



**Joy!**

# 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 14, 2025*

## 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

**Doug Herbek**, Youth Director & New  
Evangelist 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)

**Julie Sorteberg**, Secretary

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

[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**



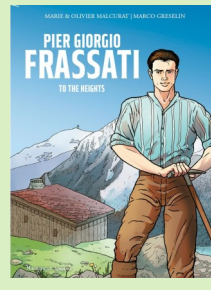
## Catholic Gift Ideas for Christmas



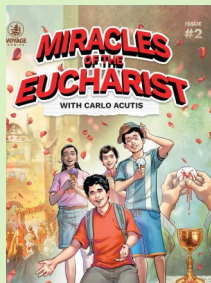
Carry your faith  
with you everyday!  
Phone cases with  
Catholic Images.  
[holyyheroes.com](http://holyyheroes.com)



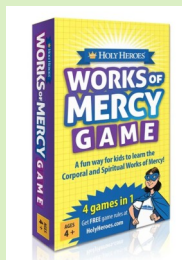
Walk in faith. Adult socks  
with Catholic images.  
Many images to choose.  
[catholiccompany.com](http://catholiccompany.com)



Pier Giorgio Frassati To  
The Heights. A graphic  
novel for kids about his  
life and selfless service.  
[catholiccompany.com](http://catholiccompany.com)



A comic book, trav-  
elling the world  
telling of St. Carlo  
Acutis, who guides  
the reader to the  
heart of each  
Eucharistic Miracle.  
[stgeorgebooks.com](http://stgeorgebooks.com)



Holy Heroes Works of  
Mercy Card Game, a  
fun way for families  
to learn and practice  
the works of mercy  
while enjoying time  
together.  
[holyyheroes.com](http://holyyheroes.com)

Please consider one of the following Spiritual Bouquet gifts below for your family & friends. If Father Gregory was on your list, he prefers Spiritual Bouquet gifts & homemade cookies during this Christmas season.

## Spiritual Bouquet

*The following prayers will be offered up for you*



\_\_Rosary \_\_Divine Mercy Chaplet \_\_Holy Hour \_\_Mass Intention

Novena\_\_\_\_\_

Litany\_\_\_\_\_

Acts of Penance: Fasting, Forgiving, Almsgiving, Service etc.

Merry Christmas! From\_\_\_\_\_

## New Evangelization Corner

### Doug Herbek



"The Christmas creche . . . shows God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness."  
- Pope Francis

1. Saint Francis of Assisi is often credited with having made the first three-dimensional representation of the scene of the birth of Jesus, which has been seen as having provided inspiration for the Christmas creche, also known as a Nativity scene or a manger scene. However, in 1075, Pope Gregory VII presided at a Christmas Mass at which a Nativity scene had been set up near the altar.
2. In 1223, in Greccio, Italy, Saint Francis arranged a manger scene with straw and a living ox and a living donkey. He got villagers to play the parts of Mary and Joseph. However, a rag doll was used to stand for Jesus. In this Nativity scene, Saint Francis hoped to inspire the residents of Greccio about the celebration of Christmas.
3. Much later in history we saw the actual Christmas creche (from the French word for "crib"), the arrangement of three dimensional figures of Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, with an ox and a donkey under a prominent star. It is believed that the Jesuits assembled the first Christmas creche in Prague, perhaps as early as 1562. However, they may have been inspired to make it by the example that Saint Francis gave through his Nativity scene, so we may have our Christmas creches in large part due to Saint Francis.

Sources: smithsonianmag.com, ncronline.org, bbc.com

## 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

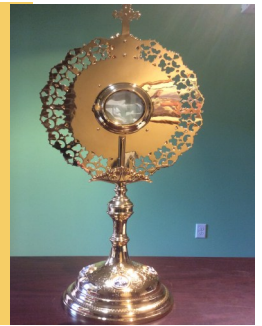


Claude Opatz, Jackie Temble, Bill Ertl, Brenda Dobis,  
Jayne Wruck, Donnie Wentland, Josh Wentland,  
Don Hurd, Bridget Williams, Carol Kuklok, Pat Caspers,  
Christopher Breth, & George Platz Sr.

Call the Parish Office if you would like to be added to the prayer list, are homebound and would like to receive Communion or a bulletin (mailed or online) or if you are in need of a blessing for illness or before a surgery.

## Eucharistic Adoration

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



**K. yes**  
AM1180 FM93.5  
Proudly Airing Relevant Radio™

## 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)

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.

## Prayer for the Advent Wreath

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son,  
Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope  
of all people.

He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us.  
He is the Savior of us all.

O Lord,  
let your blessing come upon us as we light two  
(purple) candles and the third (pink) candle of  
this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of  
Christ's promise of salvation.

May He come quickly and not delay.  
We ask this in His holy name. Amen.





## News & Events

### Buy Local-Fellow Parishioners

#### Rustic Charm:

Rustic log suet bird feeders, winter evergreen porch pots, and raspberry jam.

Contact: Amanda at  
(320)217-4589.



The Best Advent Ever for young readers is available at the Lighthouse Kiosks at the back of each church.

#### Christmas Mass Times

##### December 24th Christmas Vigil

###### 4:00 pm Mass

Immaculate Conception

###### 6:00 pm Mass

St. Columbkille

###### 12:00 am Midnight Mass

All Saints-St. Mary's

##### December 25th Christmas Day

###### 9:00 am Mass

All Saints-St. Hedwig's



#### Ideas For Week 3 Of Advent

The third week of Advent we light the "Shepherd Candle" on the Advent wreath symbolizing the shepherd's joy when the angels appeared and announced the birth of Jesus Christ. The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice!

Rest & play is the third element of the Jubilee Year of Hope. In the Old Testament, during a Jubilee Year they even let the land lay fallow. Be intentional about not working on Sundays. Enter into a Sabbath rest.

- Plan a day each month to do something as a family.
- Learn a new hobby.
- This week consider where your joy comes from: Do you rejoice in God and his good works? Or does your heart love the things of the world— possessions, accomplishments and praise?
- Slowly decorate your tree.

Take your time. Advent is about preparing and waiting. Recall years past and share stories with family. Look at Christmas lights.

- Make homemade ornaments together.
- Write Christmas cards.
- Add shepherds to your nativity.
- Read the history of the nativity scene together.

### Readings Week of the

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/  
Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/  
Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3,  
6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/  
Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

**Thursday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2,  
12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

**Friday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/  
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

**Saturday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2,  
3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4,  
5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

#### St. John of the Cross

December 14th is the feast of mystic, poet, and reformer, St. John of the Cross. St. Teresa of Avila enlisted his assistance in reforming the Carmelite order. The proposed reforms didn't go over well, and John was imprisoned. John turned to prayer. His time in prison resulted in some of the best mystical poetry the Church has seen. After his escape his efforts were honored by the Carmelites. While appointed to the highest office, dissension forced him into solitude. John of the Cross teaches us that challenges can be opportunities to unite ourselves closer to Jesus.

#### 2025 Contributions

All Contributions for 2025 have to be received to the office by December 31, 2025.

#### Monthly Online Giving

##### PARISH INCOME: November 2025

AS \$ 3,586.00

IC \$ 3,497.50

SC \$ 825.00

#### Weekly Offering

##### PARISH INCOME: November 30, 2025

AS \$ 6,021.00

IC \$ 1,784.00

SC \$ 1,180.31

#### Thank you for your generosity!

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

## Parish News & Events

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to 2025 Coach of the Year Luke Mitchell.

The Star Publication All-Star Football team is decided by participating coaches and members of the media. Coaches nominate players, and then coaches and members of local media vote for a first team and a second team, player of the year & coach of the year.

Congratulations to local players that were chosen: Player of the year Jaxon Bartkowicz, 1st team; Masyn Patrick, Nate Streit, Kolton Harren, Kyle Fiedler, Wyatt Pilarski, 2nd team; Caleb Krattenmaker & Mason Lichy. Maiya Swenson, Emma Voigt, and Abbey Bartkowicz congratulations on being a trio of dancers to take part in the Miss Dance Team Minnesota.

### **Build a Foundation for the Future**

Please consider a donation to our new church before the end of this years tax season, consider our churches in your Will or as a beneficiary of a retirement account. Leave a lasting legacy for future generations while making a tax-deductible gift.

### **Women's Group: Mon., Dec.15th**

We will meet from 10-11 a.m. at All Saints- St. Mary's basement. All women are invited to join! New members always welcome.

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

**Dec. 20th** Join us for prayer, topical information, discussions, and social activities for people ages 18 -30 who are looking to socialize with other young adults. We typically meet at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints-St. Mary's, Holdingford on third Saturdays. Meetings include socializing, snacks, and games to follow. These meetings are subject to change so please contact Katie 423-2203 or Marissa 630-2433 if you would like to join us.

**A Gift For You:** The new 2026 Catholic Community Calendar is a gift for you. Start each day with spiritual inspiration & reflection. Please pick up your copy at the back of church, while supplies last.

**Sponsor Couple Ministry:** Are there any married couples interested in becoming mentors to engaged couples to help prepare them for a Christian marriage? For more information please contact the office at (320)228-0105 or janet.dusek@gw.stcdio.org.

### **Penance Service**

ACC Confessions  
4 or 5 Priests  
St. Mary's  
Upsala, MN  
2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.  
Sunday December, 14th



### **New Years Eve Party**

Join us for a New Years Eve party.  
All Saints-St. Hedwig's  
Dec. 31, 8:00 p.m.

Come enjoy cards & games.  
We will have some games or you can bring your own.

Share potluck appetizers.  
Water, hot chocolate and popcorn provided.

Celebrate Mass at 11:30 pm to bring in the new year.  
Questions? Contact Shelley Vouk  
(320)248-2860

### **Early Bulletin Deadlines**

Any items you would like in the Dec. 28th bulletin need to be in by Dec. 16th at noon.

The Jan. 4th bulletin notes need to be in by Dec. 23rd at noon.

Thank you.

bulletin@tworiverscatholic.com

### **All Saints**



Pray  
for Our  
New Church

The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed immediately after mass on December 14th for the building of our new church.

Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet will happen monthly. Please join us in prayer for a strong foundation for our Catholic community.

**Fellowship:** Join us on the shortest day of the year for FELLOWSHIP with one another on December 21st, 2025. This is a great way to share your stories with other parish members and strengthen your community bonds. This event is a donation by the All-Saints Christian Mothers/Women and Rosary Sodality. Serving donuts, fruit, coffee, milk, juice, and crafts for the children.

### **St. Columbkille**

**Praying Rosary** Anyone wanting to help lead rosary before Saturday masses please contact Linda Meyer at (320)363-4556.

### **Christmas Pageant**

The annual St. Wendel Christmas pageant will take place on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:15 pm. Doors open at 7:00 pm. There will be a social to follow. Please join us.

### **Poor Clare's Monastery**

St. Columbkille Christian Women are asking for help in collecting items for the sisters at Poor Clare's Monastery.

There will be a box in the back of church Nov. 29 until Dec. 21.

Items needed are nightlight bulbs, white-out correction tape, AA batteries, 60 W LED lightbulbs, stamps, self-adhesive business envelopes, and black ink pens.

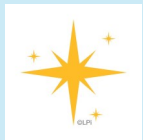
Thank you for your continued support.



# Mass Schedule

<b>Mon. Dec. 15</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. St. Columbkille &amp; Adoration</b>	<b>† Mary Louise Huls</b>
<b>Tues. Dec. 16</b>	<b>7:00 p.m. All Saints-St. Mary's</b>	<b>Vocations by the St. Isidore Knights of Columbus</b>
<b>Wed. Dec. 17</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. All Saints– St. Mary's &amp; Adoration</b>	<b>† Robert Knettel Sr.</b>
<b>Thur. Dec. 18</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception &amp; Adoration</b>	<b>Living &amp; Deceased Family of Frank &amp; Gladys Larkey</b>
<b>Fri. Dec. 19</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Sat. Dec. 20</b>	<b>5:00 p.m. St. Columbkille</b>	<b>† Emily Rudnicki</b>
<b>Sun. Dec. 21</b>	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <b>8:00 a.m. All Saints–St. Mary's</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>† Gary Lange For the People</b>

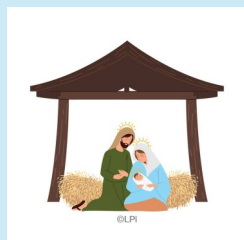
## Family Faith Formation & GIFFT (*Generations In Family Faith Together*)



### Save the Date

Christmas Pageant  
January 7th  
7:15 pm  
All Saints-  
St. Hedwig's

Please Join us!



ADVENT	MYRRH
ANGEL	NATIVITY
BABY	NAZARETH
BETHLEHEM	REJOICE
BIRTH	SAVIOR
BLESSING	SHEPHERD
EAST	STABLE
FAITH	STAR
FRANKINCENSE	THREE KINGS
GIFTS	WISEMEN
GOLD	MIRACLE
HOLY SPIRIT	MARY
HOPE	MANGER
JESUS	MAGI
JOSEPH	LOVE
JOY	LORD

K	E	V	J	H	E	N	Y	K	Z	E	H	I	E	S	T	F	I	G	Q	H
U	Z	N	R	H	H	L	S	X	A	C	O	N	G	R	R	Y	M	J	T	E
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V	I	W	J	A	R	S	F	G	A	E	E	W	K	T	U	R	E	P	L	S
R	V	Y	K	H	M	J	V	B	S	Q	Z	Q	M	E	K	F	D	K	E	D
U	H	A	B	D	K	E	F	Y	E	J	O	W	V	B	R	R	C	C	Q	A
R	C	R	S	T	Q	G	H	V	B	H	L	J	W	F	E	H	V	J	Z	Z