



# Good Teacher Area Faith Community St. Edward & St. Eloi Catholic Church



**Father Todd Petersen**

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Parish Secretary: Caren Buysse – 872.6346  
Area Faith Website: [goodteacherafc.com](http://goodteacherafc.com)  
Religion Ed Coordinator: Tina Myhre  
[goodteacherafcre@hotmail.com](mailto:goodteacherafcre@hotmail.com)

Deacon: Bruce Bot – 872.5465  
Travis Welsh – 829.0986  
Jason Myhre – 829.2829

Office Hours: 8:00 – 11:45 am 12:45 – 4:00 pm  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

FORMED: [formed.org](http://formed.org) (Z8Q2WJ)  
St. Edward & St. Eloi Email:  
[cbuyssegoodteacherafc@gmail.com](mailto:cbuyssegoodteacherafc@gmail.com)

St. Edward Facebook: St. Edward Catholic Church  
St. Edward Website: [stedschurch.com](http://stedschurch.com)

Office Mailing Address:  
408 N. Washington St.  
Minneota, MN 56264

St. Eloi Facebook: St. Eloi Catholic Church  
St. Eloi Website:  
[steloicatholicchurch.weebly.com](http://steloicatholicchurch.weebly.com)

Bulletin Coordinator: Ruth Bot  
Bulletin Email: [bulletinsteds@gmail.com](mailto:bulletinsteds@gmail.com)  
Bulletin Info due by Wednesday at 9 pm

Catholic Charities: 1.866.670.5163  
Victim's Hotline: 1.800.422.4453  
Facebook: One More Time Thrift Store

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### **Monday, December 14**

12:00 pm Mass at St. Eloi Convent (Presider's Intention)

### **Tuesday, December 15**

12:00 pm Mass at St. Eloi Convent (Betty Claeys & family)  
6:00 pm Education Committee at school  
7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting at Knights' Hall

### **Wednesday, December 16**

10:30 am School Mass (Albert & Margaret Callens)  
• 10:00 am Confession before Mass  
12:00 pm Mass at St. Eloi Convent (Presider's Intention)  
3:15 – 4:15 pm Rel Ed – Grades 1 & 5  
6:30 – 7:30 pm Rel Ed – Grades 6-11  
6:30 – 7:30 pm Adoration – All are welcome  
7:30 – 8:00 pm Confession – Confirmation candidates  
8:00 – 9:30 pm Teen Talk

### **Thursday, December 17**

7:00 am Mass at St. Edward (Rachel Carrette)  
• 6:30 am Confession before Mass  
12:00 pm Mass at St. Eloi Convent (Frank & Winifred Swedzinski)  
5:00 – 7:00 pm Adoration – St. Edward

### **Friday, December 18**

5:45 am *That Man Is You*  
7:00 am Mass at St. Edward  
(Lawrence & Jeanette DeCock)  
• 7:30 am Confession after Mass  
12:00 pm Mass at St. Eloi Convent (Presider's Intention)  
• 12:30 pm Confession after Mass

### **Saturday, December 19**

12:00 pm Mass at St. Eloi Convent  
(Tom & Madeline Swedzinski)  
• 12:30 pm Confession after Mass  
5:30 pm Mass at St. Edward  
(Leo, Isabelle, Ralph, Sharon, and Eric Hennen)  
• 4:45 pm Confession before Mass

### **Sunday, December 20**

8:30 am Mass at St. Edward (For the parish family)  
• 8:00 am Confession before Mass  
10:30 am Mass at St. Eloi (Maurice & Bertha Verkinderen)  
• 10:00 am Confession before Mass



### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

Thursday, December 24,  
Christmas Eve  
4:30 pm Mass at St. Eloi  
10:00 pm Mass at St. Edward  
Friday, December 25, Christmas  
Day  
8:30 am Mass at St. Edward

10:30 am Mass at St. Eloi  
**December 26 & 27**  
Regular weekend Mass schedule

### **New Year's Mass Schedule**

Thursday, December 31, New Year's Eve  
6:00 pm Mass at St. Edward followed by Adoration  
Friday, January 1, New Year's Day  
8:30 am Mass at St. Edward  
10:30 am Mass at St. Eloi

### **January 2 & 3**

Regular weekend Mass schedule

Dear Parishioners,

Rejoice!!! This weekend, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, and we have a special liturgical color rose to help us remember to be joyful (we can also wear rose the 4th Sunday of Lent). Traditionally, the Pope sent roses to those who most supported the mission of the church as an honor, and rose was worn to celebrate with the those so honored. But we also rejoice because this is well past the half-way point of the season. For those who are growing tired under their penitential works, rejoice - it's almost done. For those who are not preparing or feeling overwhelmed, rejoice - there is still time!

As I shared at the end of the Masses last weekend, we are in the process of updating our websites. Both parishes and the Area Faith Community currently have websites. With the new site, they will all have a unified look and will be a little more user friendly and easier to navigate between. As I also shared, the top right-hand menu will be on each page and will link to the bulletin, the parishes, the school, and online giving page. Hopefully this will make finding the most frequently needed information easier.

There is also the feature to create categories and groups for text and email messages. I hope that we can use this service for notifications of Mass time changes, sending meeting notices, and other general messages. Please watch the bulletin for updates as we should be switching over soon. Please note that at this time, St. Eloi's current url address, currently a weebly page, will not be used. The St. Ed's address will redirect to the St. Ed's information page on the new site.

Finally, I have been made aware of a new resource for men at [HeroicMen.com](http://HeroicMen.com) that they are offering for free (though they invite a donation). Mostly virtue forming and affirming videos, this certainly would be a great resource for those seeking good media. This of course is in addition to the great resources at [Formed.org](http://Formed.org).

In Christ,  
Fr. Todd

**WEDNESDAY, Dec. 16 – Pray for Fr. Aaron Nett, Fr. John Nordick, Dcn. Michael McKeown, Luke Miller (Sem.)**

Isaiah 45:6-25, Luke 7:18-23

- *How can I be more attentive to the invitation Jesus is extending to me this Advent?*

**THURSDAY, Dec. 17 – Pray for Fr. Brian Oestreich, Fr. Jerome Paulson Dcn. Jason Myhre, Nolan Meyer (Sem.)**

Genesis 49:2-10, Matthew 1:1-17

- *What do I enjoy about the nativity scene in my home or church?*

**FRIDAY, Dec. 18 – Pray for Fr. John Pearson, Fr. Samuel Perez, Dcn. Ken Noyes, David Rabaey (Sem.)**

Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-25

- *How has my communication with God changed me this year?*

**SATURDAY, Dec. 19 – Pray for Fr. Todd Petersen, Fr. Zach Peterson, Dcn. Roger Osborne, Sam Rosemeier (Sem.)**

Judges 13:2-25, Luke 1:5-25

- *How could I be a better "voice" for Jesus and the gospel message today?*

**SUNDAY, Dec. 20 – Pray for Fr. Shawn Polman, Fr. Germain Rademacher, Dcn. Ryan Pope, Tanner Thooft (Sem.)**

2 Samuel 7:1-16, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-28

- *Am I joyfully preparing for Christ's birth?*

## ST. ELOI NEWS

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	DIFFERENCE
Adult	\$965.00	\$2,110.26	\$1,145.26
Loose	\$226.25	\$146.15	\$80.10
Commodity			
Year-to-date	\$53,118.95	\$51,727.91	\$1,391.04

## ST. ELOI LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Sunday, December 20**

*Sacristan:* Lila Schmidt

*Altar Servers:*

*Lector:* Cindy Nelson

*Eucharistic Minister:* Monica Senden

*Musicians:* John Rabaey & family

*Ushers:* Daren Van Keulen, Martin Hennen, Ron Sussner

## ST. EDWARD NEWS

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	DIFFERENCE
Adult	\$3,900.00	\$4,829.92	(\$929.92)
Youth	\$4.00	\$5.69	(\$ 1.69)
Loose	\$510.00	\$153.85	\$356.15
Online Giving	\$1,050.00	*Added to the adult envelope total	
Year-to Date	\$102,807.83	\$115,326.84	(\$12,519.01)

## MASS READINGS & PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

**MONDAY, Dec. 14 – Pray for Fr. Mark Mallak, Fr. Brian Mandel, Dcn. Mark Kober, Nathan Hansen (Sem.)**

Numbers 24:2-17, Matthew 21:23-27

- *How can I more easily accept and love what God sees in me?*

**TUESDAY, Dec. 15 – Pray for Fr. Gerald Meidl, Fr. Robert Mraz, Fr. Andy Michels, James Herzog (Sem.)**

Zephaniah 3:1-13, Matthew 21:28-32

- *What motivates me to do what I'm told and what is my attitude about doing that?*

## ST. EDWARD LITURGY SCHEDULE

### **Saturday, December 19**

*Sacristan:* Margrit Rabaey

*Servers:* Elivia Faris

*Lector:* Eriann Faris

*Eucharistic Minister:* Deb Thooft

*Usher:* Jackie Laleman

### **Sunday, December 20**

*Sacristan:* Joe Callens

*Servers:* Elena & Sam Myhre

*Lector:* Joe Callens

*Eucharistic Minister:* Fran Sturm

*Usher:* Doug Janiszkeski

## **SISTERS OF MARY MORNING STAR NEWS**

St. Eloi Convent Masses at 12:00 pm (Noon) on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday  
Call 428.3919 to double-check the time.

Vespers: 6:15 pm      Adoration: 7:30 – 8:30 pm

## **ST. EDWARD SCHOOL NEWS**

Principal: Jaci Garvey

Secretary: Trudy Banks

Office: 872.6391

### **December 7-18 – Scholastic Book Fair – Online Only!**

To check out the offerings, use the following website:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/stedwardschool2>

Book fair profits stay at the school and are used to purchase new books for our library and classrooms.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Francis Arends, whose Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Edward Church this past week. May his family be comforted by their faith and the promise of eternal life.

### **2021 ENVELOPES**

St. Edward donation envelopes are in the basement ready to be picked up. St. Eloi donation envelopes are in the back of church ready to be picked up. If you can deliver any envelopes to friends and family, that would be great.

### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

Please help decorate the parish of St. Edward for the Christmas season by donating towards poinsettias as a remembrance of a loved one. Place your name along with the memorial names and your donation marked *Christmas Flowers* on the envelope and place in the Sunday collection basket.

Thank You!

## **CHRISTMAS DECORATING**

The St. Edward Liturgy Committee would appreciate assistance decorating for Christmas. The plan is to decorate on Sunday, December 20, after Mass. If you can only help for 15 minutes or the entire hour, that's great! "Many hands make light work."

## **COVID GUIDELINES FOR MASS ASSISTANTS**

### **Lectors –**

- Arrive early to look over readings and announcements. Take the book to the ambo, then be seated in your pew. No procession.
- Announcements are read at the beginning of Mass. Return to your pew.
- Return to the ambo for the scripture readings. Return to your pew after the alleluia before the gospel reading.
- Return to the ambo to read the petitions (unless there is a deacon).

### **Eucharistic Ministers –**

- If there is a deacon present, a Eucharistic Minister is not needed.
- Wear a mask (mandatory) and sanitize your hands before distributing communion (no gloves may be worn).
- Come up to the altar to receive communion after the *Our Father*.
- A small table will be placed at each communion station with a corporal, an ablution bowl, a purificator, and hand sanitizer. The ablution bowl and purificator are available so that you dip your fingers in the dish or use the purificator to ensure there are no particles of the Blessed Sacrament on your fingers before disinfecting your hands.
- Take your place next to the communion station. People will remove their masks as they approach. They can receive Holy Communion as usual. If you sense that your fingers have made contact with a person's hands or mouth, pause, place the ciborium on the corporal, dip your fingers in the dish or use the purificator and hand sanitizer. This may be repeated as often as necessary. It is not necessary to use hand sanitizer between each communicant unless you make contact with the communicant.
- Holy Communion cannot be received in the hand if someone is wearing a glove. Ask them to remove the glove or they may receive it on the tongue.

### **Ushers –**

- Arrive early.
- Wear a mask; use hand sanitizer.
- Assist people to find open pews; maintain spacing.

- Count the parishioners present. Record it on the clipboard in the confessional.
- Missalettes are on the tables by the doors. They are not to be returned if someone takes one. If one is returned to the table, it needs to be thrown away.
- Bulletins will be placed on the tables by the doors for people to pick up.
- There are collection baskets on the tables, also, for envelopes or donations. Keep an eye on them. The envelopes will be collected and brought to the Sacristy after Mass and put in the banking bag.
- Make sure the church and bathrooms are thoroughly sanitized after each service – including doors, pews, and surfaces. There are four spray bottles in the sacristy; lightly mist the pews – it should be dry in 10-20 seconds. It will take 4-5 sprays per pew. Do the front/top and seat of the pew. Mist the inside of the doors. Just spray and let air-dry.
- Throw anything left in the pew away.

Thank you for assisting with these essential ministries!

### **HOLIDAY PIES**

The Crusty Pie Ladies will be making pies on December 15. If you would like pies for Christmas, please place your order on or before December 14, to guarantee you'll get the kind of pie you would like.

To place an order, call Jo Coover (530.4103) or Barb Gutormsson (872.6931).

### **LIGHT UP THE NIGHT**

November 27 – December 27, 5:00 – 9:00 pm

Every Friday, Saturday, & Sunday.

Check it out on Facebook!

### **NOTICE TO ST. ELOI PARISHIONERS**

Those of you who have been observant have noticed that we are only using half of the front steps. The steps on the east side are deteriorating. If you look you will see corroding rebar and concrete and the steps are hollow. With widening cracks, this is a safety issue.

The replacement of these steps was not part of the Capital Campaign, but they will need to be replaced soon. We are creating a fund (formerly the elevator fund) for the replacement of these steps which will cost around \$39,000. Please consider an end-of-year special gift, perhaps of grain, stocks or bonds, or cash contributions.

Please do so by contacting the parish office or sending your donation designated for the steps to the office or in the collection basket. Especially those that did

not contribute to the St. Eloi Capital Campaign, here's your chance to step up. All donations are welcome.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Thank you to everyone who donated snacks to the Religious Ed program. The kids enjoyed them and appreciate getting a little snack after school before RE class.

If you would like to contribute to our snack program, there are about 13 kids each week starting on January 6, 2021. Donations can be left in the parish office, church basement, or cry room or contact Tina.

December 23 and 30 will be the Christmas break with no class for our religious ed students. Classes will resume on January 6, 2021.

### **SCRIP**

Rather than running out at the last minute to buy those Christmas gifts, why not pick up Scrip gift cards? Wrap them up or drop them in the kids' stockings! Remember to purchase gift cards to use when you go out & do your regular shopping!

Smaller denominations will be available for purchase at the church office.

Questions? Contact your Scrip committee members:

Julie Pohlen 507.828.7392

Laura Hennen 507.428.3254

Ronni Vlaminck 507.829.6091

Caren Buysse 507.872.6346

### **SUNDAY OFFERING**

Please continue financially supporting both St. Edward and St. Eloi. Drop off donations in the mail slot on the west side of Knights' Hall.

St. Edward parishioners, to donate online, use this link:

<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/4628>

If you have questions, contact Caren at the church office.

### **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Thanks to all who helped make the KC Pork Chop Supper a success. Special thanks to Brad Hennen for donating the pork chops, Dawn Vlaminck for donating the cookie ingredients, and the CCW ladies for the wonderful job they did baking and wrapping the cookies. Dollars earned from this event will help our seminarians as they continue their education.

Knights of Columbus Council 14420

### **VIRTUS TRAINING – VIRTUALLY**

A new VIRTUAL VIRTUS Training Session via ZOOM has been added for Thursday, December 17, 2020, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. All registrants will need to keep their cameras on for the entire training session. We will

send you a zoom meeting code a few days prior to the training session.

Please ask individuals needing a new VIRTUS account to register online through the diocesan website <https://www.dnu.org/safeenvironment/> by clicking on the large red button in the left margin of the main Safe Environment Web page.

Individuals with existing pending accounts that did not previously register for a session should log back in to their new VIRTUS account using the user id and password they created to register at this time. Users may also change their session decision online if needed.

If you need assistance registering someone, please contact Sherry Kalow ([skalow@dnu.org](mailto:skalow@dnu.org)). Thank you.

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCH AT LARGE

### Radio Rosary – Week of December 7-13, 2020

Dec. 14: In memory of Gerard & Mary Louwagie by their family

Dec. 15: In memory of Jane & Ernie Louwagie by their family

Dec. 16: In memory of Mary Timmerman by Tony & Ruth Louwagie

Dec. 17: In memory of Mary Anne Bitz by Joe & Jo Louwagie

Dec. 18: In memory of JoAnn Lanners by Cletus & Lorraine Lanners

Dec. 19: In memory of David Fiegan by Mike & Lorraine Weverka

Dec. 20: In memory of Betty Brey by her cousin

To schedule a Radio Rosary –  
Call Carol Louwagie: 507.532.6081

The New Ulm Diocese has asked that the following prayer be said while preparing for our next Bishop.

Almighty God,  
Who by the Holy Spirit moves the hearts of Your people,  
Direct the counsels of those who are appointed to choose a bishop for the Diocese of New Ulm.  
That we may be given a pastor who in faithfulness and wisdom shall lead your people in the way of holiness.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen  
Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

## SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

- **Baptism, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick, Becoming Catholic** – Call the church office: 872.6346
- **Eucharist to Shut-ins:**  
St. Eloi – Sandy Nuytten 829.9690  
St. Edward – Call the church office 872.6346
- **Baptism Prep:** To set up a baptism date, call Caren at the office. Check the church website for Godparent Requirements.
- **RCIA:** If anyone is interested in joining the Catholic church or learning more about the church, contact Deacon Bruce Bot – 507.828.7012



### ADVENT WEEK 3

### GAUDETE SUNDAY ~ THE CANDLE OF JOY

This third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday (from the Latin word *Gaudete*, meaning "Rejoice"). Today, we light the rose/pink candle, which symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy.

As we light the third candle for joy, we remember:

- the joy Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her - a child who would save and deliver all people ([Luke 1:26-56](#))
- the joy the shepherds felt at the angel's announcement: "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people - for to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord" ([Luke 2:8-20](#))
- the gift of joy we have in Christ, who came bring true and everlasting joy.

Joy is different from happiness. The theologian Henri Nouwen described the difference. While happiness is dependent on external conditions, joy is "the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing – sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death - can take that love away." Thus, joy can be present even in the midst of sadness.

**Scripture:**

"And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne." Hebrews 12:1b, 2

**Prayer:**

*Loving God, thank you for the joy you bring. Help me prepare my heart for the Lord's coming by being joyful in all circumstances. Help me see that Christ came for every person I meet wherever I go. Help me to humbly serve others with joy as Jesus did, in obedience to the Father. I ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen*



**Advent Family Activities**

1. Mary & Joseph were immigrants traveling far from their home when Jesus was born. Try sleeping in a different place in your house tonight. Swap beds with a sibling or sleep in a sleeping bag on the floor. Thank God for your comfortable home.
2. Choose an activity that will help babies, such as donating to MN Citizens Concerned for Life.
3. Make Christmas cookies and share them together. Thank God for the gift of food and family.
4. Go through your toys and donate ones that you have outgrown to a local charity or thrift shop.
5. Sing Christmas songs together.
6. Choose family prayer partners. Write each person's name on a slip of paper, place it in a basket, pass the basket, and select a name. Pray for that person during Advent.
7. Pray about things that make you joyful and the ways you bring joy to others.
8. Go outside after dark and do some stargazing. Think about the Magi who followed the star to Bethlehem.
9. Jesus is our light. Shut off all lights and electronics and enjoy the beauty of your Christmas tree together as a family.
10. Attend Mass on Christmas Day.



## Ignite the F.I.R.E.

Families Involved in  
Religious Education



December 2020

Welcome to Advent season! The season of the liturgical Church year where we remember the arrival of the Christ-child, and we also anticipate and prepare for Christ's second coming, when Heaven and Earth will be united and we will no longer live in the grips of sin.

As we move through our days, are we finding ourselves looking backward or forward to what we feel is "normal"? Do we long for how things were, or do we anticipate that when this all blows over that things and life will be better? Where do we decide that THIS IS life and our current situations are reality and not a memory or a vision of what we want them to be? How do we take the cards we are dealt and use them to the best of our knowledge and abilities? Maybe the best thing to do when we get those cards that don't fit well with one game, is to make them into a new game. A game that highlights what we've been given and uses them to our advantage. A way to break away from how we thought life had to be and make it into a better situation or to see the blessings in it. To utilize our gifts and bring the light of Christ to the world.

We all have days that get us down. We all have days that God graces us with blessings. Sometimes we don't always recognize those blessings when we allow the enemy to cloud our vision with doubt, anger, resentment, fear, sorrow, self-pity and hatred. That's why we need the light of Christ to enter into our hearts. That's why we need to spend time with the Lord in prayer. The Catholic Church gives us the Sacrament of Reconciliation to allow us to allow Jesus into our sins, bring them into the light and hold us close to show us how much He loves us. Live your life in the now - Allow the Master potter to shape you - Be a light to the world and show others how God cares for us all! Have a beautiful Advent season and a Merry Christmas and God bless!

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!"

~ St. Catherine of Siena