helping prepare them. Don't forget to thank all the retired priests of the diocese who help out in so many ways. Fr. Bob Harren, Fr. Virgil Helmin and Fr. Eb Schefers helped out this past Wednesday evening.

Youth News

NCYC Update

In talking with Kent Schmitz, Director of Youth from our diocese, they have a goal to take 100 youth to Indianapolis in November. That number is one-half of what they took to the conference two years ago. The Conference generally accommodates a total of 25,000 youth, whereas this coming year with the pandemic they are looking at having maybe 10,000. The weekend will be livestreamed as a number of parishes will likely make use of that.



"But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the LORD" ~ Jeremiah 30:17

Please storm heaven with prayers for Brayden's recovery. To keep updated on his condition, please visit caringbridge.org and search for Brayden Harren.

FORMED

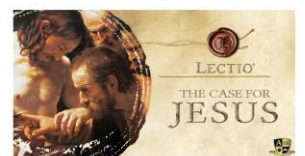
PICK OF THE WEEK

March 7, 2021

LEARN

LECTIO: THE CASE FOR JESUS

In nine sessions, Dr. Brant Pitre answers the key question of faith: Who is Jesus? Dr. Pitre presents evidence from early Christian and non-Christian writings that attest to the authenticity of the Gospels. Timed to lead up to the Triduum, Dr. Pitre looks in-depth at the accounts of Jesus's Crucifixion and Resurrection and his proclamation of divinity.



www.238catholic.formed.org (Google Chrome)

THREE SAINTS NEWS

Adoration in our Parishes

There is nothing in comparison to how grateful God the Father would be to us for having adoration in our parishes. This is why St Pope John Paul II beautified Dina Belanger. She was a Canadian woman devoted to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Before her holy Jesus would show her multitudes of souls on the precipice of hell. She would see these same souls in the hands of God after her holy hour!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Come to All Saints (St Mary) in Holdingford Sunday, March 21 from 2-5pm to receive Jesus. There will be two other priests in addition to Fr David and Fr Gregory. There are no greater graces and blessings than when you receive this sacrament. No matter how long it has been since your last confession, come to Jesus. In our three parishes, Fr David is generally in the confessional before weekday and weekend Masses.

Catholic Relief Services Collection

Next weekend, the loose collection along with your special envelope will help make a difference in the lives of vulnerable people around the world and right here at home. 'Jesus in Disguise' is the theme. Will you help our parishes be Jesus for so many in need?

40 Days for Life

The Holdingford area parishes are filling hours on Thursday afternoons from 1pm to 7pm for the prayer vigil at Planned Parenthood (across from Pan-O-Gold). If you have questions or would like to sign up for an hour at Planned Parenthood, please call/text Marilou @ 320.247.9838. This campaign ends March 28, please make an effort to be the voice of the unborn.

Volunteer for "Helping Hands"

"Thanks for the interest in serving on this board. There has been a couple of people inquiring. No doubt the \$3 dollars did the trick! 😊 Remember that this "Helping Hands" is different than the one in Holdingford. We (Pastors) met this past week at St Mary's, so please stay tune to further developments." Fr David

DCCW Annual Lenten Retreat

"The Saints Within Us" this Saturday, March 13 from 9am to 12:15pm as this event will be virtual. For more details and registration information, go to our website at <https://stcdio.org/event/annual-dccw-lenten-retreat/>.

Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral

The annual Chrism Mass will be celebrated March 25 at 7pm in St. Cloud. Because of COVID restrictions, attendance at this Mass is by invitation only. The Mass will be livestreamed on the cathedral's Facebook page. At the Chrism Mass, Bishop Donald Kettler will bless the oils that will be used for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, holy orders and the anointing of the sick. Also, at the Mass, priests of the diocese will come together to renew their priestly vows.

Marriage Course for 2nd Marriages

Planned to be held in St. Cloud at the Pastoral Center March 27 from 8:30am to 5pm. The Second Marriage Preparation Course is for couples preparing to marry after the death of a spouse or an annulment. For more information, go to <https://stcdio.org/engaged-couple-marriage-preparation/>.

Honoring Marriage Day Rescheduled

Due to the COVID-19, it will be taking place on Saturday, October 2, 2021. This event is for couples celebrating their 5th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60 plus anniversaries in 2021. This event was to take place in May at St Mary's Cathedral in St Cloud. There is still time to register if you missed earlier registration. Please call the parish office as soon as possible.

ST. MARY'S NEWS

Sat., March 13 – 4pm

EM of HC: Joe Schumer *Lector:* Jan Kilian

Greeters: Nathan & Laura Ripplinger

Ushers: Nathan Ripplinger & Brian Lange

St. Mary's Lenten Smelt +Fish Fry + Raffle

Friday, March 26th 4-8pm. Carry Out ONLY. Raffle @ 7:30pm (winners will be announced on Facebook and on our church website 238catholic.org). We will continue to sell raffle tickets in the back of church after weekend Masses for people to purchase.

St. Mary's parishioners!

Our annual Smelt + Fish Fry + Raffle is only a few weeks away! We need your help. On Thursday, March 25th we will need a lot of help for food preparation. Anytime after 4pm would be great! On Friday (the day of the fish fry) we also need lots of helping hands! The two shifts to sign up for are 4-6:30pm or 6:30-9pm. Please sign-up to help by calling or texting Laura Ripplinger 320.333.9184. We will not need parishioners to bring bars this year due to restrictions. This is a HUGE fundraiser for our church. Let's make this year another successful one! Thank you for all of your support!!

ST. EDWARD'S NEWS

Sun., March 14 – 8am

EM of HC: Dorene Czeck *Lector:* Shari Biniek

Greeters: Jim & Julie Wensmann

Ushers: Mike Urbanski & Shawn Urbanski

Cemetery Maintenance

"You are amazing! Did you notice that \$1,050 came in the past week? Do I hear a drum roll? I cannot believe to date you have given \$9,775! We are only \$225 short of our \$10,000 goal! No doubt all of your loved ones buried in our cemetery were interceding. In other great news, our Knights of Columbus Council is looking into what it might take provide a facelift for our shrine." Fr. David

ST. FRANCIS' NEWS

Sun., March 14 – 10am

EM of HC: Rosanne Voss

Lector: Holly Keppers

Greeter: Dan Lange

NOTES FROM FR. DAVID

We fail. We sin. We humans are weak, so we turn to God for strength. During this penitential season, we are keenly aware of our need for mercy and forgiveness. God's mercy and forgiveness came to full fruition in Jesus, who redeemed us by taking on our failings, our sins, our mortality. God has the words of everlasting life, as we heard sung in the psalm this weekend, so we look to God this day for words of mercy and love as we recommit ourselves to our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

As we celebrated Safe Haven Sunday this weekend, I pray that together our parishes will become more sensitive and helpful to those struggling with this terrible affliction to pornography. The constant flood of influence that comes through the internet and social media in all of its various forms, along with social pressures from peers make it difficult for children to live virtuous and holy lives. In the digital age, it's not a matter of if your child will see something inappropriate online. It's only a matter of when. And regrettably, internet pornography is teaching our children how and what to think about sex and marriage. In the entrances of our churches, we have free books available entitled: Connected: How Strong.... I want to thank you for your openness to receive the testimony of my past struggles as well as your willingness to help discern where God may be calling us as parishes to help others who struggle with pornography.

"Holy Spirit breathe upon our parishes as we discern Your will for our religious education program. Help our families grow in holiness. Speak Lord, for your servants are listening. Amen." So what has the Good Lord been placing on your hearts? Peace is often as fruit which signifies that God's will is unfolding. I am at peace, knowing that if this "Family Formation" for grades K-6 is meant to happen, it will happen. If not, perhaps another year or never or keep the same program/curriculum as this year or Plan B or Plan C. Did you know that the parish in Freeport has been implementing this curriculum for a number of years? Also, the parishes in Sobieski and the Little Falls are currently using various elements of it. Deadline for applying for the Coordinator/s Position (grades K-6 and 7-11) is March 22. Last week, three people asked for application forms!

Read what these two ladies say about this curriculum: "I want to take a moment and let you know how much my family truly enjoys Family Formation. It amazes me how rich it is in our Catholic Faith. My children get so excited when the packets come in the mail, and I have learned so much while teaching them." Angela (wife and mother from Texas) "We have had such positive response from our families about the Family Formation program that I am sharing it with other parishes in our area. The teacher presentations are clear, simple, and complete. Thank you for making this available for other parishes! (Cheri, Family Formation Coordinator in Illinois)