

A newly published set of rules for the Saint Mary's and Saint Patrick's Cemeteries can be found in our parish office. Be sure to stop on by and pick these up at your convenience. We also plan to have these available in the cemetery in the coming weeks. These rules have been modified to help us balance the beauty of a well decorated cemetery and with the responsibilities of ongoing maintenance. Thank you so much for your understanding and support.

A word of congratulations to all our graduates: those whom we have honored in our own parishes these past weekends and, indeed, all area graduates. It is evident to me and many that the opportunity provided to our sons and daughters to grow in knowledge, virtue and excellence, has been well utilized by them all, each in their own way. Parents, teachers, indeed whole communities, can help make the world a better place one student at a time. When we equip our sons and daughters with knowledge, faith and good values we set them up for success and prepare them to be a current and future blessing to the people they encounter.

To the class of 2026: Congratulations. Go Dutchmen!

I received official word this week from the Office of the Bishop and the Presbyteral Council that, after nearly two years of dedicated priestly service to the people of our parishes, Fr. Oswaldo Roche is being transferred from the office of parochial vicar of the parishes of Saint Andrew, Greenwald; Saint John the Baptist, Meire Grove; Saint Mary, Melrose; and Saint Michael, Spring Hill, to parochial vicar of the parishes of Holy Family, Belle Prairie; Sacred Heart, Flensburg; Our Lady of Lourdes, Little Falls; Saint Mary, Little Falls; Saint James, Randall; and Saint Stanislaus, Sobieski. This transfer is effective at noon on July 1, 2026.

Fr. Oswaldo has been a true companion to me in helping to faithfully provide sacramental and spiritual care to the people of our parishes. Formed by upbringing and priestly formation in Venezuela, he has also been a true friend to the members of our Hispanic community. While I will miss him personally, and miss the reliable care and support he has provided me and our community, I am happy for the parishioners of the Haven of Mercy ACC and the greater community.

I hope you will make it a point to join me in thanking him personally for sharing his priestly service and presence. Expect that there will be an event/occasion to more formally honor Fr. Oswaldo in the weeks ahead. We will publish these details as they are decided.

FATHER MITCHELL'S PASTORAL BULLETIN

Sunday, May 24, 2026

To the parishioners of Saint Andrew's, Greenwald,
Saint John the Baptist's, Meire Grove, Saint Mary's, Melrose &
Saint Michael's, Spring Hill, of the One In Faith Area Catholic Community

Since it is that no priest has been assigned to replace Fr. Oswaldo, this change in appointment will require us to modify our weekly Mass schedule, beginning July of 2026. No concrete decisions concerning Mass times and locations can be provided until the official decree concerning any mergers within our ACC and parish cluster is provided to us. When I know more, you will know more.

With that, have a very good weekend and week. Enjoy the good weather, and be safe.

Mary, who conceived by the grace of the Holy Spirit, pray for us.

In Christ,

Father Mitchell Bechtold

Greetings.

So much to recognize today. Firstly, a Blessed Pentecost to you all! This day marks the conclusion of the Season of Easter. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, we become children of God and have a share in those seven-fold gifts of Wisdom, Knowledge, Counsel, Prudence, Fortitude, Piety and Fear of the Lord. These gifts help us to live truly Christian lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in these gifts.

Also, a Happy Memorial Day weekend to you. I trust that each of us are making the most of this weekend which serves as the unofficial kickoff to Summer. With the many decorations recently added to so many headstones in our cemeteries, and following the good work of so many volunteers who have helped to keep our cemeteries clean, they look truly stunning. Our cemeteries look like we live in the hope of the resurrection. Make sure to swing on through, take in the sight, and offer a prayer for the souls of the faithful departed as you do.