



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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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

froswald@stmarysofmelrose.com

Office Email: pam@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

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.



*The
Way
to
the
Father*

“Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:4-6

In addition to His parables and moral teachings, Jesus revealed to His disciples deep mysteries in a direct way that they did not immediately comprehend, especially when He spoke to the Twelve in intimate settings, such as the Last Supper, the context for today’s Gospel. In this discourse, Jesus explains, in veiled form, that He will soon ascend into Heaven where He will prepare a place for His followers. He explains that because they know Him, they know the way to where He is going—the way to the Father—because He Himself is that Way. As Jesus spoke these mysterious truths, we can imagine the Twelve listening attentively, yet with confusion.

Everything Jesus taught was true. His words, recorded in the Gospels, reveal to us the deepest divine mysteries. Within the Scriptures, we find all we need to know to attain perfect holiness and the eternal life of Heaven. Yet we cannot quickly digest Jesus’ words as we might an intriguing novel or history book. There are many layers of depth to what He says, and we can only understand those layers through prayer.

As the conversation continued, “Philip said to him, ‘Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” (John 14:8–9).

Jesus’ response likely surprised Philip and the other disciples because they did not understand what He was saying. Their intention was good—they wanted to understand—but Jesus’ words were more than they could comprehend at that moment. Despite this, Jesus gently rebuked Philip as a way of drawing him deeper into the mystery He was revealing.

God often treats us the same way. There are many things that we do not understand. Why do innocent people suffer? Why doesn’t God heal my loved one in answer to my prayers? Why do my children no longer practice the faith? What am I supposed to do with my life?

Continued on page 5

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ MAY 4 - 10

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo 6:30 pm **Misa en español**
 †Audencio Hernandez
 †Cristina Hernandez
 †Jose Refugio Hernandez

Tu 8:00 am †Maria Sanchez
 We 8:00 am †Jeanette Barth
 Th 8:00 am †Maria Sanchez
 *Fr 8:30 am **SM School Mass**
 †Todd Bussmann

Sa 5:00 pm †Jerome & †Mary Ann Butkowski
 *Su 9:00 am †Janet Notch
 Su 11:30 am **Misa en Español**
 †Laureano Delgado Morelos

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Sa 4:00 pm For the People

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa
 Su 10:00 am †Greg Hartung

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill
 Tu 8:00 am †Mark & †Doris Schaefer
 Su 10:00 am †Kathleen Meyer

ST. ANDREW - Greenwald
 Th 8:00 am **SJSA School Mass**
 †Mathew Kasper
 Sa 4:00 pm †David Walz

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.



SACRED HEART - Freeport

Tu 8:15 am Special Intention
 We 8:15 am **SH School Mass**
 †Deceased Members of the
 Locnikar Family

Th 8:15 am †Jeanette "Jeanie" Hoppe
 Fr 8:15 am †Cyrilla Michael
 Su 8:00 am †Deceased/Living Members of the
 Henry & Adella Blommel Family

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

We 8:00 am †Maureen Luetmer
 Su 8:00 am For the People

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

ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish News:

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

•Sponsor Couples Needed for Marriage Ministry

Mentor Couples are part of a couple-to-couple ministry in which married couples mentor engaged couples to help them prepare for a Christian marriage. Please contact the parish office if you are interested in learning more about the program, training, and time commitment.

•Mass Intentions At this time, there are no available dates to schedule Mass intentions through the end of June. Once the Bishop's decree is released and the Mass schedule is finalized, we will be able to resume scheduling. Please note that with fewer Masses being offered, the number of available Mass intentions will be very limited.

•Confirmation Music Practice Singers and musicians from all 4 parishes are welcome to join Music Ministry for Confirmation Mass on Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 pm. Rehearsal will be on Monday, May 4 at 7:15 pm at St. Mary's.

•Confirmation Mass: Wednesday, May 6, 7:00 pm with Bishop Patrick Neary. All are welcome to come and celebrate this Mass with our Confirmation families!

•Baccalaureate Masses:

Sunday, May 10 8:00 am *St. John, Meire Grove*
 (For Meire Grove and Greenwald Seniors)

Sunday, May 17 9:00 am *St. Mary, Melrose*
 (All high school seniors - Hispanic and Anglo - from St. Mary's and from any of the other parishes are invited to participate in this Mass! Seniors, please arrive at church at 8:45 am)

Sunday, May 17 10:00 am *St. Michael, Spring Hill*
 All are invited to come and celebrate our seniors at these special Masses!

Catholic Charities Senior Dining needs volunteers to help in the Albany Kitchen Mondays and every other Thursday, and Meals on Wheels deliveries in Melrose Thursday's, St. Rosa, New Munich areas. When you volunteer with Senior Dining/Meals on Wheels, you make a difference in the lives of our senior neighbors. Sign up to be a volunteer today at ccstcloud.org/volunteerhub or for more information call 320-845-4070.

Volunteers Needed for Vacation Bible School (VBS)

June 8 - 12 on the grounds of Sacred Heart Church in Freeport. Students entering grade 6 through adults are invited to prayerfully consider joining us for an amazing start to your summer! As a volunteer you will journey with students ages 4 through entering grade 5, in a week filled with laughter, activities, and memories. Not only will the students grow their relationship with God, but you will too! Registration forms are available on the Tri-Parish website or by stopping by the Parish Office. Deadline for signing up is Friday, May 15. Don't miss the best week of the summer!



Sacred Heart Festival will be on Sunday, July 19.

The day will begin with a polka Mass at 9:00 am followed by a parade at 10:30 am with all the festivities to follow. The theme for this year's parade is "250 Years of America." If you are interested in putting a float in the parade, contact Andy Grieve at 320-260-5615 or email freeportmnpa@ gmail.com.

ACC Book Study As we are all going through the All Things

New process together we would like to invite individuals from across our ACC and beyond to join us for a book study. The book is Radical Hospitality. We have some books at no cost until they run out. The study will be on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm. The study will begin on May 6 and run through mid-June. It will be led by Jessica Goebel and Amy Hoeschen. Please reach out to the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport to sign up 320-836-2143.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 8 - 12 on

the grounds of Sacred Heart Church in Freeport from 9:00 - 11:30 am. Children ages 4 through entering grade 5, are invited to register for a week of activities, songs, and new adventures! This summer's theme is Rainforest Falls. Children will be "Exploring the Nature of God." Rainforest Falls is filled with Bible stories, music, games, and other fun ways to learn that God is with you every day, no matter what. Registration forms are available on the Tri-Parish website or stopping by the Parish Office. Deadline for signing up is Friday, May 15. Don't miss the best week of the summer!




CHURCH OF ST. MARY
 Physical Address: 755 Kraft Drive SE
 Melrose, MN 56352

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

Total.....	\$8,173.55
Regular Adult Offering	5,027.00
Plate/Loose	1,720.10
Designated Funds	1,426.45

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle


04-26	\$25	Jerry Bierschbach, Melrose
04-27	\$25	Mary Ann Middendorf, Melrose
04-28	\$25	Jason & Candice Hellermann, Melrose
04-29	\$25	Krista Thull, Maple Grove
04-30	\$25	Gary Meyer, Melrose
05-01	\$25	Butch Klaphake, Melrose
05-02	\$25	Dick Christenson, Melrose



Baptized in Christ... ♥Cooper Lance Hartung

Died in the Hope of Resurrection... †Lorraine Curto, 97

Fellowship... Please join us after all Masses May 9 & 10 for cookies, refreshments and friendship. Also to wish all mothers a Happy Mother's Day!



35th Annual St. Mary's Parish Raffle Annual St. Mary's Parish Raffle will be coming soon in conjunction with RiverFest on Saturday, June 27. Watch for the flyer in your mailbox in the next couple weeks. Your support will be greatly appreciated.



CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART
 Physical Address: 106 3rd Avenue NE Freeport, MN 56331
 Church Basement 320-836-2191


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

Total.....	\$6,110.46
Regular Adult Offering	4,646.46
Plate	273.00
Votive	29.00
Building/Maintenance	420.00
School Support	190.00
Easter Envelopes	20.00
Painting	400.00
Peter's Pence	50.00
Central MN Catholic Magazine	25.00
Home Missions	57.00

Parish Events


Su	05/03	10:00 am	First Communion Mass - NM
Mo	05/04		Church Painting Continues
Mo	05/04	6:30 pm	Youth Night at SHS Gym
Tu	05/05	2:45 pm	SHS Strings Practice
Th	05/07	3:00 pm	Girl Scout Meeting
Fr	05/08	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Su	05/10	8:00 am	Youth Choir Sing

Community Garden is tilled and ready for planting. If you are interested in reserving rows in the community garden, please call the Tri-Parish Office at 320-836-2143. Each row is spaced 5 feet apart and will be assigned on a first call basis.



Attention St. Joseph Society Members Please return all sold and unsold tickets and money to the Parish Office in Freeport or drop them in the collection no later than Wednesday, May 13.

Embroiderers Needed If you enjoy embroidering or appliquéing, the festival quilting group would like assistance with dish towels. You can stop at the Tri-Parish Office entryway and pick up a packet to complete and return. The packets will have 7 dish towels and applique patterns. Please sign the towels out and return to the parish office when complete. Thank you!



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

◆**Get your glove ready!** Registration is now open for the St. Rosa co-ed youth, ages 9-14, SkyDome softball league. **Register by Monday, May 4.** Sign-up forms are available at RJ's Country Store in St. Rosa.

May 3, Sunday

◆**Church of St. Augustine Parish Breakfast** 106 Wilson Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN. Serving from 7:30 am - 12:00 pm. Adults \$12. Youth ages 5-12 \$7. Ages 4 and under are free.

May 4, Monday

◆**Author Talk and Book Signing** with local author Layla Reed. 6:30 - 7:30 pm at the Melrose City Center, part of the Festival of the Arts.

May 5, Tuesday

◆**Quilt Parade & Music by Choir Students** from 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Cura of Melrose Chapel, part of the Festival of the Arts.

May 8, Friday

◆**Burger Night** at the Melrose American Legion Post 101 in Melrose. Serving from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Baskets starting at \$10. Take-outs available. Doors open at 3:00 pm.

May 8-9, Friday & Saturday

◆**Auxiliary Poppies** The American Legion Auxiliary of Melrose will be distributing poppies in Melrose and Freeport.

◆**3rd Annual Festival of the Arts** The Melrose Area Arts Council will be hosting the Melrose Area Festival of the Arts from 11:00 am - 7:00 pm on Friday and 11:00 am - 6:00 pm on Saturday at the Melrose American Legion.

May 10, Sunday

◆**Mother's Day Breakfast** at Church of the Holy Spirit 2405 Walden Way St. Cloud, MN. Serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.

May 11, Monday

◆**Rise! An Evening of Faith, Hope, and Healing!** At Saint Mary's Cathedral in the Upper Church in St. Cloud from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Praise and worship, prayer teams, testimonials, adoration, and reconciliation. Enjoy light refreshments and fellowship in the lower church reception area.

May 13, Wednesday

◆**Blood Drive** at the Melrose American Legion from 12:30 - 6:30 pm. Please call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Melrose to schedule an appointment.

CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,743.92
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,246.92
Plate	332.00
Building/Maintenance	103.00
Home Missions	12.00
Peter's Pence	50.00

Parish Events

- Su 05/03 10:00 am First Communion Mass
- Su 05/03 11:00 am Private Event
- Mo 05/04 6:30 pm Youth Night at SHS Gym
- Th 05/07 7:00 pm Choir Practice
- Sa 05/09 3:30 pm Individual Confessions

God's Housekeepers for the month of May: *Linda Wielenberg, Jody Klaphake, Cindy Schmiesing, Christie Zink, Marueen Schaefer, & Mary Krueger. 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.

Save the Date for Saturday, June 6. The Parish Raffle and More will begin with Mass at 4:00 pm in the church followed by multiple festivities you won't want to miss! Raffle tickets will be distributed in May. Stay tuned for details.

Graduation Social: Saturday, May 16

There will be a social in the Gathering Space after the Immaculate Conception Mass on Saturday, May 16. Everyone is welcome to join in celebrating our high school graduates. **Servers Requested:** Chairs: Dan & Mary Krueger, Co-Chairs: Richard & Diane Lemm, Servers: Joel & Ann Klein, Eugene & Agnes Kunstleben, Tyler Klaphake, Herman & Jackie Massmann, Joshua & DeAnna Massmann. All servers please bring cookies, a cake or bars. Thank you everyone in advance for serving.



CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,089.08
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,659.08
Plate	310.00
Home Missions	120.00

Parish Events

- Su 05/03 10:00 am First Communion Mass - NM
- Mo 05/04 4:00 pm Church Cleaning
- Mo 05/04 6:30 pm Youth Night at SHS Gym
- Tu 05/05 7:00 pm Choir Practice
- Fr 05/08 7:30 pm Rosary

Spring Cleaning Time is Here!

Let's come together to make our church shine! All are invited to come and help clean the church Monday, May 4, starting at 4:00 pm. If you can spare a little time, please join us. Many hands make light work!

A Vice President is still needed for our St. Rose Christian Women. Please prayerfully consider and reach out to Sarah Toenyan if you would like to fill this position.

CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

Physical Address: 102 St. Michael Avenue N.
Spring Hill, MN 56352

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$775.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	540.00
Plate/Loose	135.00
Fuel Fund	50.00
Maintenance Fund	50.00

Liturgical Ministries

Sunday, May 10 - 10:00 am

- (S) Stella & Jameson Schoenberg
- (L) Pete LeClaire
- (U) Peter Wuertz & Randy Barten
- (EM) (B) Adam Kalthoff
- (EM) (C) John & Sharon Schulzetenberg
- (Sacristan) John & Sharon Schulzetenberg
- (RL) Kathy Welle
- (CC) Chico Welle & Steve Welle
- (HK: May 3-16)
Kathy LeClaire, Allison Lieser, & Bev Lieser

Stewardship as a Way of Life:

"The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

1 Peter 2:7

Every person has been given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These are called "charisms" and they are used to build God's kingdom of earth. While many people are able to recognize someone who is struggling for a direction in life, give them a little encouragement. Help them discern their charisms and how God is calling them to use them. Remember - no gift is too small or insignificant in God's salvation plan.

Public Rosary...

We have much to pray for and even more to be thankful for.
All are invited and welcome!



St. Mary, Melrose

- Weekdays & Saturdays a half hour before Mass
- Wednesday: 1:00 pm
- Thursday (Spanish): 6:30 pm (Except the 1st Thursday)

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

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 ST. ANDREW
Physical Address: 211 W 2nd Avenue N.
 Greenwald, MN 56335

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$2,009.00
Regular Adult Offering	635.00
Plate/Loose	164.00
Home Mission	10.00
Cemetery	1,200.00

Liturgical Ministries
Saturday, May 9 - 4:00 pm

(S) Jada Worms & Luke Worms
 (L) Kathy Gilk
 (U) Roger Schoenberg & Mark Silbernack
 (GB) Ron & Carol Winter
 (EM) (B) Clarine Beier
 (EM) (C) Herman Lensing & Mary Opatny
 (HK - May) *Mariann Lucken, Lorene Meyer, Patricia Murphy, & Doris Nathe

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN
Physical Address: 20 State Highway 4 S.
 Meire Grove, MN 56352

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$1,662.50
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,290.00
Children's	0.50
Plate/Loose	214.00
Votives	48.00
Maintenance Fund	25.00
Home Mission	85.00

Liturgical Ministries
Sunday, May 10 - 8:00 am

(S) Isaac Zenzen & Mya Nathe
 (L) Missy Illies
 (U) Herb Imdieke & Jerry Imdieke
 (GB) Matt & Joy Silbernack
 (EM) Abby Zenzen, Daryl Zenzen, Nick Kelzer, & Jim Leukam
 (HK - May) *Joni Imdieke, Sharon Imdieke, Kate Kelzer, Amy Klaphake, Ruth Klaphake, & Mary Kay Leukam

Rosary for the Month of May At the St. John's Church in Meire Grove, we will be praying the rosary each Wednesday evening throughout the month of May, starting on the 6th and ending on the 27th, at 7:00 pm. We will be praying by our grotto on the south side of the church. Chairs will be provided. In case of inclement weather, we will pray it inside by Mary's altar. Everyone, from ALL parishes, is invited!



The Scriptures This Week
 Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II

Mo	Easter Weekday Acts 14:5-18	Jn 14:21-26
Tu	Easter Weekday Acts 14:19-28	Jn 14:27-31a
We	Easter Weekday Acts 15:1-6	Jn 15:1-8
Th	Easter Weekday Acts 15:7-21	Jn 15:9-11
Fr	Easter Weekday Acts 15:22-31	Jn 15:12-17
Sa	Easter Weekday Acts 16:1-10	Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday - Sixth Sunday of Easter		
	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17	1 Pt 3:15-18
	Jn 14:15-21	

Prayer Requests...

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

Banns of Matrimony:
 III Jenna Ritten♥Brian Rademacher, 5-9 SH

For the Sick: Dolores Notch, Bethany Downs, Joyce Houser, Lyle Gross, Dorothy Schneider, Len Frieze, Fr. Roger Klassen, Michelle Russel

Contact Persons for Prayer Line Requests:

Sacred Heart:	
<i>Judy Caveny</i>	320-248-8830
Immaculate Conception:	
<i>Bernice Zink</i>	320-837-5321
St. Rose of Lima:	
<i>Kayla Harren</i>	320-333-8461
St. Michael:	
<i>Sharon Schulzetenberg</i>	320-248-7702
St. Mary's	320-256-3878

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Cantantes y músicos de las cuatro parroquias están invitados a unirse al Ministerio de Música para la Misa de Confirmación el miércoles 6 de mayo a las 7:00 pm. El ensayo será el lunes 4 de mayo a las 7:15 pm en St. Mary's.

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

The Way to the Father
 cont.'d from pg 1

Just as Philip struggled to understand Jesus' words, we, too, face moments of confusion when God's ways seem beyond our grasp. God's answer to life's most challenging questions is rarely straightforward or immediate. Why? Because such an approach can never fully satisfy the depth of our hearts. Instead, God reveals a kernel of truth to us and then invites us to ponder it, revealing the divine mystery we seek to understand little by little, to the degree we are open.

The answers we seek come only as we conform our wills to God's, patiently opening ourselves to His Wisdom. Divine mysteries can only be understood through prayer and deep attentiveness to the truths in God's mind. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Only by uniting ourselves to Him in prayer will we discover the path we must walk, the truth we need to hear, and the life we are called to live.

Reflect today on anything you struggle to understand. See yourself as one of the Twelve, listening to Jesus speak, but failing to comprehend. Do not be discouraged; instead, allow the fullness of Jesus' divine Truth to sink in gradually. Spend time in prayer, read the Gospels, be open, and listen from the depths of your heart. Seek out His gentle voice and know that He is your Way, Truth, and Life. Let Him lead you and reveal to you the mysteries of His divine Wisdom so that you, too, know the way to the Father in Heaven.

Most glorious Lord, everything You have revealed to us is pure truth, yet my mind is often incapable of fully comprehending Your Wisdom. Draw me into the many mysteries You wish to reveal, and teach me to pray so that I will more fully comprehend the way to You and to Your Father in Heaven. Jesus, I trust in You.

FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: faithformation@catholic-centered.org

- **Faith Formation Registration:** If you missed registration night, please look for your registration packet in the mail. Please turn in all registration forms and fees for 2026/2027 by Friday, May 15 to avoid an increase in costs. You can drop them off at the Parish Office in Freeport or mail to PO Box 155, Freeport.




Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

- **Confirmation: Wednesday, May 6:** Sacrament of Confirmation! Students and sponsors please arrive at St. Mary's Church by 6:15 pm (parents may come later). Confirmation Mass is at 7:00 pm with Bishop Patrick Neary presiding. Family, friends, and parishioners are all welcome to join us in celebrating!
- **Baccalaureate Masses:** Please see One in Faith (4 Parish News) section for dates, times, and locations.
- **Registration for Faith Formation:** If you haven't already registered your children for next year's Faith Formation classes, please do so by June 1st (materials cost less if we can order them sooner!). Registration forms are on the little Faith Formation table just outside the church office or can be found online at www.oneinfaith.com (click the Education tab, and then click Family Faith Formation).

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
PRINCIPAL: Kristie Harren
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Amy Van Beck
SHS BOARD: Myranda Beuning, Bethanie Ettle, Ben Kalthoff, Tamara Welle, 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: 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

- ♥ **Congratulations to the 2nd Graders** as they celebrate their First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 3!
- ♥ **Teacher Appreciation week** is May 4 - 8. Let's all show them some extra love this week as they truly are gifts from God that teach and help mold the minds of our children!
- ♥ **2nd Grade Remembrance Mass** is on Wednesday, May 6.
- ♥ **Spring Fling** for SHS and for all Tri-Parish Families is on Friday, May 8 on the SHS grounds.
- ♥ Our K - 6 will attend an **all school field trip** on Friday, May 15 sponsored by the Freeport State Bank! K and 1st grade will attend the Amazin' Farmyard and 2nd - 6th will go to the Skating Place in St. Cloud. Thank you FSB for offering this fun opportunity for our students!
- ♥ **PreK 4/5 Graduation** will be on Wednesday, May 20 at 10:00 am.
- ♥ **Our last day of school at SHS** is Friday, May 22.

- ♦ **We Celebrate Our Students** as they received their **First Communion** last weekend and this weekend. May God bless them and fill their hearts with His love and grace as they grow in faith.
- ♦ Bentley and Penelope Arnzen and Agnes, Lucy, and Marcus Hemmesch were the **Principals of the Day** recently. Some of their favorite things were going to breakfast with students from SJSA, Sacred Heart, and Holy Family, Sauk Centre, visiting classrooms, getting ready for staff appreciation week, and recess duty.
- ♦ **Newly Elected School Board Members** are Becky Hukriede and Jake Primus.
- ♦ **During the Season of Lent**, the school children collected \$1,160, which was shared with the Melrose Food Shelf, Fr. Newton, Food for Thought, and Simply Love International.
- ♦ **Bishop Neary will be at St. Mary's School** on Friday, May 15, to celebrate with the school at 8:30 am Mass. All are welcome.
- ♦ **There are still openings for prospective 2026-2027 Little Saints** and students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. If interested, call or email anelson@smsmn.org.

- **SJSA will celebrate Grandparents Day** and Mass with Bishop Patrick on Thursday, May 7 at 8:00 am at St. Andrew's in Greenwald. We will have refreshments and play Bingo afterwards in the school basement.
- **SJSA is selling Harry's Pizza** now through May 7. If you would like to order pizzas, please contact an SJSA family or call the school at 320-987-3133. Pizza pick-up is Saturday, May 16 from 9:00 - 10:00 am in the school basement. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser!
- **SJSA is celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week** May 4 - 8. We are so thankful for our teachers and their dedication to our Catholic school.
- **There are still openings in our Preschool and Kindergarten** for the 2026-2027 school year. SJSA has an all-day M, W, F preschool and five day all-day kindergarten. If you are interested, call SJSA at 320-987-3133.



Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

04/26	\$25	Jean Opatrny - St. Paul
04/27	\$25	Carol Holdvogt - Cold Spring
04/28	\$25	Bonnie Theiler - Melrose
04/29	\$25	Dusty & Rachel Von Wahlde - Burtrum
04/30	\$25	Sam Viere (Mac) - Freeport
05/01	\$25	Marylynn Roles - St. Joseph
05/02	\$25	Ryan Gaebel - Albany

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.





ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

Hearts of Mercy - Bishop's Annual Appeal: Please accept our deepest gratitude to those of you who have already supported diocesan ministries this year. As of Monday, April 20, the Bishop's Annual Appeal for 2026 has raised total cash and pledges of \$924,994 toward our goal of \$1,550,000 (59.68%). This was made possible through the generous donations of 4,477 people throughout the 16 counties of our diocese. For weekly updates on our progress and to help these ministries meet their funding needs, visit www.stcdio.org/annualappeal.

Anointing of the Sick Mass and Dinner Thursday, May 7 at 10:00 am at the Church of St. Martin, St. Martin. Hosted by the St. Martin Catholic United Financial Council #95.

All Things New Diocesan-wide Prayer Service

All are invited to a diocesan-wide service as Bishop Patrick Neary, CSC, prays for unity for the newly merged parishes, a major milestone in the All Things New diocesan pastoral plan. The prayer service will be held at Sacred Heart Parish in Sauk Rapids on Sunday, May 3 at 7:00 pm and livestreamed at www.stcdio.org/unity-livestream/.



Low Gluten Hosts are available for individuals that have a gluten intolerance. Please note, these hosts still contain gluten, less than 0.001% gluten, and are not completely gluten free. If you would like to have more information about the low gluten hosts, please contact the Parish Office in Freeport or Melrose. When you are planning to have a low gluten host for Mass, it will be necessary to have the host within a pyx (the parish can provide a pyx) and placed upon the altar for consecration. You will need to let Father know that you are present prior to Mass, and that you will be in his Communion line.

Blessed are They Who? 2026 Retreats at Christ the King



Retreat Center in Buffalo holds retreats throughout the year. Enhance your faith life with one of the retreats below. For more information or to register, please call 763-682-1394 or visit www.kingshouse.com.

- Women's Silent Retreat - May 15-17 (Weekend)
- Women's Silent Retreat - June 1-4 (Midweek 4-day/\$375)
- Men & Women's Summer Retreat - June 26-28 (Weekend)

Save the Date: 2026 Rural Life Celebration This year's Rural Life Celebration will take place on Sunday, August 16 beginning at 1:30 pm at the Moenedick Family Farm in rural Perham. The event will include Mass on the farm with Bishop Neary, the annual Catholic Century Farm and Rural Business Awards presentations refreshments and family-friendly activities.

Marriage & Natural Family Planning: A

Divine Design: Marriage & Natural Family Planning! Natural Family Planning (NFP) cooperates with nature and God's plan for married love. NFP is effective, healthy, and marriage building. A First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method will be offered in Sauk Centre on Thursday, May 21 and Thursday, June 18 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 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!



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 Dolores Notch at 320-836-2450.

Rural Life Awards: The Office of Social Concerns is now taking applications for the diocese's annual Catholic Century Farm Awards and nominations for the Rural Business Award. If your family, neighbors or members of your ACCs have been working the same land for 100 years or more, or if you know a Catholic business-owner in the diocese who lives out their Catholic faith in how they run their business and treat their employees and customers, please visit the Rural Life section of the Social Concerns website for requirements and application/nomination forms: <https://stcdio.org/rural-life> or reach out to JoAnn.Braegelman@gw.stcdio.org with questions.

Time to Expand Your Circle of Friends?

Try a TEC Retreat. "God has a wonderful way of connecting the dots in our lives to people that will honor who we are, right where we are" (Tiffany Wilson). A TEC retreat will expand your circle of friends with those who will lift you up, support you, encourage you, and bring you closer to God. Come meet some new friends. Register for one of our three-day TEC retreats. www.cmtec.org. Together Encountering Christ (TEC) is open to both youth (age 16+) as well as adults and is located just north of Little Falls.



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