



ONE IN FAITH Area Catholic Community of

Church of St. Mary

Campuses in Melrose & Meire Grove, serving the communities of
Melrose, Meire Grove, Greenwald & Spring Hill

Church of the Sacred Heart Freeport

Church of the Immaculate Conception New Munich

Church of St. Rose of Lima St. Rosa

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 16, 2026

Fr. Daniel Walz, Pastor
Fr. Mitchell Bechtold, Pastor

Melrose Office:

Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Office Phone: 320-256-4207

Fr. Mitchell Bechtold: 320-247-4907 (call or text)
mlbechtold@outlook.com

Office Email: oif@stmarysofmelrose.com

Faith Formation: faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

Website: www.oneinfaith.org

Facebook: Church of St. Mary, Melrose

Mailing Address: 755 Kraft Drive SE
Melrose, MN 56352

Freeport - New Munich - St. Rosa Office:

Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Office Phone: 320-836-2143

Fr. Daniel Walz: frwalz@catholic-centered.org

Office Email: triparish@albanytel.com

Faith Formation: faithformation@catholic-centered.org

Website: www.sacredheartfreeport.org

Facebook: Tri Parish

Mailing Address: PO Box 155
Freeport, MN 56331

Bulletin Announcements

Deadline: Tuesday before 9:00 am

Email information to: bulletin@catholic-centered.org

Confession Times

- ♦Fridays 7:45 am Sacred Heart
- ♦Saturdays 8:00 am During Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - St. Mary - Melrose
- ♦Saturdays 3:30 pm Immaculate Conception
- ♦Saturdays 4:30 pm St. Mary - Meire Grove
- ♦Sundays 11:00 am St. Mary - Melrose
- ♦Or by appointment. Call the Parish Office.

Marriage

Couples are to begin preparation 6-12 months in advance and **must** call the respective Parish Office **before setting a date.**

*Diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes are required.

Baptism & OCIA

If you are interested in having your child baptized or participating in the OCIA program, contact the respective Parish Office.

Anointing of the Sick - Homebound Communion Pastoral Visitation - Joining/Leaving a Parish

If you have any of the above or other pastoral needs, please call the respective Parish Office or check the parish websites.



Divine Humiliation

"It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Matthew 15:26-28

Imagine the Son of God referring to you as a dog. For most people, that would be deeply offensive. So why would Jesus do such a thing? He did so, in part, to draw forth from this woman an act of profound humility and faith. Through this moment of divine humiliation, Jesus invited her to rise to a heroic response, prompting Him to exclaim, "O woman, great is your faith!" He desires to do the same with each one of us.

When Jesus first encountered this woman, He saw into her soul and perceived the depth of her faith. As God, He knew everything about her—her suffering, her love for her daughter, her perseverance. He also knew He would heal the girl, yet He did not do so immediately. Instead, He engaged in what theology refers to as divine pedagogy—a method of instruction by which God teaches slowly, carefully, and with purpose. In this case, Jesus used the moment to teach His disciples—and us—a profound lesson about humility and unwavering faith. He tested her, and she passed the test marvelously.

Continued on page 5

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ AUGUST 17 - 23

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Tu	6:30 pm	Misa en español (Melrose) †Florentino Montunez †Pedro Montunez
We	8:00 am	†Clarence Wenker (Meire Grove)
Th	8:00 am	†Deceased/Living Members of the Mark Schoenberg Family (Spring Hill)
Fr	8:00 am	†Jeffrey Hinnenkamp (Melrose)
Sa	5:00 pm	†Matt Welle (Meire Grove)
*Su	9:00 am	For the People (Melrose)
Su	11:30 am	Misa en Español (Melrose) †Sergio Hernandez

SACRED HEART - Freeport

Tu	8:15 am	NO MASS
We	8:15 am	†Werner Ostendorf
Th	8:15 am	†Joe & †Eric Mergen
Fr	8:15 am	†Helen Tritz
Su	8:00 am	†LeRoy Hoeschen

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Sa	4:00 pm	For the People
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ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Su	10:00 am	†Vic, †Bruce, & †Dan Elfering
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St. Mary - Melrose

First Thursday of the month 6:30 pm
in Spanish (en Español) and
Saturdays, 8:00 am - 9:00 am
in English

Sacred Heart - Freeport**No Adoration**

Friday, August 21



*Mass will be livestreamed. Visit: oneinfaith.org for the YouTube link.

ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish News:

~ St. Mary Melrose & Meire Grove Campus ~
Communities of Melrose, Meire Grove, Spring Hill, Greenwald

- **We are Still Accepting Donations** for Fr. Lawrence Muuna's mission appeal supporting Catholic education in the Diocese of Meru, Kenya. Checks can be made payable to MISSION SUPPORT DIOCESE OF MERU. Thank you!
- **Annual Reports** for 2025-2026 are complete and available for all four parishes in their respective churches and the parish office.
- **Contribution Envelopes** Ever wonder what a contribution envelope is for in your packet? A list of envelopes with explanations and a schedule is now available on the website, in the churches, and in the parish office.
- **Staff Newsletter** has been sent out on the Evangelus app. It is also available in the kiosks, at the parish office, or on our website. Please take a moment to read the updates from the office.



Employment Opportunity... Sacred Heart is seeking a part-time Parish Groundskeeper/Custodian. This individual oversees the care of the parish grounds and buildings. Individuals interested in this position are asked to send a letter of interest and resume to ahoeschen@catholic-centered.org. For more information, please contact Amy Hoeschen at PO Box 155, Freeport, MN 56331 or call 320-836-2143.

The Road to Holiness: Finding Our Identity in the Eucharistic Heart of Christ with instructor Fred Blonigen at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, St. Cloud. This six-session series meets on Tuesdays from September 8 to October 13 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

- **September 8:** Rediscovering with Amazement God's Greatest Gift to Humanity: The Holy Eucharist
- **September 15:** Praying, Understanding, and Living the Holy Mass with the Faith and Fervor of the Saints
- **September 22:** Eucharistic Adoration: How to Defeat the Culture of Death
- **September 29:** Sacred Heart Devotion and the Holy Eucharist: The Mystery of God's Infinite Love for Us.
- **October 06:** The Path of Sanctity: Imitating the Eucharistic Saints
- **October 13:** Questions and Answers on the Eucharist

Toddler Care If you are looking for Toddler care at Sacred Heart School, we have some openings. Please contact Chrystal at 320-836-2585.

**Parish News:**

~ Sacred Heart ~ Immaculate Conception ~ St. Rose of Lima ~

- **The Feast of St. Cloud** is Monday, September 7. Novena booklets for anyone who would like to pray a novena in honor of St. Cloud are in the back of the church in Freeport, New Munich, and St. Rosa. The novena begins on Saturday, August 29.
- **Mission Appeal Special Collection** The weekend of August 22-23, Fr. Innocent Onuh from The Missionary Servants of the Needy will be here to celebrate the Masses in our Tri-Parish and to share about this mission. All loose collection and any designated donations will be given to this mission. Please prayerfully consider donating to this special collection. The Missionary Servants of the Needy is a male religious association founded in the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio, South Sudan, dedicated exclusively to serving the poor and addressing their needs. Their mission is rooted in a profound concern for the poor and vulnerable, especially those who receive little or no attention in their communities. They seek to help them rediscover their inherent dignity and grow in awareness of their value to human society, to their families, to themselves, and to God. They aim to provide counseling, understand their needs, offer education, and discern the most effective ways to help them become better persons for the sake of God's Kingdom. The visible and practical expression of God's mercy and love through works of charity and the corporal works of mercy lies at the heart of our mission. Their deepest desire is to be God's voice and "another Christ" to the poor and needy. To learn more about us, please visit www.msnmission.org.
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word** With the school year right around the corner, we are looking for help with Children's Liturgy of the Word in Freeport, New Munich, and St. Rosa during weekend Masses. If you like working with children and sharing your faith with them, this could be the ministry for you. We need to have one confirmed member and one youth present during Children's Liturgy of the Word. If a Mass time in one of the parishes is better for you, you are more than welcome to help in that parish. If we do not have volunteers to carry out this ministry, it will not be available to your young people. Please contact the office in Freeport if you are interested in helping with this ministry.



CAUTION!! Road work has begun in front of the church, parish office, and school in Freeport. If you need to visit the office, we encourage you to use the back door, which can be accessed by sidewalks in the back. The front door is still accessible, but you have to cross grass to get to it. You can access the parking lot by using the driveway at the back of the parish property. You can also park on Main Street. Please be safe.

CHURCH OF ST. MARY

Melrose Physical Address: 755 Kraft Drive SE
Melrose, MN 56352

Meire Grove Physical Address: 20 State Highway 4 S.
Meire Grove, MN 56352

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Weekly Offerings** ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆**St. Mary - Melrose**

Total.....	\$13,941.00
Regular Adult Offering	6,023.00
Plate/Loose	882.00
Kenya Mission	6,214.00
Designated Funds	822.00
Spring Hill	\$550.00
Greenwald	\$280.00

St. Mary - Meire Grove

Total	\$1,295.09
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,120.00
Children's	0.50
Plate/Loose	73.00
Votives	56.59
Assumption	45.00

St. Mary's - Meire Grove Liturgical Ministries
Saturday, August 22 - 5:00 pm

(S) Morgan Funk & Paige Funk

(L) Jim Leukam

(U) Dean Meyer & Doug Meyer

(GB) John & GERALYN PRIMUS

(EM) Char Meyer, Dan Meyer, Karl Meyer, & Jim Leukam

(HK - August) *Virginia Nathe, Geri Primus, Cindy Schneider, Karen Schneider, Linda Schneider, & Joy Silbernack

St. Mary's - Melrose Calendar Raffle

08-09	\$25	Ann Brang, Melrose
08-10	\$25	George & Ruth Traeger, Melrose
08-11	\$25	Ethan Ettel, Melrose
08-12	\$50	Scott Wiehoff, Melrose
08-13	\$25	Bob Kuzma, Melrose
08-14	\$25	Butch & Mary Niehaus, Melrose
08-15	\$25	Matt & Cindy Anderson, Melrose

**Baptized in Christ...**

♥Xavier Botello Carrasco

♥Isabella Valencia Orozco

♥Emiliano Hernandez Paramo

Died in the Hope of Resurrection... †Mary Banker, 85

Liturgical Ministers at St. Mary's - Meire Grove including Eucharistic ministers, ushers, altar servers, lectors, and gift bearers will have their next schedule created in Ministry Scheduler Pro which is an online program. In preparation for this change, these ministers were sent a text or email last week with more information. If you have not received the message, please let Sarah Woeste know. The current schedule runs through September. Notification will be given when the October/November schedule is ready. Printed schedules will continue to be available for those who do not have online access.

Temporary Help Needed St. Mary's Church is seeking a temporary, part-time grounds and maintenance person beginning Wednesday, August 19 for approximately six to eight weeks. Duties will include general groundskeeping and maintenance for the church, school and cemeteries. For more information please contact Fr. Mitchell or Pam at the parish office.

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

Physical Address: 106 3rd Avenue NE Freeport, MN 56331
Church Basement 320-836-2191

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Weekly Offerings** ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$6,453.36
Regular Adult Offering	5,541.46
Plate	597.00
Votive	239.90
Assumption Envelope	50.00
Venezuela Earthquake Aid	25.00

Parish Events

Mo 08/17 6:30 pm	Youth Night at SHS Gym
Tu 08/18 10:00 am	Ebe & Helen Hinnenkamp Visitation
Tu 08/18 11:00 am	Ebe & Helen Hinnenkamp Funeral
We 08/19 7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Fr 08/21 7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr 08/21	No Adoration

May He Rest in Peace... Our parish offers prayers and sympathy to the family of †**Thomas "Tom" Blommel**, who passed away Tuesday, August 4. His funeral was celebrated here on Monday, August 10.

Welcome to our Parish...

◆We welcome Mason Geise to our parish.

◆We welcome Lily Geise to our parish.

Save the Date: 2027 Sacred Heart Parish Festival will be on Sunday, July 18, 2027.

Festival Chairs Needed Sacred Heart Parish is looking for a couple of people to help chair next year's festival. If you are able and willing to help, contact the office. Please prayerfully consider helping out with this important fundraiser for our parish.



Cemetery Clean-Up Day will be Monday, August 31, at 6:00 pm. In case of bad weather, it will be Tuesday, September 1 at 6:00 pm. Please bring lawn mowers, leaf blowers, weed trimmers, rakes, and brooms. Parishioners, it is important that you remove all items that are not permanently attached to the headstone or cement to make cleanup easier. They will otherwise be removed.

St. Mary's Cemetery offers a columbarium for the respectful placement of cremated remains. The first name plaques have recently been installed. Please contact the parish office for more information or to purchase a single or double niche.

Finance Council An open forum is available at the beginning of finance council meetings, which are usually on or near the fourth Thursday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm Wednesday, August 26. Please contact the parish office for more information or to be added to the agenda.

St. Mary - Meire Grove Mass Intention Openings are available on Wednesdays and Saturdays in Meire Grove through the end of November. Each family may schedule one Mass intention per year. Please contact the parish office to reserve a date. Thank you!

Rosary Rally at 10:00 am, Saturday, August 22 in Spring Hill at the church. All are welcome.



CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Physical Address: 650 Main Street
New Munich, MN 56356
Church Basement 320-837-5217

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,329.92
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,781.92
Plate	448.00
Building/Maintenance	100.00

Parish Events

Mo 08/17 6:30 pm Youth Night at SHS Gym
We 08/19 7:00 pm Confirmation Class - FR
Sa 08/22 No Individual Confessions

Stewardship as a Way of Life:

*"For the gifts and the call of God
are irrevocable."*

Romans 11:29

God has a special mission in mind for each of us. He has given us the gifts we need to accomplish that mission. We are called to be good stewards by using those gifts to do the work that He has planned for each of us. If we deny our gifts or fail to use them as God calls us to use them, then some part of His work will be left undone. Each of us has a part in God's salvation plan.

CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

Physical Address: 28905 County Road 17
St. Rosa, MN 56331
Church Basement 320-836-2537

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$1,689.43
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,299.08
Plate	290.35
Venezuela Earthquake Aid	25.00
SHS Endowment	50.00
Assumption Envelope	25.00

Parish Events

Su 08/16 11:00 am Baptism
Mo 08/17 6:30 pm Youth Night at SHS Gym
We 08/19 7:00 pm Confirmation Class - FR
Fr 08/21 7:30 pm Rosary

Welcome to our Parish... We welcome Gary & Christina Geise, and their children, Braeden and Parker, to our parish.

RAFFLE TICKET **Reminder Pink Cash Raffle Tickets**, if you have them sold, please return before Mass or at St. Rosa Lumber. There are still tickets available if anyone needs more to sell. Contact Lillian 320-293-8333. They all need to be returned by Saturday, August 29. We appreciate you selling and buying!!

Parish Festival News:

- ◆Parishioner Parish Festival envelopes/tickets are available to pick up in the gathering space of the church.
- ◆Albany Bakery is willing to make cakes and deliver them on Saturday prior to the festival if a parishioner prefers & orders. Please call them to order.



Prayer for Faith That You Will Bring Rain

Almighty Father, as the scorched land around me cries out for water, my faith is being tested. I want to believe in Your promise to provide. I do not want to doubt You, so fill my soul with belief. Let faith abound in my being, bringing honor to Your name. Just as You have assured me that You have forgiven my sins, so also give me this same assurance that You will bring water. Amen.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

Look for more information about these and other events in
Central Minnesota Catholic Magazine or Local Paper or Online

August 20, Thursday

◆Freeport Senior Citizens Meeting at 12:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All area seniors welcome. 500 cards and Bingo will be played.

◆Cream Can Supper at the Melrose Senior Center starting at 5:30 pm located in the lower level of the Melrose City Offices. Hosted by the Melrose Area Senior Citizens. There is a sign up sheet at the Melrose City Office. Payment of \$10 needs to be made at the time of sign up - there will be no refunds. **(Deadline to sign up is Tuesday, August 18.)**

August 21, Friday

◆Fish Fry at the American Legion Post 101, Melrose. Doors open at 3:00 pm. Serving from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Take-outs available.

August 24, Monday

◆American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Church of St. Mary, Melrose sponsored by Melrose Area High School from 12:00 - 6:00 pm.

August 25, Tuesday

◆Bologna Daze at Elrosa Bar & Lounge serving from 5:00 - 7:30 pm. Music by Jerry & Joyce Dance Band. \$12 all you can eat. Sponsored by: Elrosa Senior Citizens.

August 30, Sunday

◆28th Annual Quilt Bingo at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Center in Richmond, MN. Bingo starts at 6:30 pm. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Food available. Cost \$15 per packet good for 15 regular games. Must be 18 to play.

August 31, Monday

◆American Red Cross Blood Drive at Holy Spirit Catholic Church 2405 Walden Way, St. Cloud, MN from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Schedule your appointment online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Holy Spirit Catholic Church or call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment.

September 12, Saturday

◆Block Party at St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Cloud Join us as we kick off with Mass at 4:00 pm. After Mass, the festivities roll on with delicious food and ice-cold beverages and games for all ages. Live music will be Honkytonk Heartthrobs and Stone Road. But beyond the celebration, this event has a sacred purpose: sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, and ensuring our campus can support that mission. For more information, contact Kelly Bjork 320-251-1840.

September 13, Sunday

◆Breakfast at St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Morrill Parish Hall 33018 Nature Rd. Foley, MN. Adults \$15. Ages 5-10 \$8. Ages 4 and under free.

September 19, Saturday

◆Fall Family Festival at Holy Spirit Church 2405 Walden Way St. Cloud, MN 56301. The event starts at 4:00 pm with Mass. Brats, hot dogs and sides served from 5:00 - 7:00 pm free-will offering. Bingo for all ages at 6:30 pm. Karaoke, bounce house, train rides, gaga ball and more. All kids' activities are free!

FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: faithformation@catholic-centered.org

- **The First Night of Faith Formation** will be Wednesday, September 9. Parents are required to attend the parent meeting, and students will go off to their classroom to complete their Safe Environment course. Grades 1-6 will be from 6:00-7:00 pm, and Grades 7-10 will be from 7:00-8:00 pm.
- **11th Grade Confirmation Classes** with Father Dan start Wednesday, August 19 at 7:00 pm in the Nave of the Church. Confirmation Mass will be on Sunday, October 4, at 1:00 pm.
- **Catechist Meeting (Faith Formation Teachers)** will be Tuesday, August 18 at 6:30 pm in the Tri-Parish Office's dining room.
- **The First 5 Faith Formation Students** to properly & confidently introduce themselves to the Tri-Parish's new Director of Faith Formation & Social Media Specialist, Alexandra Kramer, will each receive a mystery prize. Ready, set, go!

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.org

- **Parent Meeting for Faith Formation** for Grades 1, 3rd-5th grade will be on Wednesday, August 26 from 5:00-6:00 pm at St. Mary's Church. Parent Meeting for grades 6-10 will be on Wednesday, August 26 from 6:10-7:00 pm at St. Mary's Church. One parent from each family is asked to attend.
- **First Faith Formation Classes** will be held Wednesday, September 9 at St. Mary's Catholic School. Grades 1 and 3-5 will be from 6:00-7:00 pm and grades 6-12 will be from 7:15-8:30 pm. 11th grade confirmation will meet at the church from 7:15-8:30 pm.
- **First Sacraments** will be held from 10:00-11:15 am starting on Sunday, September 13 at St. Mary Church. If you have questions about Faith Formation, please let Mark Kociemba know at faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com or at 320-256-9501.
- **We are Looking for about 5 Adults and 5 Youth** to help with the Fall Festival on Sunday, September 13. If you are interested, please let Mark Kociemba know.
- **Faith Formation Registration** It is not too late to turn in your Faith Formation registration forms. We want to see all of our youth participating in faith formation. Forms can be found on the Faith Formation table by the office or in the kiosks in the church. They can also be found on the website or by emailing Mark Kociemba or call 320-256-9501.
- **Parent & Youth Advisory Committee/Board** If you would like to be part of the parent advisory committee or the youth advisory board for faith formation or youth ministry, please contact Mark Kociemba.
- **Our New Faith Formation Program Life Teen** requires volunteers to help lead small group and be present for our young people. Please consider helping out with faith formation and youth ministry. If you have questions please email Mark Kociemba at faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com or call 256-9501. You are needed to help us lead our youth closer to Christ.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tri-Parish Youth Ministry:

Contact Information: youthministry@catholic-centered.org

- **Youth Night** Monday, September 7 at 6:30 pm in the Sacred Heart School Gym!

St. Mary's Youth Ministry:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

- **First Youth Group Meeting** on Sunday, September 13 from 10:00-11:15 am at St. Mary's School for Youth in grades 6 - 12. Please let Mark Kociemba know if you are interested in being part of the Youth Group by emailing Faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com or calling 320-256-9501.



Divine Humiliation

cont.'d from pg 1

The location of this encounter is also significant. It took place in the region of Tyre and Sidon, in modern-day Lebanon—a Gentile territory known for its Greek-speaking population and pagan customs. The woman is specifically identified as a Canaanite, evoking the memory of Israel's ancient enemies. And yet, it is precisely this outsider—this woman of seemingly little spiritual privilege—who becomes a model of the faith the chosen people were meant to embody.

She first approaches Jesus, crying out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." By calling Him, "Son of David," she reveals her belief in His messianic identity. But what does Jesus do? Nothing. He appears to ignore her—not because He is displeased or uncaring, but because He is testing her faith, knowing full well she will persevere and shine.

God often allows similar experiences in the lives of the faithful. It's easy to assume that if we follow Christ, we will be shielded from difficulty. On the contrary, one of the most powerful ways God forms His saints is by allowing them to undergo trials. These trials, far from being signs of abandonment, are invitations to heroic virtue. They are divine tests. And God never permits more than we can endure by His grace.

If that seems confusing or difficult to accept, we need only look to the Son of God Himself. Though Jesus was perfect, it was the Father's will that He endure the deepest depths of humiliation: rejection, persecution, suffering, and death. Through this ultimate "divine pedagogy," the Son not only conquered sin and death but also taught us how to follow Him—by transforming our humiliation into humility, our weakness into strength, and our suffering into sanctification. In this way, God's power is made perfect in our weakness (cf. [2 Corinthians 12:9](#)).

As the conversation with the woman unfolds, Jesus continues to appear distant, yet He knows she will not give up. Her faith and her love for her daughter drive her to persevere. She humbly persists through every trial, and in doing so, she wins grace—not only for herself and her daughter, but also for the disciples who witnessed the exchange and for all who read her story today.

Reflect today on the ways God may be inviting you to a deeper faith through silence, delay, or trial. Could He be calling you, like this woman, to heroic humility and steadfast trust? Embrace those moments of divine testing, for they are often the very means by which His greatest works of grace are accomplished—in you and through you.

*Divine Teacher and Guide, You teach us through Your Word,
Your actions, and even through Your silence. When You are
silent in the midst of trials and tribulations, grant me the grace
to persevere in faith, trusting that You will never abandon me.
Help me to understand that every trial You permit is an
invitation to deeper trust, so that Your grace and glory may be
revealed in me, and through me, shine forth to others.
Jesus, I trust in You.*

mycatholic.life

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
PRINCIPAL: Kristie Harren
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Amy Van Beek
SJS BOARD:
 Myranda Beuning, Bethanie Ettle,
 Ben Kalthoff, Mike Moscho,
 Lindsay Frieler, and Chris Klaphake
 www.shsfreeport.org School Phone: 320-836-2591
 Toddler Center Phone: 320-836-2585



PASTOR: Fr. Mitchell Bechtold
PRINCIPAL: Autumn Nelson
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Briana Worms
SMS BOARD:
 Jenn Lubarski, Cindy Hemmesch,
 Jake Primus, Becky Hukriede,
 Lindsey Gruber, and Greta Rademacher
 Phone: 320-256-4257
 www.smsmelrosemn.org



PASTOR: Fr. Mitchell Bechtold
PRINCIPAL: Hope Klein
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Kristen Pattinson
SJS BOARD:
 Amber Bueckers, Kathy Gilk, Adam
 Kalthoff, Kate Kelzer, Heidi Meyer,
 Trista Roelike, and Jenny Wilson
 Phone: 320-987-3133
 www.sjsaschool.org

♥**REMINDER:** SHS will be purchasing most school supplies in bulk, watch for a list soon of the few items that parents can pick up.

♥**SHS is Hiring** part-time individuals to work in our before and after school program. Hours will be from 7:00-8:00 am and 3:00-5:30 pm Monday-Friday and also when there is no school. Interested applicants must be 16 years of age and must be able to help with homework and have a genuine interest in caring for children. Applicants can fill out an application at SHS.

♥**The School Office Will Be Open Periodically** throughout the summer. If you need something, please send a fast direct message. Or call the office at 320-836-2591.

♦**Scrip will be available** for pick up starting Sunday, August 23.

♦**Open House for Parents and Students** is Tuesday, August 25, from 4:00 - 7:00 pm.

♦**The First Day of School for All** preschool through 6th grade students will be Tuesday, September 1.

♦**SJSA has openings in grades preschool through 6th grade** for the 2026-2027 school year. If you are looking for small class sizes in a caring and faith-based environment, check us out! If you would like to visit the school, call the office at 320-987-3133 or email Hope at sjsahopek@gmail.com.

♦**Summer Office Hours** will vary. Please call 320-987-3133 and leave a message or email Hope at sjsahopek@gmail.com.



Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

08/09	\$25	Pearl Peterson - Audubon
08/10	\$25	Lori Lemm - Avon
08/11	\$25	Elizabeth Mayleban - Scottsdale, AZ
08/12	\$25	Corisa Blommel - Freeport
08/13	\$25	Judy Rothstein - Melrose
08/14	\$25	Mary Bauer - Melrose
08/15	\$40	Theresia Nathe - Freeport

Public Rosary...

We have much to pray for and even more to be thankful for.
All are invited and welcome!

St. Mary - Melrose

- Wednesday: 1:00 pm
- Thursday (Spanish): 6:30 pm (Except the 1st Thursday)

St. Mary - Meire Grove

- Monday: 7:00 am
- Saturday: 4:30 pm

Spring Hill

- Thursday: 7:30 am

Sacred Heart, Freeport

- Tuesday: 7:45 am
- Wednesday: 7:45 am
- Thursday: 7:45 am
- Friday: 7:45 am
- Sunday: 7:30 am

Immaculate Conception, New Munich

- Saturday: 3:30 pm

St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa

- Friday: 7:30 pm
- Sunday: 9:30 am



Prayer Requests...

Please call the parish office to be added to this list.

Banns of Matrimony:

II Madison Westerman♥Grant Revermann, 8/29 - SR

For the Sick: Pat Bushman, Carol, Bethany Downs, Cali Dickhoff, Dolores Notch, Dorothy Schneider, Joyce Klaphake Hauser, Ken VanderWeyst, Len Frieze, Marv Stueve, Michelle Russel.

Contact Persons for Prayer Line Requests:

Sacred Heart:	
Judy Caveny	320-248-8830
Immaculate Conception:	
Bernice Zink	320-837-5321
St. Rose of Lima:	
Kayla Harren	320-333-8461
St. Mary's (Spring Hill)	
Sharon Schulzetenberg	320-248-7702
St. Mary's (Melrose)	
	320-256-3878

The Scriptures This Week

Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II

Mo	Weekday Ez 24:15-23	Mt 19:16-22
Tu	Weekday Ez 28:1-10	Mt 19:23-30
We	Weekday (<i>Saint John Eudes, Priest</i>) Ez 34:1-11	Mt 20:1-16
Th	Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church (<i>Memorial</i>) Ez 36:23-28	Mt 22:1-14
Fr	Saint Pius X, Pope (<i>Memorial</i>) Ez 37:1-14	Mt 22:34-40
Sa	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (<i>Memorial</i>) Ez 43:1-7ab	Mt 23:1-12
Next Sunday - Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	Is 22:19-23	Rom 11:33-36
		Mt 16:13-20



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Save the Date: 2027 Sacred Heart Parish Festival will be on Sunday, July 18, 2027.

"Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace" is the theme of the St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Annual Fall Conference to be held Saturday, September 19, from 8:00 am - 2:15 pm at Holy Family Parish in Belle Prairie, featuring Fr. Tim Tran as the speaker. The day will also include Mass and a documentary film on the life of Archbishop Fulton Sheen. Registration fee is \$25 by September 10; \$30 after September 10 or at the door. Send registration fee to: St. Cloud DCCW c/o Nita Hayes, 16695 Jewel Road, Little Falls, MN 56345. For questions, call Nita at 320-630-0388.

Adore at George! Outdoor Eucharistic Adoration at Lake George 1101 7th St S, St. Cloud, MN on the south end of the lake with Fr. Derek Wiechmann on Tuesday, August 25, starting at 3:00 pm with Exposition, reading, homily and testimony, and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Silent Prayer, prayer teams, and confession will be available at 4:00 pm. Praise and worship will begin at 6:00 pm followed by Benediction and closing prayer at 7:15 pm. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and a bottle of water. Unless there is lightning, the event will happen rain or shine!



2026 Rural Life Celebration This year's Rural Life Celebration will take place on Sunday, August 16 from 1:30 - 5:00 pm at the Moenkedick Family Farm (38153 - 431st Street, Perham, MN) in rural Perham. The event will include Mass on the farm with Bishop Neary, the annual Catholic Century Farm and Rural Business Awards presentations, refreshments, and family-friendly activities. This is a rain or shine event. In the case of severe weather, the event will be held at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Perham.

Are You Feeling Like Your Cross is Getting Too Heavy to Carry? Are you in need of Simon of Cyrene to come to your aid?



CENTRAL MINNESOTA KOINONIA is a weekend Catholic retreat program that is designed to help you carry your cross. The next retreat is scheduled for September 18 - 20, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Cost of the weekend is \$70. Go to www.centralmnkoinonia.org for more information and to register for retreats.

Embroidered Dish Towels Do you need a bridal shower or wedding gift? Or do you need a new set of dish towels to use at home? Sacred Heart Parish has embroidered dish towels available for sale. They are \$35 for a set of seven and can be purchased at the Freeport Senior Center on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 5:00 pm or by calling Dolores Notch at 320-836-2450.

Low-Gluten Hosts are available for individuals who have a gluten intolerance. Please note, these hosts still contain gluten, less than 0.001% gluten, and are not completely gluten-free. If you would like to have more information about the low gluten hosts, please contact the Parish Office in Freeport or Melrose. When you are planning to have a low gluten host for Mass, it will be necessary to have the host within a pyx (the parish can provide a pyx) and placed upon the altar for consecration. You will need to let Father know that you are present prior to Mass, and that you will be in his Communion line.



Hearts of Mercy - Bishop's Annual Appeal:

The Diocesan TV Mass has been a lifeline for the homebound. Because of your generosity, the diocese broadcasts TV Mass weekly in 60 counties. It also is sent to nursing homes and available to countless others online. Other ministries of the Appeal support faith formation, family life, our Catholic schools, multicultural ministries, evangelization, and vocational discernment. Will you help keep these ministries strong? Visit www.stedio.org/annualappeal.

Healing the Whole Person The Eight-Part Group Video Series

by Dr. Bob Schuchts and Sr. Miriam James Heidland. Come experience eight talks, community reflections, and healing and restoration. Join Fr. Greg Paffel and St. Stanislaus Church, Bowlus for this three-day weekend retreat - October 23, 24 & 25. Friday (2:00 - 9:00 pm), Saturday (9:00 am - 3:30 pm), & Sunday (starts with weekend Mass at 10:00 am - 4:30 pm). Early bird registration by Monday, October 12 - \$75. Starting Tuesday, October 13, registration will be \$100. If you have any questions about the retreats, contact Janice at 320-640-7623 or at healing@spiritandsaints.org. Registration for Bowlus can also be done at: <https://forms.gle/NZkuqkG6xUnXy4mw7>. Please note: This is a licensed video series used with the permission of the JPII Healing Center. This is not a JPII Healing Center event.

Marriage & Natural Family Planning:

A Divine Design! Natural Family Planning (NFP) is natural, effective, and healthy. It cooperates with God's design for married love, empowering couples to responsibly plan their family while strengthening their bond. A First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method will be offered in Sauk Centre on Thursday, August 20 and Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's Church or CentraCare - Sauk Centre Hospital. For more information, or to register, contact Jill and Isaac Uphus at uphus.nfp@gmail.com or 320-290-8751. The class is approximately 1½ to 2 hours long. *Note: Most insurance plans cover the cost of NFP Instruction and follow-up!



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