



# ONE IN FAITH Area Catholic Community of

St. Mary - Melrose, Sacred Heart - Freeport

Immaculate Conception - New Munich

St. Rose of Lima - St. Rosa, St. Michael - Spring Hill

St. Andrew - Greenwald, St. John - Meire Grove

## The Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026

Fr. Daniel Walz, Pastor  
Fr. Mitchell Bechtold, Pastor  
Fr. Oswaldo Roche, Parochial Vicar

### Melrose - Spring Hill - Greenwald - Meire Grove 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: 320-256-9512

mlbechtold@outlook.com

Fr. Oswaldo Roche: 320-256-9513

frosvaldo@stmarysofmelrose.com

Office Email: pam@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

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](mailto:bulletin@catholic-centered.org)

### Confession Times

- ◆Fridays 7:45 am Sacred Heart
- ◆Saturdays 3:30 pm St. Andrew
- ◆Saturdays 3:30 pm Immaculate Conception
- ◆Saturdays 4:30 pm St. Mary
- ◆Sundays 11:00 am St. Mary
- ◆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.



## AN INDELIBLE SPIRITUAL MARK

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, *"I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?"* Jesus said to him in reply, *"Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."* Then he allowed him.

Matthew 3:13-15

John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets, entrusted with the mission to immediately prepare the way for the Messiah. Today's feast marks a pivotal transition from the Old Law to the New. Prior to Jesus' baptism, John's mission was in full motion. With Jesus' baptism, the mission of the Old Testament prophets is fulfilled, and the New Law of grace begins.

Why did Jesus enter the waters of baptism? He was sinless and had no need of repentance. Yet, in His divine wisdom, Jesus chose to be baptized to sanctify the waters, opening the gateway of grace for all who would follow. By entering the waters of baptism, Jesus set a precedent. Every Christian who enters the waters of baptism meets our Lord there, sharing in His life of grace.

As we reflect on Christ's baptism today, we are invited to consider our own. Most of us were baptized as infants and have no memory of the event. Others came to baptism later in life, fully aware of the grace they were receiving. Regardless of when it occurred, baptism's effects are profound and enduring. That singular moment of sanctification forever changed us, and its transformative power remains active within us.

Through baptism, Jesus meets us under the waters. When baptism is performed by full immersion, it powerfully symbolizes the reality of this encounter. We enter the waters of repentance, as John offered, but we emerge united with Christ. Just as the Father's voice declared at Jesus' baptism, "You are my beloved Son...", so too does the Father continually speak to us after our baptism, affirming our identity as His beloved children. The Holy Spirit descends upon us, and we are offered every gift of the Spirit, provided our hearts remain open.

Baptism occurs only once in our lives and imprints on our souls an "indelible spiritual mark (character)" (see Catechism of the Catholic Church #1272 and 1274). This mark configures us to Christ and signifies our permanent belonging to Him and His church.

Continued on page 3

## ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ JANUARY 12 - 18

## ADORATION

**ST. MARY - Melrose**

Mo 6:30 pm **Misa en Español**  
 †Juan Luis y †Martina de la Cruz  
 Tu 8:00 am †Stacy Meyer  
 We 8:00 am †Francis & †Marilyn Uphus  
 Th 8:00 am †Ralph Muellner  
 \*Fr 8:30 am **SM School Mass**  
 †Colleen Butte  
 Sa 5:00 pm †Luverne Hinnenkamp  
 \*Su 9:00 am †Veronica, †Elmer, & †Tom Ecker  
 Su 11:30 am **Misa en Español**  
 †Gilberto Orozco Vazquez

**SACRED HEART - Freeport**

We 8:15 am **SH School Mass**  
 †Fred, †Jerry, & †Lorene Pfau  
 Fr 8:15 am †Viola Zwack-Beutz  
 Su 8:00 am †Judy Meyer

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich**

Th 8:15 am †Deceased/Living Members of  
 the Brang & Olmscheid Families  
 Sa 4:00 pm †Viola Olmscheid

**ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa**

Tu 8:15 am †Greg Hartung  
 Su 10:00 am For the People

**ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill**

Tu 8:00 am †Deceased/Living Members of  
 St. Mary's Mission Society, SH  
 Su 10:00 am †Deceased/Living Members of  
 St. Mary's Mission Society, SH

**ST. ANDREW - Greenwald**

Th 8:00 am **SJSA School Mass**  
 †Karylann Boecker  
 Sa 4:00 pm For the People

**ST. JOHN - Meire Grove**

We 8:00 am †Deceased/Living Relatives of  
 Ray & Carol Schneider  
 Su 8:00 am †Clarence Shaefer

**St. Rose of Lima - St. Rosa**

First Tuesday of the month  
 7:00 - 8:00 am

**Immaculate Conception - New Munich**

First Thursday of the month  
 7:00 - 8:00 am

**St. Mary - Melrose**

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

**Sacred Heart - Freeport**

Adoration is suspended  
until further notice due to painting  
of the interior of the church.



**\*Mass will be livestreamed.**

Visit: [oneinfaith.org](https://oneinfaith.org) for the YouTube link.

## ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

**Parish News:**

~ St. Mary ~ St. Michael ~ St. Andrew ~ St. John ~

• **Thank You** to all who donated toward the Christmas Flowers and Environment in memory of a loved one. Your generosity added great beauty to our churches this Christmas season. A list of those remembered by these gifts can be found in the back of the churches.



**Updating Contact Information** Please notify the respective parish office to add, remove, or modify phone numbers, addresses, and any other information that has changed. If you are receiving contribution envelopes and do not wish to, or have not been receiving them and want to, please contact the respective parish office.

**Honoring Marriage Day** is Saturday, May 2 at St. Francis Xavier parish, Sartell MN for all married couples. If you are celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 & 60 plus years of marriage in 2026, and would like to receive an invitation to this Mass, please contact the parish office in Melrose or Freeport by Tuesday, January 27.

**Prayer Requests for the Sick** If you or a loved one would like to be added to the prayer list, please email [bulletin@catholic-centered.org](mailto:bulletin@catholic-centered.org) or call one of the parish offices.



**Bulletin Advertisements** Thank you to all who have chosen to advertise on the back of our One In Faith Area Catholic Community bulletin for the upcoming year! It is greatly appreciated, and we hope it is beneficial to your business as well. There are still spots open on the back of the bulletin. If you are interested in advertising or have questions, please contact Amy Hoeschen at 320-836-2143.



**Time to Expand Your Circle of Friends?** Try a TEC Retreat. "God has a wonderful way of connecting the dots in our lives to people that will honor who we are, right where we are" (Tiffany Wilson). A TEC retreat will

expand your circle of friends with those who will lift you up, support you, encourage you, and bring you closer to God. Come meet some new friends. Register for one of our three-day TEC retreats. [www.cmtc.org](http://www.cmtc.org). Together Encountering Christ (TEC) is open to both youth (age 16+) as well as adults and is located just north of Little Falls. The next TEC Retreats are January 17-19 and February 14-16.

**Parish News:**

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

- **Blessed Epiphany Chalk** Please remember the chalk is blessed. After using the chalk, please return it to the church or Tri-Parish Office, or bury it in the ground.
- **Sponsor Couples Needed** The Tri-Parish is looking for married couples who would be willing to assist with mentoring engaged couples to help them prepare for a Christian marriage. Typically you would mentor one couple a year, at most, meeting with them 4-5 times prior to their wedding. Training is provided by the diocese. Please prayerfully consider this ministry. If you are interested, please contact the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport.

**Currently Accepting Nominations** SJSA school board is taking nominations for the School Supporter Award which will be given at the Steak & Wine Dinner & Auction on Saturday, February 7 at the Greenwald Pub. The Supporter Award is for individuals who have made a great impact on SJSA or who have been involved with the school in a positive way. Nominations are open until Friday, January 16. Please call the school at 320-987-3133 or Kathy Gilk at 320-290-6603.

**Diocesan Festival of Families on Sunday, February 22, at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell:**

Join other families from around the diocese for a day celebrating the family. Cost is only \$25 per family (no matter the size), and will include a free carnival, family activities, lunch, age-appropriate activities and Mass. Register now at: <https://stcdio.org/event/2026-festival-of-families/>



**Life Awareness** is a retreat program for single Catholic women and men, ages 18-30, interested in learning more about serving our Church and world as future priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and lay ministers/missioners. Join us from Friday, February 20 through Saturday, February 21 at Saint Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minn., as we explore this question and others together in Christ's company. Please register by Wednesday, February 18 at <https://sbm.osb.org/community/vocations/life-awareness-retreat/>. For more information, contact Sister Laura Suhr at [lsuhr001@csbsju.edu](mailto:lsuhr001@csbsju.edu) or 320-363-7100.

**CHURCH OF ST. MARY**

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

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

<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$16,524.80</b>
Regular Adult Offering .....	8,636.00
Plate/Loose .....	920.80
Designated Funds .....	4,914.00
Solemnity of Mary .....	2,054.00

**St. Mary's Calendar Raffle**

01-01	\$75	Tina & Jamie Terres, Melrose
01-02	\$25	Fran Laumeyer, Melrose
01-03	\$25	Pedro Hernandez, Melrose
01-04	\$25	Brain & Beth Kluempke, Melrose
01-05	\$25	Joe & Tricia Klaphake, Melrose
01-06	\$25	Barry Hellermann, Melrose
01-07	\$25	Lisa Youger, Rice
01-08	\$25	Tricia Klaphake, Melrose
01-09	\$25	Josie Tomsche (Carla Van Heel), Melrose
01-10	\$25	Joann Tschida, Melrose



**Christmas Take Down** Christmas decorations at St. Mary's will be removed on Monday, January 12 starting at 3:30 pm. Help is needed with removal of garland, wreaths, figurines and clean up of pine needles.

**Now Hiring!** Our parish is looking for a part-time Bilingual Administrative Assistant to provide administrative and clerical support, assist with communications, and serve as a friendly, welcoming first point of contact for parishioners and visitors—both in person and by phone. Fluency in Spanish and English is required to support our diverse and vibrant Catholic community. To learn more or apply, please contact the parish office.



**Adoration** Join us at St. Mary's every Saturday for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Confessions are typically available during this time, and everyone is welcome to attend.

**St. Mary's School Hosts an Open Gym** for students in grades K-6 every third Saturday of the month from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Parents are welcome! **Please join us for the first one on Saturday, January 17!**

**St. Mary's Calendar Raffle** Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the church by buying calendar raffle tickets. A total of 1,379 tickets were sold, \$12,000 in prizes will be distributed throughout the year, and the church profited over \$14,000!

◆New on Last Year's Flyer was a checkbox where one could indicate whether they wished for the bottom portion of the ticket to be mailed back to them. Many people checked the box, which allowed us to save significantly on postage. Only 55 letters needed to be mailed; 17 people received the stubs by email; and 36 by text message. Thank you!

**Thank You to the Calendar Raffle Committee** for all of the time they put in to make this annual fundraiser so successful.

**Honoring First Responders** St. Mary's will honor Melrose firefighters, police officers, and EMTs on Saturday, January 17, at the 5:00 pm Mass. Those community members and their families will process in as a group, sit together, and receive a special blessing during the Mass.

**CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART**

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

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

<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$16,111.61</b>
Regular Adult Offering .....	5,628.54
Plate .....	470.00
Votive .....	404.00
Building/Maintenance .....	175.00
School Support .....	5.00
Epiphany Supplies .....	320.07
Solemnity of Mary Plate .....	114.00
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes .....	1,915.00
Christmas Envelopes .....	460.00
Central MN Catholic Magazine .....	50.00
Sacred Heart School Endowment .....	500.00
Church Painting .....	6,050.00
Thanksgiving .....	10.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes .....	10.00

**Parish Events**

Mo 01/12	Church Painting Continues
Tu 01/13 2:45 pm	SHS Strings Practice
We 01/14 6:00 pm	Faith Formation Grades 1-6
We 01/14 7:00 pm	Faith Formation Grades 7-10
Fr 01/16 7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr 01/16	<b>NO</b> Adoration

**Church Repainting** The interior of the church will be repainted beginning January 5, 2026. All Masses after that date at Sacred Heart will take place in the church basement. Donations are being accepted to help cover the cost of this project.



**Children's Liturgy** There will be no children's liturgy while the church is being repainted. Watch the bulletin for when we are able to start back up again.

**AN INDELIBLE SPIRITUAL MARK**

Cont'd. from page 1

It cannot be lost or removed, even by mortal sin. However, while this character endures forever, the state of sanctifying grace within our souls can be lost through mortal sin. In such cases, the grace of baptism is restored through the Sacrament of Reconciliation in which our souls are once again cleansed and brought back into full communion with God. Marked as members of Christ's Body, we are continually disposed to receive sanctifying grace through the other sacraments, as long as we remain in a state of grace. Baptism accomplishes this disposition, enabling us to participate fully in the life of grace that flows from Christ.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, reflect today on your own baptism. You are forever marked as a child of God. You encountered our Lord under the waters of baptism, were cleansed of all sin, and were filled with sanctifying grace. Though sin diminishes or even extinguishes that grace when it is mortal, the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores it, and the Eucharist and other sacraments increase it. Always return to your baptismal grace, seeking to live out your identity as God's son or daughter, as this sacred mark intends

*My sanctifying Lord, through the waters of baptism, I encountered You and received the abundant grace You bestowed upon me. Please help me to keep my soul free from sin and to live with the true dignity of a child of God. Thank You for meeting me under those waters. May I remain with You, growing ever closer to You by the ongoing gift of all the Sacraments. Jesus, I trust in You.*

mycatholic.life



**CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

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

## ♦♦♦♦ Weekly Offering ♦♦♦♦

Total.....	\$5,806.83
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,641.33
Plate .....	467.00
Votive .....	62.00
Building/Maintenance.....	217.50
Solemnity of Mary Plate .....	279.00
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes ....	1,655.00
Christmas Envelopes .....	375.00
Religious Retirement .....	10.00
Central MN Catholic Magazine ...	50.00
Thanksgiving .....	50.00

**Parish Events**

We 01/14 6:00 pm FF Grades 1-6 - FR  
We 01/14 7:00 pm FF Grades 7-10 - FR  
Sa 01/17 3:30 pm Individual Confessions

**Elevator and Expansion Update:**

The parish has an outstanding loan to the New Munich Investors in the amount of \$100,000. Please consider contributing to help pay off the final loan to make the church handicap accessible. Thank you to all those who have donated.

**Winter Raffle Winners** The list of raffle winners can be found below, on the Tri-Parish website and Facebook page, or by contacting the Parish Office in Freeport. Thank you to all who donated toward the raffle and purchased tickets.


**Immaculate  
Conception Parish  
2026 Winter Cash  
Raffle Winners:**

**\$10,000** Brooks Holdvogt  
**\$2,500** Sharon Beckers  
**\$1,500** Brooks Holdvogt  
**\$1,000** Jane Johnson  
**\$1,000** Steve Moll Sr.  
**\$500** Jim & Carol Frerichs  
**\$500** Annette Roering  
**\$250** Joe Sonneker  
**\$250** Lucy Rieland  
**\$250** Stacy Hoppe  
**\$250** Tom Zink  
**\$250** Karen Koltes  
**\$250** Jessica Wolbeck  
**\$250** Joe Hennen  
**\$250** Brandon Arnzen  
**\$200** Stephanie Mandler  
**\$200** Mike Funk  
**\$200** Patrick Boeckers  
**\$200** Rosie Ehler  
**\$200** Kevin & Barb Zierden  
**\$200** Kevin & Mariah Klaphake  
**\$200** Rosie Ehler  
**\$200** Ken Meyer  
**\$200** Brittany Van Drehle  
**\$200** John Arnzen

**CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA**

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

## ♦♦♦♦ Weekly Offering ♦♦♦♦

Total.....	\$6,972.46
Regular Adult Offering.....	4,647.46
Plate .....	321.00
Votive .....	32.00
School Support .....	60.00
Epiphany Supplies .....	89.00
Solemnity of Mary Plate .....	63.00
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes ....	840.00
Christmas Envelopes .....	920.00

**Parish Events**

Tu 01/13 9:00 am Quilting  
Tu 01/13 7:00 pm Choir Practice  
We 01/14 6:00 pm FF Grades 1-6 - FR  
We 01/14 7:00 pm FF Grades 7-10 - FR  
Fr 01/16 7:30 pm Rosary  
Sa 01/07 11:00 am Private Event

**Christmas Decoration Take Down** will be Tuesday, January 13 starting at 5:00 pm. Any/all help is much appreciated. Thank you to those that help with the set up and take down.

**Thank You** On behalf of the St. Rose Christian Women and Options for Women in Sauk Centre, thank you for your Gifts for Baby Jesus. Your generous donations are very much appreciated by the families served in Central Minnesota.



**Quilting** has begun in the church basement. All are welcome. Lunch provided. We will likely be quilting well into April.

**Food For Thought...** The St. Rose Christian Women are doing a cash fund drive during the month of January for Food for Thought. This is a program to provide food to local students who do not always have adequate access to food over the weekends. Please send donations to St. Rose Christian Women c/o Jan Herzog PO Box 155 Freeport, MN 56331.

**Vice President Needed** The St. Rose Christian Women are still in need of a Vice President. Please thoughtfully consider signing up for this 2 year term.

**CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL**

Physical Address: 102 St. Michael Avenue N.  
Spring Hill, MN 56352  
Church Basement 320-987-3405

## ♦♦♦♦ Weekly Offering ♦♦♦♦

Total .....	\$3,884.27
Regular Adult Offering.....	556.00
Children .....	3.00
Plate/Loose .....	812.00
Fuel Fund .....	170.00
Maintenance Fund .....	625.00
Christmas .....	1,550.00
Solemnity of Mary .....	168.27

**Liturgical Ministries**

**Sunday, January 18 - 10:00 am**

(S) Stella & Jameson Schoenberg  
(L) Lisa Wuertz  
(U) Allen Lieser & Jeff Lieser  
(EM) (B) Allen Lieser  
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
(Sacristan) Kathy Welle  
(RL) Marilyn Gruber  
(CC) Amy Orbeck & Marvin Rademacher  
(HK: January 11 - 24) Kathy (Chico) Welle, Kathy (Ron) Welle, & Tia Welle

**Coffee & Rolls**

St. Michael's Catholic United Financial is sponsoring Coffee & Rolls after the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, January 18 in the church basement. Everyone is invited, please join us!

**The Scriptures This Week**

**Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II**

<b>Mo</b>	<b>Weekday</b> (First Week in Ordinary Time)
	1 Sm 1:1-8 Mk 1:14-20
<b>Tu</b>	<b>Weekday</b>
	(Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church)
	1 Sm 1:9-20 Mk 1:21-28
<b>We</b>	<b>Weekday</b>
	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Mk 1:29-39
<b>Th</b>	<b>Weekday</b>
	1 Sm 4:1-11 Mk 1:40-45
<b>Fr</b>	<b>Weekday</b>
	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Mk 2:1-12
<b>Sa</b>	<b>Saint Anthony, Abbot</b> (Memorial)
	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a Mk 2:13-17
<b>Next Sunday -</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
	Is 49:3, 5-6 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:29-34

**Prayer Requests...**

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

**For the Sick:** Len Frieze, Dave Humbert, Fr. Roger Klassen, Michelle Russel

**Contact Persons for Prayer Line Requests:**

Sacred Heart: <i>Judy Caveny</i>	320-248-8830
Immaculate Conception: <i>Bernice Zink</i>	320-837-5321
St. Rose of Lima: <i>Kayla Harren</i>	320-333-8461
St. Michael: <i>Sharon Schulzetenberg</i>	320-248-7702
St. Mary's	320-256-3878

**CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW**

*Physical Address:* 211 W 2nd Avenue N.  
Greenwald, MN 56335  
*Church Basement 320-987-3160*

## ♦♦♦♦ Weekly Offering ♦♦♦♦

Total .....	\$2,010.00
Regular Adult Offering .....	440.00
Plate/Loose .....	1,115.75
Votives .....	18.00
School Support .....	105.00
Solemnity of Mary .....	231.25
Christmas .....	100.00

**Liturgical Ministries****Saturday, January 17 - 4:00 pm**

(S) Sophia Kasper & Lydia Kasper  
(L) Linda Heinze  
(U) Steve Gilk & Peter Heinze  
(GB) Jason & Angie Barten  
(EM) (B) Mary Opatrny  
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
(HK - Jan.) \*Sheryl Braun, Kate Buermann,  
Sara Dehmer, & Rita Eveslage

**CHURCH OF ST. JOHN**

*Physical Address:* 20 State Highway 4 S.  
Meire Grove, MN 56352  
*Church Basement 320-987-3631*

## ♦♦♦♦ Weekly Offering ♦♦♦♦

Total .....	\$4,256.50
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,570.00
Children's .....	0.50
Plate/Loose .....	913.00
Votives .....	108.00
Cemetery .....	350.00
Maintenance Fund .....	100.00
Solemnity of Mary .....	560.00
Christmas .....	620.00
Christmas Crib .....	35.00

**Liturgical Ministries****Sunday, January 18 - 8:00 am**

(S) Cole Funk & Luke Funk  
(L) Karen Meyer  
(U) Dennis Schmiesing & Don Schneider  
(GB) Jim & Kay Leukam  
(EM) Abby Zenzen & Daryl Zenzen  
(HK - January) \*Ruth Klaphake, Mary  
Kay Leukam, Theresa Loxtercamp, Sheri  
Luetmer, Irene Marthaler, & Char Meyer

**HISPANIC MINISTRY**

**Festival de Familias  
Diocesana de las  
Familias el 22 de  
febrero en la Iglesia de  
St. Francis Xavier en**

**Sartell:** Reúnase a otras familias de toda la diócesis para un día de celebración familiar. El costo es de solo \$25 por familia (sin importar el tamaño) e incluirá un carnaval gratuito, actividades familiares, almuerzo, actividades según la edad y misa. Inscribirse ahora en: <https://stcdio.org/event/2026-festival-of-families/>

**Habrá Adoración al Santísimo** cada Primer Jueves del Mes a las 6:30 pm.


**One In Faith ACC Catholic Schools  
Dinner & Auction Fundraisers**


♦SHS 31st Annual Wine & Dine Dinner and Auction will be held on Saturday, January 24. We will have an online Silent Auction (more info to follow in the next few weeks) as well as a live auction on the night of the event. The fundraiser will also include a \$100 cash raffle with a top prize of \$20,000. Dinner and Raffle tickets are available from all SHS families as well as at the school and parish offices. We will also be selling after Masses in the Tri-Parish this weekend as well as January 17-18.



♦35th Annual Steak & Wine Dinner & Auction to support St. John's - St. Andrew's Catholic School will be Saturday, February 7, at The Greenwald Pub. Tickets cost \$35 and are now available at the school, Meire Grove Gas & Grocery, Freeport State Bank in Greenwald, as well as the night of the event at the Pub. Donny Brang will be playing live music at the event. Dinner choices are walleye, steak, or chicken cordon bleu with rice, all served with baked potato and salad bar.



♦The 24th St. Mary's Annual Auction 4 Education will be held on Saturday, March 7, at the American Legion in Melrose. Doors open at 5:00 pm. The night will start with a game of Family Feud. A free-will offering meal will be served from 5:00-8:00pm. Pot O' Gold \$100 Raffle tickets can be purchased after Masses and are available at St. Mary's School & Parish Office, All Stars Sports Bar & Grill, Freeport State Bank - Melrose, Hennen Lumber, Kraemer Lumber, Magnifi Financial - Melrose, Melrose Bowl, Some Like It Hot, and St. Rosa Lumber. Winners will be drawn on Saturday, March 7 at the Legion. We will again use our online platform to bid for silent auction items, while the classroom projects will be auctioned live in person at the Legion. Please come dressed in your best Shamrocks and Shenanigans outfit. Visit our auction website for more details.

**Join us at each of these fundraisers for a great meal and lots of fun.  
All are welcome!**

**Public Rosary...**

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

**St. Mary, Melrose**

- Tuesday: 7:00 am
- Wednesday: 1:00 pm
- Thursday (Spanish): 6:30 pm  
(Except the 1st Thursday)

**Sacred Heart, Freeport**

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

**Immaculate Conception,  
New Munich**

- Thursday: 7:45 am
- Saturday: 3:30 pm

**St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa**

- Tuesday: 7:45 am
- Friday: 7:30 pm
- Sunday: 9:30 am

**St. Michael, Spring Hill**

- Tuesday: 7:30 am
- Sunday: 9:30 am

**St. Andrew, Greenwald**

- Thursday: 7:40 am
- Saturday: 3:40 pm

**St. John the Baptist,  
Meire Grove**

- Sunday: 7:30 am
- Monday: 7:00 am


**Sacred Heart School  
Calendar Raffle Winners!**

01/01	\$250	Ryan Hickman - Freeport
01/01	\$50	Dennis & Sheila Thull - Freeport
01/02	\$25	Morgan Luethmers - Victoria
01/03	\$25	Mike & Sharon Zierden - Melrose
01/04	\$25	Matthew Weisman - Cold Spring
01/05	\$25	Shirley Tschida - Melrose
01/06	\$25	Sarah Moscho - Freeport
01/07	\$25	Nikki Welle - Portland, OR
01/08	\$25	Kim Feldewerd - Freeport
01/09	\$25	Shawn & Andi Scherping - Freeport
01/10	\$25	Charlie Middendorf - Grey Eagle

## FAITH FORMATION

### Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information:

[faithformation@catholic-centered.org](mailto:faithformation@catholic-centered.org)

- **Grades 1-6: Next class** Wednesday, January 14, from 6:00-7:00 pm. Students will meet in their classrooms in the parish office. Parents, please pick up from the church basement at 7:00 pm.
- **Grades 7-10: Next class** Wednesday, January 14, from 7:00-8:30 pm. Students will meet in their classrooms.
- **Faith Formation Mass** on January 14 is canceled due to the painting project in Sacred Heart Church. Students will have class as usual in place of Mass.

### Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information:

[faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com](mailto:faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com)

- **First Reconciliation/Eucharist: Saturday**, January 17, 9:00 am, Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation! Students and parents, as well as any other family members/godparents/friends are invited!
- **Grades 9/10: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 14, 7:15-8:30 pm, students and some parents.
- **Confirmation: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 14, 7:15-8:30 pm, students and sponsor/mentor.



*The heavens  
were opened  
and the voice of the Father thundered:  
“This is my beloved Son, listen to him.”*

Mark 9:7

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

Contact Information:

[youthministry@catholic-centered.org](mailto:youthministry@catholic-centered.org) or [faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com](mailto:faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com)

- **Skiing at Andes Tower Hills** Sunday, February 8 from 9:30 am - 5:00 pm. We will have a fun filled afternoon skiing. Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 14. Registration forms are available on the Tri-Parish website: [www.sacredheartfreeport.org](http://www.sacredheartfreeport.org).
- **Movie Night** Monday, January 12 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Freeport Church Basement. Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join the youth group as they gather to watch God's Not Dead.
- **Middle School Lock-In for Grades 6-8:** Mark your calendars for Saturday evening through Sunday morning, January 24-25 at the St. Cloud YMCA. This lock-in will have swimming, rock climbing, Mass, prayer experiences, the game room, movies, basketball, Ga Ga ball, dodgeball and so much more. Come together with other youth in our diocese, make new friends, take time to relax, laugh, eat great food, and renew your spirit while strengthening your relationship with God. Registration forms are available on the Tri-Parish website: [www.sacredheartfreeport.org](http://www.sacredheartfreeport.org). Cost is \$40 until Thursday, January 15, then \$50 through January 22. Additional cost for busing TBD. Contact Kasia in the Parish Office in Freeport with any questions.
- **Castaway Retreat** for Grades 9-12: Friday, March 20 through Sunday, March 22, 2026, at the Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes, MN. Castaway has been an energizing experience for our young Church in the Diocese of St. Cloud for over 50 years. This retreat is a weekend filled with powerful prayer, fun skits, inspirational speakers, awesome music, an incredible Mass, and many faith-growing opportunities. Come together with over 300 others and make new friends, take time to relax, laugh, eat fantastic food, and renew your spirit while strengthening your relationship with God. Cost is \$210 through Friday, February 13, and \$230 after that. To register, please turn in a Youth Interest Form along with a \$110 non-refundable deposit. Forms are available in the churches and on the parish websites. Contact either parish office with questions. Please turn in your Interest Forms by the end of January to secure your spot.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



**PASTOR:** Fr. Dan Walz  
**PRINCIPAL:** Kristie Harren  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**  
 Amy Van Beck  
**SHS BOARD:**  
 Myranda Beuning, Bethanie Ettle,  
 Ben Kalthoff, Tamara Welle,  
 Lindsay Frieler, and Chris Klaphake  
[www.shsfreeport.org](http://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, Pat Christenson,  
 Lindsey Gruber, and Greta Rademacher  
 Phone: 320-256-4257  
[www.smsmelrosemn.org](http://www.smsmelrosemn.org)



**PASTOR:** Fr. Mitchell Bechtold  
**PRINCIPAL:** Mary Miller  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**  
 Kristen Pattinson  
**SJSA BOARD:**  
 Amber Bueckers, Kathy Gilk, Adam  
 Kalthoff, Kate Kelzer, Heidi Meyer,  
 Trista Roelike, and Jenny Wilson  
 Phone: 320-987-3133  
[www.sjsaschool.org](http://www.sjsaschool.org)

- **Welcome Back** to all SHS students and staff after a nice, long Christmas break!
- **Our 31st Annual Wine and Dine** is coming up on Saturday, January 24! Parents will be selling tickets at Masses the next few weekends. Feel free to stop in at the school office or contact a parent to purchase your tickets.

### LOOKING AHEAD:

- **Catholic School's Week** January 18-24.
- **Ski Trip** for grades 3-6 on Thursday, January 22.
- **Sacred Heart School Wine and Dine** Fundraiser will be on Saturday, January 24.

- **2nd-Grade Students** will receive their First Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, January 17. Please keep them in your prayers as they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.
- **Catholic Schools Week** will be celebrated from January 25 through January 30. We will start the week by celebrating Catholic Schools at the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, January 25. Breakfast is served in the school gym from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. All are welcome! Tickets are available from SMS parents or the school office.
- There will be an **Open House** for our Little Saints Program from 9:30 am -12:00 pm on Sunday, January 25.

- **Catholic Schools Week Kick-Off Mass** is Sunday, January 25 at 10:00 am at St. Michael's in Spring Hill. The National Theme for Catholic Schools Week is United in Faith and Community. The children will celebrate with a variety of activities throughout the week.



## ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

**Adoration at Sacred Heart** will be suspended until after the painting project is finished. Please watch the bulletin for when it will begin again.

**We're Hiring** **Are You Looking for Some Infant/Toddler Love?** Sacred Heart School is currently hiring in our Infant and Toddler Care Center from 7:30 am - 10:30 am and/or from 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm. If you are interested, please contact the school at 320-836-2591.

**Plan with Faith, Live with Mercy** Bishop Neary is inviting all parishioners to take part in a new diocesan initiative to help Catholics prepare for the future with confidence and care. Through a partnership with MyCatholicWill.com, the Diocese of Saint Cloud is offering free access to a trusted online platform where you can:

- Create a Last Will and Testament
- Plan a funeral rooted in Catholic tradition
- Consider a bequest to your parish or diocesan ministries

This is a simple and meaningful way to care for your loved ones and live out our call to stewardship. For more information, visit <https://mycatholicwill.com/stcldio>

**2026 March for Life** The Diocese of Saint Cloud is coordinating a bus to St. Paul. A free-will offering will be accepted to help with the transportation cost. Dress warmly, bring a bag lunch. To pre-register, visit <https://www.stcldio.org/march4life2026> or call 320-258-7615. Registration deadline is Saturday, January 17.



**Blessed are They Who? 2026 Retreats at Christ the King Retreat Center** in Buffalo holds retreats throughout the year. Enhance your faith life with one of the retreats below. For more information or to register, please call 763-682-1394 or visit [www.kingshouse.com](http://www.kingshouse.com).

- Men's Silent Retreat - January 16-18 (Weekend)
- Women's Silent Retreat - January 23-25 (Weekend)



**Marriage & Natural Family Planning: Faithfully Yours: Discover Natural Family Planning (NFP)!** NFP cooperates with nature and God's plan for married love. The Billings Ovulation Method is a natural, highly effective method for postponing or achieving pregnancy without the use of drugs or devices. A First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method will be offered in Sauk Centre on Thursday, January 15 and Thursday, February 19 at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's Church or CentraCare Health - Sauk Centre Hospital. For more information, or to register, contact Jill and Isaac Uphus at [uphus.nfp@gmail.com](mailto: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!

### Theology Day. Find Out. Pathways of Hope

- **Beyond Belief: How Belonging, Joy, and Encounter Awaken Faith for Young People Today** Discover from Donelle what youth and young adults say they need from the church to be catalysts for faith renewal. Presenter: Director Donelle Poling - Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at Emmaus Hall at St. John's University, Collegeville from 6:30 - 9:00 pm.
- **The Stones of Corinth: Looking for Hope in the Ruins** Explore with Micah as he uncovers Corinth's ancient struggles, how they mirror ours today, and why there is hope for the future. Presenter: Micah Kiel, Ph.D. - Thursday, January 22, 2026 at Church of St. Mary, Alexandria from 6:30 - 9:00 pm.

**We Are Called to bring the love of Christ to the world. We can help you discover how!** Central Minnesota Koinonia is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St Cloud Diocese and is designed for adults to help you on your faith journey. The next retreat is scheduled for January 23-25, 2026, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Cost of the weekend is \$70. Go to [www.centralmnkoinonia.org](http://www.centralmnkoinonia.org) for more information and to register for retreats.



### HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

#### January 11, Sunday

♦ **All You Care To Eat Breakfast** at Holy Spirit Church 2405 Walden Way St. Cloud, MN. Serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Adults \$12. Ages 5-12 \$6. Children 4 and under are free.

♦ **Knights of Columbus Breakfast** at Saint Boniface, Cold Spring. Serving from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. Age 13-Adult \$12. Ages 6-12 \$6. 5 and under are free.

#### January 14, Wednesday

♦ **January Soup Luncheon** Sponsored by the Melrose Area Senior Citizens will be held from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm at the Melrose Area Senior Center, located in the lower level of the Melrose City offices. Freewill offering, all are welcome!

#### January 16 & 17, Friday & Saturday

♦ **Chili Drive Thru** Sponsored by the Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus from the Holy Spirit Church 2405 Walden Way St. Cloud, MN. Serving Friday from 4:00 - 6:00 pm and Saturday from 3:00 - 5:30 pm. \$10/qt or \$20/half gallon. Pre-orders appreciated. Call/text/email Nathan before 1/15 at 320-223-2887 or [nrschmitt@spiritandsaints.org](mailto:nrschmitt@spiritandsaints.org)

#### January 18, Sunday

♦ **Coffee & Rolls** Sponsored by St. Michael's Catholic United Financial at St. Michael's Church basement in Spring Hill. Serving after the 10:00 am Mass. Everyone is invited, please join us!!

♦ **Melrose Lions Club Ham & Eggs Breakfast** Serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Melrose American Legion. Proceeds will go toward community projects.

♦ **All You Care To Eat Breakfast** at St. Anthony Parish Center 2405 1st St. N. St. Cloud, MN. Serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Adults \$12. Grades 7-12 \$6. PreK-6 are free.

#### January 18, Sunday Cont'd.

♦ **Holy Spirit Parish's Bouja Fundraiser** A healthy, meaty, vegetable stew - ready to serve! \$20 per gallon, \$10 per half gallon. Pre-purchase tickets: Holy Spirit website: [spiritandsaints.org](http://spiritandsaints.org), Holy Spirit Parish office: 2405 Walden Way, The Boot Shack: 2221 Roosevelt Rd (the week prior) and The Bouja Shack: 1615 - 11th Ave. S. St. Cloud, Saturday mornings from 7:30 am - 9:00 am prior to each "Bouja Sunday" and "Bouja Sunday" beginning at 7:00 am until sold out. Drive-thru pick-up Bouja Sunday at The Bouja Shack from 8:30 am - 11:00 am. Gift certificates are available at the parish office. For more information call 320-251-3764.

#### January 22, Thursday

♦ **Freeport Senior Citizens Meeting** at 12:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All area seniors welcome.

#### January 24, Saturday

♦ **Sacred Heart School Wine & Dine** at the Freeport Community Center beginning at 4:30 pm. See page 5 for more information.

#### January 25, Sunday

♦ **St. Mary's School Catholic Schools Week Breakfast** in St. Mary's School Gym. Serving from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. Tickets are available from SMS parents and at the school office.

#### January 27, Tuesday

♦ **Online Evening Prayer with Young Adults** Young adults ages 18+ are invited to pray online together with other young adults and School Sisters of Notre Dame from across the U.S. and Canada at 7:00 pm and every fourth Tuesday of the month through June. Learn more and register for the Zoom link at [ssnd.org/events/1-27-26/](https://ssnd.org/events/1-27-26/).

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