



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-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 27, 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 - Melrose
- ♦Sundays 11:30 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.



Action over Words

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: *"What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did his father's will?"* Matthew 21:28-31

This parable must have been difficult for the chief priests and elders to hear, especially since it was clearly directed at them. In fact, after Jesus tells them a second parable, not included in today's Gospel, we read, "although they were attempting to arrest him, they feared the crowds, for they regarded him as a prophet" (Matthew 21:46). It seems they dismissed Jesus' words and His rebuke, but fear of public backlash, rather than fear of God's judgment, kept them silent for a time.

In today's Gospel, the first son represents the tax collectors and prostitutes, those who initially violated God's law but later repented after hearing the preaching of John the Baptist and Jesus. The second son represents the chief priests and elders. After telling the parable, Jesus declares, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you."

Like the second son, the religious and civic leaders paid lip service to God's law, but their actions did not align with its intent. They were hypocrites, blind to their own rejection of God's saving Word, and they misled others by their outward piety and self-righteous attitudes.

Continued on page 5

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 4

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Tu 6:30 pm **Misa en español (Melrose)**
 †Agelina Ambriz
 †Rafael Ambriz
 †Jovita Hernandez

We 8:00 am †Margaret Thull (Meire Grove)

Th 8:00 am **SJSA School Mass (Greenwald)**
 †Deceased/Living Relatives of
 Bill & Betty Frieler

*Fr 8:30 am **SM School Mass (Melrose)**
 †Rich Boeckermann
 †Brady Rademacher

Sa 5:00 pm †Deceased/Living Members of the
 Herb & Aurelia Schwieters Family
 (Melrose)

Su 7:30 am †Mathew Kasper (Meire Grove)

*Su 9:30 am For the People (Melrose)

Su 12:00 pm **Misa en Español (Melrose)**
 †Juana Alvarez
 †Demesio Ramirez

SACRED HEART - Freeport

Tu 8:15 am †Melvin Hartung

We 8:15 am **SH School Mass**
 †Alois "Al" Beste Anniversary

Th 8:15 am †Ed & †Agnes Job

Fr 8:15 am †Viola & †Edwin Meyer

Sa 8:00 am **First Saturday Mass**
 †Hubert, †Florence & †Marvin Lange
 †Lori Scherping
 †Deceased Members of Herman
 Notch Family

Su 8:00 am

Su 1:00 pm **Confirmation Mass**
 Confirmands

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Sa 4:00 pm For the People

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Su 10:00 am †Deceased Relatives of the
 Thell & Toenyan Families

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

Friday, October 2
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm



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

ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

Go and Make Disciples Everyone in grade 11 through adult is invited to a monthly Faith Formation event from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at Sacred Heart School in Freeport. We will have snacks and discuss various topics, including Soul Ties, Discernment of Spirits, and many more. Our first gathering will be on Wednesday, October 7. Come and bring a friend for a fun filled faith enrichment night.

Wreath and Poinsettia Fundraiser... The Tri-Parish Youth will once again be selling wreaths and poinsettias. Please support our youth by placing an order. Orders can be placed by contacting one of our youth or by calling the Tri-Parish Office at 320-836-2143. Deadline to order is Wednesday, October 7.

She Shall Be Called Woman Join us for food, fellowship, and faith on Sunday evenings starting tonight, September 27, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at St. Mary's Church. All women from all parishes are welcome! Visit <https://programs.paradisusdei.org/join/18F2B9> to learn more and register!

Save the Date: St. Mary's Youth Ministry will host BINGO on Sunday, October 11. Doors open at 3:30 pm, with games beginning at 4:00 pm. Admission is \$15 and includes food and a bingo card. Proceeds will support youth activities throughout the year. Please plan to join us for an afternoon of fun!



Public Square Rosary Join us for The Public Square Rosary for Life on Saturday, October 10 at 9:00 am in the depot pavilion in downtown Freeport. We would love to pray together as a community with you! Bring a chair if needed and dress accordingly for weather.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) There is an information meeting for anybody interested in becoming Catholic or being fully incorporated into the Catholic Faith through the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation). The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1 at 7:00 pm at St. Mary's Church Melrose, MN. If you have any questions, you may Contact Deacon Ernie Kociemba: 320-248-5124 for more information.

Care for Creation: The Church teaches that caring for creation is inseparable from Caring for the people who depend on it. When we protect the land, we protect families, communities, and future generations. Learn more at <https://stedio.org/care-for-creation/>.

Parish News:

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

- **Adoration** will close at 12:00 pm on Friday, October 2.
- **Archbishop Fulton Sheen Video** Last weekend Fr. Dan encouraged everyone to watch a YouTube video that Fr. Chris Alar recently released about Blessed Archbishop Fulton Sheen. It is titled *Fulton Sheen: The Amazing Story. Why Beatification Now? Explaining the Faith with Fr. Chris Alar*. Here is the link to the video: https://www.youtube.com/live/V11Q4_LSWu4?si=QtmEi3NjFiZjrSo

**Employment Opportunity...**

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

Beginning Experience, October 9-11, 2026 Separated? Divorced? Widowed? You are not alone. Join others who have experienced the same losses in a weekend retreat for adults focused on the grief-resolution process. Rooted in the Catholic tradition, but open to those of all faiths. Visit <http://www.beginningexperiencemn.com> or call 320-319-8863.

40 Days For Life Fall Campaign Pray with us on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood 451 East St. Germain Street, St. Cloud for an end to abortion. Please join us—we need you! We are in need of volunteers to sign up for an hour time slot from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm Monday - Friday from Wednesday, September 23 to Sunday, November 1. We need at least 2 people each hour time slot. Signing a Peace Agreement is mandatory so if yours is not current you will be directed to sign it online. Sign up on our website or contact Helena bhhalverson51@gmail.com.



Embroidered Dish Towels Do you need a bridal shower or wedding gift? Or do you need a new set of dish towels to use at home? Sacred Heart Parish has embroidered dish towels available for sale. They are \$35 for a set of seven and can be purchased at the Freeport Senior Center on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 5:00 pm or by calling Charlene Theis at 320-733-0731.

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	\$14,485.10
Regular Adult Offering	12,465.00
Plate/Loose	1,081.10
Designated Funds	939.00

Spring Hill **\$866.00**

Greenwald **\$165.00**

St. Mary - Meire Grove

Total	\$2,122.50
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,930.00
Children's	0.50
Plate/Loose	142.00
Votives	25.00
Designated Funds	25.00

St. Mary's - Melrose Calendar Raffle

09-20	\$25	Carol Litchy, Melrose
09-21	\$25	Linda Zachman, Melrose
09-22	\$25	St. Mary's Church, Melrose
09-23	\$50	Sarah Klaphake, Maple Grove
09-24	\$25	Jim & Carol Frericks, Melrose
09-25	\$25	Alvin Schneider, Melrose
09-26	\$25	Alex & Lisa Ellering, St. Michael

**Baptized in Christ...**

♥Lola Jo Uphus

♥Baker Lee Olson

Welcome to the Parish... We welcome Kelly Stueve-Roering & Darren Roering and Zachary & Jamie Dingmann and their family to St. Mary's!

St. Mary's Mission Society will meet on Wednesday, October 14 at St. Mary's Church at 8:45 am in the gathering area. All are welcome!

Save the Date: Christian Women Dues Collection & Craft Sale - November 14 & 15.

Lector Workbooks have arrived. If you ordered a copy please pick it up from the sacristy at St. John's or St. Mary's.

St. John's Liturgical Ministers have been emailed their new schedules. Copies are available in the church. The weekly ministry schedule will no longer be printed in the bulletin. The God's Housekeepers ministry schedule is available in the church. If you do not have internet access and need a roster please contact Sarah Woeste at 320-256-9516.

October is Mission Month. All parishioners are members of the Mission Society. All, both male and female, are encouraged to attend our meetings. Check the bulletin for dates and times. We are asking all parishioners to donate a free will offering to the Mission Society. We used to call it "dues." As we reflect on our MANY blessings, we realize we have been given much. We are called - as a parish - to respond to those in need. Place your donation in any envelope, write "**St. Mary's Mission Society**" on it, and place in the collection or bring to the office. All unmarked mission donations will be given to the diocesan mission appeal. Please be generous in your support of the St. Mary's Mission Society! Thank you.

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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

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

Total	\$7,792.01
Regular Adult Offering	7,356.46
Plate	388.55
Votive	47.00

Parish Events

Su	09/27	9:00 am	Baptism
Mo	09/28	7:00 pm	Confirmation Practice
We	09/30		No Faith Formation Classes Grades 1-10
Fr	10/02	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	10/02	9:00 am	Adoration - Closing @ 12:00 pm
Fr	10/02	6:30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Sa	10/03	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass
Sa	10/03	12:00 pm	Wedding Prep/Pictures
Sa	10/03	2:00 pm	Engel/Harren Wedding
Su	10/04	1:00 pm	Confirmation
Mo	10/05	6:30 pm	Youth Night at SHS Gym

Welcome to our Parish... We welcome Nicholas "Nick" Herzog to our parish.

Baptized in Christ... We welcome **Aidan Robert Ritter**, the son of Cody & Amber Ritter, to God's family. Aidan Robert was baptized on Sunday, September 20.

May He Rest in Peace... Our parish offers prayers and sympathy to the family of †**Richard Nienaber**, who passed away Saturday, September 19. His funeral was celebrated here on Friday, September 25.



Thank You Our family wishes to express our deepest gratitude for your support during the recent passing of our Mother, Dorothy Van Heel. Thank you for the beautiful funeral Mass, the uplifting music, and the peaceful environment provided by the parish. We are also incredibly grateful to the church volunteers who prepared and served the wonderful luncheon for our family and friends. Your kindness and spiritual guidance brought us great comfort during a difficult time. With sincere gratitude, ~*The Family of Dorothy Van Heel*

Annual Meeting Freeport Christian Women are hosting their Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 6 beginning at 6:30 pm in the Sacred Heart Church basement. Join us for a light meal, a quick year in review and a fun round of Trivia. All Freeport Christian Women and those interested in joining are invited to attend. Door prizes will be given out as well.

Looking Ahead: A Pancake/Sausage Breakfast sponsored by Sacred Heart Catholic United Financial #101 for the benefit of Sacred Heart School will be held on Sunday, October 11.

Additional Volunteers are Needed to lead the rosary and distribute communion to residents at Pine Villa on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Mass is at 10:00 am. The rosary starts 20 minutes before Mass. Communion is brought to the rooms of residents who couldn't attend Mass in person. The time commitment is about 2 hours. Regularly scheduled ministers and substitutes are needed. Contact the office for more information.



Save the Date! The Potato Pancake Supper in Meire Grove will be Sunday, October 18. Serving from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Takeouts will be available.

St. Mary's News cont'd on page 4

CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,664.92
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,421.92
Plate	925.00
Votive	118.00
Building/Maintenance	100.00
Human Development	70.00
Thanksgiving	30.00

Parish Events

Su 09/27 6:30 am	Catholic Order of Foresters Breakfast Setup
Su 09/27 8:30 am	Catholic Order of Foresters Breakfast
Su 09/27 12:30 pm	Catholic Order of Foresters Breakfast Cleanup
Mo 09/28 7:00 pm	Confirmation Practice - FR
We 09/30	No FF Classes Gr. 1-10 - FR
Sa 10/03 3:30 pm	Individual Confessions
Sa 10/03 5:00 pm	Fellowship after Mass
Su 10/04 1:00 pm	Confirmation - FR
Mo 10/05 6:30 pm	Youth Night at SHS Gym

Matching Fund Breakfast sponsored by St. Leo Court # 786, Catholic Order of Foresters of New Munich on Sunday, September 27 in the Immaculate Conception Church basement. Menu: Ham, fried potatoes, eggs, etc. Serving from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Proceeds go toward on-going church maintenance expenses. Contact 320-837-5239.

God's Housekeepers for the month of October: *Linda Feldewerd, Georgine Nathe, Peggy Thelen, Joelle Niebergall, Char Mayers, Diane Boeckers. 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.

The Scriptures This Week

Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II

Mo Weekday (<i>Saint Wenceslaus, Martyr; Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs</i>)	Jb 1:6-22	Lk 9:46-50
Tu Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels (<i>Feast</i>)	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab	Jn 1:47-51
We Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church (<i>Memorial</i>)	Jb 9:1-12, 14-16	Lk 9:57-62
Th Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church (<i>Memorial</i>)	Jb 19:21-27	Lk 10:1-12
Fr The Holy Guardian Angels (<i>Memorial</i>)	Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5	Mt 18:1-5, 10
Sa Weekday (<i>BVM</i>)	Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17	Lk 10:17-24
Next Sunday - Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Is 5:1-7	Phil 4:6-9
		Mt 21:33-43

CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,167.83
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,625.08
Plate	306.00
Votive	236.75

Parish Events

Su 09/27 11:00 am	Baptism
Mo 09/28 7:00 pm	Confirmation Practice - FR
We 09/30	No FF Classes Gr. 1-10 - FR
Fr 10/02 7:30 pm	Rosary
Su 10/04 1:00 pm	Confirmation - FR
Mo 10/05 6:00 pm	Christian Women Rosary & Social
Mo 10/05 6:30 pm	Youth Night at SHS Gym
Mo 10/05 7:00 pm	Christian Women Meeting

Welcome to our Parish... We welcome Grant & Madison Revermann to our parish.



Wedding... Congratulations to **Kolby & Kelsey (Fleischhacker) Becker** who were married at St. Rose of Lima on Saturday, September 19. May God bless you with many years of happiness together.

Ladies Mark Your Calendars! **Christian Women Fall Meeting** is set for Monday, October 5. With October being the month of the Holy Rosary we will start with a Scriptural Rosary at 6:00 pm in the church followed by a social in the church basement with the meeting beginning at 7:00 pm. All women from our parish are invited to attend. We are still in need of a Vice President for our council. If interested please reach out to one of the officers.

St. Mary's News

continued from page 3

Mass Intentions Mass intentions may be scheduled through Tuesday, February 9, 2027. If you have not scheduled a Mass intention since July 1, 2026, and would like to request one during this period, please contact the parish office. Our Mass intention policy is available in the church, on our website, and in the parish office.



Volunteers Needed

Ministry Help Needed

Through baptism the faithful share in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission. Helping with ministries during Mass is an expression of faith and baptismal responsibility. We appreciate all of our current liturgical ministers and encourage others to start a ministry. The 5:00 pm Mass in Melrose is in particular need of Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Sacristans, Audio Visual Ministers, Altar Servers, Lectors, Greeters, and musicians. These are not merely practical jobs. When performed prayerfully and properly, they are ministries—services offered for the good of the Church and the sanctification of the people. We can use your help even if you can only commit to once a month. Contact Sarah Woeste at 320-256-9516.

Save the Date: Spring Hill Annual Worn-A-Bit Rummage and Bake Sale is set for October 24 & 25. Lunch available both days.

October is Respect Life Month

Help us build a culture of life by supporting Options for Women in Sauk Centre, a faith-based pregnancy resource center that offers hope, compassion, education, and practical assistance to women facing unexpected pregnancies. Bassinets will be located at St. Mary's and St. John's churches throughout October to collect the following items:

- New or gently used clothing, sizes 3 mo. - 4T
- Enfamil formula
- Diapers, especially sizes 5 and 6
- Baby healthcare items
- Pack 'n Plays
- New car seats

Monetary donations are also welcome. Envelopes will be available near the bassinets. Thank you for helping mothers and babies in our community!



FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: faithformation@catholic-centered.org

- **Grades 1-6: Next Class:** Wednesday, October 7 at 6:00 pm. All classes will meet in their designated classrooms in the Tri-Parish Office. Updated schedules with classroom locations are on the website, on the Faith Formation page.
- **Grades 7-10: Next Class:** Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00 pm. Updated schedules with classroom locations are on the website, on the Faith Formation page.
- **Grade 11: Confirmation Practice** is Monday, September 28 at 7:00 pm at Sacred Heart. Confirmation Mass will be on Sunday, October 4 at 1:00 pm at Sacred Heart. Students and sponsors meet in the church basement at 12:00 pm.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofamelrose.com

- **Mass at the Barn** Please come and join us for Mass at the barn this Wednesday, September 30. Mass will start at 5:30 pm, followed by a picnic supper and kickball. All youth and families are welcome. Because of this event, there will be no classroom classes on the 30th.
- **Next Class:** Wednesday, October 7.
- **Save the Date:** Faith Formation students in grades 4 through 12 and parents are invited to Road Ditch Cleaning at 9:00 am on Saturday, October 10. We will meet at St. John's Church in Meire Grove. Treats will be provided. Please let Mark Kociemba know if you plan to attend.
- **Volunteers are needed** for our parish Bingo event on Sunday, October 11! Both parents and youth are encouraged to help. If you are available, please contact Mark Kociemba. Thank you!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tri-Parish Youth Ministry:

Contact Information: youthministry@catholic-centered.org

- **Youth Night** Monday, October 5 and 19 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Sacred Heart School Gym in Freeport! Open to grades 9-12 from any parish!
- **St. Cloud Diocese Apostle Games Grades 9-12:** Sunday, October 25 This year the St. Cloud Diocese is excited to announce the exciting, competitive, and enriching Apostle Games coming to our very own St. Cloud State University! The day will be filled with prayer, food, games, and Mass. We invite and encourage all our youth to embark on this fun-filled day celebrating National Youth Day. If interested, please pick up an interest form at the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport or in the back of the church in Freeport, New Munich, or St. Rose. For more information contact Alexandra at 320-836-2143 or faithformation@catholic-centered.org.

St. Mary's Youth Ministry:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofamelrose.com

- **Youth Group Meeting Time Change** Our Youth Ministry time is going to change due to the new Mass times. We will be meeting from 4:30-5:45 pm on Sunday, September 27 at St. Mary's School gym. Please come join us for fun, food, and growing closer to Christ.



Action over Words

cont.'d from pg 1

Consider more carefully the reactions of the two sons. We might imagine that the second son, who said, "Yes, sir," represents all who put on a false appearance of holiness. In the sight of others, they say the right things, but behind closed doors they fail to act.

The first son is markedly different. Though he initially responds with defiance—"I will not"—his conscience eventually moves him to do what is right. Some may wonder why Jesus didn't include a third son, one who says "Yes, sir," and then follows through. But Jesus likely omits such a son because all of us fall into one of the two categories He presents. Only our Blessed Mother obeyed perfectly in both word and deed from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception.

The first son becomes our model because each of us, in some way, struggles to enter into perfect obedience to God's will. From childhood, we contend with what the Church calls concupiscence, the disordered tendency that arises from Original Sin. Though we are created good and in the image of God, our nature is wounded and inclined toward what is contrary to His will. The spiritual journey we undertake in this life is one in which grace slowly reorders our fallen inclinations and restores us to the obedience we are called to live.

Reflect today on the first son, and humbly see yourself in him. In what ways do you find it difficult to say "Yes" to God's will right away? It is not a sin to struggle with obedience. This struggle is part of our fallen human nature. Like the first son, we must allow grace to work within us, forming our conscience and compelling us to act in accordance with God's will, especially in the areas where we resist. When we allow grace to move us beyond our initial hesitation, we grow in virtue and become more like our Blessed Mother and our Lord Jesus, who both said "Yes" to the Father and followed through completely.

My obedient Lord, You and Your Blessed Mother always responded with wholehearted fidelity to the Father's will, both in word and in deed. Grant me the grace to imitate Your example and to share in the very obedience You lived in union with Your Mother. Root out my fallen tendencies toward selfishness, and make me generous in charity, living in full accord with and in obedience to the Father's glorious will. Jesus, I trust in You.

mycatholic.life

Stewardship as a Way of Life:

"Do nothing out of selfishness; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves..."

Philippians 2:3

Pride and ego are hard things to control. We see how others act or dress and think we are superior to them. We idolize our own self image. But, if we truly believe everything is a gift from God, we recognize all the people that God has put in our lives as gifts! We are grateful for how they enrich our lives. Pray every day for the people in your life: your family, your friends, and those who make you angry.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
PRINCIPAL: Kristie Harren
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Amy Van Beek
SHS 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
SJSA BOARD:
 Amber Bueckers, Kathy Gilk, Adam
 Kalthoff, Kate Kelzer, Heidi Meyer,
 Trista Roelike, and Kristi Zimmer
 Phone: 320-987-3133
 www.sjsaschool.org

♥Kindergarten and First grade classes went to a **Great Theatre performance** on Thursday, September 24.

♥**Picture Day** is Thursday, October 1.

♥Our **Care-A-Thon** is coming up on Friday October 2. Our goal this year is \$18,000. The fundraiser involves students participating in a service project - cleaning grave-stones in each of the parishes of our Tri-Parish community and then holding a prayer service to pray for requests we receive from friends, family, parishioners, etc. A group will also be visiting Tree of Life Assisted Living in New Munich. This will all take place on the afternoon of Friday, October 2.

♥**Horse Races and Meat Raffle** at All Stars on Friday, October 9. Come out for a fun night and support Sacred Heart School.

♥**Grandparents Day** will be celebrated on Friday October 9 with Mass at 10:00 am in Freeport, a short program to follow and then lunch in the church basement for the grandparents and students.

♦Only one week left until our **Marathon/Prayer-a-thon**. We are grateful for the donations and prayers we've received so far. Our goal is to raise \$30,000, which is included in our school budget for the 2026-2027 year. Please send donations and prayer requests to St. Mary's School, 320 5th Ave. SE Melrose, MN 56352.

♦**We are Grateful** to Julie Berscheit, Juliann Heller, Jane Salzl, Sarah Woeste, and Kathy Wolff, who help lead the ministry of music at our school Masses.

♦**Thank You** to the Grey Eagle Knights of Columbus for their recent donation of \$500 to St. Mary's School to purchase Bibles for our students. Every student in grades 1st through 6th has a Bible that they keep from year to year.

♦**Blessing of the Animals** Friday, October 2 at 2:00pm in the grass between the church and school. All are welcome to bring their pets to receive a special blessing as we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

♦**Pizza Sale Pick-Up** is Saturday, October 3 from 9:00 - 10:00 am in the school basement.

♦**SJSA Prayer-a-Thon** is Friday, October 9. Please support our students as they seek pledges to reach our fundraising goal of \$18,000. Thank you.

♦**Greenwald Elevator Softener Salt Sale** Salt can be ordered by the bag or pallet now through Monday, October 5 with all proceeds benefiting our school. 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 your support!

♦**Oktoberfest** Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 14 from 5:30-8:30 pm at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Meire Grove! Join us for great food, live polka music, fellowship, and a special performance by SJSA students. Everyone is welcome!



Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

09/20	\$25	Ann Holdvogt - New Munich
09/21	\$25	Kathy Luethmers - Freeport
09/22	\$25	John Arnzen - Freeport
09/23	\$25	Vanessa Pung - Freeport
09/24	\$25	Rhonda Schmidt - Melrose
09/25	\$25	Mary Klasen - Albany
09/26	\$25	Judy Gaebel - Freeport



"Let your light shine"

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
- Sunday: 7:00 am

Greenwald

- Thursday: 7:40 am

Sacred Heart, Freeport

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

Immaculate Conception, New Munich

- Saturday: 3:30 pm

St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa

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



Prayer Requests...

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

Banns of Matrimony:

- I Katelyn Wehlage♥Tyler Dregney, 10/15 - MG
- II Emily Scherping♥Mitchell Brown, 10/10 - FR
- III Emily Engel♥Ethan Harren, 10/3 - FR
- III Greta Schoenberg♥Derek Knutson, 10/3 - SH

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

ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

Worldwide Marriage Encounter, October 10-11, Held at St. Mary's School in Alexandria, MN. For more than 50 years, Worldwide Marriage Encounter has helped over 3.5 million couples in almost 100 countries unlock the power of their relationships with new ways to do the "I do." The Marriage Encounter experience helps you listen, share, and connect more deeply. There's no group discussion. It's just about the two of you learning to be the best, most loving and thriving couple you can be. For more information or to register visit www.wwme.org or email craig.barb.wetter@wwme.org call 507-227-8229 with questions.

DCCW Sunday Bishop Patrick Neary, C.S.C., has proclaimed the 2nd weekend in October (October 11, 2026) of each year as Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) Sunday in the Diocese of St. Cloud. We would like to recognize all women's organizations (Christian Mothers/Women, Rosary/Altar Sodality, D of I, etc.) in our parishes in October. The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) is an organization of concerned women established by the Bishops of the United States (USCCB) in 1920 to offer women the opportunity to increase their knowledge of the Church, strengthen their leadership skills, and deepen their spirituality through prayer and service. Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Sunday is the day to highlight the activities and leadership carried out by Catholic Women. All parish Christian Mothers/Women's organizations are affiliates of the NCCW.

Love Beyond Measure: Natural Family Planning supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage.

Natural Family Planning is a loving way for couples to cooperate with nature and God's plan for married love. It is a natural and highly effective way to achieve and postpone pregnancy. A First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method will be offered in Sauk Centre on Thursday, October 15 and Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's Church or CentraCare – Sauk Centre Hospital. For more information, or to register, contact Jill and Isaac Uphus at uphus.nfp@gmail.com or 320-290-8751. The class is approximately 1½ to 2 hours long. *Note: Most insurance plans cover the cost of NFP Instruction and follow-up!



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



Marriage Encounter Fall in love all over again by attending the October 17-18 Marriage Encounter. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Weekends are held at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington. Register at: www.marriages.org. A "perfect marriage" is simply two imperfect people who refuse to give up on each other! Marriage Encounter offers couples practical tools to communicate more deeply, grow closer, and renew their relationship with each other and God. If you have any questions, call Mary at 651-454-3238.

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.

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



A Life-Changing Weekend Awaits You Looking to deepen your faith and encounter God in a powerful way? TEC (Together Encountering Christ) is a three-day retreat for individuals ages 16 and older, focused on experiencing the Paschal Mystery — Christ's death, resurrection, and mission. Throughout the weekend, you'll have the chance to reflect on your personal relationship with Christ, hear inspiring talks, engage in meaningful group discussions, and spend time in prayer. TEC offers an open and affirming space for participants to grow in faith and connect with others on a similar journey. Join almost 40,000 people in Central Minnesota who have experienced the transformative power of TEC. Ready to make a lasting change in your life? For more information and to register, visit cmtec.org or call 320-532-4455. TEC weekends are open to individuals ages 16 and older. The next weekend is October 16 - 18.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

September 27, Sunday

♦ **Annual "Matching Fund Breakfast"** at Immaculate Conception Church basement, sponsored by Catholic Order of Foresters Court, St. Leo Court #786 of New Munich. Serving from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Proceeds go toward ongoing church maintenance expenses. Contact 320-837-5239 with any questions.

♦ **Albany Legion Post 482 Smorgasbord Breakfast** serving at the Church of Seven Dolors Parish Hall, Albany from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.

September 29, Tuesday

♦ **Bologna Daze** at Elrosa Bar & Lounge serving from 5:00 - 7:30 pm. Music by Gene's Rock'n Country. \$12 all you can eat. Sponsored by: Elrosa Senior Citizens.

September 30, Wednesday

♦ **American Red Cross Blood Drive** at the American Legion, Melrose from 12:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Please call 800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org, enter Melrose to schedule an appointment. Fall into the habit of donating! Get a \$15 e-gift card when you come to give blood September 21 - October 18.

October 2, Friday

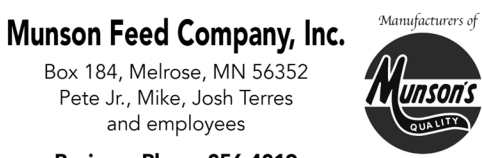
♦ **Taco Night** at the Melrose American Legion Post 101. Doors open at 3:00 pm. Serving from 4:30 - 7:30 pm.

October 4, Sunday

♦ **Pancake & Sausage Breakfast** hosted by the Melrose Fire Department Relief Association. Serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Melrose Fire Hall.

♦ **Harvest Sunday Festival** at St. Augustine Church in St. Cloud. All are welcome from 7:30 am - 12:00 pm for parish breakfast, a produce sale, bake sale, jewelry sale, and kids activities including mini pumpkin painting. A Meat and Treat Raffle will be held from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. We will celebrate Sunday Mass at 9:00 am.

♦ **77th Annual Sausage Supper** at St. Alexius Catholic Church in West Union. All stands and ticket sales open at 11:00 am, with serving from 12:00 - 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$20; children 8 and younger eat free. Drive-thru takeout is available.

 KRAEMER Heating & A/C LLC "We're Family, Not A Franchise"	 "Services adaptable to your needs" WealthCare Inc. Bookkeeping • Payroll • Tax Advisory • Insurance www.wealthcare-inc.com Eden Valley Cold Spring Melrose 101 Stearns Ave. E 210 Main Street 306 E Main St. Eden Valley, MN 55229 Cold Spring, MN 55221 Melrose, MN 56352 (320) 453-7070 (320) 969-7070 (320) 256-7070	 PATTON & SCHAT FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES Honoring Life's Memories 256-4249 Linda Holm, owner/operator	Paul Kollmann Monument (320) 363-4571 25% off per 1 transaction Top Quality Products / Please contact me for free Consultations Competitive & transparent pricing paulkollmann.com	 FREEPORT STATE BANK "Customer Service Is Our Priority" Freeport 836-2126 Melrose 256-7208 Greenwald 987-2265 www.freeportstatebank.com	
 ST. ROSA ARNZEN LUMBER INC. CONSTRUCTION, INC. AGRICULTURE • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL Residential - Commerical - Agricultural 320-836-2284 29033 Co. Rd. 17, Freeport	 RJ's Country Store St. Rosa BAIT * GAS * ATM GROCERIES	 Creekside WOODWORKS LLC CABINETS • TRIM • FURNITURE	 PIERCE INSURANCE Serving you over 50 years Greg Einyck (Parishoner) Agent [P] 320-557-9202	Building Relationships Since 1958 BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A True Value. KRAEMER LUMBER CO., INC.	
ADVERTISE HERE	 Freeport Lions Club BAR BINGO / MEAT RAFFLE Saturdays November - March Freeport MN Lions Club	 BILL KEMPER EXCAVATING BASEMENTS • WATER LINES • SEPTIC SYSTEMS • EXCAVATING • PERC TEST & DESIGN • GRAVEL • SEWER & WATER 320-256-3982 320-250-2068	 Kyle Hoium Agency LLC Kyle Hoium, Agent (320) 256-3434  AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE Insure carefully, dream fearlessly.	 ALL STARS Sports Bar & Grill 320-836-2154	
 Hoesechen Auto Complete Auto Repair Specialists Dan Hoesechen, Owner • 320-832-2130 In business since 1980    and many other brands!	 Spanier/Nathe Cabinets Custom Made Cabinets for your whole house Mike Nathe cell: 320-290-0505 35428 County Road 13 • Melrose, MN 56352 320-256-3985	 MAGNIFI FINANCIAL	 FREEPORT COMMUNITY CENTER FOR HALL RENTAL CALL 320-836-2526	 TREE WORKS Nolan Sand Melrose, MN 320-429-0606	 Klaphake FEED MILL INC. MELROSE, MN Proud to be a part of the Ag Industry
 Oak Electric Service Inc. THOMAS HOPPE 36484 300th Ave. Melrose, MN 56352 320-837-5853	 Hennen Floor Covering, Inc. FREEPORT	 Munson Feed Company, Inc. Manufacturers of Box 184, Melrose, MN 56352 Pete Jr., Mike, Josh Terres and employees Business Phone 256-4219  Livestock and Poultry Feeds	 revermann lund ross Estate Planning Probate Business Real Estate Employment Melrose 320.256.4205 Waite Park 320.258.9383 rlrlegal.com		
 WHEELS WATER SERVICE 37276 County Road 13 PO Box 233 Melrose, MN 56352 320-256-4146 JAMMIE WIELING	 Independent Monument Consultant Courtney Imdieke 320-293-6518 courtneyimdieke@gmail.com	 • Licensed • Bonded • Insured Electrical Contracting Free Estimates MELROSE ELECTRIC, INC. MEMBER OF MINNESOTA ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION 119 8th Ave. W (320) 256-3846 PO Box 234 (320) 256-7359 Melrose, MN 56352 Fax (320) 256-4240	ADVERTISE HERE	 MELROSE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY "Neighbor helping Neighbor since 1901" Stacy Schiffler, Manager 303 Main Street East Melrose, MN 56352 256-7290 www.melrosemutual.com	 MELROSE IMPLEMENT INC. NEW HOLLAND AGRICULTURE Sales - Parts - Service Phone 256-4253 - Melrose, MN www.melroseimplement.com
 Tree of Life ASSISTED LIVING OF NEW MUNICH Offers 24-hour customized assisted living, private rooms, activities, and adult daycare. Call 320-837-5100 for a tour.	 WORMS Lumber & Ready Mix, Inc. All your building needs in one place!	 Atkinson Well & Pump Ltd. "Serving you since 1942" Service you can count on 365 days a year (320) 836-2597 Rodney Atkinson Ben Atkinson	 BELGRADE CO-OP AGRONOMY PROPANE REFINED FUELS Office locations in Belgrade & Melrose 320-254-8231	 DAN SCHMIDT DSPI PRINTING AND DESIGN SERVICES SINCE 1985 302 East Main Street Melrose, MN 56352 320.256.3700 dsprint@meltel.net	
 RAHN'S OIL & PROPANE FUEL WITH MUSCLE God Bless our Parish Families!	 Cornerstone ag services Our focus is crop insurance. ~ Dana Kerfeld ~ 5 Central Ave. N • St. Stephen, MN 56375 (320) 257-CROP (2767) Cornerstone ag services Our focus is crop insurance.	ADVERTISE HERE	 MAYERS, INC. MELROSE, MN 256-4479 Excavating, Water, Sewers, Site Prep., Basements, Sand, Gravel	 For All Your Building Needs Frericks Construction Inc. Melrose, MN Lic. #BC-20457080 Jim 249-7404 Russell 290-5669	 MELROSE 1 STOP CAR WASH TRUCK WASH God Bless America!
 Engelmeyer LAND SURVEYING Land Surveying • GPS Surveys Platting • Sub-Division Lot • Acreage • Boundary • ALTA Surveys 320-836-2291 Or Call 320-256-7298 www.engelmeyersurveying.com David A. Engelmeyer, Land Surveyor engelsur@meltel.net 41701 Co Rd 167 • Melrose	 Hamo feeds	 Welcome HOME to Brenny Your TRUCKING Career starts HERE! Call Cara! 320.363.6999 WWW.BRENNYTRANSPORTATION.COM	 Hennen LUMBER CO. INC. Freeport, MN 56331 (320) 836-2135	 MARTINEZ MEAT & GROCERY 420 E. Main St. - Melrose, MN lulmartinezmeat123@gmail.com 320.256.2363 Productos Mexicanos fax: 320.256.2364	 CAP Enterprises 511 3rd Ave SW Melrose, MN 56352 320-256-3900
	 Brenda Kraemer Member Advisor • Insurance bkraemer@catholicunited.org • Retirement (320) 493-3957 • Planning • Charitable Giving Catholic United Financial • Credit Union				God Bless America!