



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

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 30, 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.



A Stark Contrast

"Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Matthew 16:23

This scene likely unfolds in or near Caesarea Philippi, a Gentile region steeped in pagan worship. There, at the mouth of a cave long associated with the entrance to the netherworld—believed by some pagans to be the very gate of Hades—Jesus had just questioned His disciples:

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" and then more directly, "But who do you say that I am?" (cf. Matthew 16:13–15). Peter, speaking with conviction on behalf of the Twelve, boldly proclaimed, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Jesus responded by declaring him "Peter," the rock upon which He would build His Church, promising that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Just moments later, Jesus issues one of the strongest rebukes recorded in the Gospels: "Get behind me, Satan!" The same Peter who had just spoken divine truth now speaks human fear and shortsightedness. In trying to dissuade Jesus from His suffering and death, Peter unknowingly opposes the very mission of the Messiah. Jesus calls this mindset not merely a mistake, but a diabolical temptation—echoing the same temptation He faced in the desert, when Satan sought to lure Him away from the Cross with promises of worldly glory.

What a stark contrast. Peter goes from being the rock of faith to an obstacle in the Lord's path. But why was Jesus so severe in His response?

Because the stakes were eternal. The Cross is not optional. It is the means of salvation—not just for Jesus, but for all who would follow Him. To think otherwise, even with good intention, is to prefer human comfort over divine wisdom. Peter's protest reflects a natural aversion to suffering, but Jesus exposes it for what it truly is: a stumbling block to the will of the Father.

This dramatic Gospel scene is recorded for a reason. By calling Peter "Satan," Jesus wanted to warn him—and us—of the real and ever-present danger of rejecting the way of the Cross. Like Peter, we can easily fall into the trap of wishful thinking and misguided compassion by saying about ourselves or those close to us, "God forbid,

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ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 6

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Tu 6:30 pm **Misa en español (Melrose)**
 †Mary Wenning
 We 8:00 am †Norm Wehlage (Meire Grove)
 Th 8:00 am **SJSA School Mass**
 †Deceased & Living Employees & Friends of SJSA (Greenwald)
 *Fr 8:30 am **SM School Mass**
 †Michael Pohlmann (Melrose)
 Sa 5:00 pm For the People (Meire Grove)
 *Su 9:00 am †Vernon Dickhaus (Melrose)
 Su 11:30 am **Misa en Español (Melrose)**
 †Jovita Becerra y †Gumersindo Botello

*Mass will be livestreamed.

Visit: oneinfaith.org for the YouTube link.

SACRED HEART - Freeport

Tu 8:15 am †Deceased/Living Members of the Herb Hennen Family
 We 8:15 am †Arnie Hoeschen
 Th 8:15 am Zeola
 Fr 8:15 am †Diane Scherer Anniversary
 Sa 8:00 am **First Saturday Mass**
 †Clara Michael
 Su 8:00 am †Hubert, †Florence, & †Marvin Lange
 †Lori Scherping

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Sa 4:00 pm †Alan Van Drehle Anniversary

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Su 10:00 am For the People

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

Fridays, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

Do You Have Questions About the Catholic Faith? Are

you or anyone you know interested in exploring the Catholic Church as your church home? Have you been sitting in the pew next to your Catholic spouse for years wondering what you have to do to become Catholic? The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is the Catholic Church's way of welcoming new members. It can also be the path to prepare for First Eucharist and/or Confirmation for baptized Catholics. OCIA is much more than a program. It is a learning and loving process in which conversion of the heart brings one to Jesus Christ. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact one of the parish offices or Deacon Ernie Kociemba at kociemba@meltel.net or call 320-248-5124 by Monday, September 21.

Parish Office Closure The Parish Offices in Melrose and Freeport will be closed on Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.

Do You Want to Share Your Catholic Faith with Others?

The One in Faith ACC is seeking out individuals who would like to assist with the OCIA program. We are looking for catechists, sponsors, mentors, etc. If you are interested in helping with this program, please contact one of the parish offices or Deacon Ernie Kociemba at kociemba@meltel.net or call 320-248-5124.

**That Man Is You! Becoming a Man After God's Own Heart**

That Man is You! is an interactive men's program that combines the latest findings of modern science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop authentic male leaders capable of transforming themselves, their families and greater society. Join us for food, fellowship, and faith every Saturday starting Saturday, September 12 at St. Mary's - Melrose from 6:00-7:30 am. All men are welcome. Register online at <https://programs.paradisusdei.org/join/07CC24>. Contact Bob Arceneau with any questions at 320-267-2616 or barceneau@outlook.com.

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

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 began on Saturday, August 29.
- **Faith Formation Teachers Needed** We are in need of faith formation teachers for some of our elementary, Jr High, and High School classes. If we do not have enough catechists, we may not be able to offer class. If you are passionate about our youth knowing Jesus and wanting vocations to increase in our Diocese, please reach out to Alexandra and Father Dan about becoming a Catechist. Anyone in 11th and 12th grade, as well as adults, are invited and encouraged to help out. You may teach in pairs as well.
- **Mission Appeal Special Collection** If you were unable to attend Mass last weekend and would like to make a donation to The Missionary Servants of the Needy, please drop your donation in the collection, drop it off at the parish office, or mail it to the parish office. Please prayerfully consider donating to this special collection. To learn more about the organization, please visit www.msnmission.org.

Care for Creation: Care for Creation is one of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching and one of Bishop Patrick's priorities. As faithful stewards of creation, we demonstrate our reverence for the Creator by respectfully and responsibly managing the earth. Please check out the Care for Creation guide at: <https://studio.org/care-for-creation/>.

Employment Opportunity...

- **St. Mary's Church** is seeking a temporary, part-time grounds and maintenance person beginning 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.
- **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.

Is the Light of Christ in You? Are you looking for that light? How can you bring the light of Christ to someone else if you don't have it within yourself? CENTRAL MINNESOTA KOINONIA is sponsored by the St. Cloud Diocese and designed for adults. The next weekend 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 retreat.

One in Faith ACC News Continued on page 7

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.....	\$5,908.10
Regular Adult Offering	3,938.00
Plate/Loose	1,350.25
Designated Funds	619.85

Spring Hill	\$1,225.00
Greenwald	\$505.00

St. Mary - Meire Grove

Total	\$1,568.50
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,240.00
Children's	.50
Plate/Loose	281.00
Votives	47.00

St. Mary's - Meire Grove Liturgical Ministries

Saturday, September 5 - 5:00 pm

(S) Isaac Zenzen & Volunteer Needed

(L) Doug Meyer

(U) Kurt Meyer & Marvin Meyer

(GB) Ken & Linda Schneider

(EM) Nick Kelzer, Jim Leukam, Char Meyer, & Dan Meyer

(HK - September) *Abby Zenzen, Janice Funk, Darlene Imdieke, Joni Imdieke, & Sharon Imdieke

St. Mary's - Melrose Calendar Raffle

08-23	\$25	Lillian Klasen c/o Tony Klasen, Melrose
08-24	\$25	Alex Klasen c/o Mike Klasen, Burtrum
08-25	\$25	Vic & Florence Middendorf, Melrose
08-26	\$50	Barbara O'Brien, Melrose
08-27	\$25	Charles Stueve, Melrose
08-28	\$25	Ellie Olmscheid, Melrose
08-29	\$25	Mike & Laura Revering, Melrose

**Baptized in Christ...**

♥Reynaldo Raya Hernandez

♥Grayson David Theiler

Died in the Hope of Resurrection...

†Sister Jean Schwieters, OSF, 89

Come Spend Time with Jesus Join Fr. Mitchell every Saturday at 8:00 am for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Step away from the busyness of life, rest in Christ's presence, and bring Him your joys, worries, and needs. Whether you stay for a few minutes or the full hour, come and experience the peace found in His presence. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available most Saturdays.



Cemetery Clean-Up Day in Melrose 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.

Mass Location & Time Changes Thursday Mass is moving from Spring Hill to Greenwald starting September 3 and Friday Mass is moving from 8:00 to 8:30 am starting September 4.

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offerings ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$5,892.46
Regular Adult Offering	3,907.46
Votive	231.00
Building Maintenance	350.00
School Support	180.00
Assumption	100.00
Mission for the Needy	1,124.00

Parish Events

We	09/02	9:00 am	Private Event
We	09/02	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Fr	09/04	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	09/04	9:00 am	Adoration
Sa	09/05	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass
Mo	09/07	6:30 pm	Youth Night at SHS Gym

Welcome to our Parish... We welcome Michael & Brooke Nielsen, and their children, Liam, Olivia, and Wyatt, to our parish.

Festival Results: Thank you to all who came and supported the Sacred Heart Parish Festival. Overall, the festival brought in just over \$105,000. A huge thank you to the festival chairs! Mark your calendar for next year's festival, Sunday, July 18, 2027.

Rosary on KASM Sacred Heart Catholic United Financial PVT #101 will be sponsoring the Daily Rosary on KASM Radio, (1150 AM) this week (August 31 - September 6). Plan to tune in each day at 6:00 pm to hear/pray the Rosary in the comfort of your own home.

Quarterly Meeting of Sacred Heart Catholic United Financial #101 will be held on Sunday, September 13 following the 8:00 am Mass. Coffee and Rolls will served. All members are welcome - we would love to have more members attending to help us keep Council #101 alive and vibrant. The meetings are usually short - typically less than an hour.



Fr. Lawrence Muuna's Mission Appeal As of now \$8,509 has been collected for Fr. Lawrence Muuna's mission appeal supporting Catholic education in the Diocese of Meru, Kenya. Thank you for your generous support.

Anticipate A Larger Crowd With changes in locations and Mass times we anticipate a larger crowd during the 9:00 am Mass. We ask that everyone does their best to welcome newcomers. This can be as simple as smiling and moving into the pew to allow space for others. If you are able bodied, please park farther away from the entrances. We have an agreement with Stearns Electric to use their lot for overflow.

Fire Code No matter how full the church becomes, please keep the area in front of the glass windows clear. This wide area is required per the fire code and needs to stay clear in case of medical emergencies or in case of an evacuation.

Expecting a Baby or planning for baptism? Choosing their Godparent(s) is important. According to the 1983 Code of Canon Law, those who serve as Godparents must be at least 16 years of age; must have received First Eucharist and Confirmation; must be a practicing Catholic, and may not be the parent of the person being Baptized. A person to be baptized needs only one Godparent though traditionally there are two: one man and one woman. If you have any questions, please talk to Fr. Mitchell or contact the parish office!



CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,555.92
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,576.92
Building/Maintenance	30.00
Votive	88.00
Mission for the Needy	861.00

Parish Events

We 09/02 7:00 pm Confirmation Class - FR
Sa 09/05 3:30 pm Individual Confessions
Mo 09/07 6:30 pm Youth Night at SHS Gym

May She Rest in Peace Our parish offers prayers and sympathy to the family of †**Shirley Steinhof**, who passed away Monday, August 17. Her funeral was celebrated here on Monday, August 24.



God's Housekeepers for the month of September: *Jackie Massmann, Juliana Boecker, Sheila Humbert, Lisa Maus, and Joyce Schultzenberg. The first person on the list should contact the others to schedule a cleaning time. Thank you for being "God's Housekeepers" for our church this month.

CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$3,347.75
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,022.08
Votive	157.50
Mission for the Needy	2,168.17

Parish Events

Su 08/30 11:00 am Baptism
We 09/02 7:00 pm Confirmation Class - FR
Fr 09/04 7:30 pm Rosary
Su 09/06 10:00 am Parish Festival
Mo 09/07 6:30 pm Youth Night at SHS Gym

May They Rest in Peace... Our parish offers prayers and sympathy to the family of †**Eberhard "Eb" and Helen Hinnenkamp**, who passed away on Thursday, July 16 and Friday, August 7. Their funeral was celebrated at Sacred Heart on Tuesday, August 18.



Pink Cash Raffle Tickets. Reminder ALL pink cash raffle tickets must be returned by Sunday, August 30, at church or drop off at St. Rosa Lumber.

Parish Festival News:

- ◆**Tomatoes** If you have any tomatoes to donate for the taco in the bag stand for the festival, please bring them to the church basement the Saturday before the festival.
- ◆**Meal Assistants** If anyone is willing and available to assist with the meal set up on Saturday, September 5, your assistance is greatly appreciated!
- ◆**Want to show our set up crew some appreciation** for all their hard work? If you have the time, please bring a disposable plate/tray of goodies to share for the set up meal by noon on Saturday, September 5.



Christian Women Tea Party! Come and enjoy a morning of fellowship. Hear a local young women's conversion story while enjoying tea, coffee and pastries. Saturday, September 12, from 9:00-11:00 am at the MillCreek Barn 25772 County Road 17, Freeport. Call or text Sarah to reserve a spot at 320-333-0721. Hope to see you there!

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

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, St. Cloud, MN from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Schedule your appointment online at RedCrossBlood.org or call 800-733-2767

September 4, Friday

◆**Pizza Night!** Stop by the Melrose American Legion for pizza and a bucket of 5 beers for \$25 or pizza and a pitcher of pop for \$15, serving from 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Doors open at 3:00 pm.

September 6, Sunday

◆**St. Rose of Lima Parish Festival.** 10:00 am Outdoor Polka Mass, 11:00 am Games &

Have you moved or changed your phone number recently? Don't forget to contact the parish office with updates so you continue to get information that is sent out!

Fall Liturgical Ministry Schedules

for St. Mary-Melrose have been completed and emailed. Copies are available in the kiosk. Schedules for St. Mary's - Meire Grove will be created in September. Both locations have schedules created with Ministry Scheduler Pro, a web based program. This allows for ministers to easily request substitutes and see updated schedules online. Contact Sarah Woeste with any questions about liturgical ministries.

Save the Date: September 13 - Matching Grant Breakfast at the Spring Hill Church Basement serving 9:00 am - 12:30 pm.

CALLING

ALL

COOKS!

GOLDEN LADLE

SOUP COOK-OFF

at the

St. Mary's Fall Picnic

We are accepting up to

20 PARTICIPANTS

to enter a soup or chili in the Golden Ladle Cook-Off!

Compete for bragging rights and **GOLDEN LADLE HONORS!**

SEPTEMBER

13

4:00 - 7:00 PM

SIGN UP TO ENTER A SOUP OR CHILI:

CALL MICHELLE AT 320-248-5273

BY 9/6

Come enjoy great soup, good company, and fall fun!

Food stands open, 12:30 pm Bean Bag Tournament Sign-up, 1:00 pm Horse Races, 2:00 pm Quilt Auction, 4:00 pm Music by The Sunday Stars, 7:00 pm Grand Raffle & Cash Raffle drawings.

September 7, Monday

◆**St. Stephen Parish Festival.** Festival activities from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Games and fun, stands and sales, and food and beverages. Homemade dinner begins at 11:00 am. Auctions/raffles begin at 12:00 pm. Live music from 11:00 am - 6:30 pm.

September 13, Sunday

◆**Breakfast and Bake Sale** Spring Hill Matching Grant Catholic United Financial Council #126 at Spring Hill church basement, Spring Hill. Serving from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm. Adults \$10 in advance or \$10.50 at the door. Children 6-12 \$4. Children 5 and under 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 Class:** Next class with Father Dan is Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 pm in the Nave of the Church. Confirmation Mass will be on Sunday, October 4, at 1:00 pm.
- **Beginning of Year Mass for Faith Formation** will be Wednesday, September 16 from 7:00-8:00 pm at Sacred Heart Church for all grades 1-11. Parents are highly encouraged to join their child! Students must check in with their Catechist when they arrive at Mass. If your child comes to Mass without their parent, they are required to sit with their Catechist. If your child comes to Mass with their parent, they may sit with their parent elsewhere if they choose. If you are unable to join your child, but know of a parent who will be at Mass that you are ok with your child sitting with, please email Director of Faith Formation, Alexandra, providing this permission at faithformation@catholic-centered.org.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.org

- **Not able to attend the parent meeting on August 26th?** Please plan on attending the Wednesday, September 2 Parent meeting grades 1, 3-5 will meet at St. Mary's Church from 5:00-6:00 pm and grades 6-12 will meet at St. Mary's Church from 6:15-7:00 pm.
- **First Faith Formation Classes** will be held Wednesday, September 9 at St. Mary's Catholic School. Grades 1, 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 calling 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.

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! Students in grades 9-12 are invited to join us!

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.



A Stark Contrast

cont.'d from pg 1

Lord! No such thing shall ever happen..." We are saying, in essence: "Lord, please make sure that neither I nor anyone I love ever has to suffer!" But such a prayer, though well-meaning, is clearly mistaken, and Jesus wants that point to be clearly understood.

Peter was troubled because "Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised." But all that Jesus revealed about His suffering was good—very good. Though His suffering was inflicted by the sins of others, His free and loving embrace of that suffering was the greatest act of love the world has ever known. Peter was blinded to this truth. He could not yet see beyond the horror of suffering to the divine good that would come through Jesus' sacrificial embrace of it.

Reflect today on Peter's and Jesus' words: "God forbid, Lord!" and "Get behind me, Satan!" In this exchange, Jesus is also speaking to each of us, saying, "Never run from the Cross!" We must never flee from a selfless and sacrificial embrace of suffering, even when that suffering is unjust. God can and will transform all freely embraced suffering into a means of His eternal glory and our sanctification. With our Lord, reject the evil one's false empathy. Reject the lie that suffering is meaningless. Choose instead to lay down your life in love with Christ, and in doing so, you will rise with Him, victorious over every sin and diabolical lie, overcoming even the sufferings of this life through your free and faithful embrace.

My compassionate Lord, Your firm rebuke of Peter was direct, powerful, and loving. Rather than offering false comfort or misleading empathy, You spoke a hard truth to awaken Peter—and all of us—to the spiritual necessity of the Cross. Grant me the grace, dear Lord, to say "Yes" to the suffering I must face. May I embrace it not with fear or resistance, but with a heart filled with Your love and unwavering courage. Jesus, I trust in You.

mycatholic.life

The Scriptures This Week

Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II

Mo	Weekday 1 Cor 2:1-5	Lk 4:16-30
Tu	Weekday 1 Cor 2:10b-16	Lk 4:31-37
We	Weekday 1 Cor 3:1-9	Lk 4:38-44
Th	Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church (Memorial) 1 Cor 3:18-23	Lk 5:1-11
Fr	Weekday 1 Cor 4:1-5	Lk 5:33-39
Sa	Weekday (Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Virgin; BVM) 1 Cor 4:6b-15	Lk 6:1-5
Next Sunday - Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	Ez 33:7-9	Rom 13:8-10
		Mt 18:15-20

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
PRINCIPAL: Kristie Harren
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Amy Van Beek
SJS BOARD:
 Miranda 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 Kristi Zimmer
 Phone: 320-987-3133
 www.sjsaschool.org

♥**New School Year** - School staff and teachers are working diligently to get things ready for the new school year! We are excited to see you all very soon!

♥**SHS Campus will be Closed** to all students August 31 - September 4 to prepare for open house, school start and required training for staff.

♥**Early Childhood/PreK Open House** at SHS is on Wednesday, September 2 from 4:00 - 6:30 pm.

♥**Kindergarten-Grade 6 Open House** is on Thursday, September 3 from 4:00 - 6:30 pm.

♥**The First Day of School** at SHS is on Tuesday, September 8. We will have an all school Mass at 10:00 am to kick off our new school year.

♦**Welcome Back!** The first day of school for all students in preschool - 6th grade will be Tuesday, September 1.

♦**The first School Mass** will be on Friday, September 4, at 8:30 am. All are welcome!

♦**We are looking for a volunteer** to help serve lunch on Mondays from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm and on Thursdays every other week. If you are interested, please contact the office or Autumn at 320-256-4257 or anelson@smsmn.org.

♦**We would like to welcome** Sarah Woeste to our school teaching staff. Mrs. Woeste will be teaching music to grades 3-6.

♦**Welcome back! The First School Mass** is Thursday, September 3 at 8:00 am at St. Andrew's Church in Greenwald.

♦**SJSA Harry's Pizza sale** is going on now through Wednesday, September 23. You can place your order with an SJSA family or call the school at 320-987-3133. Pizza pick up is Saturday, October 3 from 9:00-10:00 am in the school basement.

♦**Greenwald Elevator Softener Salt Sale** The Greenwald Elevator is having a salt sale with proceeds benefiting SJSA. Salt can be ordered by the bag or pallet now through Monday, October 5. The pick up date is Thursday, October 29 at the Greenwald Elevator. You can place your order with any SJSA family, by calling the school at 320-987-3133, or by calling the Greenwald Elevator at 320-987-3159. Thank you for supporting the Greenwald Elevator Salt Sale.



Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

08/23	\$50	Tricia Mages - Osakis
08/24	\$25	Nate Van Beck - New London
08/25	\$25	Sara & Scott Arvig - Grey Eagle
08/26	\$25	Kelsey Lobitz - Avon
08/27	\$25	Ervin Feldewerd - Melrose
08/28	\$25	Geri Viere - Freeport
08/29	\$25	Eric & Jenny Eschmann - St. Joseph

Prayer Requests...

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

Banns of Matrimony:

I Kelsey Fleischhacker♥Kolby Becker, 9/19 - SR
 II Mikenzie Gessell♥Christopher Meyer, 9/12 - M

For the Sick: Pat Bushman, Carol, Bethany Downs, Cali Dickhoff, 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

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



Stewardship as a Way of Life:

"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?"

Matthew 16:26

St. Francis of Assisi said, "Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else." We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent, and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.

ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

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.

Theology Day at Saint John's University in  Collegeville is a chance for people in our communities who are seeking a deeper spiritual life or understanding of their faith and its place in their everyday lives to learn from and interact with the theologians of Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary. It offers a chance for these scholars to gain insights and grow in their faith, as well. Enhance your spiritual life with one of the events listed below. All events are held from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm in Emmaus Hall. For more information or to register, please call 320-363-3560 or visit www.theologyday.com.

• **Vatican II and the Beauty of the Church** Presenter: Fr. William Orbih, Ph.D. (Friday, September 4)

• **And Who is My Enemy?** Presenter: Ben Durheim, Ph.D. (Friday, October 2)

St. Rose Fall Festival

Sunday, September 6th, 2026



Fun for the Entire Day!

* Food * Games * Bingo * Dice *

* Cakewalk * Beer Garden * Horse Races *

\$20,000 Cash Raffle for Church Maintenance

Unlimited kids' inflatable wristband for \$5

10:00 am Outdoor Polka Mass

Music by: LaVerne and the Starlites

-Sponsored by Catholic United Financial

11:00 am Children, Teen & Adult Games, and Food Stands Open

12:30 pm Bean Bag Tournament Sign-Up

\$10 per participant, 75% payout

1:00 pm Horse Races

2:00 pm Quilt Auction – Beautiful Homemade Quilts!!

To view the quilts, you can visit www.sacredheartfreeport.org or the Tri Parish Facebook page

4:00 pm Music by The Sunday Stars

(Featuring Donny Brang, Mike Noonan, and Jay Skrukud)

7:00 pm Grand Raffle & Cash Raffle Drawing
Over \$13,000 in cash/gifts to be awarded

St. Rose of Lima Parish – St. Rosa, MN

"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.



Hearts of Mercy - Bishop's Annual Appeal:

Please remember the diocesan ministries that, through your generosity, continue to build the Kingdom of God here in Central Minnesota. They are not possible without your help. Please keep them thriving by making a gift at www.stedio.org/annualappeal.

Join Us in Jail The Stearns County Jail has a program that allows volunteers to provide or assist with religious activities. A number of us have been participating in Masses, Communion Services, and Catholic discussion groups for many years. This has been extremely beneficial and appreciated by both the inmates and the Sheriff's Office. This ministry has been vital for the continuous development of the faith lives of those who are incarcerated and is rewarding to us. We need additional volunteers so that we may continue or expand our ministry. The Stearns County Jail offers programs this fall consisting of two 4-hour training and safety sessions. Volunteers must attend both sessions and a background check will be required prior to training. Upcoming sessions are Monday, September 14 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm and Tuesday, September 15 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. There are also opportunities in December. Musicians are especially needed. For more information, please call Harry Fleegele at 612-868-0465 or Mary Fleegele at 612-868-0464 God bless you. We look forward to visiting with you about this opportunity.



You're Invited!
To St. Mary's
Fall Picnic
and
Golden Ladle Soup Cook-Off
All are welcome!

Sunday, September 13, 2026
4:00 to 7:00pm at St. Mary's Church

Come for food, music, entertainment and fellowship!

Food is:
SOUP
SANDWICHES
COOKIES
and DRINKS

St. Mary's School
Lemonade Stand!

Kids Games

Free Will Offering Proceeds to The Melrose Area Food Shelf.

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