



# 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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 18, 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.



# The New Paschal Lamb

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" John 1:29-30

Central to the Jewish faith was the Feast of Passover, the commemoration of God's deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12). In Jesus' time, Passover was one of three major annual feasts during which the Jews made a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. Additionally, the Feast of Weeks celebrated the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai and the first fruits of the harvest (*Leviticus 23:15-22*), and the Feast of Tabernacles recalled the Israelites' wandering in the desert and celebrated God's providence (*Leviticus 23:33-43*).

Recall the first Passover meal. Moses instructed the people to sacrifice an unblemished lamb, mark the doorposts of their homes with its blood, and eat the lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs in haste, ready to depart. This act of faith and obedience protected them from the angel of death who passed over the marked houses, sparing the firstborn of Israel, while striking down the firstborn of Egypt. The Passover thus became a perpetual memorial of God's saving power and His covenantal faithfulness to His people.

Because of the Passover, the idea of a sacrificial lamb was intimately familiar to the Jewish people. The Jews were also familiar with the prophecy in *Isaiah 53*—often referred to as the Suffering Servant—in which the servant of the Lord is described as "a lamb led to the slaughter," who bears the sins of many (*Isaiah 53:7, 10-12*). Additionally, each morning and evening, a lamb was sacrificed in the temple as a continual offering for sin (*Exodus 29:38-42*).

As Jesus began His public ministry, the first thing said of Him came from John the Baptist: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." His words would have resonated within the minds and hearts of John's disciples. His disciples believed that John was a great prophet and the forerunner of the Messiah, sent to prepare the way for the Lord. They saw him as a holy man who called for repentance and renewal, and some even wondered if he himself might be the Christ, though John consistently denied this.

Because John's ministry was one of preparation for the Messiah, his disciples would have anticipated the Messiah's imminent arrival. Imagine the excitement, surprise, questions, uncertainty, and hope that would have filled their minds and hearts as they

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## ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ JANUARY 19 - 25

## ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo	6:30 pm	Misa en Español †Sergio Hernandez
Tu	8:00 am	†Jeanette Hoppe
We	8:00 am	†Sandy, †Margaret, & Jerry Sand
Th	8:00 am	†Anna Hellermann
*Fr	8:30 am	NO School †Michael Pohlmann
Sa	5:00 pm	†Lydia Zenzen
*Su	9:00 am	Catholic Schools Week Mass †Deceased Members of the Donald & Jeanette Mayers Family
Su	11:30 am	Misa en Español †2do Aniversario Luctuoso de Belester Vazquez Sobreira

## SACRED HEART - Freeport

We	8:15 am	SH School Mass †Lori Scherping
Fr	8:15 am	†Genevieve "Jennie" Hiltner

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

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Th	8:15 am	†Don Gaebel
Sa	4:00 pm	For the People

## ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Tu	8:15 am	†Elmer Gangl
Su	10:00 am	†Deceased/Living Members of the Hartung Family

## ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill

Tu	8:00 am	†Ben Gruenes
Su	10:00 am	Catholic Schools Week Mass Spring Hill Men's Society

## ST. ANDREW - Greenwald

Th	8:00 am	SJSA School Mass
Sa	4:00 pm	†Mathew Kasper †Herb, †Aurelia, †Tom, †Bob, †Harvey, & †Philip Schwieters

## ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

We	8:00 am	†Harvey Butkowski
Su	8:00 am	For the People

## 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 ~

• **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.

 **Childcare Float Position** Sacred Heart School is looking for a childcare position that would float between our infant, toddler and preschool rooms. We would like this person to be licensed in early childhood. If you are interested, please contact Sacred Heart School at 320-836-2591.

**2026 March for Life** Sauk Centre MCCL will be sponsoring a bus to the State Capitol for the March for Life. on Thursday, January 22. The bus will pick up from the Walmart parking lot in Sauk Centre at 9:00 am; from St. Mary's in Melrose at 9:15 am and in Freeport in front of Charlie's at 9:30 am. Dress warm and bring a bag lunch. We expect to return around 4:00 pm. For reservations please call Mary Reuter at 320-250-9904.

**Diocesan Festival of Families** Register now for the third annual Diocesan Festival of Families at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell on Sunday, February 22, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. There will be something for the whole family: Parent, teen and children's sessions, carnival, prizes, family activities, and Mass with Bishop Neary. Bring your whole family for only \$25! Registration link: <https://stcdio.org/event/2026-festival-of-families/>

**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.



## Parish News:

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

• **February Ministry Schedule** was mailed or emailed to all ministers. It is also available on the Tri-Parish website. If you are unable to fulfill your ministry, please find a replacement. Thank you for sharing your time and talent with our parish.

• **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.

• **Sponsor Couples Needed** The Tri-Parish is looking for married couples who would be willing to assist with mentoring engaged couples to help them prepare for a Christian marriage. Typically you would mentor one couple a year, at most, meeting with them 4-5 times prior to their wedding. Training is provided by the diocese. Please prayerfully consider this ministry. If you are interested, please contact the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport.

**Plan with Faith, Live with Mercy** Bishop Neary is inviting all parishioners to take part in a new diocesan initiative to help Catholics prepare for the future with confidence and care. Through a partnership with MyCatholicWill.com, the Diocese of Saint Cloud is offering free access to a trusted online platform where you can:

- Create a Last Will and Testament
- Plan a funeral rooted in Catholic tradition
- Consider a bequest to your parish or diocesan ministries

This is a simple and meaningful way to care for your loved ones and live out our call to stewardship. For more information, visit <https://mycatholicwill.com/stcdio>



**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](http://www.kingshouse.com).

- Women's Silent Retreat - January 23-25 (Weekend)

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.....	\$10,381.81
Regular Adult Offering .....	9,334.00
Plate/Loose .....	506.00
Designated Funds .....	541.81

## St. Mary's Calendar Raffle

01-11	\$25	Sandi Jaeger, Maple Grove
01-12	\$25	Gary & Eileen Middendorf, Melrose
01-13	\$25	Virgil & Cathy Metzger, Melrose
01-14	\$50	Lenore Schmitz, Melrose
01-15	\$25	Christi Gast, Sauk Centre
01-16	\$25	Marlene & Gene Schneider, Melrose
01-17	\$25	Gail Hiedeman, Becker



**Parish Finance** will meet Thursday, January 22, at 5:30 pm.

**Now Hiring!** Our 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.

**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.



**Thank You** to the Melrose American Legion Post 101 for their generous donation to the St. Mary's Cemetery for ongoing projects. We are honored to have their support and are grateful for their continued commitment to our community.



## 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.....	\$7,007.00
Regular Adult Offering .....	3,945.00
Plate .....	202.00
Votive .....	50.00
Building/Maintenance .....	10.00
School Support .....	250.00
Christmas Envelopes .....	500.00
Central MN Catholic Magazine .....	50.00
Church Painting .....	2,000.00

## Parish Events

Su 01/18	11:00 am	Catholic Schools Week Social - SR
Mo 01/19		Church Painting Continues
Tu 01/20	2:45 pm	SHS Strings Practice
We 01/21	5:30 pm	10th Grade Parent/Student Confirmation Interviews
We 01/21	6:00 pm	Faith Formation Grades 1-6
We 01/22	6:00 pm	Faith Formation Parent Class
Fr 01/24	7:45 am	Individual Confessions

**Repainting Project** Mass will be held in the church basement until the project is complete. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this project. Donations are still being accepted.



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



## THE NEW PASCHAL LAMB

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listened to John's prophecy about Jesus. John continued, "He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'"

Though John's proclamation about Jesus took on a powerful significance for his disciples that first moment that he revealed Jesus as the Lamb of God, John's words must resonate within each of us today. Now that the Christmas Season is complete and we enter into Ordinary Time, we are invited to embrace Jesus' public ministry, with all His teachings and Paschal Sacrifice, as something extraordinary in our lives. We must approach His ministry with the same hope, enthusiasm, excitement, and anticipation that John's disciples experienced.

Reflect today on the moment when John the Baptist's disciples heard him proclaim, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" Like them, strive to see Jesus with new eyes and hopeful anticipation as we begin Ordinary Time. This liturgical season marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, and it must also be a renewed beginning of His works in your life. Follow Him without reserve, allowing Him to take away your sins and share in His life and love.

*Most holy Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, I choose to follow You, for You are the Messiah, the Son of God. As we enter into Ordinary Time, please give me the grace to embrace Your public ministry in an extraordinary way. May Your working in my life begin anew, transforming me and leading me to the freedom won by Your Paschal Sacrifice. Jesus, I trust in You.*

## CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$1,766.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,255.00
Plate .....	286.00
Building/Maintenance.....	25.00
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes ....	100.00
Thanksgiving .....	100.00

## CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$1,408.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	712.00
Plate .....	315.00
School Support .....	161.00
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes ....	20.00
Christmas Envelopes .....	200.00

## Parish Events

Tu 01/20 6:30 pm Catholic Order of Foresters Meeting  
We 01/21 5:30 pm 10th Grade Parent/Student Confirmation Interviews - FR  
We 01/21 6:00 pm FF Grades 1-6 - FR  
We 01/21 6:00 pm FF Parent Class - FR  
Sa 01/24 3:30 pm Individual Confessions

## 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.

## Parish Events

Su 01/18 11:00 am Catholic Schools Week Social  
Tu 01/20 9:00 am Quilting  
We 01/21 5:30 pm 10th Grade Parent/Student Confirmation Interviews - FR  
We 01/21 6:00 pm FF Grades 1-6 - FR  
We 01/21 6:00 pm FF Parent Class - FR  
Fr 01/23 7:30 pm Rosary

**May He Rest in Peace** Our parish offers prayers and sympathy to the family of **Jeffrey "Jeff" Austing**, who passed away Wednesday, January 7. His funeral was celebrated here on Monday, January 12.

**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.

## One In Faith ACC Catholic Schools Dinner &amp; Auction Fundraisers



◆ **SHS 31st Annual Wine & Dine** Dinner and Auction will be held on Saturday, January 24. We will have an online Silent Auction (more info to follow in the next few weeks) as well as a live auction on the night of the event. The fundraiser will also include a \$100 cash raffle with a top prize of \$20,000. Dinner and Raffle tickets are available from all SHS families as well as at the school and parish offices. We will also be selling after Masses in the Tri-Parish this weekend as well as January 17-18.

◆ **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 5:00-8:00pm. 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!

## CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$2,299.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	590.00
Children .....	4.00
Plate/Loose .....	69.00
Votives .....	206.00
Fuel Fund .....	520.00
Maintenance Fund .....	100.00
Christmas .....	300.00
Cemetery .....	510.00

## Liturgical Ministries

Catholic Schools Week Mass  
Sunday, January 25 - 10:00 am

(S) Kenny Niehoff & Lukas Kalthoff  
(L) SJSAs Students  
(U) Roger Meyer & Mark Schoenberg  
(EM) (B) Gary P. Lieser  
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
(Sacristan) John & Sharon Schulzetenberg  
(RL) Kathy Welle  
(CC) Doreen Schwieters & Tom Stalboerger  
(HK: January 11 - 24) Kathy (Chico) Welle, Kathy (Ron) Welle, & Tia Welle

 **Coffee & Rolls** St. Michael's Catholic United Financial is sponsoring Coffee & Rolls after the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, January 18 in the church basement. Everyone is invited, please join us!

**Rosary Rally** Please join us for a Rosary Rally at 10:00 am on Saturday, January 24, at St. Michael's Church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

## CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$2,976.00
Regular Adult Offering .....	800.00
EFT .....	1,300.00
Plate/Loose .....	278.00
Votives .....	18.00
Cemetery .....	20.00
Fuel Fund .....	255.00
Maintenance Fund .....	250.00
School Support .....	55.00

**Liturgical Ministries**  
**Saturday, January 24 - 4:00 pm**

(S) Aubrey Stepan & Emily Stepan  
(L) Cassandra Kettner  
(U) Al Inderrieden & Herb Inderrieden  
(GB) Clarine Beier & Mary Opatrny  
(EM) (B) Kris Winter  
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
(HK - Jan.) \*Sheryl Braun, Kate Buermann, Sara Dehmer, & Rita Eveslage

## CHURCH OF ST. JOHN

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$1,434.50
Regular Adult Offering .....	1,045.00
EFT .....	140.00
Children's .....	10.50
Plate/Loose .....	183.00
Votives .....	36.00
School Support .....	20.00

**Liturgical Ministries**  
**Sunday, January 25 - 8:00 am**

(S) Carter Kelzer & Collin Kelzer  
(L) Missy Illies  
(U) Ken Schneider & Marvin Schneider  
(GB) Viola Leukam & Family  
(EM) Nick Kelzer & Jim Leukam  
(HK - January) \*Ruth Klaphake, Mary Kay Leukam, Theresa Loxtercamp, Sheri Luetmer, Irene Marthaler, & Char Meyer



**Festival de Familias**  
Inscríbase ahora al tercero Festival de Familias Diocesana en St. Francis Xavier en Sartell, el 22 de febrero, de 9:00 a. m. a 3:00 p. m. Habrá actividades para toda la familia: sesiones para padres, adolescentes y niños, carnaval, premios, actividades familiares y Misa con el Obispo Nearly. ¡Traiga a toda su familia por solo \$25! Enlace de inscripción: <https://stcdio.org/event/2026-festival-of-families/>

*Behold the  
Lamb of  
God*  
who takes away the sin  
of the world.

## HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

**January 18, Sunday**

♦ Coffee & Rolls Sponsored by St. Michael's Catholic United Financial at St. Michael's Church basement in Spring Hill. Serving after the 10:00 am Mass. Everyone is invited, please join us!!

♦ Melrose Lions Club Ham & Eggs Breakfast Serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Melrose American Legion. Proceeds will go toward community projects.

♦ All You Care To Eat Breakfast at St. Anthony Parish Center 2405 1st St. N. St. Cloud, MN. Serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Adults \$12. Grades 7-12 \$6. PreK-6 are free.

♦ Holy Spirit Parish's Bouja Fundraiser A healthy, meaty, vegetable stew - ready to serve! \$20 per gallon, \$10 per half gallon. Pre-purchase tickets: Holy Spirit website: [spiritandsaints.org](http://spiritandsaints.org), Holy Spirit Parish office: 2405 Walden Way, The Boot Shack: 2221 Roosevelt Rd (the week prior) and The Bouja Shack: 1615 - 11th Ave. S. St. Cloud, Saturday mornings from 7:30 am - 9:00 am prior to each "Bouja Sunday" and "Bouja Sunday" beginning at 7:00 am until sold out. Drive-thru pick-up Bouja Sunday at The Bouja Shack from 8:30 am - 11:00 am. Gift certificates are available at the parish office. For more information call 320-251-3764.

**January 22, Thursday**

♦ Freeport Senior Citizens Meeting at 12:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All area seniors welcome.

**January 23, Friday**

♦ Burger Night at Melrose American Legion Post 101 in Melrose. Serving from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Take outs available. Doors open at 3:00 pm.

**January 24, Saturday**

♦ Sacred Heart School Wine & Dine at the Freeport Community Center beginning at 4:30 pm. See page 5 for more information.

**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. Fund, 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/](https://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](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Melrose to schedule an appointment.

**January 31, Saturday**

♦ Pasta Dinner Fundraiser at St. Peter & Paul's Catholic Church 10495 Golden Spike Road NE Gilman, MN. Serving from 4:00 - 6:30 pm. Freewill offering. Proceeds go to general upkeep of the church building.

♦ 29th Annual KC Buffalo Raffle & Appreciation at the Pierz Ballroom. Serving from 4:00 - 8:00 pm. Drawing will be held at 8:15 pm. Tickets for the raffle are \$10 each, with half the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. The meal cost is \$10. Music during the feed by the Old Tyme Country Boys Band. There is also a gun raffle at the feed. If you want to purchase a ticket you can do so at the feed or from any KC member or some of the businesses.

**February 10, Tuesday**

♦ Blood Drive at the Freeport Community Center from 12:30 - 6:30 pm. Please call Janet Butkowski at 320-836-2837 or 320-282-2904 or visit [RedCross.org](https://RedCross.org) to schedule an appointment.

## 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 21, from 6:00-7:00 pm. Parents, please bring your student to the church basement for a parent and student night.
- **Parent Class:** Wednesday, January 21 6:00-7:00pm, Sacred Heart Church Basement. Please join us for a parent and student night filled with prayer, activities, and crafts.
- **Grades 7-9: No class** Wednesday, January 21. See you on January 28.
- **Grade 10: Parent and Student Confirmation Interviews** Wednesday, January 21, see individual schedules for assigned times.

**Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:**

Contact Information:

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

- **First Communion:** Sunday, January 18, 10:00-11:15 am St. Mary's Church - students and parents.
- **Grades 1, 3-6: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 21, 6:00-7:00 pm at St. Mary's Church. Students and parents. Safe Environment Night.
- **Grades 9/10: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 21, 7:15-8:30 pm at St. Mary's Church. Session 2 of the Creed: I believe in God; What is God?

## 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)

- **Skiing at Andes Tower Hills** Sunday, February 8 from 9:30 am - 5:00 pm. We will have a fun filled afternoon skiing.
- **Middle School Lock-In for Grades 6-8:** Mark your calendars for Saturday evening through Sunday morning, January 24-25 at the St. Cloud YMCA. This lock-in will have swimming, rock climbing, Mass, prayer experiences, the game room, movies, basketball, Ga Ga ball, dodgeball and so much more. Come together with other youth in our diocese, make new friends, take time to relax, laugh, eat great food, and renew your spirit while strengthening your relationship with God. Registration forms are available on the Tri-Parish website: [www.sacredheartfreeport.org](http://www.sacredheartfreeport.org). Cost is \$50 through January 22. Additional cost for busing TBD. Contact Kasia in the Parish Office in Freeport with any questions.
- **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

**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>

**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. Workshop: 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: 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).



**Voices of Hope - Bishop's Annual Appeal:** Please remember the diocesan ministries that, through your generosity, continue to build the Kingdom of God here in Central Minnesota. They are not possible without your help. Please keep them thriving by making a gift at [www.stcdio.org/annualappeal](http://www.stcdio.org/annualappeal).

**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/>.

**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.



**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://stcdio.org/vocations/totus-tuus/leaders/>.

**Seminary Visits** for young men 10th grade through college In February and March, Fr. Doug, the vocations director for the Diocese of St. Cloud, will be making seminary visits. This is a unique opportunity to be immersed in an environment where everyone around you seeks to give their life to Jesus and follow him wherever he leads. On these weekends we pray hard and play hard. It is a good combo! Dates include February 12-14, February 21-23, and March 15-17. You can inquire more and sign up on the bottom of our vocations page: <https://stcdio.org/vocations/>.

**JRLC Day on the Hill** Join us for fellowship, to hear from speakers, to learn about JRLC's policy priorities, and to get advocacy tips before heading up the hill to the Capitol for more programming in the Rotunda and visits with your lawmakers. Monday, March 9 at 8:00 am at the Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul. Don't miss this incredible day of interfaith advocacy for social justice! A donation of \$50 to help with event costs is requested, but optional! For more information or to register, visit [https://www.jrlc.org/day\\_on\\_the\\_hill\\_2026](https://www.jrlc.org/day_on_the_hill_2026).



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



**PASTOR:** Fr. Dan Walz  
**PRINCIPAL:** Kristie Harren  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**  
 Amy Van Beck  
**SHS BOARD:**

Myranda Beuning, Bethanie Ette,  
 Ben Kalthoff, Tamara Welle,  
 Lindsay Frieler, and Chris Klaphake  
[www.shsfreeport.org](http://www.shsfreeport.org) School Phone: 320-836-2591  
 Toddler Center Phone: 320-836-2585

♦Catholic Schools Week is coming up January 18 - 24 and we are celebrating at the Masses in New Munich and St. Rose this weekend. SHS Students will be reading, greeting, singing, playing guitar and serving.

•We will have a social in the church basements after both Masses. All are welcome! We will be serving cookies and refreshments.

♦Our 31st Annual Wine and Dine is coming up on Saturday, January 24! Parents will be selling tickets at Masses the next few weekends. Feel free to stop in at the school office or contact a parent to purchase your tickets.

♦Thank you to all those that have donated to SHS in the last few months. We are continually humbled by so many people that think of us and decide to bless us especially during the holiday season. May God bless you all!

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

♦Ski Trip for grades 3-6 on Thursday, January 22.  
 ♦Sacred Heart School Wine and Dine Fundraiser will be on Saturday, January 24.

**The Scriptures This Week**

Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II

**Mo** Weekday  
 1 Sm 15:16-23 Mk 2:18-22

**Tu** Weekday  
*(Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr;  
 Saint Sebastian, Martyr)*  
 1 Sm 16:1-13 Mk 2:23-28

**We** Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr  
*(Memorial)*  
 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 Mk 3:1-6

**Th** USA: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children  
 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7 Mk 3:7-12

**Fr** Weekday  
*(USA: Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr;  
 USA: Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin)*  
 1 Sm 24:3-21 Mk 3:13-19

**Sa** Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church *(Memorial)*  
 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27  
 Mk 3:20-21

**Next Sunday -**  
**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 Is 8:23—9:3 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17  
 Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17



**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](http://www.smsmelrosemn.org)



**PASTOR:** Fr. Mitchell Bechtold  
**PRINCIPAL:** Mary Miller  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**  
 Kristen Pattinson  
**SJS BOARD:**

Amber Bueckers, Kathy Gilk, Adam  
 Kalthoff, Kate Kelzer, Heidi Meyer,  
 Trista Roelike, and Jenny Wilson  
 Phone: 320-987-3133  
[www.sjsaschool.org](http://www.sjsaschool.org)

♦Congratulations to Mathew Klaphake, who represented St. Mary's School in the Melrose District Spelling Bee on Tuesday, January 13.

♦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.

♦Two Student Teachers from St. Ben's will be joining the 2nd and 4th grade classrooms starting Monday, January 19. We are excited to partner with our local Catholic college to provide new teachers with an enriching, positive experience.

♦End of the 2nd Quarter is Thursday, January 22. No school for students on Friday, January 23.

♦Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated from January 25 through January 30. We will kick off the week with Family Fun Night on January 22nd from 6:00-8:00pm in the school gym for all SMS families. Mass with the students will be celebrated on Sunday, January 25, at 9:00am. Breakfast is served in the school gym from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. All are welcome! Tickets are available from SMS parents or the school office.

♦There will be an Open House for our Little Saints Program from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm on Sunday, January 25.

**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.



Let your  
*light* shine.  
 Matthew 5:16

**Prayer Requests...**

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

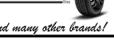
**Banns of Matrimony:**

1 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:	320-248-8830
Judy Caveny	320-248-8830
Immaculate Conception:	320-837-5321
Bernice Zink	320-837-5321
St. Rose of Lima:	
Kayla Harren	320-333-8461
St. Michael:	
Sharon Schulzetenberg	320-248-7702
St. Mary's	320-256-3878

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