



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

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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

### Central Office in Holdingford

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

**Deacon Dan Dullinger**,

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)

**Katie Hellmann**, Secretary  
[secretary@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:secretary@tworiverscatholic.com)

**Jessie Johnson**, Bulletin Editor  
[bulletin@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto: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.

**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**



### **Invitation from Fr Gregory and Building Committee**

Please join us on Sunday Dec 17th at 3:00 p.m. at All Saints St. Mary church basement for a 45-minute presentation followed by a 45-minute question segment. This will be our first architectural presentation with Art from the Franck & Lohsen firm, whom we have chosen as our Liturgical Consultant for the building of our new church. Art studied architecture in Rome and has been inspired by the beauty and grace of classical architecture. He integrate this into his professional work with careful attention to detail reviving classical beauty in architecture. We believe these objectives of Art's closely illuminate our vision for our new church. Please join us so that you can get acquainted with Art while he is visiting from Washington D.C.

### **What is a Spiritual Bouquet?**

Spiritual Bouquets are prayers of devotional acts and prayers said on behalf of someone and their intentions.

### **What is the main purpose of giving a Spiritual Bouquet?**

First of all, you are offering an expression of your faith in God, and love for the receiver of the bouquet. It tells the other person, your life, your well being, your joy, your sorrow, matter to me. And of course it is invoking God's blessing on the intention.

### **How do you give them the bouquet?**

The recipient is given a card or something similar indicating who the giver is and what the spiritual bouquet consisted of. It is good to indicate the number and kind of prayers and offering you made. This can be the number of Masses attended and Holy Communion offered, number of Rosaries, Chaplets, Novenas, Litany's, Our Fathers, or other favorite prayers you prayed. You can offer sacrifices of good deeds as well.



*A gift of prayer for:*

The following are offered up for you and your intentions:

- ☐ Decades of the Rosary
- ☐ Masses
- ☐ Adoration/Holy Communion
- ☐ Novenas/Litanies/Chaplets
- ☐ Acts of Penance

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

Merry Christmas!

## New Evangelization Corner

### ~Deacon Dan Dullinger

#### How is your prayer life going? (Part 3)

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus; this preparation all starts with prayer. **Do you have a daily prayer routine?** In this segment let's look at some forms of prayer.

**Vocal Prayer** The first stage in the development of a daily prayer life is vocal prayer. This is the most commonly practiced form of prayer. The *Glory Be*, the *Our Father*, *Novena's*, various *Litanies*, etc. Prayers like the *Rosary* however are both vocal (formal prayers) and meditative (mental) prayers.

**Meditation (Mental Prayer)** Meditation is a conversation with God using your own words. Often people find benefit in visualizing themselves talking to our Lord. Perhaps you just read a scripture passage, put yourself in the scene. What is the Lord saying? What do you want to ask Him? Meditation is a type of *mental prayer where you are seeking God, asking questions, you are on a quest*.

**Contemplation (Mental Prayer)** Here too you use your own words, but very few or even none at all. Unlike meditation, this is more about you just being with God, realizing His presence, and that is enough. It's like sitting in a room with someone you are very close to and being perfectly content just being together. It's more of a silence and listening than seeking and asking.

**Prayer Invitation** - Pray like the Saints! Start with a vocal prayer and let that lead you to go deeper.

**Book Recommendation:** "Into the Deep" **Author:** Dan Burke

The Third Week of Advent: Gaudete Sunday "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 fleeting 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](http://dmdiocese.org/Advent)

## Hope Peace Love Joy

Please let us know if you'd like to be added or taken off the prayer list. Let Fr. Gregory know if you are in need of a blessing for illness or having a surgery.

#### The Healing Power of God: Remember in prayer all who are in need of the Lord's healing and strength especially:



Dave Scegura, Pat & Ken Euteneuer, David Platz Jr., Claude Opatz, Theresa Johannes, Carol Kuklok, Tom Studniski, Katie Yurczk, Judy Schehr, Jim Ruprecht, Ardith Mosier, Sharon Prokott, Geraldine Kunstleben, Gary Lange, Linda Harren, Don Wentland, Don Breth, Rose Ann Pflueger & Melvin Hartung & Fr. Gregory.

#### 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!



Proudly Airing Relevant Radio™

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.

#### 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.

#### 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](http://www.tworiverscatholic.com)

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)



#### Prayer lines

**All Saints: (call or text)** Joan Frie (320) 241-3264 & Val Hommerding (320) 746-9921

**Immaculate Conception:** Christine Maleska (320) 356-7246

**St. Columbkille:** Esther Struzyk (320) 251-4984 & Susan Opatz (320) 363-8160



## News & Events

### The "O" Antiphons

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are the magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

#### December 17

O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

#### December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

#### December 20

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

#### December 21

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

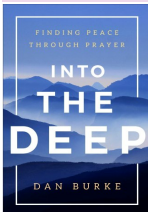
#### December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

#### December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!  
—From *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers* <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/o-antiphons>

## Christmas Gift ideas



### Into the Deep: Find Peace Through Prayer

Author Dan Burke explains how to set up your own sacred prayer space, discusses the common obstacles to prayer, and provides ways to overcome them.

**Recommended by Deacon Dan**

**Stocking Stuffer Idea!** Ladies, gift your guys with admittance to the 2024 Catholic Men's Conference taking place on Saturday, February, 24, 2024. \$35/each Contact Jan for details at 320-285-7615 or [jan.zylla@gw.stcdio.org](mailto:jan.zylla@gw.stcdio.org)

### Spiritual Bouquet

One of the best Christmas gifts you can give this year is the gift of prayer! See the front cover of this bulletin for a cut-out bouquet.

## Additional websites to visit for gift ideas

### \*Minnesota Rosary T-Shirt:

<https://statesoffaith.com/products/minnesota-t-shirt>

### \*Plush Saints Dolls for Kids & Activity Books:

<https://shininglightdolls.com/>

### \*Children's Catholic Pajamas: <https://caelestico.com/>

### \*Be A Heart Calendar:

<https://beaheart.com/products/2024-liturgical-wall->



## Weekly Readings

**Monday:** Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

**Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/  
Lk 1:5-25

**Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

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

**Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56  
**Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/  
Lk 1:57-66

**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/  
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

*My soul rejoices in my God.*  
(Is 61:10b)

Eagle Scout Pinning: Dec. 19th  
Raymond Bloch 6:00 p.m. All Saints-St. Hedwig's. Everyone welcome to attend. Congratulations!

### Upcoming Masses

Dec. 24th —see Mass page

#### December 25th

8:00 a.m. St. Mary's, Upsala

9:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception

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

#### December 31st

4:00 p.m. St. Francis

11:30 p.m. Immaculate Conception

#### January 1st

8:00 a.m. St. Mary's, Upsala

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

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

## Weekly Offering

### Financial Contributions

PARISH INCOME

#### Dec. 3 2023

AS \$ 3,683.00

IC \$ 5,168.00

SC \$ 2,579.81

### Financial Contributions

PARISH INCOME

#### Dec. 10, 2023

AS \$ Unavailable due to  
IC \$ early bulletin deadline.  
SC \$

### Thank you for your generosity!

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

## Parish News & Events



The Knights of Columbus presented Deacon Kevin Soenneker a \$1000 check! Thank you Knights and thank you Dcn. Kevin for your vocation!

### Write a Christmas Card to our Seminarians:

#### Deacon Kevin Soenneker

St Paul Seminary  
2260 Summit Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55105

#### Vincent St. Marie

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary  
700 Terrace Heights #862  
Winona, MN 55987-1399

Please continue to keep Fr. Gregory in your prayers. May he have a quick recovery with complete healing.

### Prayer List Renew

At the end of the year we will be refreshing our prayer List. If you would like to stay on the list please contact the parish office.

### 2024 Calendars

All parishioner families are encouraged to take home a 2024 calendar (one per household). These beautifully symbolic calendars are a gift to you from our parish to assist you in living the liturgical seasons and feast days in the new year.



St. Nick visited All Saints-St. Mary's

### **Rural Catholic Young Adult Group:**

**Dec. 16th** Join us on for prayer, topical information, discussions, and social activities for people ages 18 - 30 who are looking to socialize with other young adults. We meet at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford on third Saturdays. Meetings include socializing, snacks, and games to follow. For more information contact Katie 423-2203 or Marissa 630-2433.

### **Women's Group: Dec. 18th**

We would like to extend a welcome to all women in the parish to join our vibrant and uplifting group. Our next meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at All Saints- St. Mary's.

### **Men's Group**

Did you know we have a men's group that meeting every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's Basement. Join in anytime!

### All Saints

### Coffee Social: Dec. 17th



Join in our Coffee and Snack Social following Sunday Masses on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of

the month. If you would like help serve, call Karen Solarz at 250-6903.

### May Eternal Rest be granted to:



Mary Heitzman

Passed: Dec. 7, 2023

Funeral: Dec. 11, 2023

### St. Columbkille

### The St. Wendel Christian Women Poor Clares

We will be collecting items for the Poor Clares again this year. There will be a box in the back of Church with a list of items they could use. All donations need to be in there by December 17th. Thank you!



	<h1>Mass Schedule</h1>	Masses said by Fr. Gregory: 12/5 Steve Stoermann, 12/6 Laverne Woidylla, 12/7 Russell Ritzer
Mon. Dec. 18	12 noon All Saints-St. Mary's	† Dale & Dominick Dahmen
Tues. Dec. 19	7:00 p.m. All Saints-St. Mary's	Knights of Columbus Mass for Vocations
Wed. Dec. 20	12 noon All Saints-St. Mary's	† Thomas and Mary Ripplinger
Thur. Dec. 21	<i>St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> No Mass	
Fri. Dec. 22	No Mass	
Sat. Dec. 23	<i>St. John of Kanty, Priest</i> 5:00 p.m. <i>St. Columbkille</i> 7:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception	† Irene Luethmer † Donna Mae Smith
Sun. Dec. 24	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 a.m. All Saints-St. Hedwig's <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:00 p.m. All Saints-St. Hedwig's 12 midnight All Saints-St. Mary's	For Sunday Obligation  For the People  For the People Couples Married by Fr. Gregory this year

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

### Faith Formation Directors

#### Religious Education:

Katrina Kolles (320) 292-1575  
[allsaintsff@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:allsaintsff@tworiverscatholic.com)

#### Confirmation:

Bob Vouk (320) 249-3398  
Greg Eynck (320) 493-3690  
Confirmation Assistant: Katie Vouk  
[confirmation@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:confirmation@tworiverscatholic.com)

#### Youth Minister:

Fr. Gregory Mastey (320) 228-0105

### Christmas Pageant



Everyone is welcome to attend!  
**Dec. 20th** at 6:30 p.m. St. Columbkille  
**Jan. 3rd** at 6:30 p.m.  
All Saints-St. Hedwig's.

