



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

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

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

## 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**



It's not yet Christmas... How can we make final preparations?

### **1. Clean the stable of your heart**

a good sacramental confession sweeps out the dirt of sin and makes us clean.

### **2. Seek silence**

When we have moments of silence it is then that God's Holy Spirit can speak  
to us, give us certain lights or insights, and send heavenly inspirations.

### **3. More frequent and fervent prayer**

Saint Paul states that we should pray constantly and give thanks to God in our  
hearts. Jesus also said that it is necessary to pray always without giving up  
hope. (Lk. 18:1) Set aside more time to talk to the Lord, Mary, and Saint  
Joseph in the depths of your heart.

### **4. Find joy in giving more than having**

Let us seek out ways that we can give to others, especially those most in  
need. Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta asserted: *Give until it hurts!*

### **5. Attend Holy Mass**

In a real sense, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is a *daily Christmas*. How, you  
might ask? Very simply: the priest consecrates the Host which is transformed  
into Jesus. He is really born in the hands of the priest. Then, when you  
approach to receive Holy Communion with a pure and loving heart, Jesus is  
born in your heart. Your soul becomes a real *Bethlehem—House of Bread*.

### **6. Reconcile**

The great English poet Alexander Pope wrote: *To err is human, to forgive is  
divine*. Christmas is not a time in which we should be at enmity with others,  
especially members of our own family. Two of the most difficult but important  
phrases that should issue from our hearts and lips are: *I am sorry... and... I  
forgive you!!!* If you are angry, resentful, bitter, and even hateful towards any-  
body, now is the time to reconcile. Be humble! Take the initiative and  
reconcile.

### **7. Mother Mary & Christmas**

Of course, Christmas would not have taken place if it were not for the  
generous *yes of Mary!* Stay close to Mary. Pray the Rosary, especially the Joy-  
ful Mysteries. Accompany Mary in her journey to Bethlehem. Be with her in  
the stable as she brings forth Jesus for your salvation.

~excerpts from <https://catholicexchange.com/10-simple-ways-prepare-christmas-week/>

Prepare the Way for the Lord!

## New Evangelization Corner

~Deacon Dan Dullinger



### Is the "Hail Mary" prayer biblical?

If you recall our Gospel today, this the 4th week of Advent, you may have noticed some familiar words from one of the most common of Catholic prayers, the "Hail Mary", and it is indeed very biblical. In the Gospel of Luke, within, and just before, this week's Gospel verses, we have the following quotes:

**Prayer:** Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you.

*[The Angel Gabriel] And he came to her [Mary] and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" (Luke 1:28).*

**Prayer:** Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus."

*...and she [Elizabeth, the Baptists mother] exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" (Luke 1:42)*

**Prayer:** Holy Mary, Mother of God...

*"And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (Luke 1:43).*

**Prayer:** Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

**\*\* All but the last line of the prayer is right out of Luke's Gospel, and this line comes from the tradition of our Catholic faith.**

Perhaps as we approach Christmas this week, get out your bible, read and pray with this portion of Lukes Gospel as a family. Give Mary the gift of your devotion for she has so much she wants to give you. What you give will also be a gift to you, a gift that keeps on giving for all eternity. Thank you, Mary, for by your "yes" to God's Will, the Savior of the World was born.

(Photo take by Dcn. Dan in Ein Karem during his pilgrimage to the Holy Land)

### Prayer Lines



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

**Immaculate Conception:** Call or text  
Marissa Studniski (507) 848-1104

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



Pray For...

Donald Doll, Carol Kuklok, Keith Woitalla, Fr. Gregory, Jayne Wruck, Amy Ostendorf, Dave Yurczyk, Katie Yurczyk

### Do you believe in the power of prayer?

Prayer lines are an opportunity to pray for fellow parishioners and have your needs prayed for. Contacts for your parish are listed above. We have refreshed our prayer list with Advent to begin our new year. Please call the office if you want to be on the Prayer line, receive a bulletin or Communion at home.

## Eucharistic Adoration

All Cluster Adoration  
is every Monday at  
All Saints—St. Mary's  
from 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.

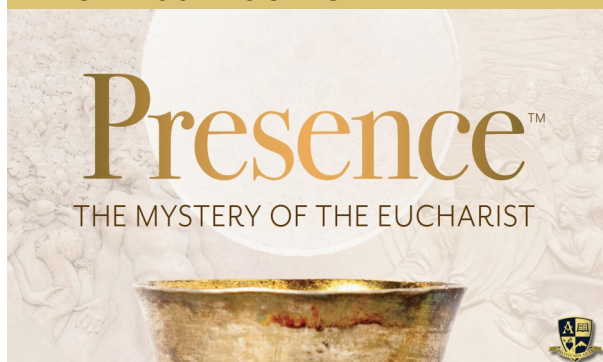
### Listen to Fr. Gregory's

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 1000 views 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)

### WATCH THIS SERIES ON FORMED



### Get Ready for Jesus this Christmas

Although the Eucharist appears to be simple bread and wine, it is actually the "source and summit" of the Christian life.

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist explores the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and her members. It is the crescendo of the entire story of salvation.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your  
face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)



## News & Events



**Knights of Columbus  
St. Isidore Council # 9307**

Keep "Christ" in Christmas!



Thank you to all who participated in this year's "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. We had many to choose from! Congratulations to this year's winners:  
Age Group 5-7 Vaida Udermann,  
Age Group 8-10 Mari Kroll  
Age Group 11-14 Sheyenne Klemmer

**Merry Christmas**  
from Fr. Gregory and staff.  
May God bless you and your family as you welcome Jesus into your heart this year!

### Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

The coming Jubilee proclaimed by Pope Francis will be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade; our hope in God. The jubilee will begin in Rome on the vigil of the Lord's Nativity on Dec. 24, 2024 with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, and in local dioceses (St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Cloud) on Holy Family Sunday on Dec. 29. It will conclude in local dioceses the following Holy Family Sunday on Dec. 28, 2025, and in Rome on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Jan. 6, 2026, with the closing of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **What is a Jubilee Year**

\*A Holy Year of the forgiveness of sin, conversion and joyful celebration.

\*The word "jubilee" comes from the Hebrew word yobel, which refers to the ram's horn used to announce a jubilee in the Old Testament:

*This fiftieth year you shall make sacred by proclaiming liberty in the land for all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when every one of you shall return to his own property, every one to his own family estate. (Lev. 25:10)*

**Jubilee Indulgence:** Special graces for the forgiveness of sins are made available during the Jubilee Year. The faithful may obtain a plenary indulgence – remission of all temporal punishment (time in Purgatory) for sin— by meeting the normal conditions (confession, Holy Communion, prayer for the pope's intentions, and no attachment to sin) and by participating in one of the following activities: **Pilgrimages visits to sacred places, works of mercy, and penance.**



### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

**Monday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

**Tuesday:** *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

**Wednesday:** *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**Thursday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

**Sunday:** 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

#### **Contribution Tax Report**

Reminder: Your 2024 Contributions will need to be in the office by December 31st to be included in this year's Tax form. Thank you!



### Weekly Offering

#### **PARISH INCOME: December 8, 2024**

AS \$ 3,097.00  
IC \$ 3,972.78  
SC \$ 906.45

#### **PARISH INCOME: December 15, 2024**

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

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

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



## Parish News & Events



St Nicholas made his appearance Sunday, Dec. 8th at All Saints-St. Mary's

### Mary and the Saints ACC

Our current ACC members are finishing their first 3 year term. We are opening nominations during the month of December to fill 1 position from each parish. The ACC serves as an advisory committee to the priests of the parishes. As an ACC member, you meet with Fr. Jimmy, Fr. Gregory and all the other members quarterly to discuss and plan events involving all parishes. Members are also involved in discussing topics brought to the ACC by the diocese and any issues that are brought up by members or parishioners. If you have questions about the position, please feel free to contact any of the council members. If you would like to nominate someone for this position, please contact Katie at the parish office in Holdingford by the end of December. New members will be appointed in January to start their term in July.

### Our Mother Teaches Us

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary "blessed" for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady's belief that **"there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord"** (Luke 1:45). Mary is "blessed" entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him. LPi

"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"  
(Lk 1:43)

### Calendars

The parish has purchased Catholic Calendars for parishioners. Please take one per family. Thank you!

### **Check-in Meeting - 33 Day to Eucharistic Glory**

Deacon Dan invites you to an informal check-in and sharing session to talk about your experiences to date as we journey together towards Eucharistic Consecration. If you prefer one on one guidance, give me a call at the main office - (320-228-0105). Session 2 will be Monday Dec. 30, 2024 from 10-11:00 a.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's.



All Saints

### All Saints Building Committee

Our first is meeting to discuss the current plan options for building our new church was Dec. 15th. In the upcoming months there will be more presentations and listening sessions.

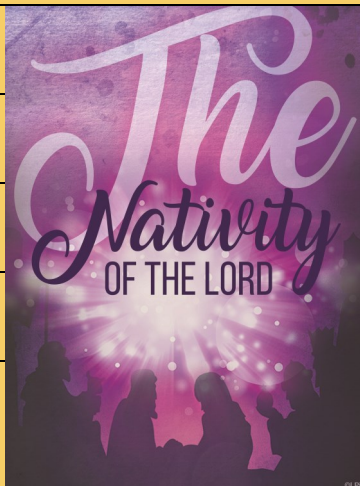
If you have experience and would like to assist or be the Director for this Campaign, please call the parish office or send us a resume.

If you would like to give a gift toward the Building Fund for a tax benefit in 2024, we do have a separate fund specifically for the building of our new church already established. Just place your donation in the collection in an envelope marked "All Saints Building Fund." Please pray for the success of this project!

*Come, Lord Jesus Come!*



|                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <h1>Mass Schedule</h1> |                                                                                                                          |                           |
| Mon.<br>Dec. 23                                                                                        | St. John Kanty, Priest<br>8:00 a.m. St. Columbkille with Adoration                                                       | † Jerome Tschida                                                                                           |
| Tues.<br>Dec. 24                                                                                       | Christmas Vigil<br>4:00 p.m. All Saints-St. Hedwig's<br>6:00 p.m. St. Columbkille<br>Midnight Mass All Saints-St. Mary's | <b>CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES</b><br>For the People<br>For all Priests<br>Couples Married in 2024 by Fr. Gregory |
| Wed.<br>Dec. 25                                                                                        | Christmas Day<br>9:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception                                                                         | † Joshua Scepaniak                                                                                         |
| Thur.<br>Dec. 26                                                                                       | St. Stephen, The First Martyr<br>No Mass                                                                                 |                                                                                                            |
| Fri.<br>Dec. 27                                                                                        | St. John, Apostle & Evangelist<br>No Mass                                                                                |                                                                                                            |
| Sat.<br>Dec. 28                                                                                        | The Holy Innocents, Martyrs<br>5:00 p.m. St. Columbkille                                                                 | † Donna Paggen                                                                                             |
| Sun.<br>Dec. 29                                                                                        | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph<br>8:00 a.m. All Saints - St. Mary's<br>10:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception         | † John Gross<br>For the People                                                                             |



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



### All Saints Christmas Pageant

Everyone is welcome to join us at All Saints-St. Hedwig's on January 8th at

7:15 p.m. for this year's pageant. Come support our Youth!



"For the LORD your God is a consuming fire..."

### Steubenville Meeting: Jan. 5th

This summer join in with other youth in grades 8-12 to grow in your faith together! Date: July 25th-27th in St. Paul. We have a meeting on Jan. 5th at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's. For more information contact: Shelley Vouk (320) 248-2860 or Katelyn Urbanski (320) 423-2203.



### First Reconciliation Retreat

Thank you to Fr. Gregory, Fr. Gilbert and Katrina Kolles for leading our 2nd graders through their first Confession! Please keep them and their parents in your prayers as they prepare to receive Jesus at First Communion this spring.