



# ONE IN FAITH Area Catholic Community of

St. Mary - Melrose, Sacred Heart - Freeport  
Immaculate Conception - New Munich  
St. Rose of Lima - St. Rosa, St. Michael - Spring Hill  
St. Andrew - Greenwald, St. John - Meire Grove

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 25, 2026

Fr. Daniel Walz, Pastor

Fr. Mitchell Bechtold, Pastor

Fr. Oswaldo Roche, Parochial Vicar

Melrose - Spring Hill -  
Greenwald - Meire Grove Office:

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

Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Office Phone:** 320-256-4207

**Fr. Mitchell Bechtold:** 320-256-9512

mlbechtold@outlook.com

**Fr. Oswaldo Roche:** 320-256-9513

froswaldo@stmaryofmelrose.com

**Office Email:** pam@stmaryofmelrose.com

**Faith Formation:** faithformation@stmaryofmelrose.com

**Website:** www.oneinfaith.org

**Facebook:** Church of St. Mary, Melrose

**Mailing Address:** 755 Kraft Drive SE

Melrose, MN 56352

Freeport - New Munich - St. Rosa Office:

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

Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Office Phone:** 320-836-2143

**Office Email:** triparish@albanytel.com

**Faith Formation:** faithformation@catholic-centered.org

**Website:** www.sacredheartfreeport.org

**Facebook:** Tri Parish

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 155

Freeport, MN 56331

## Bulletin Announcements

Deadline: Tuesday before 9:00 am

**Email information to:** bulletin@catholic-centered.org

## Confession Times

- ♦ Fridays 7:45 am Sacred Heart
- ♦ Saturdays 3:30 pm St. Andrew
- ♦ Saturdays 3:30 pm Immaculate Conception
- ♦ Saturdays 4:30 pm St. Mary
- ♦ Sundays 11:00 am St. Mary
- ♦ Or by appointment. Call the Parish Office.

## Marriage

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

\*Diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes are required.

## Baptism & OCIA

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

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

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



# God's Permissive Will

**When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee... From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:12, 17**

When John the Baptist was arrested, his followers were likely overcome with fear and grief. The man they revered as a prophet, who fearlessly proclaimed the coming of the Messiah and called for repentance through baptism, had been imprisoned. John was arrested by Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great, infamous for ordering the massacre of infants in Bethlehem. Like his father, Herod Antipas was ambitious and morally corrupt. As tetrarch of Galilee and Perea under Roman authority, Herod's political survival depended on maintaining Roman favor. He often used religion to secure legitimacy among the Jewish people, though his actions routinely violated Jewish law.

Though nominally Jewish, the Herodian dynasty was of Idumean descent, tracing its lineage to Esau rather than Jacob. The Idumeans were forcibly converted to Judaism between 135–104 BC. While this history granted the Herods a claim to Jewish identity, their foreign lineage and collaboration with Rome made them unpopular with many Jews. Herod Antipas, like his father, prioritized political cunning and personal ambition over genuine adherence to Jewish law.

When John the Baptist emerged on the scene, he proclaimed his message with fearless conviction. His central call was one of repentance and baptism for the forgiveness of sins, urging the people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Yet John did not shy away from addressing the moral and spiritual corruption of his time. He famously denounced the Pharisees and Sadducees as a "brood of vipers," rebuking their hypocrisy and lack of genuine repentance. John also boldly condemned Herod Antipas for violating Jewish law by divorcing his wife and marrying Herodias, the wife of his half-brother, Philip. This marriage not only violated Mosaic Law but also reflected Herod's ambitions to consolidate power and status. John's fearless denunciation of sin, even among the powerful, ultimately led to his arrest and eventual martyrdom.

Continued on page 3

## ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1

## ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo	6:30 pm	Misa en Español †Clarence Wenker
Tu	8:00 am	†Deceased Members of Ed Bussmann Family
We	8:00 am	†Eugene Hellermann
Th	8:00 am	†Family of Herman & Margaret Hinnenkamp
*Fr	8:30 am	<b>SM School Mass</b> †Will Schafer
Sa	5:00 pm	†Bob Weber
*Su	9:00 am	†Frank, †Vangie, †Allan, & †Sue Hartung
Su	11:30 am	<b>Misa en Español</b> Por el Pueblo

## SACRED HEART - Freeport

We	8:15 am	<b>SH School Mass</b> †Norman Hoppe
Fr	8:15 am	†Viola Borgerding
Su	8:00 am	For the People

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Th	8:15 am	†Deceased/Living Catholic Order of Foresters Members
Sa	4:00 pm	†Jeff Rieland Anniversary

## ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Tu	8:15 am	†Petra Oevermann
Su	10:00 am	†Deceased/Living Members of the Toenyan Family

## ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill

Tu	8:00 am	†Norbert & †Frances Waldorf
Su	10:00 am	†Chris Welle

## ST. ANDREW - Greenwald

Th	8:00 am	<b>SJSA School Mass</b>
Sa	4:00 pm	†Sr. Suzanne Slominski

## ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

We	8:00 am	†Norm Wehlage
Su	8:00 am	†Raphael & †Dolores Imdieke

\*Mass will be livestreamed. Visit: [oneinfaith.org](http://oneinfaith.org) for the YouTube link.

## ADORATION

**St. Rose of Lima - St. Rosa**  
First Tuesday of the month  
7:00 - 8:00 am

**Immaculate Conception - New Munich**  
First Thursday of the month  
7:00 - 8:00 am

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

**Sacred Heart - Freeport**  
Adoration is suspended  
until further notice due to painting  
of the interior of the church.



## ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

## Parish News:

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

- **Blessed Palm Branches** may be dropped off at the parish office. They will be burned and the ashes will be used on Ash Wednesday.
- **Honoring Marriage Day** is Saturday, May 2 at St. Francis Xavier parish, Sartell MN for all married couples. If you are celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 & 60 plus years of marriage in 2026, and would like to receive an invitation to this Mass, please contact the parish office by Tuesday, January 27.

## One In Faith ACC Employment Opportunity...

**WE ARE HIRING**  
JOIN OUR TEAM

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

**Catholic Men's Conference 2026** February 28, 2026 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, St. John's University in Collegeville. Keynote speaker: Craig Gould, M.A., Program Director, Notre Dame Vision. Workshops will be available, including topics for young adults ages 15 and up. Cost: \$40 or \$35/each for groups of 5, includes morning refreshments and lunch. Cost for young adults ages 15 – 22: \$10, scholarships available for the first 50 registrants. Registration deadline: Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Visit <https://stcdio.org/event/catholic-mens-conference-2026/> to register or for more information. You can also contact Jan at 320-258-7615 or [jan.zylla@gw.stcdio.org](mailto:jan.zylla@gw.stcdio.org).

**Calling All Young Men Grades 9-12 for an Andrew Dinner:** Young men grade 9-12 are invited to join the bishop and area priests on February 26 in learning more about what the life of a priest is like. There will be time for prayer, games, and tons of food! Invite your own priest to join you and please consider attending. You can sign up at the bottom of our vocations page: <https://stcdio.org/vocations/>.

## Parish News:

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

- **Candlemas...** The Presentation of the Lord is on February 2. Candles will be blessed during the weekend Masses on January 31/February 1 for use in your homes.
- **St. Blaise Blessing of Throats** The Feast of St. Blaise is on February 3. The Blessing of Throats will be offered after the weekend Masses on January 31/February 1.
- **Anointing of the Sick** will take place at the weekend Masses on February 7/8. For those that would like the laying of hands for this anointing, please sit in the front few pews.
- **Year-end Contributions Statements** have been mailed out. You will also find an Electronic Financial Church Support form. This form allows you to electronically support the church on a monthly or semi-monthly basis.



**Order of Christian Initiation** This year our ACC is blessed with having individuals who are pursuing the Catholic faith! Jamie Hoover, Elizabeth Bertram, Hannah Tschida, Anthony Ambriz, Kylee Blenker, Bryanne Feldewerd, and Sara Lukaswilz, as well as some members of the Hispanic community, are respectfully asking for prayers on this journey. To say the least...these individuals are excited and enthused about learning the Catholic faith. Please encourage, support and pray for them during their journey through this life-changing experience.

**BINGO** Please join the Tri-Parish Confirmation Class on Sunday, February 22 at Immaculate Conception Church Basement for Bingo. Free lunch from 12:00 - 1:00 pm with a purchase of a card. Bingo will start promptly at 1:00 pm. Cash prizes. \$10 per card for 20 games plus 2 black-out games. No checks or credit cards please. Recipients of the proceeds will be announced at a later date.



One in Faith ACC News Continued on page 6

## CHURCH OF ST. MARY

Physical Address: 755 Kraft Drive SE  
Melrose, MN 56352

## ♦♦♦♦♦ Weekly Offerings ♦♦♦♦♦

Total.....	\$12,631.00
Regular Adult Offering .....	7,951.00
Plate/Loose .....	846.00
Designated Funds .....	3,834.00

## St. Mary's Calendar Raffle

01-18	\$25	Jacob Kociemba, Grey Eagle
01-19	\$25	Darlene Bussmann, Melrose
01-20	\$25	Eileen & Ken Maus, Melrose
01-21	\$25	Jim Rademacher, Melrose
01-22	\$25	Marcella Hollermann, Melrose
01-23	\$25	Michelle Ettel, Melrose
01-24	\$25	Nathan (Lincoln) Klaphake, Maple Grove



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



## Prayer Requests...

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

## Banns of Matrimony:

II Miya Jordan♥Zachary Thell, 2-7 M

**For the Sick:** Dorothy Schneider, Len Frieze, Dave Humbert, Fr. Roger Klassen, 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. Michael: Sharon Schulztenberg	320-248-7702
St. Mary's	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

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

## Sacred Heart, Freeport

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

Immaculate Conception,  
New Munich

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

## St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa

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

## St. Michael, Spring Hill

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

## St. Andrew, Greenwald

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

St. John the Baptist,  
Meire Grove

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

## CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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

## ♦♦♦♦♦ Weekly Offerings ♦♦♦♦♦

Total.....	\$9,449.67
Regular Adult Offering .....	3,194.54
Plate .....	175.00
Votive .....	30.13
Church Painting .....	6,050.00

## Parish Events

Mo 01/26	Church Painting Continues
Tu 01/27	SHS Strings Practice
Tu 01/27	Knights of Columbus Meeting - NM
We 01/28	Faith Formation Grades 1-6
We 01/28	Faith Formation Grades 7-10
Fr 01/30	Individual Confessions
Fr 01/30	NO Adoration

**Reservation of Jesus** will be in the safe in the sacristy during the church painting project.



## God's Permissive Will

Cont'd. from page 1

This historical context surrounding John's arrest is crucial because it helps us understand God's providence—how He permits certain evils to occur in order to bring about a greater good. Jesus Himself later affirmed John's greatness, saying, "Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist" ([Matthew 11:11](#)). If the Son of God declared John's greatness shortly after John's arrest, why didn't God miraculously free him from persecution? The answer lies in John's mission. He had fulfilled his primary role: preparing the way for the Lord, the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" ([John 1:29](#)). Once John's mission was complete, God permitted him to seal his testimony with his own blood, offering his life as a martyr for the Lord and for the Truth that sets all people free.

Reflect today on John's arrest and consider how you might have reacted if you had been one of his disciples. From an earthly perspective, martyrdom is difficult to comprehend or accept, especially in our own lives or in the lives of those we love. Though John's arrest and subsequent martyrdom likely brought fear and grief to his disciples, shaking their sense of security, from an eternal perspective, John's martyrdom was his greatest act of witness. It fulfilled his mission by pointing his disciples—and all of us—toward the true Prophet and Messiah, Jesus Christ. John is forever glorified in Heaven, and in the end, that is all that truly matters. As we honor John's unwavering faith, seek to embrace God's permissive will in your own life. Even in the face of suffering or evil, trust that God, in His providence, can bring about a greater good if we surrender ourselves fully to Him.

*My provident and loving God, You permit evil to touch the lives of Your faithful followers, knowing that in Your perfect Wisdom, You can bring forth a greater good. Grant me the heart of a martyr, filled with courage and trust, whenever I face injustice in my life. Help me to unite my every trial to Yours, in imitation of Saint John the Baptist and Your own Passion and Death.*

*Jesus, I trust in You.*

*mycatholic.life*

## CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$3,329.08
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,612.33
Plate .....	429.25
Building/Maintenance.....	37.50
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes ....	100.00
Christmas Envelopes .....	100.00
Thanksgiving .....	50.00

Parish Events

Tu 01/27 7:10 pm Knights of Columbus Mtg.  
We 01/28 6:00 pm FF Grades 1-6 - FR  
We 01/28 7:00 pm FF Grades 7-10 - FR  
Th 01/29 7:00 pm Choir Practice  
Sa 01/31 3:30 pm Individual Confessions

**God's Housekeepers** for the month of February: \*Mary Zink, Bernie Holdvogt, Doris Rieland, Tatum Holdvogt, Emily Smith, and Paula Schwieters. 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.

 **Choir Practice...** The Immaculate Conception Choir will practice on Thursday, January 29 at 7:00 pm.

This is a wonderful time to join the choir, and we are looking for new members. Ages 9th grade through adults are encouraged to join. We would love to have you sing with us! If you have any questions, call Calli at 320-290-4583.

**Elevator and Expansion Update:** The loan to the New Munich Investors is down to \$100,000. The entire project cost was \$1,119,314.31. It is so close to being paid in full. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution to helping get this paid off.

## CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,127.46
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,363.46
Plate .....	539.00
Votive .....	170.00
Building/Maintenance .....	10.00
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes ....	10.00
Christmas Envelopes .....	10.00
Central MN Catholic Magazine ...	25.00

Parish Events

Tu 01/27 9:00 am Quilting  
Tu 01/27 7:00 pm Choir Practice  
Tu 01/27 7:10 pm Knights of Columbus Mtg. - NM  
We 01/28 6:00 pm FF Grades 1-6 - FR  
We 01/28 7:00 pm FF Grades 7-10 - FR  
Fr 01/30 7:30 pm Rosary

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

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

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

## CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$1,832.97
Regular Adult Offering.....	302.00
Children .....	6.00
Plate/Loose .....	69.00
Fuel Fund .....	441.00
Maintenance Fund .....	70.00
Crib .....	3.00
Coop Dividend .....	941.97

Liturgical Ministries

**Sunday, February 1 - 10:00 am**

(S) Olivia Kalthoff  
(L) Ralph Klassen  
(U) Rick Terres & Robert Van Drehle  
(EM) (B) Karen Rademacher  
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
(Sacristan) Ruth Heinen  
(RL) Marilyn Gruber  
(CC) Mark Schoenberg & Rick Terres  
(HK: January 25 - February 7)  
Jennifer Wilson, Samantha Welle, & Lisa Wuertz

**Visiting Homebound**

St. Michael's Catholic United Financial will be visiting homebound from our community on Sunday, February 1. For anyone that would like to join us, we will be meeting at the church after Mass at 11:00 am and plan to leave shortly after that.

*The Lord is my Light  
and my Salvation*

One In Faith ACC Catholic Schools  
Dinner & Auction Fundraisers

◆◆◆◆ **35th Annual Steak & Wine Dinner & Auction** to support St. John's - St. Andrew's Catholic School will be Saturday, February 7, at The Greenwald Pub. The dinner will be served from 5:00-8:30 pm and the auction starts at 8:30 pm. Tickets cost \$35 and are now available at the school, Meire Grove Gas & Grocery, Freeport State Bank in Greenwald, as well as the night of the event at the Pub. Donny Brang will be playing live music at the event. Dinner choices are walleye, steak, or chicken cordon bleu with rice, all served with baked potato and salad bar.



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

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



35th Annual  
St. John's – St. Andrew's  
Catholic School

**Steak & Wine Dinner & Auction**

**Saturday, February 7th, 2026**  
**Greenwald Pub serving from 5:00-8:30 pm**

**Menu**

- Steak
- Walleye Fillet
- Chicken Cordon Bleu (with rice)

All meals served with salad bar, baked potato, & wine.

**Serving Saturday, 5:00-8:30 pm**

Take out available

**LIVE MUSIC PROVIDED BY DONNY BRANG 5:00 -7:30 PM**

**LIVE AUCTION BEGINS 8:30 PM**

Check out auction items on the  
St. John's-St. Andrew's Facebook page

**TICKETS CAN BE BOUGHT AT:**

St. John's - St. Andrew's School, Meire Grove Gas & Grocery,  
Greenwald Pub, Freeport State Bank in Greenwald, or at the door.

**\$35 per person**



## CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$558.00
Regular Adult Offering .....	380.00
Plate/Loose .....	83.00
Votives .....	5.00
Fuel Fund .....	60.00
Maintenance Fund .....	30.00

## Liturgical Ministries

Saturday, January 31 - 4:00 pm

(S) Jada Worms & Luke Worms  
(L) Julie Kulzer  
(U) Herman Lensing & Tim Lucken  
(GB) Jim & Sheryl Braun  
(EM) (B) Mike Barten  
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
(HK - February) \*Amy Frieler, Betty Frieler, Kathy Gilk, & Linda Heinze

## CHURCH OF ST. JOHN

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$1,449.50
Regular Adult Offering .....	1,150.00
Children's .....	0.50
Plate/Loose .....	199.00
Votives .....	45.00
Fuel Fund .....	35.00
Christmas Crib .....	20.00

## Liturgical Ministries

Sunday, February 1 - 8:00 am

(S) Isaac Zenzen & Mya Nathe  
(L) Jim Leukam  
(U) Matt Silbernick & Mike Wehlage  
(GB) Anthony & Sheri Luetmer  
(EM) Char Meyer & Dan Meyer  
(HK - February) \*Sue Meyer, Geri Meyer, Heidi Meyer, Karen Meyer, Martha Meyer, & Rita Meyer

## HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

## January 25, Sunday

♦ St. Mary's School Catholic Schools Week Breakfast in St. Mary's School Gym. Serving from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. Tickets are sold in advance and at the door. Adults (13 yrs and up) \$10. Children ages 6-12 \$5. Children 5 and under are free. To-go options available.

♦ Greenwald Lions Pancake & Sausage Breakfast at the Greenwald Pub. Serving from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Adults \$10 and children 5-12 \$5.

♦ Roving Hillbillies Snowmobile Club 57th Annual Snowmobile & ATV Blessing at the St. Rosa Lions/JC Park. Fun, food, drinks, and meat raffle starts at 12:00 pm. Blessing of the snowmobiles at 2:00 pm and the grand raffle drawing will be held at 4:00 pm. Need not be present to win.

## January 27, Tuesday

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

## January 28, Wednesday

♦ Blood Drive at the Melrose American Legion from 12:30 - 6:30 pm. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Melrose to schedule an appointment.

## January 30, Friday

♦ Burger Night at the Melrose American Legion. Serving from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Baskets starting at \$10. Take outs available. Doors open at 3:00 pm.

## HISPANIC MINISTRY



**Festival de Familias el 22 de febrero:** ¿Busca diversión familiar en pleno invierno? Acompáñenos en St. Francis Xavier en Sartell, de 9:00 a. m. a 3:00 p. m., para un día lleno de diversión celebrando nuestra fe católica. El costo es de solo \$25 por familia (sin importar el tamaño) e incluye un carnaval gratuito, actividades familiares, almuerzo, actividades según la edad y Misa con el Obispo Neary. Registre a su familia en: <https://stcdio.org/event/2026-festival-of-families/>

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

One in Faith ACC Schools  
Gift Card Programs

A gift card rebate program that allows you to purchase your everyday items with gift cards and earn money for our area Catholic schools without paying any extra money!

A percentage of each gift card will be donated back to the area Catholic schools.

Each school has a variety of local and national gift cards available to purchase.



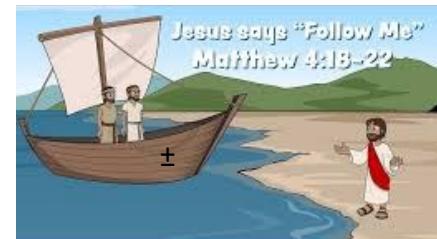
**SMS**  
**\$4K4YDS**



## Stewardship as a Way of Life:

**"He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him."** Matthew 4:22

Just as Jesus called the first apostles, He calls each of us to follow Him, too. Not everyone is called to leave their business or family behind, but we are expected to put God first in everything. In gratitude to God, we should give our first and best of everything to Him: our time in daily prayer, our talent in participating in one of our parish ministries and our treasure to support the financial needs of our parish mission.



## FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information:

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

- **Grades 1-6:** Next class Wednesday, January 28, from 6:00-7:00 pm.
- **Grades 7-10:** Next class Wednesday, January 28, from 7:00-8:30 pm.

**Service Projects:**

- **Casino Night** at Tree of Life Assisted Living in New Munich. Wednesday, February 4 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Transportation will not be provided.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information:

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

- **First Eucharist:** Next class Sunday, February 1, 10:00-11:15 am - students and parents.
- **Grades 9/10:** Next class: Wednesday, January 28, 7:15-8:30 pm. Students and some parents. Topic: The Creed - I believe in God.
- **Confirmation:** Next class: Wednesday, January 28, 7:15-8:30 pm. Students and mentor/sponsor. Topic: the Holy Spirit.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:Contact Information: [youthministry@catholic-centered.org](mailto:youthministry@catholic-centered.org)or [faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com](mailto:faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com)

- **Castaway Retreat** for Grades 9-12: Friday, March 20 through Sunday, March 22, 2026, at the Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes, MN. Castaway has been an energizing experience for our young Church in the Diocese of St. Cloud for over 50 years. This retreat is a weekend filled with powerful prayer, fun skits, inspirational speakers, awesome music, an incredible Mass, and many faith-growing opportunities. Come together with over 300 others and make new friends, take time to relax, laugh, eat fantastic food, and renew your spirit while strengthening your relationship with God. Cost is \$210 through Friday, February 13, and \$230 after that. To register, please turn in a Youth Interest Form along with a \$110 non-refundable deposit. Forms are available in the churches and on the parish websites. Contact either parish office with questions. Please turn in your Interest Forms by the end of January to secure your spot.

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



**Marriage Encounter** A “perfect marriage” is simply two imperfect people who learn to celebrate their differences! A perfect Valentine gift is making time for each other! Plan to attend the February 14-15 Marriage Encounter to deepen your love. Weekends are held at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington. Register at: [www.marriages.org](http://www.marriages.org) If you have any questions, please call Mary at: 651-454-3238.

**Reboot A Life-Changing Event** This high-energy, 2-hour event with internationally acclaimed speaker Chris Stefanick will awaken your faith, reignite your joy, and equip you with tools to live the life God created you for: A life of JOY! It will help you rediscover the JOY you were created for, and is perfect for everyone... even friends, family, and children (12+) who may not be actively practicing their faith. Please join us at Wadena Memorial Auditorium in Wadena, MN from 7:00 - 9:00 pm on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. To purchase tickets please visit <https://buylickets.at/reallifecatholic/1765324>

**Diocesan Festival of Families on February 22:** Are you looking for some mid-winter family fun? Join us at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm for a day of fun celebrating our Catholic faith. Cost is only \$25 per family (no matter the size), and will include a free carnival, family activities, lunch, age-appropriate activities and Mass with Bishop Neary. Register your family at: <https://stedio.org/event/2026-festival-of-families/>



**Marriage & Natural Family Planning: Faithfully Yours: Discover Natural Family Planning (NFP)!** NFP cooperates with nature and God's plan for married love. The Billings Ovulation Method is a natural, highly effective method for postponing or achieving pregnancy without the use of drugs or devices. A First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method will be offered in Sauk Centre on Thursday, February 19 at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's Church or CentraCare Health – Sauk Centre Hospital. For more information, or to register, contact Jill and Isaac Uphus at [uphus.nfp@gmail.com](mailto:uphus.nfp@gmail.com) or 320-290-8751. The class is approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours long. \*Note: Most insurance plans cover the cost of NFP Instruction and follow-up!



**Lenten Retreat** A great New Year resolution is to TAKE time for yourself. Take time now and register for a Lenten Retreat. The upcoming Lenten Retreat “Praying for the Prodigal” will be held Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Morris, MN and includes speakers, Jason Prigge and Roxane Salonen, the Chaplet to St. Monica, Mass, and of course, lunch. Fee is \$25 by Monday, March 2 or \$30 at the door. Feel free to invite your spouse and friends.

**Hearts of Mercy - Bishop's Annual Appeal:** The 2026 Appeal launches soon.



• **Announcement Weekend is February 7 - 8:** You will receive bulletin inserts highlighting diocesan ministries and be asked to consider a gift to support these ministries on Commitment Weekend.

• **Commitment Weekend is February 14 - 15:** This is your opportunity to support diocesan ministries with a 2026 gift to the appeal. You may bring the envelope you receive in the mail or use a response envelope that will be provided at Mass. Both will be gratefully received in the offertory.

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



**Be a Totus Tuus Leader** Are you in college and considering your summer plans? Consider being a Totus Tuus leader for the Diocese of St. Cloud. You would be a "missionary to the youth" in central Minnesota. The program is just two months long so you would still get some needed rest and family time yet it offers an opportunity for a summer of growing in your own faith and in deeper love of Jesus. We offer a stipend of \$500/week. Please visit this site for more info and to sign up: <https://stedio.org/vocations/totus-tuus/leaders/>

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



**PASTOR:** Fr. Dan Walz

**PRINCIPAL:** Kristie Harren

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**

Amy Van Beck

**SHS BOARD:**

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www.shsfreeport.org School Phone: 320-836-2591 Toddler Center Phone: 320-836-2585



**PASTOR:** Fr. Mitchell Bechtold

**PRINCIPAL:** Autumn Nelson

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**

Briana Worms

**SMS BOARD:**

Jenn Lubarski, Cindy Hemmesch, Jake Primus, Pat Christensen, Lindsey Gruber, and Greta Rademacher

Phone: 320-256-4257

www.smsmelrosemn.org



**PASTOR:** Fr. Mitchell Bechtold

**PRINCIPAL:** Mary Miller

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**

Kristen Pattinson

**SJSA BOARD:**

Amber Bueckers, Kathy Gilk, Adam Kalthoff, Kate Kelzer, Heidi Meyer, Trista Roelike, and Jenny Wilson

Phone: 320-987-3133

www.sjsaschool.org

♦**Thank you** to everyone that attended and supported our 31st Annual Wine and Dine dinner and auction on Saturday! We appreciate all of your support!

♦**We had a blast celebrating Catholic Schools Week** all week long with activities, dress up days, mini courses and more.

♦**SHS students, staff and our SHS strings** will attend Mass in St. Martin on Sunday, February 1 to celebrate their Catholic Schools Week.



### Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

01/18	\$25	Kay & Craig Sawyer - Melrose
01/19	\$25	Danielle & Joe Toenyan - Sauk Centre
01/20	\$25	Steve & Kate Hellickson - Brooten
01/21	\$25	Cory & Jenna Middendorf - Melrose
01/22	\$25	Dean Thull - Albany
01/23	\$25	Jennifer Beach - Freeport
01/24	\$25	Vern Frericks - Melrose

### The Scriptures This Week

Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II

<b>Mo</b>	<b>Saint Timothy and Titus, Bishops (Memorial)</b> 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5	Mk 3:22-30
<b>Tu</b>	<b>Weekday</b> (Saint Angela Merici, Virgin) 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19	Mk 3:31-35
<b>We</b>	<b>Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church (Memorial)</b> 2 Sm 7:4-17	Mk 4:1-20
<b>Th</b>	<b>Weekday</b> 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29	Mk 4:21-25
<b>Fr</b>	<b>Weekday</b> 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17 Mk 4:26-34	
<b>Sa</b>	<b>Saint John Bosco, Priest (Memorial)</b> 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17	Mk 4:35-41
<b>Next Sunday -</b>		
<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		
Zep 2:3; 3:12-13      1 Cor 1:26-31		
Mt 5:1-12a		

♦**Congratulations** to our Second Graders who received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation last weekend.

♦**Thank You to Mindy and Jason Arnzen** for organizing the Family Fun Night. It was a great night for SMS families to hang out together, build community, and have fun as families.

♦**Thank You to Amanda and Luke Fuechtmann** for chairing the school breakfast again and to all the parents who volunteered their time to make this a successful event. Thank you also to all who supported the breakfast.

♦**Registration for Preschool-6th Grade** will begin in early February for current SMS families and in early March for those families not currently enrolled at SMS. If you are new to the community or just considering sending your child to St. Mary's School, please call to schedule a visit or to receive the new registration materials in March. 320-256-4257.

♦**Catholic Schools Week** will be celebrated from January 25 through January 30.

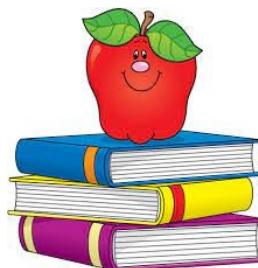
•**Monday, January 26: Celebrating our Community** - Jersey Day & students write letters to members of our community who care for others.

•**Tuesday, January 27: Celebrating the Student** - Pajama Day & students sit by someone new at lunch, partner read with students from a different grade, and enjoy a Bible Scavenger Hunt!

•**Wednesday, January 28: Celebrating Vocations** - Students dress like Staff, and Staff dress like Students & students learn about the different ministries people are involved in within our church.

•**Thursday, January 29: Celebrating God's Creation** - Funny/Fuzzy Socks & sledding and skiing.

•**Friday, January 30 - Celebrating Faculty and Staff** - St. Mary's Spirit Day! Mini-courses



We  Our

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