



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

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

The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2022

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

Janice Wuebkers, Business Manager

Office hours: Wed. 10 to 3 p.m.

businessmanager@tworiverscatholic.com

Katie Hellmann, Secretary

secretary@tworiverscatholic.com

Jessie Johnson, Bulletin Editor

bulletin@tworiverscatholic.com

Confession Times: Before daily Mass

And by appointment

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.

Homebound: 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.

Address:

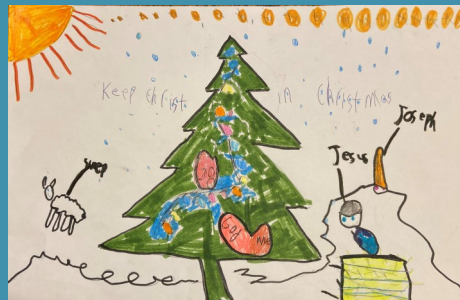
Central Office

P.O. Box 308

Holdingford, MN 56340



Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest First Place Winners:



Ages 5-7

Kyla Skroch (Top L)

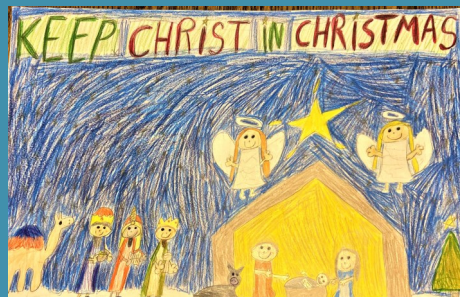
Ages 8-10

Haley Slattery (bottom R)

Ages 11-14

Sheyenne Klemmer (bottom L)

Thank you to all who participated



*Fr. Gregory is in
the Christmas
Spirit!*

- ★ Build Snowman
- ★ Bake Cookies

May God Bless you
and your Family this
Christmas!

(See more snowmen on
the last page)



Grow in your Faith!

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.



Please let us know if you'd like to be put on or taken off the Prayer List. Let Fr. Gregory know if you are in need of a blessing.

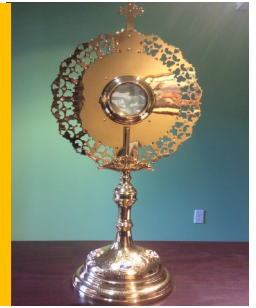
The Healing Power of God

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

Fr. Gregory, Pat & Ken Euteneuer, Robby Pollreis,
David Platz Sr., David Platz Jr., Theresa Johannes

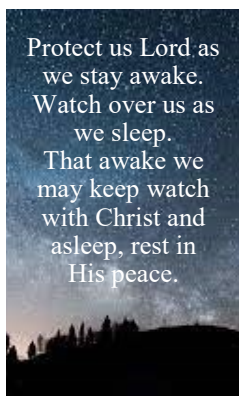
Eucharistic Adoration

Cluster Adoration is every Monday at All Saints – St. Mary's. 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Come encounter our Eucharistic Lord!



Listen to the Rosary led by Fr. Gregory and Fr. Mark Stang on KASM 1150 AM at 6:00 p.m. daily.

Listen to Fr. Gregory's Rural Life Radio Show on KYES 1180 or 93.5 FM at 8:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Friday.



Protect us Lord as we stay awake.
Watch over us as we sleep.
That awake we may keep watch with Christ and asleep, rest in His peace.

Night Prayer

Join Fr. Gregory in prayer most nights at 9:00 p.m. on his Facebook page. We are averaging over 250 families each night. You can ask for a request that Father keeps in his prayers. Night Prayer is added to our webpage the next day to watch anytime. www.tworiverscatholic.com

Upcoming Mass Schedule:

Christmas Vigil

4:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception, St. Anna
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass: AS-SM, Holdingford
4:00 p.m. St. Edward, Elmdale

5:30 p.m. St. Mary, Upsala

Christmas Day

8:00 a.m. All Saints-St. Hedwig's, Holdingford
10:00 a.m. St. Columbkille, St. Wendel
8:00 a.m. St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis
10:00 a.m. St. Mary, Upsala

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God -Vigil (New Years Eve)

5:00 p.m. St. Columbkille, St. Wendel
11:30 p.m. All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford
4:00 p.m. St. Edward, Elmdale

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God (New Years Day)

8:00 a.m. All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford
10:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception, St. Anna
8:00 a.m. St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis
10:00 a.m. St. Mary, Upsala

News & Events

Symbols of Christmas



The Christmas Tree *"Then shall all the trees of the forest exult before the Lord, for he comes to rule the earth" (Psalm 96:12).*

The tradition of the Christmas tree was brought to this country by German-speaking immigrants.

The tree is an "evergreen" and is one of the few trees that does not die (lose its leaves) in winter. For this reason, it is a symbol of everlasting life, the precious gift from Jesus to all believers. Not long ago, our Holy Father gave instructions that a Christmas tree be displayed in St. Peter's Square during the Holy Season celebrating the birth of Christ, who is our life. The Christmas tree tradition was brought to America by Pennsylvania Germans in the 1820s.

Poinsettias

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy" (Mt 2:10).

Poinsettias are native to Mexico. They were named after America's first ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett. He brought the plants to America in 1828. The Mexicans in the eighteenth century thought the plants were symbolic of the Star of Bethlehem. Thus the Poinsettia became associated with the Christmas season. The actual flower of the poinsettia is small and yellow.



The Gifts *"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage" (Matthew 2:2).*

There were three gifts brought by the Magi to the baby Jesus. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and

offered him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold was the most precious of all metals which symbolized the preciousness of the child. Frankincense was a type of incense which was used by the priestly caste in the temples and symbolized the baby as the high priest of all humanity. Myrrh was a valuable and aromatic spice. It comes from a large bush with a thin bark. It appears when the bark is pierced and turns red, symbolizing the blood which will be shed when the side of Jesus is pierced. Myrrh was also used to prepare a body for burial. It was a premonition of the future of this baby in the manger.

The Wreath

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is laid up for me the crown which the Lord will award to me on that day, and not only to me but to all who have loved his appearing" (2Tim 4:7).

In ancient Rome and Greece, athletes and heroes were rewarded with wreaths as trophies in sports or military battle. "To the victory goes the crown" meant that the winners received a wreath and were paraded before the people. Christ's victory over evil on the cross is also symbolized by a wreath. <https://bayoucatholic.org/>



Weekly Readings

Monday: Act 6:8-10; 7:54-59/
Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a,2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/
Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/
Lk 2:16-21

Online Giving:

Go to the URL address for your church as listed below. Click on "Sign up for Your New Account" and complete your initial registration. Please call 800-348-2886 Option 2 for assistance. Thank you!

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

Monthly Online Giving

Financial Contributions

ONLINE GIVING

November 2022

AS \$ 2,656.00

IC \$ 2,960.00

SC \$ 820.00

Weekly Offering

PARISH INCOME

Dec. 11, 2022

AS \$ 7,127.00

IC \$ 1,622.00

SC \$ 2,094.00

Dec. 18, 2022

AS \$

IC \$ Unavailable due to early
bulletin deadlines

SC \$

Thank you for your generosity!

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

Parish News & Events

All Cluster

New Year's Eve Celebration

Come celebrate the Solemnity of Mary (New Year's) with a get together and Mass. Enjoy fellowship, cards, games and maybe a movie. Bring snacks to share. It all starts at 8:00 p.m. and ends with Mass at 11:30 p.m. Open to all. Join us at All Saints-St Mary's on December 31st for food and fun!!

New Evangelization Coordinator

Fr. Gregory has been interviewing the individuals who have applied for this position. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the interview process for all involved!

Men's Group

Every Saturday at 8:00 a.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's basement. New members welcome to stop in any Saturday.

Women's Group

Join us the first and third Mondays of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the All Saints-St. Mary's basement. Our next meeting will be January 2nd.

Calendars 2023

Our parishes have purchased 2023 Calendars as a gift. Please take one per family.

All Saints

Thank you

We would like to thank Fr. Gregory Mastey, Lois Schmidt and the Choir, the funeral lunch group, and the Christian Mothers. Also, thank you to all who sent condolences, cards, prayers, and to anyone who helped in any way during this difficult time. It is greatly appreciated.

Jeanette May Family

Ministry schedules are in the back of our churches.

Building Project

In December we are interviewing fundraisers who will help us raise the money needed for our new Church.

Do you or anyone you know within the parish have a background in fundraising and would like to apply for this position? Over the past few weeks we have addressed various rumors related to the building of the new Church. Please look at previous bulletins to see our responses to these rumors.

St. Columbkille

Ministry Schedules are in the back of church.

Symbols of Christmas continued



The Apple

"Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again. Each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ" (1 Cor 15:22-23).

We often use apples to stuff children's Christmas stockings and to hang on our Christmas tree as decorations. Yet few of us realize that the apple also has a Christian meaning. It stands for the forbidden fruit that Adam and Eve ate in the Garden of Paradise and therefore, the first sin and the sin of all humanity. Although the apple recalls this sad event, it also reminds us of the happy outcome – the good news that Christ is the new Adam who saved us from sin. The church sings: "O happy fault which merited such a redeemer!"

Christmas Colors

"Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord his God, the maker of heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever" (Psalm 146:5-6).

Red and green are the colors most used at Christmas time. In the tradition of the church, these colors have special meaning. Red symbolizes the blood of Christ and the martyrs who loved God and remained faithful to him. Green is the color of hope and has always been a sign of life and growth in nature. It is the evergreen color of eternal life. Love and hope are very much part of the Christmas story, for God became human to prove his deep love for us and give us hope of eternal life.



The Word Christmas

"This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3).

The word we hear and see often through this season is "Christmas." But few people are aware of its origin. It is a combination of two Latin words: Christus and missus. These two words mean: "Christ is sent." Sent where? Into the world by the loving Father who only wishes to give his children the very best – his only Son.

Ornaments


"I myself am the living bread which has come down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread he will live forever" (John 6:51).

Decorating the Christmas tree with ornaments comes from an old European custom when ornaments were made from cookies and bread. These were hung on the tree in thanks for "our daily bread." <https://bayoucatholic.org/news/symbols-of-christmas>



Christmas in Rome: A Celebration of the Nativity

Watch this Christmas marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus.

	<i>Mass Schedule</i>	
Mon. Dec. 26	<i>St. Stephen, The First Martyr</i> No Mass	
Tues. Dec. 27	<i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 7:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception	† Mary Geise
Wed. Dec. 28	<i>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> 8:00 a.m. All Saints - St. Mary's with Adoration	† Arnold Voss
Thur. Dec. 29	<i>Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord/Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr</i> 8:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception with Adoration	† David Fischer
Fri. Dec. 30	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i> No Mass	
Sat. Dec. 31	<i>Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</i> 5:00 p.m. St. Columbkille 11:30 p.m. All Saints - St. Mary's	† David Trutwin † Jeanette May
Sun. Jan. 1	<i>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, the Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord</i> 8:00 a.m. All Saints - St. Mary's 10:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception	For the People † Veronica Roth

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

C
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All Saints & Immaculate Conception Christmas Pageant will be on January 4th at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints - St. Hedwig's. Please come and support our youth!



"And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." ~Luke 2:7

"Enemy occupied territory – that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful King has landed, you might say, landed in disguise."
- C.S. Lewis



Other kids built snowmen too:

Xavier Hellmann (Above)
Little Members of All Saints (top R)
Jessie & Jeff Johnson

Be Filled with Joy!



Church Name and Address:

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311 River Street, P.O. Box 308
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Special instructions: Please send our usual 650 bulletins.

Thank you and blessings for a good day!