

EDITION - XVIII

Closer to home, the community of Greenwald celebrates its 77th annual Barley Days next weekend, August 1 and 2, on the grounds of Saint Andrew. As in years past, the weekend traditionally opens with an outdoor polka Mass on Saturday evening at 7:30 PM, with live music to follow. The event continues on Sunday with the parade at 11 a.m. and an afternoon of food, music, and good company. It is one of the happy traditions of our area, and a fine chance to reconnect with Greenwaldeans, from near and far.

For our young people, our new Faith Formation director, Mark Kociemba, continues to develop our faith formation program. From what I have seen of it the program is new, but very promising. Our young people are warmly encouraged to take part in the upcoming retreat for youth, grades 6-12, on August 8th 2026 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. If we desire to grow in our faith, we must exercise the soul, and opportunities like this are good for exactly that.

For the men of the parish, we are preparing to introduce a Catholic men's group in the coming months. It goes by a name some of you may know: That Man Is You! It will be led by Bob Arceneau, together with a core team. We expect to begin soon; the meeting dates and times will be announced before long, so stay tuned.

EDITION - XVIII

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, meanwhile, remains one of the perennial treasures of our Catholic tradition. The practice grew from the ancient custom of reserving the Eucharist for the sick and dying; devotion to our Lord present outside of Mass flowered across Europe in the 11th and 12th centuries, and in 1264 the Church gave it a feast of its own in Corpus Christi.

Here at Saint Mary's we offer two opportunities each week for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: on Thursday evenings in Spanish, beginning at 6:30 PM, and on Saturday mornings from 8:00 – 9:00 AM. These are good opportunities to sit with the coming Sunday's readings and prepare your heart for Mass. Sacramental confession is usually available at these times, too. Sometimes it is simply an hour to be with Jesus in the great gift of the Sacrament. If you have never experienced it, consider yourself invited.

If these dates and times do not work for you, know that a perpetual Adoration chapel, the Saint Faustina Chapel of Divine Mercy, is open six days a week at the Church of Saint Paul in Sauk Centre. They are always glad to have more scheduled adorers. If God is moving your heart to claim an hour, you may call the parish at 320-352-2196 to sign up and learn more.

EDITION - XVIII

The summer is racing toward its conclusion, and the new school year will be upon us before we know it. Do make the most of these bright and beautiful summer days: the good weather, the long evenings, and the company of those we love.

Have a good week. See you around. God bless!

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

In Christ,

Father Mitchell Bechtold

FATHER MITCHELL'S PASTORAL BULLETIN

Sunday, July 26, 2026

To the parishioners of the Church of Saint Mary,
serving the communities of Melrose, Meire Grove, Greenwald & Spring Hill
on the church campuses in Melrose & Meire Grove

Greetings.

There is a good deal going on across our communities as the summer rolls on, and this is just some of it.

The Stearns County Fair opens this week in Sauk Centre, running Wednesday, July 29 through Sunday, August 2 at the fairgrounds in Sauk Centre. A good number of our parishioners will have animals, displays, and 4-H projects entered, and I encourage you to go to check it out and cheer them on. The exhibit buildings are generally open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., with grandstand events, the demolition derby and the antique tractor parade among them, on most evenings. Parking is \$5 for the day, or \$15 for a five-day pass, purchased at the parking entrance. It is a fine way for the family to spend a summer evening together.