



# 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

**Third Sunday of Lent**

**March 23, 2025**

**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

frosvaldo@stmarysofmelrose.com

**Office Email:** pam@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

**Email:** triparish@albanytel.com

**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 Immaculate Conception
- ◆Saturdays 3:30 pm St. Andrew
- ◆Saturdays 4:30 pm 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 Divine Gardener

*“For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?” He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’” Luke 13:7-9*

Imagine for a moment that you were the owner of the orchard in which this fig tree was planted. After the gardener asked you to wait for one more year and promised to fertilize the unfruitful fig tree and cultivate the ground around it, you agreed. Then imagine coming to inspect that same fig tree the next year. Imagine three scenarios. First, what would you do if, once again, there were no figs present? Second, what if there were only a few figs? Third, what if the tree suddenly produced an abundance of good fruit?

It seems clear that in the first scenario, if for the fourth year in a row not a single fig was produced, it would be time to cut down the tree. This depicts the justice of God sent forth on those who obstinately resist His grace. In the second scenario, the decision might be more difficult. If the tree produced only a few figs for the first time, then perhaps that would provide enough hope for the future of that tree to ask the gardener to continue caring for it. This depicts those who are in a state of grace but are still lazy in their service of the will of God. In the third scenario, however, the reaction of the owner of the orchard would be clear. There would be much excitement and gratitude that the gardener’s good work paid off.

Jesus is the Gardener, and we are the fig tree. This parable should lead us to look at our lives and examine whether or not we bear good fruit for the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus comes to you to cultivate the soil of your heart, fertilizing it with His holy Word, watering it with His Sacraments and doing all He can to give you the opportunity to produce the fruit of charity in your life. How successful are these actions of our Lord in your life?

**Continued on page 4**

## ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ MARCH 24 - 30

## ADORATION

**ST. MARY - Melrose**

Mo	6:30 pm	<b>Misa en Español</b> †Jose Abraham Cardona †Gregorio Cardona
Tu	8:00 am	†Donna Athmann
We	8:00 am	†Catherine Primus
Th	8:00 am	†Leo & †Gracie Eveslage
Fr	8:30 am	<b>No School</b> †Mary Elfering
Sa	5:00 pm	†Sylvester & †Alvina Woeste
*Su	10:00 am	†Marson (Molly) & †Marlene Duerr †Steve Mayers
Su	12:30 pm	<b>Misa en Español</b> †Encarnacion Luis de la Cruz

**SACRED HEART - Freeport**

We	8:15 am	<b>SH School Mass</b> †Dorothy Thell
Fr	8:15 am	†Ed & †Bernice Scherping
Su	8:00 am	For the People

**\*Mass will be livestreamed.**

Visit: [oneinfaith.org](https://oneinfaith.org) for the YouTube link.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich**

Th	8:15 am	†Jeff Rieland
Sa	4:00 pm	†Martin & †Dolores Frieler

**ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa**

Tu	8:15 am	†Richard Klassen
Su	10:00 am	†Deceased Members of the Al & Val Braun Family

**ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill**

Tu	8:00 am	†Deceased Relatives of Mark Schoenberg
Su	10:00 am	For the People

**ST. ANDREW - Greenwald**

Th	8:00 am	<b>SJSA School Mass</b> †Ralph Inderrieden
Sa	4:00 pm	†Rosie & †Perry Meyer

**ST. JOHN - Meire Grove**

We	8:00 am	†Sam Schneider †Amy Granby
Su	8:00 am	†Alphonse Imdieke

**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)

**Sacred Heart - Freeport**

Fridays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



## ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

**BINGO** Please join us for BINGO at St. Mary's Church in Melrose on March 23 at 5:30 pm. Cost is \$15 for 20 games. Cash and meat prizes. Free lunch includes hot turkey sandwich, chips, pickle and cookie. Beverages are available for sale. Variety of games such as Good Neighbor Bingo and Blackout. There will also be a quilt raffle. Fun for the entire family. Sorry, no checks, cash only. Proceeds go to the St. Mary's Mission Society of Melrose.



**Go and Make Disciples** Anyone in grade 11 through adult are invited to a monthly Faith Formation event from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport. We will have a meal and discuss the Rosary and Sacramentals. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, April 2. Come and bring a friend for a fun filled faith enrichment night.



**Mass Time Change/Switch** First Communion for Sacred Heart, St. Rose of Lima, and Immaculate Conception will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Parish on Sunday, April 6 at 10:00 am. This will be the only Mass in Freeport that morning. St. Rose of Lima will have the 8:00 am Mass on Sunday, April 6.

**Special Prayer Service** Abbot Douglas and the monks of Saint John's Abbey invite you to take part in a special prayer service at the Abbey Church on Saturday, April 12, the evening before Palm Sunday. Beginning at 7:00 pm, the service, with its special music and prayer setting, is an opportunity to enhance the beginning of your Holy Week. A reception will follow in the Great Hall, and will include light refreshments. Please join us for this special vigil service, on Saturday, April 12, at 7:00 pm. And feel free to bring a friend or two. All are welcome.

**Lenten Mini-Retreat...** For those who have previously made a Central Minnesota TEC weekend, you are invited to a Lenten Mini-Retreat March 29 - 30 at the TEC Center in Little Falls. The retreat will focus on the 3 pillars of Lent--prayer, fasting and almsgiving. For more information, visit the following link or contact the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KXUuUMOMxqREANiqXLclx4ah\\_t4l-cg1PHK1fDCmnM/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KXUuUMOMxqREANiqXLclx4ah_t4l-cg1PHK1fDCmnM/viewform?edit_requested=true).

**Parish News:**

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

- **Forty Cans For Lent** St. Joseph the Worker Council Knights of Columbus will be supporting the Melrose Food Shelf during this Season of Lent with their Forty Cans For Lent food drive. There will be totes in each of the Tri-Parish churches for you to place food items. Please consider donating to this worthy cause as we try to collect 500 pounds of food! Thank You.
- **Ministry Schedules** for April and Easter Triduum were mailed or emailed to all ministers. They are also available on the Tri-Parish website. Carefully check the schedule, especially Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday, as these are Tri-Parish Masses, and ministers from all three churches are assigned to serve at these Masses. If you are unable to fulfill your ministry on the date scheduled, please find a replacement, and notify the Tri-Parish Office. Thank you for sharing your time and talent with our parish.



**Eucharistic Adoration:** Consider taking an hour to come adore and be with our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. The Tri-Parish invites all the faithful for a special opportunity to kick off Holy Week and grow in relationship with God. Eucharistic Adoration will begin on Friday, April 11 after the 8:15 am Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Freeport and extend through the night until Saturday, April 12 at 9:00 am. Volunteers are needed around the clock, particularly after 1:00 pm on Friday. Sign-up sheets are available in all three parishes. We cannot leave our Lord alone.

**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. 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.



**CHURCH OF ST. MARY**

*Physical Address: 755 Kraft Drive SE  
Melrose, MN 56352*

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Weekly Offerings** ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$15,549.00</b>
Regular Adult Offering .....	13,604.00
Plate/Loose .....	1,091.00
Designated Funds .....	854.00

**St. Mary's Calendar Raffle**

03-16	\$25	Jess Roering - Lino Lakes
03-17	\$50	Mike Mueller - Melrose
03-18	\$25	Jim Ricklick - Melrose
03-19	\$25	Mitch & Kayla Ostendorf - Savage
03-20	\$25	Kent Brown - Melrose
03-21	\$25	Dave Wieling - Albany
03-22	\$25	Joan & Mark Terhaar - Santee, CA



***Died in the Hope of Resurrection...*** †Rosemary Osendorf, 97

**Prayer Requests...**

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

**For the Sick:** Shirley Laing, Lori Austing, Sandy Welle, Beatrice Massmann, Dorothy Schneider, Tony Niehaus

**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. Michael - Sharon Schulzetenberg	320-248-7702
St. Mary's	320-256-3878

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION****Communal Celebration with Individual Confession**

- Wednesday, April 2—4:30 & 7:00 pm—*St. Mary, Melrose*
- Friday, April 4—7:00 pm—*Sacred Heart, Freeport*
- Sunday, April 6—7:00 pm—*St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove*

**Individual Confession**

- Fridays of Lent—7:45 am—*Sacred Heart, Freeport*
- Saturdays of Lent—3:30 pm—*Immaculate Conception, New Munich*
- Saturdays of Lent—3:30 pm—*St. Andrew, Greenwald*
- Saturdays of Lent—4:30 pm—*St. Mary, Melrose*
- Saturday, April 5 before/after First Saturday Mass—*Sacred Heart, Freeport*
- Friday, April 11—5:30 pm—*St. Mary, Melrose*
- Friday, April 11—7:30 pm—*St. Michael, Spring Hill*
- Monday, April 14—5:30 pm—*St. Mary, Melrose*
- Monday, April 14—7:30 pm—*St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove*
- Or by appointment; Call Melrose Office 320-256-4207 or Freeport Office 320-836-2143

**CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART**

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

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Weekly Offerings** ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$6,917.85</b>
Regular Adult Offering.....	5,891.85
Plate.....	403.00
Votive.....	348.00
Central MN Catholic Magazine .....	50.00
Easter Flowers .....	205.00
Building/Maintenance .....	20.00

**Parish Events**

Su	03/23	1:00 pm	Lenten Study
Tu	03/25	7:10 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting
We	03/26	9:00 am	Stations of the Cross
We	03/26	6:00 pm	Faith Formation Grade 2
We	03/26	7:00 pm	Faith Formation Grades 7-10
We	03/26	7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Fr	03/28	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	03/28	9:00 am	Stations of the Cross
Fr	03/28	9:00 am	Adoration
Su	03/30	1:00 pm	Lenten Study

**Attention St. Joseph Society Members** Your raffle tickets are available for pickup in the back of the church. 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 14.



**Sponsor a Votive Candle** The parish is looking for someone to sponsor the following candles: 1 on the Blessed Virgin Mary Altar and 1 military remembrance candle by the votive stand. If you are interested, please contact the Tri-Parish Office. The suggested donation for a month is \$16.

**"Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death."**

-Pope Francis

**Public Rosary...**

**We have many intentions to pray for and much to be thankful for.**

***All are invited and welcome!***



- Mondays at 7:00 am in the church in Meire Grove.
- Tuesdays at 7:30 am in the church in Melrose.
- Wednesdays at 1:00 pm in the church in Melrose.
- Every Thursday except the first Thursday at 6:30 pm in Spanish in the church in Melrose.
- Fridays at 7:30 pm at the church in St. Rosa.
- 30 minutes prior to each weekday and weekend Mass in Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa, and Spring Hill.
- 20 minutes prior to each weekday and weekend Mass in Greenwald.

**CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$3,562.27
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,835.77
Plate.....	289.00
Easter Flowers.....	145.00
Catholic Relief Services.....	210.00
Building/Maintenance.....	57.50
Central MN Catholic Magazine ...	25.00

**Parish Events**

Su 03/23	1:00 pm	Lenten Study - FR
Tu 03/25	7:10 pm	Knights of Columbus Mtg. - FR
We 03/26	6:00 pm	FF Grade 2 - FR
We 03/26	7:00 pm	FF Grades 7-10 - FR
Th 03/27	8:45 am	Stations of the Cross
Th 03/27	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sa 03/29	3:30 pm	Individual Confessions
Su 03/30	1:00 pm	Lenten Study - FR

**Parish Seamstresses and Crafters**

This year the Parish & Quilt Raffle will be on June 7, so it is time again to plan for the "Quilt & Fancy Work" raffle. If any of you have fancy or crafty items (doilies, afghans, towels, etc.) to donate for the raffle – please call or contact Jean Hopper, Quilt Raffle Chm. 320-837-5239 before Thursday, April 3, so we will have time to get the raffle tickets printed with the information on them and have them ready to send out with the parish raffle tickets. Thanks in advance for sharing your talents to contribute to the Christian Women's main source of funds. Also, if anyone would like to donate cash toward the expenses of the quilt, we'd appreciate that very much.

**Thank You** Five quilts have been sewed. Thanks to everyone who helped sew, and the volunteers who donated tops and bottoms for these quilts. Also, thanks to the volunteers who brought treats and dinners for us to enjoy.  
~The Christian Women

**CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA**

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$4,062.23
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,714.23
Plate.....	418.00
Votive .....	400.00
Easter Flowers .....	525.00
Catholic Relief Services .....	5.00

**Parish Events**

Su 03/23	11:00 am	Baptism
Su 03/23	1:00 pm	Lenten Study - FR
Tu 03/25	8:45 am	Stations of the Cross
Tu 03/25	9:00 am	Quilting
Tu 03/25	7:10 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting - FR
We 03/26	6:00 pm	FF Grade 2 - FR
We 03/26	7:00 pm	FF Grades 7-10 - FR
Fr 03/28	7:30 pm	Rosary
Su 03/30	11:00 am	Catholic United Financial Member Breakfast
Su 03/30	1:00 pm	Lenten Study - FR

**Welcome to our Parish...** We welcome Russel & Lori Herdering to our parish.

**Spring Meeting...** St. Rosa Christian Women Spring Meeting is set for Monday, March 31 at 7:00 pm in the Church basement. Hope to see you there! A Vice President is still needed for our St. Rose Christian Women.

**Bake Sale** On Sunday, April 6 the Christian Women will be hosting a bake sale at the Lions Breakfast. Please drop off your baked items by 9:00 am on Sunday, April 6.

**Quilting...** Come join us in St. Rose. The quilters will be quilting on Tuesdays at 9:00 am. Lunch is provided, everyone is welcome.

**CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL**

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$1,229.70
Regular Adult Offering.....	792.00
Children .....	0.70
Plate/Loose .....	131.00
Votives .....	156.00
Fuel Fund.....	150.00

**Liturgical Ministries****Sunday, March 30 - 10:00 am**

(S) Kenny Niehoff  
(L) Lisa Wuertz  
(U) Allen Lieser & Jeff Lieser  
(EM) (B) Adam Kalthoff  
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
(Sacristan) John & Sharon Schulzetenberg  
(RL) Marilyn Gruber  
(CC) Mark Schoenberg & Rick Terres  
(HK: March 16-29) Linda Athmann, Kim Barten & Krystal Barten

**Ministers:** Thank you for sharing your time! The new ministry schedules are available on the website and in the church.

**Cash Raffle Tickets** have been distributed. Please return ticket stubs, money, and any unsold tickets to Sue Meyer, Karen Rademacher or Duane Moscho or put in the St. Michael's collection marked "cash raffle" by Sunday, March 30. If anyone wants more raffle tickets contact Sue, Karen, or Duane. Thanks for your participation.

**Spaghetti Dinner...**

St. Michael's Catholic United Financial is hosting a spaghetti dinner Sunday, April 6 from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm in Spring Hill Church basement

**The Divine Gardener** cont'd from page 1

Too often, when we see only a little good fruit being borne from our lives, we are satisfied. And though any good fruit is good, we are wasting our lives if we do not do all we can to become as abundantly fruitful as possible. Imagine the joy in the Hearts of our Lord and the Father in Heaven if they were to look upon you and see good fruit being produced beyond expectation. Why wouldn't this be your goal in life? Our Lord is patient, but He is also just. Do not try His patience, and do not succumb to His justice.

Reflect, today, upon the image of you being this fig tree and our Lord as the divine Gardener. Commit yourself to His actions of tilling and fertilizing. You do so by strengthening your commitment to reading and understanding the Word of God, by participating more fully in the Sacraments, by being more focused upon your daily prayer, by examining your conscience more fully, and by sincerely confessing your sins. Do all you can to cooperate with the action of our divine Gardener and you will be amazed at the good fruit that begins to pour forth from your life.

*My divine Gardener, You have committed Yourself to the humble work of tilling the soil of my heart and fertilizing it with Your abundant mercy. I choose, this day, to respond to Your grace and pray that my cooperation with You will produce an abundance of good fruit in my life for Your glory and the building up of Your Kingdom. Jesus, I trust in You.*

*mycatholic.life*

**CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW**

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,807.00</b>
Regular Adult Offering .....	2,500.00
Plate/Loose .....	144.00
Votives .....	18.00
Maintenance Fund .....	5.00
Fuel Fund .....	5.00
Rice Bowl .....	80.00
European Church .....	5.00
School Support .....	50.00

**Liturgical Ministries****Saturday, March 29 - 4:00 pm**

(S) Jada Worms & Luke Worms  
(L) Cassandra Kettner  
(U) Dan Boecker & Dan Eveslage  
(GB) Scott & Kristen Young  
(EM) (B) Mike Barten  
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
(HK - March) \*Linda Heinze, Deb Imdieke, Carol Inderrieden, & Ronnie Inderrieden

**Ministers:** Thank you for sharing your time! The new ministry schedules are available on the website and in the church. St. Andrew's is in need of additional Eucharistic Ministers. Please consider and talk to Fr. Mitchell if you are interested in helping in this way.

**Sacred Heart School****Calendar Raffle Winners!**

03/16	\$25	Karen Hoffmann - Freeport
03/17	\$40	Jeremiah Blonigen - Freeport
03/18	\$25	Julie Job - Freeport
03/19	\$50	Donna Boyer - Long Prairie
03/20	\$25	TJ Berg - Long Prairie
03/21	\$25	Ashley Platz - Holdingford
03/22	\$25	Carol Dobmeier - Albany

**CHURCH OF ST. JOHN**

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,103.00</b>
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,378.00
Plate/Loose .....	323.00
Votives.....	52.00
Fuel Fund .....	150.00
Ash Wednesday .....	45.00
Easter Flowers .....	155.00

**Liturgical Ministries****Sunday, March 30 - 8:00 am**

(S) Isaac Zenzen & Collin Kelzer  
(L) Char Meyer  
(U) Gene Imdieke & Herb Imdieke  
(GB) Matt & Joy Silbernack  
(EM) Char Meyer & Dan Meyer  
(HK - March) \*Kate Kelzer, Amy Klaphake, Ruth Klaphake, Mary Kay Leukam, Theresa Loxtercamp, & Sheri Luetmer

**Ministers:** Thank you for sharing your time! The new ministry schedules are available on the website and in the church.

**New Parish Trustee** Please welcome Nick Kelzer as he begins his ministry as a trustee for St. John the Baptist in Meire Grove. Thank you to Don Brang for his many years of service as a trustee.

**Raffle Tickets** Please return all raffle tickets sold and unsold and money to any of the boxes near the 3 church entrances. There are extra tickets attached to the return boxes if you are able to sell more tickets!



**Spring Fundraiser** next Sunday, March 30, in the Meire Grove Church basement. Please bring your baked goods (at least \$20 worth) to the Meire Grove church basement prior to 9:00 am. Bake Sale begins immediately following the 8:00 am Mass. Hot Sandwich Lunch provided by Catholic United Financial starting at 11:00 am. Bingo starts at noon. 20 games for \$15, includes lunch. Cash prizes, good neighbor, and more. Root Beer Floats available for \$2. Parish Raffle Drawing at 1:00 pm; need not be present to win. \$20/ticket. Grand prize \$2,000.

**HISPANIC MINISTRY**

**Retiro cuaresmal en español:** La parroquia de Santa Maria ofrecerá un retiro cuaresmal de un día el 29 de Marzo de 8:00 am a 4:00 pm. Si usted desea asistir, hable con el diácono Jorge carrillo o hable a la oficina parroquial.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS****Week of March 24-30**

3-25 Tuesday	8:45 am	St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa
3-26 Wednesday	9:00 am	Sacred Heart, Freeport
3-26 Wednesday	7:00 pm	Sacred Heart, Freeport (Led by 10th grade Faith Formation Students)
3-26 Wednesday	7:15 pm	St. Mary, Melrose (Led by Faith Formation Families)
3-26 Wednesday	7:30 pm	St. Michael, Spring Hill
3-26 Wednesday	7:30 pm	St. Andrew, Greenwald
3-27 Thursday	8:45 am	Immaculate Conception, New Munich
3-28 Friday	9:00 am	Sacred Heart, Freeport
3-28 Friday	6:30 pm	St. Mary, Melrose (Spanish)
3-29 Saturday	4:00 pm	St. Mary, Melrose

**The Scriptures This Week****Year C, Weekdays - Cycle I**

<b>Mo</b>	<b>Lenten Weekday</b>	2 Kgs 5:1-15b	Lk 4:24-30
<b>Tu</b>	<b>The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)</b>	Is 7:10-14; 8:10	Heb 10:4-10
			Lk 1:26-38
<b>We</b>	<b>Lenten Weekday</b>	Dt 4:1, 5-9	Mt 5:17-19
<b>Th</b>	<b>Lenten Weekday</b>	Jer 7:23-28	Lk 11:14-23
<b>Fr</b>	<b>Lenten Weekday</b>	Hos 14:2-10	Mk 12:28-34
<b>Sa</b>	<b>Lenten Weekday</b>	Hos 6:1-6	Lk 18:9-14
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	Jos 5:9a, 10-12	2 Cor 5:17-21
			Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



## FAITH FORMATION

### Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: [csand@catholic-centered.org](mailto:csand@catholic-centered.org)

- **Grades 1, 3-6: Next Class:** Wednesday, March 26. Home Lesson.
- **Grade 2: Next Class:** Wednesday, March 26 at 6:00 pm. Meet at the parish office.
  - **First Communion Mass:** Sunday, April 6 at 10:00 am at Sacred Heart in Freeport.
- **Grades 7-10: Next Class:** Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00 pm. Bring your Bible, books, notebook, and pen. Meet in your classroom.

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

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

- **Grades 9-10: Next Class:** Wednesday, March 26 from 7:15 - 8:30 pm at St. Mary's Church. Students and some parents.

## 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)

- ♥ **NCYC** The Diocese of Saint Cloud will be bringing a group to Indianapolis, Indiana November 19 - 23 for NCYC 2025: I Am | Yo Soy. NCYC is a time for high school youth from around the nation to gather and celebrate being Catholic through prayer, Mass, and activities. The cost to attend is \$940. Deadline to register is April 15. Registration forms are available on the parish websites. Contact Chrystal Sand at 320-836-2143 or [csand@catholic-centered.org](mailto:csand@catholic-centered.org), or Pam Pundsack at 320-256-9503 or [pam@stmarysofmelrose.org](mailto:pam@stmarysofmelrose.org) with questions.
- ♥ **Bible & Breakfast** Students in grades 7-12 are invited to enjoy scripture and breakfast with peers at the Melrose Area High School Media Center. We will meet on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:00 am. If there is no school or a late start, we will not meet. To register contact Chrystal at 320-266-5554.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



**PASTOR:** Fr. Dan Walz  
**PRINCIPAL:** Kristie Harren  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**  
 Amy Van Beck  
**SHS BOARD:**  
 Myranda Beuning, Julie Job,  
 Ben Kalthoff, Tamara Welle,  
 Lindsay Frieler, and Jenelle Herkenhoff  
 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:**  
 Cory Ellering, Bob Arceneau,  
 Jenn Lubarski, Cindy Hemmesch,  
 Jake Primus, and Pat Christenson  
 Phone: 320-256-4257  
 www.smsmelrosemn.org



**PASTOR:** Fr. Mitchell Bechtold  
**PRINCIPAL:** Mary Miller  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**  
 Kristen Pattinson  
**SJSA BOARD:**  
 Kathy Gilk, Adam Kalthoff, Kate  
 Kelzer, Kurt Meyer, Trista Roelike,  
 Jenny Wilson, and Kristi Zimmer  
 Phone: 320-987-3133  
 www.sjsaschool.org

- ♥ **SHS Registration** for the 2025/2026 school year PreK - 6th grade is open. If you are interested in registering your child for school next year, please contact the office.
- ♥ **Lenten Project** SHS will be collecting money, school supplies, basic toiletries, and Toys for Stoves for Guatemala as their Lenten Project.
- ♥ Mrs. Harren will celebrate **Principal For a Day** with the lucky student on Thursday, March 27.
- ♥ **End of 3rd Quarter** is Thursday, March 27. There will be NO SCHOOL on Friday, March 28 at the Melrose District and SHS. The teachers/staff will have a workshop day.
- ♥ **Thank You** to everyone who purchased Catholic United Financial Raffle ticket from Sacred Heart School families. We sold 767 tickets, raising \$7,670 all of which stays at Sacred Heart School. The drawing will be held on Thursday, March 27 at 10:00 am at the Catholic United Financial office in St. Paul. It will be streamlined on the Catholic United Financial Website.
- ♥ **Our 2nd Graders** will celebrate their **First Holy Communion** on Sunday, April 6.

### LOOKING AHEAD:

- ♥ **Shadow Stations** will take place on Wednesday, April 9 and Thursday, April 10.
- ♥ **SHS Designer Purse Bingo** will be on Saturday, April 12 at the Freeport Community Center.
- ♥ **Toddler Open House** will take place in May. More details to come.

- ♦ **St. Mary's School** is Selling **Harry's Pizza** from now until Wednesday, April 2. Please contact a current SMS family, the parish office, or the school to place an order. Orders can be picked up at the school gym on Wednesday, April 16, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.
- ♦ William, Bennett, and Nora Brown will be the **Principals of the Day** on Thursday, March 27. Their parents purchased this experience at the Auction4Education. They will also get to meet with the Principal of the Day from Sacred Heart and SJSA.
- ♦ **School Board Candidates** Cory Ellering and Bob Arceneau's terms on the School Board will end at the end of this school year. Candidates interested in running for a position on the board should submit a bio of 125-150 words to Autumn Nelson at [anelson@smsmn.org](mailto:anelson@smsmn.org) by Tuesday, April 1.
- ♦ **Parent-Teacher Conferences** are scheduled for Monday, March 24, and Wednesday, March 26. No school on Friday, March 28.
- ♦ All are invited to the **Living Stations** presented by St. Mary's School students on Wednesday, April 9, at 1:00 pm in the church.
- ♦ **St. Mary's Kindergarten Roundup** is set for Friday, April 11. Students will spend the day in activities from 8:00 am to 2:45 pm. If you have a prospective kindergartener for the 2025-2026 school year and haven't already enrolled, contact us by calling 320-256-4257.

- ♦ **End of the Third Quarter** is Thursday, March 27. There will be no school on Friday, March 28 due to a teacher workshop.
- ♦ **"Camp Kindergarten"** Kindergarten Roundup is Monday, April 7 from 7:45 am - 2:30 pm. Prospective kindergarteners will spend the day in kindergarten with the current class. A healthy snack and hot lunch are provided. Call the school at 320-987-3133 to register.
- ♦ **Registration is Now Open** for grades preschool - 6th grade for the 2025-2026 school year. If you are interested in joining us at SJSA, please call the school at 320-987-3133 to schedule a visit.

### 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.

**\*Gift Cards are great gift ideas!**



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## ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

**Lenten Enrichment Materials and Lent Brochures**

which include schedules for Easter Triduum, confessions, and more are available in the churches. Feel free to take anything that will help you on your faith journey this Lent.



**First Friday Adoration at the Capitol** Join the Minnesota Catholic Conference staff First Fridays (April 4) at the capitol January - May. Adoration available 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Governor's Dining Room (located in the lower level of the Minnesota State Capitol). Visit [www.MNCatholic.org/events](http://www.MNCatholic.org/events) to RSVP. Questions call Minnesota Catholic Conference 651-227-8777. Free parking at MCC's office 525 Park Street, St. Paul.

**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 on Tuesday, March 25 at 7:00 pm. Learn more and register for the Zoom link at [ssnd.org/events/3-25-25/](https://ssnd.org/events/3-25-25/).

**Encounter Jesus On The Road To Calvary**

Need Some Direction In Your Life? We invite you to join us as

"companions" to encounter Jesus on the road to Calvary in this live production. Experience Holy Week in a new light. Performances are: April 9 at 7:00 pm, April 11 at 7:30 pm, April 12 at 7:30 pm and Palm Sunday, April 13 at 1:00 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church (44055 Hwy 238, Freeport).

**"Be Still and Know:" A Contemplative Retreat for Social Justice Leaders**

Doing social ministry work can be hard, and many could use encouragement and hope through the challenges of our ministries today. But how do we care for ourselves, while striving to care for our communities? How do we create intentional space for prayer as we do this work individually and collectively? Join the Diocesan Social Concerns team for a day that will explore these questions and invite us into prayer. Saturday, April 12 from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm (with boxed lunch to go, or optional continued fellowship immediately following) at Center for Christ, Sauk Centre (235 Main St. S. Sauk Centre, MN 56378). Cost: \$35. The retreat will be limited to 25 participants. Register by Monday, March 31 online at: <https://forms.office.com/r/geFNDgwDjN>.



**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 [www.theologyday.com](http://www.theologyday.com).

•Ancient Christian Practices to Sustain Community - Friday, March 28

**SHADOW STATIONS**

*Presented by the 6th Grade Class from Sacred Heart School*  
Wednesday, April 9—7:00 pm—Sacred Heart School Gymnasium  
Thursday, April 10—1:30 pm—Sacred Heart School Gymnasium

**LIVING STATIONS**

*Presented by St. Mary's School*  
Wednesday, April 9—1:00 pm—St. Mary, Melrose

**EASTER PROGRAM**

*Presented by SJSA School*  
Tuesday, April 15—1:00 pm & 7:00 pm—St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove

**HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA**

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

**March 25, Tuesday**

♦**Firearms Safety Informational Meeting** for Green Grove Rod and Gun Club at 6:00 pm at Meire Grove City Hall. You must attend this meeting in order to participate in the training and field day. Must be 11 years of age to participate. For questions please call Matt Silbernack 320-470-0944, Brian Schmiesing 320-293-7976, or Brian Yarle 320-267-4371.

**March 28, Friday**

♦**Fish Fry** at the VFW in Osakis, MN hosted by Immaculate Conception Church. Serving from 4:00 - 7:00 pm.

♦**"All You Can Eat" Fish Fry** hosted by the Melrose American Legion. Serving from 4:30 - 8:00 pm. Take outs are available. Your support is very much appreciated! All are welcome!

♦**Lenten Fish Fry** at St. Joseph's Parish of Morrill in the parish hall in Foley. Serving from 4:30 - 7:00 pm. Adults: \$15. Children 6-10: \$8. Children 5 and under: free. Dine in or Take out. Please call 320-355-9401 for take out orders.

**March 29, Saturday**

♦**Meire Grove Athletic Club Annual Meeting** will be held at CB's Bar and Grill in Meire Grove at 8:00 pm. Join us for a fun night of "baseball talk." Later on at 9:00 pm, the seven lucky winners of our raffle will be drawn. The raffle prizes range from \$599 to \$100. The cost of a ticket is \$20 and only 200 tickets will be sold. Lunch will be served after the meeting. Everyone is welcome to join us.

**March 30, Sunday**

♦**Spring Fundraiser** at St. John the Baptist Church in Meire Grove. Bake Sale begins immediately following the 8:00 am Mass. Hot Sandwich Lunch provided by Catholic United Financial starting at 11:00 am. Bingo starts at noon. 20 games for \$15, includes lunch. Cash prizes, good neighbor, and more. Root Beer Floats available for \$2. Parish Raffle Drawing at 1:00 pm; need not be present to win. \$20/ticket. Grand prize \$2,000.

**April 2, Wednesday**

♦**Feet First Clinic** at the Senior Center in Freeport. Please call to make an appointment 320-836-2450. Free will offering.

**April 4, Friday**

♦**Fish Fry** at the Church of St. Mary, Alexandria, MN in the gymnasium. Serving from 4:00 - 7:00 pm.

♦**"All You Can Eat" Fish Fry** hosted by the Melrose American Legion. Serving from 4:30 - 8:00 pm. Take outs are available. Your support is very much appreciated! All are welcome!

♦**Farming Lions 20th Annual Fish Fry** at Trappers Pub and Grub. Serving from 4:30 - 8:30 pm.

♦**Lenten Fish Fry** at St. Elizabeth Church in Foley. Serving from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. Adults: \$15. Children 6-10: \$7. Children 5 and under: free. Take out orders available please call 320-355-2459 for take out orders. Proceeds for the upkeep of our church.

**April 6, Sunday**

♦**Matching Grant Breakfast** from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Elrosa. Adults—\$10, Students 6 - 11—\$5, 5 and under—Free. Sponsored by St. James - Elrosa Catholic United Financial.

♦**Chicken & Ham Dinner** hosted by the Holidingford Knights of Columbus 9307 at the Pelican Lake Ballroom St. Anna. Serving from 3:30 - 6:30 pm. Prices: Adults \$15, Children ages 5-12 \$10. Take outs available.

♦**Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale** hosted by St. Michael's Catholic United Financial. Serving from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in the Spring Hill Church basement.

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