



ONE IN FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. ANDREW—GREENWALD, ST. JOHN—MEIRE GROVE,
ST. MARY—MELROSE & ST. MICHAEL—SPRING HILL

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 18, 2016

Message from the Steering Committee...

On Monday, Dec. 12, the steering committee, finishing their responsibility, held a meeting with Murray & Mike from HMA Architects and Ryan from Breitbart Construction and presented the information gathered to the Parish and Finance Councils. It is now the responsibility of the Parish and Finance Councils to evaluate the options and assess the financial information (both construction costs and available insurance dollars) to move forward in making a decision. It is the councils desire to send out a mailer to each household within the parish to inform parishioners of the information presented.

We would also like to bring forth five points the bishop had made in a meeting a couple weeks ago that was also presented to the councils.

As you know, members of the Steering Committee and the trustees recently met with Bishop Kettler. We were all hoping he would listen, tap his staff on the floor and tell us what we should do and then tell us to follow him and he would lead our parish out of this modern day version of the desert. But, he didn't. He listened attentively and then told us we would have to make our own decision and that we should make it with faith and trust. He did, however, make a few very relevant points:

Take your time. Do it right and build for the next 100 years.

Be mindful of your youth and future generations. Give them an open church with modern technology so they will become engaged and stay engaged. A member of our committee asked Bishop Kettler about all the old, beautiful churches in Europe and the Bishop replied that they are all empty. And they are empty because people forgot to keep their youth engaged. This begs the questions: is it the building or is it what we do with and for our people that keep them engaged? And, can we keep people engaged in a church where a good number of the seats have a totally obstructed or semi-obstructed view of the table? Does this foster engagement and participation or does it promote simple attendance instead? Questions to ponder.

Be mindful of the disabled and handicapped and provide them with an easily accessible church. A point to consider: we live in an aging population. People in Stearns County live longer than any other county in the state. We do have an access issue with our church and, contrary to some, it is not good exercise to climb those steps into the church. Try telling that to an 85-year old with a bad heart or bad knees or hips who stands at the bottom and stares up with a look like they have to climb a mountain to get into church.

Socialize—give your parishioners a place to gather and share fellowship. Bishop Kettler told us he is trying very hard to get a fellowship hall built at the cathedral so they would not have to use their basement or lower level. He told us that if there is an after mass event in the basement they lose 50 percent of their attendees.

Be mindful of finances. He told us he does not like construction projects that include phasing because it increases the final costs.

Your continued prayers for the guidance of the Holy Spirit within our councils and community are greatly appreciated!

ONE IN FAITH COMMUNITY MASS SCHEDULE
DEC. 19 - 25, 2016

MELROSE—Church of St. Mary

MG (Meire Grove); SMS (St. Mary's Gym)

Monday, 6:30 p.m. Misa en Español (SMS)
Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. †Lou Middendorf (SMS)
Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. †Sylvester Rademacher (SMS)
Thursday, 7:30 a.m. †Lorraine Kraker (SMS)
Friday, 8:30 a.m. ††Clarence & Marcella Doyle (SMS)/
All School

Saturday, Christmas Eve

3:30 p.m. Carols & Readings (MG)
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass with children (MG)
6:30 p.m. Misa en Español (MG)
8:30 p.m. Carols & Readings (MG)
9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass (MG)

Sunday Christmas Day

8:00 a.m. For the People (MG)
10:00 a.m. Mass during the Day (MG)

GREENWALD—Church of St. Andrew

Thursday, 11 a.m. †Jean Kulzer

Christmas Day

Sunday, 9 a.m. †Perry Meyer

MEIRE GROVE—Church of St. John

Wednesday, 8 a.m. †Gerald Arnzen

Christmas Day

Sunday, 8 a.m. †Raphael Imdieke

SPRING HILL—Church of St. Michael

Tuesday, 8 a.m. Dec. members of Cath. United Financial/
Adoration after Mass

Christmas Eve

Saturday, 4 p.m. †Marchelle Athmann Lieser

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Monday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m., St. Mary's School Gym
Monday, Dec. 19 at 8 p.m., St. John's, Meire Grove
Wednesday, Dec. 21, Communal Penance Service at 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's, Greenwald
Friday, Dec. 23 at 8 p.m., St. Michael's, Spring Hill

One In Faith Community Staff

Fr. Marvin Enneking—Pastor
Fr. Mitchell Bechtold—Parochial Vicar
Deacon Ernest Kociemba—Adult Sacramental Preparation
Dr. Dawn Carrillo—Director of Faith Formation & Liturgy
Jean Ritter—Administrative Asst., Melrose
Sheryl Braun—Bookkeeper, Melrose/Admin. Asst., GR/MG/SH

St. Mary's Parish Office

402 2nd St. SE, Melrose, MN 56352
Phone: (320) 256-4207
Fax: (320) 256-4208
Fr. Marv/Phone: (320) 256-3108

Fr. Mitchell/Phone: (320) 247-4907
Prayer Line: (320) 256-3746

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Email: stmarys@stmarysofmelrose.com
Website: www.oneinfaith.org

Greenwald Parish Office

PO Box 136, 211 2nd Ave. N
Greenwald, MN 56335
Phone: (320) 987-3205
Fr. Marv/Phone: (320) 256-3108
Office Hours:

Tuesday 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Email: stjohnl@meltel.net
Website: www.oneinfaith.org

Diocese of St. Cloud

Website: www.stclouddiocese.org

CHURCH OF ST. MARY - MELROSE

Died in the Hope of Resurrection

Bonita "Bonnie" Hughes, 76. Kindly remember her in your prayers.

Liturgy

Parish Choir rehearses at 5 p.m. in the Music Room at St. Mary's School.

Children's Choir rehearses on Thursday after school until 4:15.

Musicians for the weekend of Dec. 24/25

Dec. 24, 4 p.m. - Children's Choir / Women at the Well

9 p.m. - Parish Choir

Dec. 25, 8 a.m. - Meire Grove musicians

Dec. 25, 10 a.m. - Cantor

Servers Schedule

Dec. 24, 4 p.m. - To be scheduled; 9 p.m. - To be scheduled

Dec. 25, 10 a.m. - To be scheduled

Weekdays, Dec. 20-22—Jack & Kaylee Ellering, SMS Gym

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle

Sponsors this week: Cornerstone, Kraemer Lumber Co. Inc.

12/11 Heather Olmscheid, Melrose —\$25

12/12 Karen Hartung, Long Prairie—\$25

12/13 Gail Schlicht, Melrose - \$25

12/14 Dave & Joyce Schwinghammer, Belgrade —\$25

12/15 Fr. Marv Enneking, Melrose—\$25

12/16 Tom & Peg Herges, Scotland, S.D. - \$25

12/17 Marcie Welle, Melrose —\$25

Faith Formation - St. Mary's

There are no faith formation classes this week, due to our breaks for the Christmas holidays. However, grades 7-12 are reminded (as part of our curriculum) of our next **YOUnite evening this Wednesday, Dec. 21**, from 7 to 9 p.m. at **St. John's Church in Meire Grove**.

Join us for a fun holiday celebration with Christmas caroling, cookies, games, and more! All students are asked to bring a donation for the food shelf and also to wear warm clothing for caroling.

Healing Hearts Suicide Loss Support Group meets Tuesday, Dec. 20, 8 p.m. at St. Mary's School.

Christmas Memorial Environment Fund

During the Christmas season, we invite people to remember their loved ones through a monetary gift in their honor for our Christmas flowers/environment. Though we have encountered difficult circumstances this year, we continue to invite you to remember a loved one in this special way. Monetary contributions to the St. Mary's Christmas Memorial Environment Fund may be placed in the weekend collection or brought to the parish center, and will be used for Christmas flowers/environment at St. John's Church in Meire Grove, and also at our school gym. Envelopes should be marked: St. Mary's Christmas Memorial Environment and include "Given in memory of (name)." Please include your name as the giver also. We remember them in prayer during this Christmas season, and publish a remembrance listing in the bulletin at that time.

Honoring Marriage Day will be celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Cloud on Saturday, May 6 at 1 p.m. for couples celebrating 5, 25, 40, 50 and 60 year anniversaries in 2017. Couples fitting this criterion please call Jean at the parish office at 320-256-4207.

Calendar Raffle - Please help us make this another successful event. Additional calendars are available at the parish offices, Freeport State Bank - Melrose Branch, Central MN Credit Union - Melrose branch and US Bank.

Stewardship Church of St. Mary

Total Regular Adult Offering..... \$6,784.00
 Immaculate Conception 1,193.00
 Initial Offering 4.00
Total..... \$7,981.00

Additional Gifts Received

Loose 915.23
 Children..... 23.10
 Catholic Charities 50.00
 Christmas 85.00
 Religious retirement 407.00
 Thanksgiving 125.00
 St. Cloud Visitor..... 17.00
 Sponsor a Child 10.00
Total additional gifts received \$1,632.33

Total Regular Offering \$7,981.00
Budgeted Regular Offering -\$8,654.00
Shortfall YTD (7/01/16-12/11/2016) -\$15,075.29


St. Mary's Edu. Endowment Fund \$510.17

Parish has budgeted \$37,000 for Christmas as part of our annual parish budget. Please help us meet our Christmas Budget of \$37,000.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Thank you for supporting senior religious. A sister from Indiana writes, "Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years here in their home. You truly honor them and their many years of service by your generosity." Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Giving Opportunities - Automated Fund Transfer is an option when you authorize your financial institution to automatically forward your contribution to the parish from your checking or saving account. Payments are withdrawn from accounts on the 2nd and/or 4th Mondays of the month. If interested please call the parish office at 320-256-4207.

 Halos to the St. Bernard's & St. Elizabeth's Societies for the donation of \$5,000 and the Matching Grant of \$1,000 from Catholic United Financial from the proceeds of their breakfast that was held in September. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.

Coborn's Labels for Learning Points. We have collected 57,500 points. Our goal is to collect 222,501 points by June 30, 2017. This would be one more point than we collected last year. Please cut, save and drop these points in the church collection. Thank you!

Interested in becoming Catholic or know someone who is? All non-Catholics are invited to join RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation). This rite is a journey through the Catholic Faith. Those who participate are not obliged to become Catholic, but if you have ever thought of becoming Catholic or know someone who is, this is a way to get a glimpse at the faith. Catholics are welcome to come to classes in order to grow in faith. Contact Deacon Ernie Kociemba, RCIA Coordinator for details at (320) 256-4207.

CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW GREENWALD

Stewardship Church of St. Andrew

Total	\$1,597.50
Reg. Adult Offering	1,190.00
Loose	77.00
Children	6.00
Votives/Candles	18.50
School Support	15.00
Flower Fund	10.00
Immaculate Conception	246.00
Religious Retirement	35.00

Liturgical Ministries – Saturday, Dec. 25, 9 a.m. – (S) Josh Kulzer, Lauren Kulzer; (L) Linda Heinze; (U) Cletus Meyer, Phil Meyer; (GB) Clarine Beier, Mary Opatrny; (EM) (b) Jane Welle, (w) Roger Welle, Kris Winter.



St. John's/St. Andrew's School News

This past week SJSA received new physical supplies from the Campbell's Labels for Education program. The school had a total of 1,124 points. Thank you to everyone who donated their Campbell's labels.

SJSA received a check for \$228.60 from Coborn's Labels for Learning. Thank you to everyone who donates their points.

SJSA students present: Three Wise Men and A Baby on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Church. Refreshments will be served after each performance in the school basement. Come and help us celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth!

In celebration of the Advent Season, St. John's-St. Andrew's students have been practicing Acts of Kindness the month of December as well as each having an Advent Angel to give little notes of encouragement and treats.

Christmas Flowers – If you would like to donate to the flower fund this Christmas season, please put your donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers." Include your name, who the flowers are in memory of and which parish you are donating to. We remember your loved ones in prayer during this Christmas season and publish a remembrance listing in the bulletin at that time.



Youth Ministry News

Grades 7-12 are invited to OCA-FAM (Osakis, Collegeville, Albany, Freeport, Avon, Melrose Area)

Youth Night on Sunday, Jan. 1 from 6-9:30 p.m. in Avon. Come together with youth from surrounding parishes for lively Mass (public welcome!), fun, food, games, small group, and more! Celebrate the New Year with us! Contact Kristen Neuman for more info.

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN MEIRE GROVE

Stewardship Church of St. John

Total	\$2,301.00
Reg. Adult Offering	1,290.00
Loose	90.60
Children	10.65
Votives	74.75
Donation	30.00
Flower Fund	25.00
Immaculate Conception	645.00
Religious Retirement	135.00

Liturgical Ministries – Sunday, Dec. 25, 8 a.m. – (S) Kimberly Meyer, Sarah Meyer; (L) Jim Leukam; (U) Tim Meyer, Jeron Nathe; (GB) Jamey & Shannon Groetsch; (EM) (b) Char Meyer, (w) John Nathe.

Reminder that the St. John's Raffle tickets need to be turned in by **Dec. 18**. Thank you for taking the time to sell your raffle tickets! Please turn them in by placing them in the collection basket or turn into Joy or Sheri. We need all sold and unsold tickets returned.

The drawing will be held on **Dec. 28, 2016 at 8 p.m.** in the Meire Grove Church basement. There will be a BINGO night with prizes and free lunch at 7 p.m. this same evening.

If you have any questions, please contact Joy Silbernack (987-3210) or Sheri Luetmer (987-3416). Thank you.

Distinguished Graduate Award: SJSA School Board is asking for nominations. The award will be presented at the Steak and Wine Dinner and Auction on Feb. 18, 2017. The criteria for the award is that the candidates are still currently involved with SJSA School, in any capacity and alumni. To nominate someone, or for a list of past recipients, please contact Amber Fleischhacker at amberwes19@hotmail.com, text/call 320-247-3747 by Jan. 10.

Contribution envelopes for St. Andrew's, St. John's and St. Michael's are available in the back of each respective church. Please stop and pick up your 2017 envelope box. If you do not see one with your name and you would like to have envelopes, please call the parish office and one will be assigned to you. If you receive a box and would rather not, please let the office know, as everyone on the parish roster has a number on the computer. If you donate to the church, you receive credit, whether you use envelopes or give in another way. Thank you for supporting your parish.

CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL SPRING HILL

Stewardship Church of St. Michael

Total	\$1,233.00
Reg. Adult Offering	357.00
Loose	80.00
Children	3.00
Fuel Fund	260.00
Maintenance Fund	25.00
Church Rental	100.00
Thanksgiving	205.00
Immaculate Conception	198.00
Religious Retirement	5.00

Liturgical Ministries – Saturday, Dec. 24, 4 p.m. – (S) Travis Bertram, Samantha Lieser; (L) Sue Meyer; (U) Randy Barten, Pat Bertram; (EM) (b) Melvin Kalthoff, (w) Jeanette Kalthoff, Allen Lieser; (CC) Dennis Orbeck, Marvin Rademacher; (HK) Tamara Spanier, Doris Stalboerger, Mary Stalboerger.

Baptized in Christ - Liam Gregory Leef, Jameson Ray Schoenberg

St. Michael's Choir will start to sing at 3:25 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Mass is at 4 p.m.

St. Michael's Tuckpointing update:

The tuckpointing was finished late summer and is all paid for. Thanks to all who helped take care of this project.

Thanks to John Schulzetenberg and Yimmy Schoenberg for many hours of painting and caulking the large windows on the north and south sides of church while the lift was here.

Anyone that would like to donate a Christmas poinsettia in memory of a loved one, please have your flowers at St. Michael's Church by Monday, Dec 19. Thank you.

Thank you to the Central MN Credit Union for providing us with our 2017 Calendars.

Thank you to all the businesses who purchased ads on the back page of our bulletin. Through your ads we are able to defray the costs of printing our bulletins. Please support these businesses.

Annual Giving Tree

In the entrance of our One In Faith churches you will find a giving tree. Please take an ornament and bring the item listed on the back of the ornament to church and place it under the tree. The youth of the parish will bring it to the food shelf. Thank you for your support.

YOU ARE INVITED

Melrose Senior Center - "500" cards will be played, Dec. 21 at 1:30 p.m.

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