



# The Catholic Communities of Holdingford, St. Anna, and St. Wendel

## All Saints, Holdingford Immaculate Conception, St. Anna St. Columbkille, St. Wendel

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2020

### Central Office in Holdingford

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

**Website:** [tworiverscatholic.com](http://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](mailto:evangelist@tworiverscatholic.com)

**Janice Wuebkers**, Business Manager

Office hours: Wed. 10 to 3 p.m.  
[businessmanager@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:businessmanager@tworiverscatholic.com)

**Jessie Johnson**, Secretary  
[secretary@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:secretary@tworiverscatholic.com)

### Confession Times:

By appointment only

**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 the Central Office to  
schedule Baptism.

**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**



### Apostolic Letter *Admirabile Signum* of the Holy Father Francis On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene

"The enchanting image of the Christmas creche, so dear to the Christian people, never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him. With this Letter, I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares. Great imagination and creativity is always shown in employing the most diverse materials to create small masterpieces of beauty. As children, we learn from our parents and grand parents to carry on this joyful tradition, which encapsulates a wealth of popular piety. It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived.

The origin of the Christmas creche is found above all in certain details of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, as related in the Gospels. The evangelist Luke says simply that Mary "gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (2:7). Because Jesus was laid in a manger, the nativity scene is known in Italian as a *presepe*, from the Latin word *praesepe*, meaning "manger".

But let us go back to the origins of the Christmas creche so familiar to us. We need to imagine ourselves in the little Italian town of Greccio. St. Francis stopped there on November 29, 1223. Francis had earlier visited the Holy Land, and the caves in Greccio reminded him of the countryside of Bethlehem. He asked a local man named John to help him realize his desire "to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem"...his faithful friend went immediately to prepare all that the Saint had asked. On 25 December, friars come to Greccio from various parts, together with people from the farmsteads in the area, who brought flowers and torches to light up that holy night. When Francis arrived, he found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey. All those present experienced a new and indescribable joy in the presence of the Christmas scene. The priest then solemnly celebrated the Eucharist over the manger, showing the bond between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist. At Greccio there were no statues; the nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present...This simple and moving scene was accompanied by the gift of a marvelous vision: one of those present saw the Baby Jesus himself lying in the manger. From the nativity scene of that Christmas in 1223, "everyone went home with joy". ~Given in Greccio at the Shrine of the Nativity 2019.

## Evangelization Corner

~Kristin Molitor

### The Christmas Crib

Manger, Nativity Scene or Crèche



#### What is it?

A depiction of the scene of the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

**St. Francis of Assisi** made the Christmas crib popular and turned it into a familiar part of Christian homes around the world. He presented a Bethlehem scene with live animals on Christmas Eve in 1223 in Greccio, Italy.



"I wish to recall to memory the little child who was born in Bethlehem. I want to set before our bodily eyes the hardship of his infant needs, how he lay in the manger, how with an ox and ass standing by, he lay upon the hay."  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The preparation of the Nativity scene at home is a wonderful **opportunity for family prayer!**



**TIP #1:** Include a reading from St. Luke's account of the birth of Christ

Our Saviour is coming  
Luke 1:28-33

Bethlehem  
Luke 2:1-5

Birth of Jesus  
Luke 2:6-7

The Shepherds & Angels  
Luke 2:8-20

**TIP #2:** Sing an Advent hymn or a Christmas carol

O Come All Ye Faithful  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye  
to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of Angels;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

**TIP #3:** Say prayers of petition and praise

Let us praise our Lord  
Jesus Christ, the Saviour  
of the world, who was born  
for our salvation.

*Glory to God in the highest!*



www.archtoronto.org  
f archtoronto

#AdventTO

## Eucharistic Adoration

**Cluster Adoration**  
**Every Monday**  
**12 noon to 8 p.m.**  
**All Saints-St. Mary's**



### This Week's Events

**Updates and Mass times from Father Gregory**  
**www.tworiverscatholic.com**

#### Catholic Radio

**K-YES Radio 1180** www.kyesradio.com

Father Gregory's Radio Show is every Friday on K-YES Radio 1180 AM or 93.5 PM at 8:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m. Tune in for updates and inspiration.

#### KASM Radio 1150 AM

Rosary with Father at 6:00 p.m. daily  
**relevantradio.com**

#### Contemporary Christian Music

SPIRIT 92.9 FM www.spirit929.com

#### Check websites for additional updates

**www.tworiverscatholic.com**

**www.238catholic.org (Upsala cluster)**

### Church Hours (watch website for changes)

**All Saints-St. Mary's** will be open Sunday, Tuesday-Thursday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.  
Adoration: Mondays from noon to 8 p.m.  
Everyone is welcome.

**Immaculate Conception:** Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**St Columbkille:** Daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mass times vary please check the website: [tworiverscatholic.com](http://tworiverscatholic.com). for times

### Prayer Lines —

**All Saints:** Ramona Fedor 746-2395  
Kathleen Ebnert 746-2227

#### Immaculate Conception:

Shirley Schwalbe 356-7209  
Christine Maleska 356-7246

**St Columbkille:** Esther Struzyk 251-4984  
Susan Opatz 363-8160

The Central Office will be closed on December 24th and 25th for Christmas. Have a Merry Christmas everyone!

The prayer list was refreshed at the start of the new liturgical year, November 29th. Please call or email if you'd like be on the Prayer list.



## The Healing Power of God

Remember in prayer all who are in need of the Lord's healing and strength especially:

Teckla Scegur, Dave Scegur, Lee Larkey and Arnold Voss, Al Hartung, Arlene Beniek, Delores Eiynek, Theresa Johannes, Fr. Gregory, Residents and staff at Mother of Mercy, Michell Ostendorf, Theresa Pierskalla, Dorothy Lowe, Jerome Young, David Fischer, Idella Moore, Tom Studniski,



## News & Events

### Christmas Tree Blessing

Leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply "Amen."

Leader: Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.

R: Amen

L: Amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea: His birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

Read: Titus 3:4-7 or Ezekiel 17:22-24

Reader: The word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

L: Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

R: Lord, give light to our hearts.

L: That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, give light to our hearts.

L: That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord

R: Lord, give light to our hearts.

L: That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, give light to our hearts.

All: Say the Lord's Prayer

L: Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen  
The tree lights are then illuminated.



### Knights of Columbus

#### Knights of Columbus, Council 9307

Is having a Keep Christ in Christmas coloring contest. Poster paper and entry forms are in the back of church at St. Anna, St. Wendel and All Saints-St. Mary's. Contest is open for children ages 5 thru 14 to enter. Completed posters with entry taped to the back, should be returned to the back of churches, the Sacristy or the Central Office. Deadline for completion is January 1st.

#### Nativity Scene Blessing

All make the sign of the Cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R: Who made heaven and earth.

Read Luke 2:1-8 or Isaiah 7:10-15

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: God of every nation and people, form the very beginning of creation you have manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger: may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

~Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

#### Advent Prayer Card

"Jesus, just as you came among us with your message of love and peace, this week we pray for:

Who needs you to renew their hope in you. Let them not lose faith, and always walk along side you. We ask you this whole heartedly. Amen

www.sadlier.com



## Weekly Readings

**Monday** Sg 2:8-14 of Zep 3:14-18a/  
Lk 1:39-45

**Tuesday** 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

**Wednesday** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/  
Lk 1:57-66

**Thursday** Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a,16/Lk 1:67-79/

**Friday** Vigil: Is 62:1-5/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/  
Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/  
Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/  
Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

**Saturday** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/  
Mt 10:17-22

**Sunday** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6;  
21:1-3/Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17 or  
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40  
or Lk 2:22, 39-40

Couples married by Fr. Gregory  
this past year are invited to attend  
**Christmas Midnight Mass**  
at All Saints-St. Mary's on  
**Thursday, December 24th at**  
**12 midnight**  
**The Mass Intention is for you.**

**Online Giving: call 800-348-2886**

URL Addresses:

All Saints, Holdingford, MN

**www.osvonlinegiving.com/1723**

Immaculate Conception, St. Anna

**www.osvonlinegiving.com/1720**

St. Columbkille, St. Wendel

**www.osvonlinegiving.com/1721**

## Weekly Offering

### Financial Contributions

#### PARISH INCOME

#### December 13, 2020

AS \$ Contribution amounts

IC \$ unavailable due to early

SC \$ bulletin deadline

#### **Thank you for your generosity!**

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

## Parish News & Events

### St Columbkille

#### Christian Women:

**Rosary on KASM :** The Christian Women will be sponsoring the Rosary on KASM radio on January 11th through the 17th. Thank you and God Bless. ~Sue Burg 250-8810

**Ministry Schedules** are available at the back of church.

**Holy Eucharist Pyx for the homebound** If you have a pyx at home, please return it to the church cabinet, thank you.

**Giving Tree** Since we don't have a Giving Tree this year, we'll have a list of items needed inside the entry of church. Items purchased can be placed in the basket that will be present at Masses. For any questions contact: Bev Reisner 248-9752

#### **All Saints**

**Cleaning** Thank you to Blake Kolles who was the housekeeper here for a couple of years at All Saints-St. Mary's church and basement. He is stepping down. Thank you for your service to our community and the Lord. You did a great job!

#### **All Cluster**

##### Women's Group

The Women's Group meets on the first and third Mondays of the month. Currently we are reading "A Devotional Journey into the Mass." Women who would like to participate in a deeper discussion of our last book "Spiritual Warfare and the Discernment of Spirits" are invited to gather on the fourth Monday of the month. Contact Kristin if interested by leaving a message at 228-0105 or email: [evangelist@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:evangelist@tworiverscatholic.com)

##### Consider Joining a Discipleship Quad

Are you looking to grow closer to Jesus in the new year? Would you like to grow in your faith in new and unexpected ways? This Advent, take time to prayerfully consider joining one of our Discipleship Quads that will be starting in January. A Discipleship Quad is a group of four people who journey together as disciples through weekly gatherings of fellowship, ongoing conversation, and learning. We've had eight people from our cluster go through the process this past year and they have all said that it is truly a transformational experience. Contact if you would like to learn more about joining or starting a Discipleship Quad. Call 228-0105 to leave a message or email: [evangelist@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:evangelist@tworiverscatholic.com)

##### Well-Read Mom

Our next meeting is on December 22nd at 3:30 –5 p.m. We are reading a great book for Advent, *The Way of Perfection* by St. Teresa of Avila. If you have been curious about our group this would be a wonderful discussion to drop in on and see if you would like to join our group. We understand if you can not complete the book because life comes before finishing books. This will be a Zoom meeting so please call Susan Heroux at 320-224-6052 if you would like to join us for the first time.

Jesus, be our guide to become beacons of  
Hope, Love & Peace!

### Christmas Mass Schedule

#### **Christmas Eve-Dec. 24th**

4:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception, St. Anna  
6:00 p.m. St. Columbkille, St. Wendel  
Midnight Mass 12 Midnight, All Saints-St. Mary's  
**Christmas Day-Dec. 25th**  
9:00 a.m. All Saints-St. Hedwig's

### Upsala Christmas Mass Schedule

#### **Christmas Eve-Dec. 24th**

4:00 p.m. St. Mary's, Upsala  
5:00 p.m. St. Francis, St. Francis  
8:00 p.m. St. Edward's, Elmdale  
**Christmas Day-Dec. 25th**  
8:00 a.m. St. Edward, Elmdale  
10:00 a.m. St. Francis, St. Francis

Confessions will be on December 21st 1-2pm  
and 7-8pm at All Saints-St. Mary's



We pray during  
Advent  
that we open  
our hearts  
in love and hope  
as we await the  
birth of Jesus!

### *Thank you*

A heartfelt appreciation for your visits, phone calls, prayers, Mass requests, food, cards, flowers, and personal care provided to me following my surgery. My recovery was a great success due to the love and support of our community. May God bless and keep all of you healthy and safe. ~Brenda Dobis



### *Congratulations!*

*Alyssa Gertken and Eric Keppers*

*December 12, 2020*

*St. Columbkille, St. Wendel*

### Rural Catholic Singles Group

Please contact: Janel Heinen 290-2877 to find out more information about this newly formed group meeting for fun and faith!

#### **Current Office hours:**

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m –3:00 p.m.

Kirstin Molitor-[evangelist@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:evangelist@tworiverscatholic.com)

Janice Wuebkers [businessmanager@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:businessmanager@tworiverscatholic.com)

Jessie Johnson- [secretary@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:secretary@tworiverscatholic.com)

Leave messages for us at 320-228-0105 Thank you!



# Mass Schedule

**Mon.** *Saint Peter Cansius, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

**Dec. 21** Mass said by Fr. Gregory

**Tues.**

**Dec. 22** Mass said by Fr. Gregory

**Wed.** *Saint John Kanty, Priest*

**Dec. 23** Mass said by Fr. Gregory

**Thurs.** *Christmas Eve*

**Dec. 24** 4:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception, St. Anna

6:00 p.m. St. Columbkille, St. Wendel

Midnight Mass: 12 Midnight, All Saints-St. Mary's (live on Facebook)

**Fri.** *The Nativity of the Lord*

**Dec. 25** 9:00 a.m All Saints-St. Hedwig's

**Sat.** *Saint Stephen, The First Martyr*

**Dec. 26** To be announced. Check our website: [tworiverscatholic.com](http://tworiverscatholic.com)

**Sun.** *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

**Dec. 27** To be announced. Check our website: [tworiverscatholic.com](http://tworiverscatholic.com)

For Mass Times please check our website: [tworiverscatholic.com](http://tworiverscatholic.com).

Come early if you want to attend. Church seating capacity can only be at 50%. Bishop Kettler has asked that we wear masks inside church buildings. Thank you.

Last week's Mass Intentions

said by Father Gregory:

For those Sick from Covid  
Eleanor Wentland

## Family Faith Formation & GIFFT (*Generations In Family Faith Together*)

**Build up your Family's Faith Life with prayer**

<http://familytogether.stcdio.org//>

**Catholic Resources:** [www.avemariapress.com](http://www.avemariapress.com)

**Advent Resource-**Strong Catholic Family Faith, sponsored by the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership links for the Advent Season:

<http://www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/forfamilies.html>

<http://www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/forparishschools.html>.

**Advent Calendar** Dec. 20th-24th ~[www.catholiccurrent.org](http://www.catholiccurrent.org)

**Dec.20-** The Fourth Sunday in Advent "Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.' Mary had complete trust in God, saying "yes" to his will. How would you describe your trust in God?"

**Dec.21-**St. Francis of Assisi made the Christmas creche, or manger, for Christmas Eve of 1223. Gather your love ones, and bless your family's creche (see prayer in this bulletin).

**Dec.22-** "Jesus, Mary and Joseph themselves were refugees in Egypt...with whom Christian migrants and refugees throughout the ages can identify, giving them hope and courage." Be kind to your neighbors and those in your community you don't know.

**Dec.23-** According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and remains in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. Bless you family's Christmas tree (see prayer in this bulletin).

**Dec.24-** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he has come to his people to set them free." (Lk 1:68)

### Faith Formation Directors

**All Saints:**

Katrina Kolles, 292-1575, 746-2917

[allsaints@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:allsaints@tworiverscatholic.com)

**Immaculate Conception & Confirmation**

Jeff Johnson 260-4959,

[Jeffrey.Johnson@clcmn.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.Johnson@clcmn.edu)

**St. Columbkille:** Jenny Revermann 249-9939

[stwendelfaith@gmail.com](mailto:stwendelfaith@gmail.com)

**Youth Events:** Shelley Vouk 248-2860

### WATCH ON FORMED:



Brother Francis special Sunday premier! Show your Children "Jesus is Coming: The Blessings of Advent and Christmas" to help them prepare for the coming of Jesus. (available on Advent Sundays)

**Church Name and Address:**

The Catholic Communities of Bowlus, Holdingford and St. Anna  
311 River Street, P.O. Box 308  
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**Bulletin Number:** 392949

**Phone:** (320) 228-0105

**Contact person:** Jessie Johnson

**Email:** secretary@tworiverscatholic.com

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**Thank you and Blessings for a good day!**