



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-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13, 2026

Fr. Daniel Walz, Pastor
Fr. Mitchell Bechtold, Pastor

Melrose Office:

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

Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Office Phone: 320-256-4207

Fr. Mitchell Bechtold: 320-247-4907 (call or text)
mlbechtold@outlook.com

Office Email: oif@stmarysofmelrose.com

Faith Formation: faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

Website: www.oneinfaith.org

Facebook: Church of St. Mary, Melrose

Mailing Address: 755 Kraft Drive SE
Melrose, MN 56352

Freeport - New Munich - St. Rosa Office:

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

Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Office Phone: 320-836-2143

Fr. Daniel Walz: frwalz@catholic-centered.org

Office Email: triparish@albanytel.com

Faith Formation: faithformation@catholic-centered.org

Website: www.sacredheartfreeport.org

Facebook: Tri Parish

Mailing Address: PO Box 155
Freeport, MN 56331

Bulletin Announcements

Deadline: Tuesday before 9:00 am

Email information to: bulletin@catholic-centered.org

Confession Times

- ♦Fridays 7:45 am Sacred Heart
- ♦Saturdays 8:00 am During Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - St. Mary - Melrose
- ♦Saturdays 3:30 pm Immaculate Conception
- ♦Saturdays 4:30 pm St. Mary - Meire Grove
- ♦Sundays 11:00 am St. Mary - Melrose
- ♦Or by appointment. Call the Parish Office.

Marriage

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

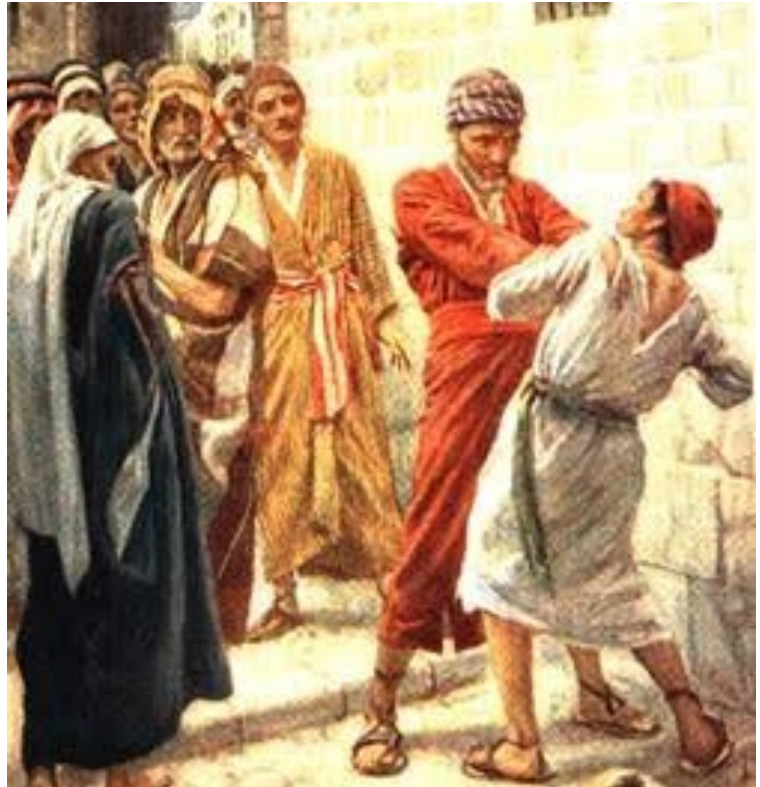
*Diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes are required.

Baptism & OCIA

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

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

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



Exponential Mercy

"That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt." Matthew 18:23-25

Jesus tells this parable in response to Peter, who asked, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Peter likely thought he was being generous. But Jesus invited him to go far beyond what he imagined, responding, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."

The context is helpful. Not long before this dialogue, Jesus had changed Simon's name to Peter—Petros—meaning "rock," the foundation upon which He would build His Church. He further promised Peter that the gates of hell would not prevail against it and said, "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19).

Soon after that, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a high mountain, where they were privileged to witness His Transfiguration—a glimpse of His divine glory. Peter had also witnessed many other miracles, some quite personal. For example, when asked by tax collectors whether Jesus paid the Temple tax, Jesus told Peter to go to the sea, cast a hook, and open the mouth of the first fish he caught. Inside, he found a coin worth twice the Temple tax—enough for both Jesus and Peter (Matthew 17:27).

Continued on page 5

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ SEPTEMBER 14 - 20

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

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

We 8:00 am †Lucille Imdieke (Meire Grove)

Th 8:00 am **SJSA School Mass**
 †Mildred Wiechmann (Greenwald)

*Fr 8:30 am **SM School Mass**
 †Deceased Members of the
 Ed Bussman Family (Melrose)

Sa 5:00 pm †Ida Pung (Melrose)

Su 7:30 am †Edward & †Pauline Imdieke
 (Meire Grove)

*Su 9:30 am †Tony & †Carol Niehaus
 (Melrose)

Su 12:00 pm **Misa en Español (Melrose)**
 Por el Pueblo

SACRED HEART - Freeport

Tu 8:15 am †Jack Engelmeyer

We 8:15 am **SH School Mass**
 †Chad Toenyan
 Faith Formation Families

We 6:30 pm †Betty Goebel

Th 8:15 am Loren Wiechman

Fr 8:15 am For the People

Su 8:00 am

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Sa 4:00 pm Bill Schmidt

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Su 10:00 am †Jim & †Mary Jane Imdieke

***Mass will be livestreamed.**

Visit: oneinfaith.org for the YouTube link.

St. Mary - Melrose

First Thursday of the month 6:30 pm
 in Spanish (en Español) and
 Saturdays, 8:00 am - 9:00 am
 in English

Sacred Heart - Freeport

Fridays, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

Do You Have Questions About the Catholic Faith?

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

She Shall Be Called Woman is a transformative journey designed to meet the deepest longings of the feminine heart. Our program is a sanctuary for women seeking to be truly seen, known, and loved, as they grow in their relationship with the Lord. Through vibrant conversations, authentic speakers, and enriching prayer experiences, we equip you with the tools to embark on a profound spiritual journey. Join us for food, fellowship, and faith on Sunday evenings starting Sunday, September 27 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at St. Mary's Church. All women from all parishes are welcome! Learn more at www.SheShallBeCalledWoman.com.

**Employment Opportunity...**

•**St. Mary's Church** is seeking a temporary, part-time grounds and maintenance person beginning August 19 for approximately six to eight weeks. Duties will include general groundskeeping and maintenance for the church, school and cemeteries. For more information, please contact Fr. Mitchell or Pam at the parish office.

•**Sacred Heart** is seeking a part-time Parish Groundskeeper/Custodian. This individual oversees the care of the parish grounds and buildings. Individuals interested in this position are asked to send a letter of interest and resume to ahoeshen@catholic-centered.org. For more information, please contact Amy Hoeschen at PO Box 155, Freeport, MN 56331 or call 320-836-2143.

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.

**Parish News:**

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

- Parish Fiscal Year Financial Reports** for July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 are in the kiosk or the back of the church for anyone who wants to view. On the back of the financial report are the parish statistics that are sent to the diocese annually giving the number of Catholics in the parish. If you have any questions, please contact Amy at 320-836-2143.
- Faith Formation Teachers Needed** We are in need of faith formation teachers for some of our elementary, Jr High, and High School classes. If we do not have enough catechists, we may not be able to offer class. If you are passionate about our youth knowing Jesus and wanting vocations to increase in our Diocese, please reach out to Alexandra and Father Dan about becoming a Catechist. Anyone in 11th and 12th grade, as well as adults, are invited and encouraged to help out. You may teach in pairs as well.
- St. Cloud Novena Booklets** Please return them to the church after you are finished with them. Thank you.

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



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

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.....	\$6,773.71
Regular Adult Offering	5,364.00
Plate/Loose	910.00
Designated Funds	499.71

Spring Hill	\$209.00
Greenwald	\$135.00

St. Mary - Meire Grove

Total	\$1,481.55
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,305.00
Children's	0.50
Plate/Loose	104.05
Votives	72.00

St. Mary's - Meire Grove Liturgical Ministries
Sunday, September 19 - 7:30 am

(S) Morgan Funk & Paige Funk

(L) Rita Meyer

(U) John Primus & Ray Primus

(GB) Matt & Joy Silbernack

(EM) Abby Zenzen, Daryl Zenzen, Nick Kelzer, & Jim Leukam

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

St. Mary's - Melrose Calendar Raffle

09-06	\$25	Marge Koopmeiners, Melrose
09-07	\$25	Bob & Rita Klassen, Melrose
09-08	\$25	Rea Danzl, Colorado Springs, CO
09-09	\$50	Sara & Pat Christenson, Melrose
09-10	\$25	Melvin Notch, Melrose
09-11	\$25	Denise Danzl, Colorado Springs, CO
09-12	\$25	Audrey Van Beck, Sauk Centre



Seek and Find! Are you interested in a growing faith formation experience? Be a part of the Tuesday morning spirituality group that gathers from 10:00 - 11:00 am in St. Mary's Parish meeting room. Each week begins with prayer. A lively discussion takes place. All are welcome! No registration necessary. Come whenever you can!



Do You Like to Sing? We would love to have you check out the Parish Choir. The parish choir leads music at the 9:30 am Mass about twice a month and sings 4-part music. The next rehearsal will be on Monday, September 14, from 7:15 - 8:30 pm at St. Mary's in the music area. Contact Sarah Woeste at 320-256-9516 with any questions.

Help Prepare Couples for a Christ-Centered Marriage

We are seeking additional married couples who feel called to serve as mentor couples for engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony. By sharing your faith, experience, and encouragement, you can help engaged couples build a strong foundation for a lifelong, Christ-centered marriage. Upcoming mentor couple training dates are:

◆September 26, 2026 ◆January 23, 2027 ◆April 24, 2027

Couples need to attend only one training session. Please contact the parish office for more information or to volunteer.

Elections The election for two open finance positions in Meire Grove is scheduled to be held on Sunday, September 27.

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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

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

Total.....	\$4,452.96
Regular Adult Offering	3,825.46
Plate	268.25
Votive	69.25
Building/Maintenance	280.00
School Support	10.00

Parish Events

Su	09/13	9:00 am	Catholic United Financial Meeting
We	09/16	7:00 pm	Faith Formation Beginning of the Year Mass All Grades
Fr	09/18	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	09/18	9:00 am	Adoration
Su	09/20	9:00 am	Baptism
Mo	09/21	6:30 pm	Youth Night at SHS Gym

Welcome to our Parish... We welcome Derek & Taylor Schmitz, and their children, Olivia, Wren, Wade, and Dane, to our parish.

Children's Liturgy is offered during most Sunday Masses throughout the year. Children, pre-k through those preparing for First Holy Communion, are invited to participate in Children's Liturgy. For those who have received the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we ask that they remain and are active participants in the Mass.



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.

New Weekend Mass Schedule After prayerful consideration, in order to adequately respond to the pastoral needs of our faith communities, the following weekend Mass schedule will take effect next weekend - September 19 & 20:

Saturday

5:00 pm — St. Mary's, Melrose

Sunday

7:30 am — St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove

9:30 am — St. Mary's, Melrose

12:00 pm — Spanish Mass at St. Mary's, Melrose

With the permission of Bishop Patrick Neary, Fr. Mitchell has been given permission to celebrate four Masses each weekend (Saturday Vigil and Sunday), making this schedule possible.

This schedule has been chosen to: support the long-term viability of our faith communities, make responsible and efficient use of our churches and resources, and provide a schedule that can be sustained with occasional assistance of our deacons in preaching and retired priests to preside. Above all, our goal remains to serve the people throughout our parish boundaries as faithfully and effectively as possible.

No schedule can meet every individual need or preference, and this option was only selected after careful planning and consideration, but is considered necessary at this time.

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



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.

CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,787.92
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,181.92
Plate	506.00
Building/Maintenance	100.00

Parish Events

Tu 09/15 6:30 pm Catholic Order of Foresters
Quarterly Meeting
We 09/16 7:00 pm Faith Formation Beginning
of Year Mass All Grades - FR
Sa 09/19 3:30 pm Individual Confessions
Mo 09/21 6:30 pm Christian Women Meeting
Mo 09/21 6:30 pm Youth Night at SHS Gym

St. Ann's Christian Women will meet in the gathering space in New Munich on Monday, September 21 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.



Bake Sale St. Ann's Christian Women will hold a bake sale Sunday, September 27 in conjunction with the Catholic Order of Forester's Breakfast in the church basement. Parish members with the last names beginning with N-Z are asked to bring baked items to the church basement Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. If you choose not to bake you are asked to please donate \$10.

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.

Stewardship as a Way of Life:

*"For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we
are the Lord's."*

Romans 14:8

This is the essence of stewardship - everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.

CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$3,533.08
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,339.08
Plate	1,194.00

Parish Events

Su 09/13 11:00 am Catholic United Financial Mtg.
We 09/16 7:00 pm Faith Formation Beginning
of Year Mass All Grades - FR
Fr 09/18 6:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal
Fr 09/18 7:30 pm Rosary
Sa 09/19 12:30 pm Wedding Prep/Pictures
Sa 09/19 2:00 pm Fleischhacker/Becker Wedding
Mo 09/21 6:30 pm Youth Night at SHS Gym

Thank You from the St. Rose Festival Committee to everyone who made our festival a great success; without all of your help, the festival would not be possible. Mark your calendars for next year's festival September 5, 2027. *Michael & Jessica Lehner, Devin & Elisha Kemper, and Stan & Jan Herzog*

Pink Cash Raffle Tickets The Pink cash raffle tickets was a great success again this year, all sold!! Thank you all for making this happen!! Very Appreciated!

Winners are below:

- 1) \$20,000 Amy Grider, Grey Eagle
- 2) \$3,000 Dave Rahn, Melrose
- 3) \$2,000 Alphonse Brenny, Foley
- 4) \$1,000 Dennis Roerick, Sauk Centre
- 5) \$500 Nate Arnzen/Daryl-All Stars
- 6) \$500 Laurie Herzog, Andover
- 7) \$500 Katie Kerfeld, Freeport
- 8) \$500 Kevin Frericks/
Budde Silbernack, Melrose
- 9) \$500 Matt Ripplinger, Freeport
- 10) \$500 Lois Notsch, St. Cloud
- 11) \$500 Rose Rarick, Waite Park
- 12) \$500 Steve Hellmann, Holdingford
- 13) \$500 Jeremy Freudenrich, Grey Eagle
- 14) \$500 Randi Robasse, Melrose
- 15) \$500 Joe Hennen, Freeport
- 16) \$100 Nate, Nick, Carter-All Stars
- 17) \$100 Richard Krueger, Hutchinson
- 18) \$100 Dave Rahn, Melrose
- 19) \$100 Jay Hemmesch, Paynesville
- 20) \$100 Dustin Bueckers, Melrose

Congratulations to all the Winners!

Prayer Requests...

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

Banns of Matrimony:

I Emily Engel♥Ethan Harren, 10/3 - FR
I Greta Schoenberg♥Derek Knutson, 10/3 - SH
II Gwen Welle♥Joey Gomez, 9/26 - FR
II Melissa George♥Dustin Gregory, 9/26 - M
III Kelsey Fleischhacker♥Kolby Becker, 9/19 - SR

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

You're Invited!
To St. Mary's
Fall Picnic
— and —
Golden Ladle Soup Cook-Off
All are welcome!
Sunday, September 13, 2026
4:00 to 7:00pm at St. Mary's Church

Come for food, music, entertainment and fellowship!

Food is:
SOUP
SANDWICHES
COOKIES
and DRINKS

St. Mary's School
Lemonade Stand!

Kids Games

Free Will Offering Proceeds to The Melrose Area Food Shelf.



FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: faithformation@catholic-centered.org

- **Beginning of Year Mass for Faith Formation** will be Wednesday, September 16 from 7:00-8:00 pm at Sacred Heart Church for all grades 1-11. Parents are highly encouraged to join their child! Students must check in with their Catechist when they arrive at Mass. If your child comes to Mass without their parent, they are required to sit with their Catechist. If your child comes to Mass with their parent, they may sit with their parent elsewhere if they choose. If you are unable to join your child, but know of a parent who will be at Mass that you are ok with your child sitting with, please email Director of Faith Formation, Alexandra, providing this permission at faithformation@catholic-centered.org.
- **Grades 1-6: Next Class:** Wednesday, September 23 at 6:00 pm. All classes will meet in their designated classrooms in the Tri-Parish Office.
- **Grades 7-10: Next Class:** Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 pm. See schedule that was mailed out for designated classroom.
- **Grade 9:** Parents need to attend the first 15 minutes of the first classroom night on Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 pm in the Tri-Parish Office. The Catechists want to make sure the parents understand the curriculum their children will be learning and the expectations in class. Thank you.
- **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.
- **Parent Class:** Parents of students in grades 1-6 will meet in the Sacred Heart Church Basement on Wednesday, September 23 from 6:00-7:00 pm while the students are in class.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.org

- **Help Needed** We are looking for about 5 adults and 5 youth to help with the Fall Festival on September 13. If you are interested please let Mark know.
- **First Sacraments** will be held from 10:00-11:15 am starting this Sunday, September 13, at St. Mary Church. If you have questions about Faith Formation please let Mark Kociemba know.
- **Faith Formation Classes** will be held Wednesday, September 16 at St. Mary's Catholic School. Grades 1, 3-5 will be from 6:00-7:00 pm, and grades 6-12 will be from 7:15-8:30 pm. 11th grade confirmation will meet at the church from 7:15-8:30 pm.
- **Faith Formation Registration** It is not too late to turn in your Faith Formation registration forms. We want to see all of our youth participating in faith formation. Forms can be found on the Faith Formation table by the office or in the kiosks in the church. They can also be found on the website or by emailing Mark Kociemba or calling 320-256-9501.
- **Parent & Youth Advisory Committee/Board** If you would like to be part of the parent advisory committee or the youth advisory board for faith formation or youth ministry, please contact Mark Kociemba.



Exponential Mercy cont.'d from pg 1

Perhaps these recent events in which Peter played a privileged role left him feeling quite favored. He may have begun to think well of himself, sensing a special place in Jesus' mission. Wanting to demonstrate his spiritual maturity, Peter made what he thought was a generous offer: to forgive his brother up to seven times.

In Jewish tradition, to forgive seven times was seen as more than sufficient. The rabbinic teaching often suggested forgiving up to three times, based loosely on interpretations of the Prophet Amos (cf. [Amos 1:3](#)). So when Peter offered seven, he was doubling that and adding one for good measure—a symbolic act of exceeding piety.

But Jesus' response radically shifted the paradigm. Seventy-seven times—or, in some manuscripts, seventy times seven—is not a precise numerical limit. It's a symbolic expression that conveys the idea of limitless forgiveness, echoing God's own mercy toward sinners. Jesus was not simply raising the bar; He was inviting Peter—and all of us—into the boundless love of the Father.

The parable Jesus then taught illustrates this clearly: Because God has shown us immeasurable mercy, we must extend mercy to others. But it also begins with a shocking image. When the king began the accounting and the servant who owed a "huge amount" was brought before him—an amount so large he had no way of repaying—the master ordered that the servant, his wife, his children, and all his property be sold. This illustrates the incalculable debt we owe to God for our sins. Not only are we incapable of repaying it, but even everything we hold dear cannot cover the cost. At the heart of the parable is this truth: Unless we extend limitless mercy to others, we will be held accountable for our own unpayable debt before God. But if we imitate God's mercy and forgive from the heart, that enormous debt will be entirely wiped away.

Reflect today on the mercy you have received from God. Has He not been patient with you, gentle with your faults, and generous with His grace? Now consider someone in your life whom you have found difficult to forgive. Does that person's offense compare to the debt God has forgiven you? Let this parable challenge you to a deeper conversion of heart, one that forgives as it has been forgiven, not seven times, but seventy-seven times, and more. Only then will the kingdom of Heaven truly reign in you.

Most generous Lord, You forgive more than seventy-seven times—more than seventy times seven. Your mercy is unconditional in its origin and limitless in its reach, yet it bears one condition: that I, too, show mercy to others. Grant me, dear Lord, a heart that is merciful like Yours, one that participates in and reflects Your Divine Mercy. May I forgive as I have been forgiven, so that the full debt of my sin may be wiped away and that others may be drawn to You through the witness of mercy in my life. Jesus, I trust in You.

mycatholic.life

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tri-Parish Youth Ministry:

Contact Information: youthministry@catholic-centered.org

- **Youth Night** Monday, September 21 at 6:30 pm in the Sacred Heart School Gym! Students in grades 9-12 are invited to join us!

St. Mary's Youth Ministry:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

- **First Youth Group Meeting** on Sunday, September 13 from 10:00-11:15 am at St. Mary's School for Youth in grades 6 - 12. Please let Mark Kociemba know if you are interested in being part of the Youth Group by emailing faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com or calling 320-256-9501.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
PRINCIPAL: Kristie Harren
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Amy Van Beek
SMS BOARD:
 Myranda 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

♥ **Thank you** to Magnifi for providing muffins and lemonade for our workshop before school started and also for the amazing \$4,000 donation!

♥ **We are BACK AT SCHOOL!** Please be careful and watch for children at all times when driving and parking near the school and church.

♥ **We celebrated our September Birthday** dinner on Thursday, September 10.

♥ **Our first school board meeting** will be Thursday, September 17.

♥ **The PreK classes** will go to a **Great Theatre performance** on Thursday, September 17 and our Kindergarten and First grade will go to a performance on Thursday, September 24.

LOOKING AHEAD:

♥ **Care A Thon** Saturday, October 3.

♥ **Grandparents Day** Friday, October 9.

♦ **The Next School Board Meeting** is on Wednesday, September 16, at 6:00 pm in the school lounge.

♦ Please consider pledging a student for our upcoming **Marathon/Prayer-A-Thon** on Friday, October 2. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 through this fundraiser. This is a budgeted item in our school budget for the 2026-2027 school year. We also believe in the power of prayer and want to pray for you and your families. Please feel free to send in prayer requests as well. All donations and prayers can be sent to St. Mary's School, 320 5th Ave. SE, Melrose, MN 56352.

♦ **Thank You** to an anonymous donor who provided a stipend to each teacher to purchase items for their classroom that would be a benefit to the teacher and student. The donation also paid for the assignment notebooks for our 4-6 graders. We appreciate all the different ways our community gives back to St. Mary's School.

♦ **We Are Grateful to the Magnifi Foundation** for their generous donation of \$10,000, which will fund a much-needed renovation of our school office next summer. This project will create a more welcoming, spacious area for families and visitors, as well as a safer, more secure entry point.

♦ **Prek through 2nd grade** went to the **Great River Children's Museum** on Friday, September 11 to ignite wonder, creativity, learning, and fun!

♦ **SJSA School Board** meets Tuesday, September 15 at 7:30 pm in the school basement.

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

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

♦ **SJSA Prayer-a-Thon** is Friday, October 9. Students will spend the day lifting out supporters' intentions in prayer through various prayer activities. We will also be holding a prayer service at St. Andrew's church in Greenwald at 1:45 pm. Please support our students as they seek pledges to reach our fundraising goal of \$18,000. Thank you.



Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

09/06	\$25	Jenny Goebel - Freeport
09/07	\$25	Gwen Shaw - Melrose
09/08	\$50	Brooke Nielsen - Albany
09/09	\$25	Dale Goebel (Brandon) - Freeport
09/10	\$25	Paul & Roxi Schmitz - St. Cloud
09/11	\$25	Stephanie Mergen - Albany
09/12	\$25	Sarah Burg - Watkins

The Scriptures This Week

Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II

Mo	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (<i>Feast</i>) Nm 21:4b-9 Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17
Tu	Our Lady of Sorrows (<i>Memorial</i>) 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
We	Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs (<i>Memorial</i>) 1 Cor 12:31—13:13 Lk 7:31-35
Th	Weekday (<i>Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i>) 1 Cor 15:1-11 Lk 7:36-50
Fr	Weekday 1 Cor 15:12-20 Lk 8:1-3
Sa	Weekday (<i>Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr; BVM</i>) 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49 Lk 8:4-15
Next Sunday - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 55:6-9 Phil 1:20c-24, 27a Mt 20:1-16a	

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



ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 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.

"Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace" is the theme of the St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Annual Fall Conference to be held Saturday, September 19, from 8:00 am - 2:15 pm at Holy Family Parish in Belle Prairie, featuring Fr. Tim Tran as the speaker. The day will also include Mass and a documentary film on the life of Archbishop Fulton Sheen. Registration fee is \$25 by September 10; \$30 after September 10 or at the door. Send registration fee to: St. Cloud DCCW c/o Nita Hayes, 16695 Jewel Road, Little Falls, MN 56345. For questions, call Nita at 320-630-0388.



Be Not Afraid! Of course, you don't have to have a faith crisis to attend a Koinonia retreat, some of us just like to meet new people and share our gifts and talents. Maybe that is what you like to do too. CENTRAL MINNESOTA KOINONIA is a Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St. Cloud Diocese and designed for adults. The next weekend is scheduled for September 18-20, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Go to www.centralmnkoinonia.org for more information and to register for retreats. Cost of the weekend is \$70.

Care for Creation: Caring for God's Creation is one of the seven central themes of Catholic social teaching, and it holds particular significance for our diocesan community. The natural world is not separate from us; it is the very place where we encounter God's generosity and where we live out our call to love our neighbor. Learn more at <https://stcdio.org/care-for-creation/>.

Marriage & Natural Family Planning: A Divine Design!

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is a reliable way to plan your family. It cooperates with God's design for married love. NFP is effective, wholesome and healthy. A First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method will be offered in Sauk Centre on Thursday, September 17 and Thursday, October 15 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!



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

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

September 13, Sunday

♦ **Breakfast and Bake Sale** Spring Hill Matching Grant Catholic United Financial Council #126 at Spring Hill church basement, Spring Hill. Serving from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm. Adults \$10 in advance or \$10.50 at the door. Children 6-12 \$4. Children 5 and under are free.

♦ **Breakfast** at St. John the Baptist Parish Hall in Swanville. Sponsored by Grey Eagle/Swanville Knights of Columbus. Serving from 8:00 - 11:00 am. Freewill donation. All proceeds will go towards Knights of Columbus charitable activities.

♦ **Fall Picnic & Golden Ladle Soup Cook-Off** 4:00 - 7:00 pm at St. Mary's Church in Melrose. Come for food (soup, sandwiches, cookies and drinks), St. Mary's School Lemonade Stand, entertainment, games, and fellowship!

♦ **Breakfast** at St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Morrill Parish Hall 33018 Nature Rd. Foley, MN. Adults \$15. Ages 5-10 \$8. 4 and under free.

September 17, Thursday

♦ **Freeport Senior Citizens Meeting** at 1:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All area seniors welcome. 500 cards and Bingo will be played.

September 18, Friday

♦ **"All You Can Eat" Fish Fry** at the American Legion Post 101 in Melrose. Serving from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Doors open at 3:00 pm. Take-outs are available. Your support is much appreciated!

September 19, Saturday

♦ **Fall Family Festival** at Holy Spirit Church 2405 Walden Way St. Cloud, MN 56301. The event starts at 4:00 pm with Mass. Brats, hot dogs and sides served from 5:00 - 7:00 pm free-will offering. Bingo for all ages at 6:30 pm. Karaoke, bounce house, train rides, gaga ball and more. All kids' activities are free!

September 20, Sunday

♦ **St. Anthony Church Breakfast** St. Cloud. Serving from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm in the St. Anthony Parish Center, 2405 - 1st St. N. Adults \$12, Grades 7 - 12 \$6, PreK - 6 Free.

♦ **Frantober Fest** at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. Food, bingo, kids games, silent auction, big ticket, and quilt drawing.

September 22, Tuesday

♦ **Catholic United Financial Live Music** at the New Munich City Hall from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. All are Welcome.

♦ **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. Experience evening prayer in the gentle rhythm of the Liturgy of the Hours (psalms, scripture and intercessions), with time for faith sharing in breakout groups. Please register in advance for the Zoom link at ssnd.org/events/9-22-26/.

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 on going 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.

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