



*"Then, a babe was born.
And darkness became light."*

The Catholic Communities of Bowlus, Holdingford and St. Anna

St. Stanislaus Kostka, Bowlus All Saints, Holdingford Immaculate Conception, St. Anna

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019

Central Office in Holdingford

Hours: Mon.-Wed. 10 to 3, Thurs. 1 to 5

Website: tworiverscatholic.com

Office: (320) 228-0105

Father: (320) 228-0110

In case of emergency or a death, call
Father at the **Rectory** 746-2231.

Parish Pastoral Team

Father Gregory Mastey, Pastor
Kristin Molitor,

New Evangelization Coordinator
evangelist@tworiverscatholic.com

Janice Wuebkers Business Manager
Office hours: Wed. 10 to 3 p.m.
businessmanager@tworiverscatholic.com

Jessie Johnson, Secretary
secretary@tworiverscatholic.com

Confession Times:

Before weekday Masses at 7:30 a.m.

Saturday: 7:30 p.m. St. Anna

Marriage: Couples are to begin
preparation 6-12 months in advance and
must call the Central Office to meet with
Father Gregory **before setting a date**.
Diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes
are required.

Baptism: Call to schedule Baptism.
A baptism class is offered quarterly.

Shut-Ins: Please call us.

New Parishioners: Please introduce
yourself to Father after Mass and call the
Central Office. **If you are leaving our parishes**
please call the central office so we can
update our census. Thank you.

**P.O. Box 308,
Holdingford, MN 56340**

Father Gregory's suggestions for gift giving:

Catholic CD from Light house media (see our kiosks)

Catholic Rural Life Magazine (www.catholicrollife.com)

Rural Life Prayer Book

Cooking for Christ Cookbook (Liturgical year cooking)

Spiritual Bouquet (see below)

Support a local business in Bowlus, Holdingford or
St. Anna with a gift card

Subscription to Catholic Digest (catholicdigest.com)

Invite your neighbor to dinner

Homemade cookies

Spiritual Bouquet: A Gift of Prayer

For: _____

The following are offered
for your intentions:

_____ Masses
_____ Rosaries
_____ Adoration
_____ Novenas
_____ Other

From: _____



O Holy Spirit, Giver of all good gifts, please grant this
special intention if it be for Your honor and glory and for
their well being. Amen



Evangelization Corner

~Kristin Molitor

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate "Gaudete Sunday." Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. Today we rejoice because the Lord is near, **God is coming to save us!**

Today I'd like to share with you an excerpt of an article written by Emily Stimpson Chapman that reminds us of what life was like before Jesus and why we ought to rejoice over His coming.

She writes:

"Once, long ago, the world was black as night. The sun still shone above, but inside the hearts of men, all was dark.

That darkness was the darkness of a soul with no hope for heaven. The gates to Paradise had long since been closed. Death, sorrow, and loss were everywhere. Sin was everywhere. And there was no way out.

Unlike now, there was no Baptism to restore God's life to the soul, no Confession to wipe the soul's slate clean. Nor were there any images of God, dying on a cross for love of us, to comfort and console. Atonement was impossible. Redemption seemed more impossible. And despair was the lot of mankind.

Then, a babe was born. And dark became light."

Brothers and sisters, the baby that we are preparing for **will one day become a man, and He will save us from our sin.** Life without Christmas means there would be no heaven. Without Jesus, this life, the one we have now, would be it. Our existence would be reduced to a restless pursuit for survival and pleasure. *Life without Christmas means that we would forever be enslaved to sin.*

Today, let's rejoice as we never have before. The child is coming and He will save us from our sin! Let's offer praise and gratitude to the Father for sending us Jesus. Let's lovingly contemplate the gift of salvation, the gift of baptism, the gift of confession, the gift of the Eucharist, the gift of the church, and the gift of eternal life!

Eucharistic Adoration

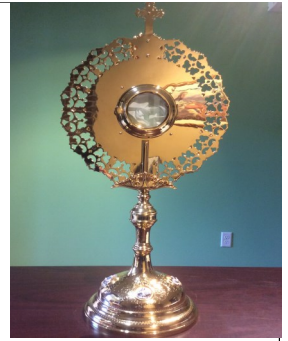
Every Monday

All Saints-St. Mary's
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Every Saturday

St. Stanislaus Kostka
6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Daily Mass Eucharistic Adoration is also held for one hour following daily Mass on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. No Adoration if there is a funeral on that day. Confession and the Rosary begin 1/2 hour before Mass.



This Week's Events

- Sun.** December 15 *All Cluster Confessions*
St. Stanislaus
11:00 a.m. Knights of Columbus Potluck
- Mon.** December 16 *Adoration*
- Tues.** December 17
Kirstin Molitor's House
3:30 p.m. Well-Read Mom meeting
- Wed.** December 18
All Saints-St. Mary's
3:00 p.m. Confessions
- Thur.** December 19
- Fri.** December 20
- Sat.** December 21
St. Stanislaus Adoration
All Saints-St. Mary's
8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group
Immaculate Conception
7:00 p.m. before Mass
- Sun.** December 22

If you are interested in being on the schedule or have changes in availability please contact:

Ministry Schedulers:

All Saints: Patty Becker 291-6582

St. Anna: Kathy Scegura 746-2814

Prayer Lines:

All Saints: Ramona Fedor 746-2395

Kathleen Ebnet 746-2227

St. Anna: Shirley Schwalbe 356-7209

Christine Maleska 356-7246

St. Stanislaus: Arlene Beniek 584-5235



The Healing Power of God

Teckla Scegura	Donald Wenderski	Connie Young
Lee Bieniek	Marcie Selinski	Kieran Kloss
Bernice Carlson	Katie Yurczyk	Judy Schehr
Tyson Myers	Matt Myers	Reagan Zierdan
LeRoy Johannes	Nancy Bieniek	Evelyn Trettel
Cayden Van Norman	Melissa Scepurek	Baby Wyatt
Arnold Voss	Gretta Bayer	Margaret Helmin
Lawrence Trettel	Sharon Prokott	Arlene Beniek
Aaron & Esther Krych		

News & Events



Knights of Columbus

The Annual Knights of Columbus Family Christmas Potluck

will be held following 10 a.m. Mass in Bowlus on Sunday, December 15th. All members and their families are invited to attend to share in fellowship and brotherhood as we continue to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. Contact Grand Knight Peter Borash (320)292-7004 for questions. Hope to see you there!



May Eternal Rest
Be Granted to
Alois Fussy
Funeral was

December 9, 2019
St. Stanislaus Kostka

2020 Calendars are here!

Pick up yours at the Central office as your gift from the Parish.
(1 per family) Blessings!

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities are being collected to raise money to provide a "home away from home" for families needing a place to stay with a child who has a serious illness. Your help is Requested! Please remove the pop tabs from aluminum cans and deposit them in one of the collection containers in the church basement. God Bless, St. Isidore Council

By His Mercy books will be available for you to purchase in the back of church or the basement after all the masses on the weekend of December 21/22. These books contain testimonies of how young Catholics have seen God's mercy in their lives. Mary Solarz, a Parishioner of All Saint's, will be selling them as her testimony can be found in By His Mercy 2. Books are \$15.00 and all of the proceeds will be going to St. Cloud Vocations. If you are unable to pick up these books after mass but would still like to purchase one they can also be found at the St. Cloud Book Shop or Christian Corner Books and Gifts.

Be prepared for Jesus!

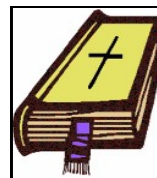
All Cluster Confessions for Upsala and our Cluster will be on Sunday, December 15th from 2-5:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, Upsala. Multiple priests will be present.

FORMED Daily

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Looking for ways your family can enter into the Advent season together? Grow closer to Christ this season with reflections sent to you daily.

Sign up at formed.org/advent



Weekly Readings

Monday Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/
Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Thursday Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/
Lk 1:5-25
Friday Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/
Lk 1:39-45
Sunday Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/
Mt 1:18-24

2019-2020 Spiritual Adoption
Participants pledge to pray for nine months for a baby in danger of abortion. **While this child will remain unknown to his or her 'spiritual parent', God knows who the child is.** At the end of the program a 'baby shower' will be held and gifts of baby items will be donated to Elevate Pregnancy & Family Resource Center elevatestcloud.org. Thank you!

Workbooks for Lectors have arrived. If you are a lector please pick up your book in the Sacristy and check off your name. Thank you!

Weekly Offering

Financial Contributions

PARISH INCOME

December 8, 2019

AS \$ 3,081.55

IC \$ 2,034.82

SS \$ 2,208.75

Thank you for your generosity!

For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." —Luke 12: 34

Online Giving

PARISH INCOME

November 2019

AS \$ 811.00

IC \$ 2,165.00

SS \$ 355.00

Parish News & Events

All Saints

Choir Rehearsals for Advent and Christmas will be following the Sunday a.m. masses at All Saints-St. Mary's. New members of all ages are welcomed to join us for rehearsals which will last approximately 1 hr. Any questions, please call Lois at 746-2603

Cemetery decorations and flowers. Please remove all old flowers. Christmas Flowers encouraged.

The Building committee for All Saints met on December 4th and reviewed the 110 page summary and recommendations from the Feasibility Study that we did in our parish in October of this year. At this time, we as a committee are choosing not to share the book with you until we do some of the recommendations that were suggested first. Please be patient with us, pray for the process and continue to unify ourselves with God's will. Again, I remind you that No final decisions have been made. We are aiming at two goals in the next month. There were over 150 questions that people thought were not answered sufficiently in the presentations. Our first goal is to answer them in printed form for all of you. Our second goal is hopefully to present our case again to the Bishop and ask for more concise clarification about our future so as to be sure that our actions match up with his vision. Thank you, Fr. Gregory

St. Stanislaus

Church decorating for the arrival of Jesus will be on Dec 23 after Mass and adoration around 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Students, this is a chance to get some hours. Everyone is welcome to join us. Thank You. Marion Leners 320-250-3530

Funerals and Gatherings please remember to pick up your bowls, pans and containers left in the church basement after a funeral or event. Any items remaining after January 1st will be disposed of. Thank you.

All Cluster

Live Nativity Thank you to all who helped with the Live Nativity in Holdingford on December 6th. It was a wonderful way to Celebrate the Christmas season. Special thanks to the Up North Animal Encounter for providing the live animals

Well Read Mom Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 17th at 3:30-5:00 p.m. at Kristin Molitor's house. We are discussing The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen. All women welcome to join in.

Extra Confessions:

December 15th All Cluster Confessions, St. Mary's, Upsala
2-5:00 p.m. with multiple priests

December 18th: All Saints-St. Mary's 3-4:00 p.m.
Communal Confessions, Freeport

December 21st: Immaculate Conception 7:00 p.m. before Mass
(Dec. 21st is the last opportunity for Confession before Christmas. Father will need to do Homebound Confessions)

Upcoming Mass Times:

All Saints Cluster

Christmas

Tuesday, December 24th, Vigil

5:00 p.m. All Saints-St. Hedwig's, Holdingford

8:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus, Bowlus

Midnight All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford

Wednesday, December 25th Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception, St. Anna

Vigil of Mary Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31st

6:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception, St. Anna

8:30 p.m. Dance at St. Stanislaus before Mass

11:30 p.m. St. Stanislaus, Bowlus

Candlelight Mass

Solemnity of Mary

Wednesday, January 1st

9:00 a.m. All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford

Upsala cluster

Christmas

Tuesday, December 24th, Vigil

8:00 p.m. St. Edward's, Elmdale

Wednesday, December 25th Christmas Day

8:00 a.m. St. Francis, St. Francis

10:00 a.m. St. Mary's, Upsala

Vigil of Mary Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31st

7:00 p.m. St. Edward, Elmdale

Solemnity of Mary

Wednesday, January 1st

9:00 a.m. St. Francis, St. Francis

11:00 a.m. St. Mary's, Upsala

Nearby

Christmas

Tuesday, December 24th Vigil

5:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception, Rice

8:30 p.m. Holy Cross, North Prairie

Wednesday, December 25th, Christmas Day

8:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception, Rice

8:30 a.m. Holy Cross, North Prairie

10:00 a.m. Holy Trinity, Royalton

Vigil of Mary Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31st

4:00 p.m. Holy Trinity, Royalton

Wednesday, January 1st

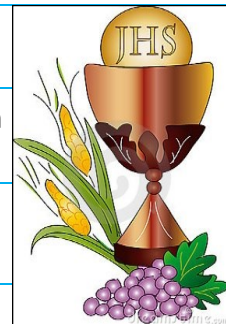
10:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception, Rice

10:00 a.m. Holy Cross, North Prairie



Mass Schedule

Mon. Dec.16	8:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus	+Deacon Jerome Roth
Tues. Dec. 17	7:00 p.m. All Saints-St. Mary's	Knights of Columbus for Vocations
Wed. Dec. 18	8:00 a.m. All Saints-St. Hedwig's	+Clara Donnelly
Thurs. Dec. 19	8:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception	+Robert VanHeel
Fri. Dec. 20	No Mass	
Sat. Dec. 21	8:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception	+Bob and Joan Keppers
Sun. Dec. 22	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 8:00 a.m. All Saints-St. Mary's 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus	For the People +Dion Pollock



Faith Formation & GIFT (*Generations In Faith Together*)

The next GIFT Night: January 15th, 7:00 p.m. All Saints-St. Hedwig's

GIFT Night is required for Faith Formation students and teachers grades 7th- 12th. Parents are encouraged to attend and all parishioners are welcome. Plan ahead and mark your calendars.

Advent	Jesus is coming
Christmas	Jesus is born
Ordinary Time	Jesus teaches
Lent	Jesus will die and rise
Paschal Triduum	Jesus suffers and is crucified
Easter	Jesus rises

Faith Formation Directors

All Saints: Katrina Kolles, 292-1575,
allsaints@tworiverscatholic.com
St. Stanislaus: Cindy Fussy, 584-5982
Immaculate Conception: Jeff Johnson
260-4959, Jeffrey.Johnson@clcmn.edu
Confirmation: Teresa LeBlanc, 420-4576
Youth Events: Shelley Vouk 248-2860

Christmas Pageant 2019

Sunday, December 29th, 7:00 pm
at All Saints-St. Hedwig's.
Contact: Katrina Kolles 292-1575

Practices for the Christmas Pageant will be at All Saints-St. Hedwig's at 7:00 p.m. on December 15th, 22nd, and 27th. All Children, teens and families throughout the parish cluster are invited to be a part of this event. Just come to the practices . It's a great way to celebrate the birth of our Savior!