



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 Advent

December 14, 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

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 3:00 pm St. Andrew
- ◆Saturdays 3:30 pm Immaculate Conception
- ◆Saturdays 4:00 pm St. Mary
- ◆Sundays 10:00 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.

THIRD
SUNDAY OF
Advent

REJOICING
IN THE
CROSS



“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.” Matthew 11:4-6

Suppose a priest came to your church to put on a parish mission, and during that mission he miraculously healed the blind, crippled, terminally ill, and deaf. What if he even raised the dead to life? How would you respond? Most likely with amazement! You'd contact everyone close to you and tell them about those miracles, encouraging them to attend the next session.

Though Jesus' ministry was filled with miracles, they were far from the most important part of His mission. His miracles healed bodies that would eventually die, but His preaching healed souls that would live forever because His preaching ultimately pointed to His greatest work—to suffer and die for the salvation of souls.

If you were alive as Jesus walked the earth, performed miracles, preached the Good News, suffered death and rose again, which of His actions would have the greatest effect on you? When we consider our Lord's mission, we must consider it all as one unified whole, not missing the most important aspects. From a faith perspective, Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection are clearly His greatest acts. By freely embracing suffering and death, He transformed the worst into the best: the consequence of sin—which is death—into the instrument of eternal life. When Jesus said, “And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me,” He was identifying those as blessed who discovered the great value of His Cross.

If we were to ask Jesus' first followers whether they would prefer to see Jesus perform miracles or suffer and die, most likely they would prefer the miracles. Such a question might have even left them confused. Why would anyone want to see a great prophet suffer and die? Yet, today, from a theological perspective, it is clear that Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection are the greatest acts in human history.

Imagine being our Blessed Mother who witnessed it all, stood by her Son as He endured His Cross, and rejoiced with Him when He rose. Unquestionably, if we asked our Blessed Mother whether she preferred to see a few miracles from her Son or to witness His perfect sacrifice that brought salvation to the world, her holy and sorrowful heart would choose the latter.

Reflect today on these questions within the context of your own life. When you pray, do you primarily ask for favors, blessings, or miracles? Or do you primarily pray for the Cross? Do you see greater value in having God remove some suffering from your

Continued on page 3

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ DECEMBER 15 - 21

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo	6:30 pm	Misa en Español †Por las almas del Purgatorio
Tu	8:00 am	†Laverne Jung
We	8:00 am	†Luella Middendorf
Th	8:00 am	†Anna Hellermann
*Fr	8:30 am	SM School Mass †Clarence & †Marcella Doyle
Sa	5:00 pm	†Richard & †Dolores Hiltner
*Su	9:00 am	†Ronald Thieschafer
Su	11:30 am	Misa en Español †Sergio Hernandez Chavez

SACRED HEART - Freeport

We	8:15 am	SH School Mass †LuVern Scherping †Lawrence & Laura Scherping
Fr	8:15 am	†Lori Austing
Su	8:00 am	†Rosemary "Rosie" Rolfes Anniversary

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Th	8:15 am	†Kade Feldewerd
Sa	4:00 pm	Special Intention

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Tu	8:15 am	Souls in Purgatory
Su	10:00 am	For the People

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill

Tu	8:00 am	†Ben Gruenes
Su	10:00 am	For the People

ST. ANDREW - Greenwald

Th	8:00 am	SJSA School Mass †Sr. Suzanne Slominski
Sa	4:00 pm	†Rosie & †Perry Meyer

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

We	8:00 am	†Al Luetmer
Su	8:00 am	†Joyce & †Trista Yarke

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)
Saturday, December 20, 8:30 - 9:30 am

Sacred Heart - Freeport

Fridays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



*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 ~

•Christmas Flowers & Environment If you wish to donate toward Christmas flowers and environment in memory of a loved one, please put money in an envelope (from your packet or a plain one), include the name or names of the loved one, and mark it "Christmas Flowers & Environment." Thank You!

Parish Office Holiday Hours The parish office in Melrose will be closed December 24, 25, 31 and January 1. The parish office in Freeport are as follows:

December 24: 9:00 am-noon **December 25:** Closed
December 31: 9:00 am-noon **January 1:** Closed



Bulletin Deadline Change Looking ahead, due to the holidays, the bulletin deadlines will be as follows: December 28 bulletin – deadline will be Monday, December 22 at 9:00 am; January 4 bulletin – deadline will be Monday, December 29 at 9:00 am.



Prayer Requests for the Sick The prayer requests for the sick will be cleared out December 31. If you would like to be added back to the prayer list, please email bulletin@catholic-centered.org or call one of the parish offices.

End-of-Year Giving: Stock, IRA's and QCD's Gifts of stock are always appreciated, and there are significant tax benefits available to those who give appreciated stock held longer than a year. Those who choose to donate stock are generally entitled to a tax deduction based on the full fair market value of the stock at the time the gift is made, not just the original cost. Additionally, donors do not incur any capital gains tax when stock is given away rather than sold. Please consider a stock gift when donating to your church, Sacred Heart School, St. Mary's School, or St. John's St. Andrew's School. When making a charitable rollover through IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), we always recommend that you seek professional advice in these matters. If you have any questions about this type of contribution, please contact the parish office in Melrose and Freeport with questions.

Are You Looking for some Infant/Toddler Love? Sacred Heart School is currently hiring in our Infant and Toddler Care Center from 7:30 - 10:30 am and/or from 2:30 - 5:30 pm. If you are interested, please contact the school at 320-836-2591.

**Parish News:**

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

•"Shower for Baby Jesus" The Christian Women organizations from our Tri-Parish are hosting a "Baby Shower for Jesus" this Advent. There is a bassinet in each of the churches to put new or like-new items for infants through age 4. Car seats are an especially difficult item for the site to obtain. All donations will be given to Options for Women, a crisis pregnancy center in Sauk Centre. Cash donations should have checks made out to the respective Christian Women's group or Options for Women.

•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.



Keep Christ in Christmas! St. Joseph the Worker Council Knights of Columbus will again be sponsoring the Keep Christ In Christmas poster contest. This is open to all youths ages 5-14 in our ACC. The three Catholic schools, Sacred Heart, St. Mary's and St. John's-St. Andrew's, have information on the contest. Anyone else interested can contact Richard Sand 320-250-2357.

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.cmtcc.org. Together Encountering Christ (TEC) is open to both youth (age 16+) as well as adults and is located just north of Little Falls. The next TEC Retreats are December 27-29, January 17-19 and February 14-16.

Toys for Tots Collection The Melrose FFA has put a Toys for Tots box in the Melrose, Freeport, New Munich, and St. Rose churches. You can place new toys in the box, and they will be collected to send to children in need.



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.....	\$14,947.35
Regular Adult Offering	9,894.00
Plate/Loose	1,581.35
Immaculate Conception	578.00
Designated Funds	2,894.00

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle

12-07	\$25	Tom & Deanna Feldewerd, Melrose
12-08	\$125	Melissa Leukam, Sauk Centre
12-09	\$25	Rita Poepping, Freeport
12-10	\$25	Lyle & Sharon Barthel, Melrose
12-11	\$25	Charlie Wehlage, Melrose
12-12	\$50	Jamie Terres, Melrose
12-13	\$25	Robert & Pat Von Wahlde, Melrose

**Died in the Hope of Resurrection...**

†Carol Poepping, 78 †Rita Feldewerd, 89
†Jodi Westermeyer, 56 †Rose "Rosie" Hinnenkamp, 96

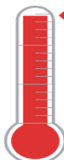
Adoration St. Mary's will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 8:30 am - 9:30 am on Saturday, December 20. All are welcome!



We Are Hiring! Our parish is seeking a part time **Bilingual Administrative Assistant** to provide administrative and clerical support, assist with communications, and serve as a warm, welcoming first point of contact for parishioners and visitors—both in person and by phone. This position requires fluency in Spanish and English to support our diverse and vibrant Catholic community. To apply or learn more, please contact the parish office.

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle Reminder We are in the last month of our 30th Annual Calendar Raffle sales! You can still purchase tickets at Magnifi - Melrose, Freeport State Bank - Melrose, and the parish office. Committee members will also be selling before and after most weekend Masses.

Sound System Goal
\$58,767



Sound System Support for our Sound System project has been outstanding! We've received \$57,613 in gifts and pledges—98% of our goal. Additional contributions may be mailed, placed in the collection, or brought to the parish office.

**Mass Schedule for
Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day**

Wednesday, December 24 (Vigil):

4:00 pm	St. Mary, Melrose
4:00 pm	Sacred Heart, Freeport
4:00 pm	St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove
6:30 pm	St. Mary, Melrose Misa en Español
7:00 pm	St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa
7:30 pm	St. Michael, Spring Hill

Thursday, December 25:

8:00 am	Sacred Heart, Freeport
9:00 am	St. Mary, Melrose
9:00 am	Immaculate Conception, New Munich
9:00 am	St. Andrew, Greenwald

**CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART**

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

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

Total.....	\$8,261.54
Regular Adult Offering	4,703.54
Plate	554.00
Votive	404.00
School Support	10.00
Thanksgiving Envelopes	150.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes	466.00
Immaculate Conception Plate	139.00
Christmas Envelopes	785.00
Christmas Flowers	750.00
Religious Retirement	110.00
Sacred Heart School Endowment	190.00

Parish Events

Tu	12/16	2:45 pm	SHS Strings Practice
Tu	12/16	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
Th	12/18	1:00 pm	SHS Christmas Program - School Gym
Th	12/18	7:00 pm	SHS Christmas Program - School Gym
Fr	12/19	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	12/19	9:00 am	Adoration
Fr	12/19	12:45 pm	Private Event

Church Repainting The interior of the church will be repainted beginning January 5, 2026. All Masses after that date at Sacred Heart will take place in the church basement. Donations are being accepted to help cover the cost of this project.

**Knights of Columbus**

St. Joseph the Worker Council

December 2025

Calendar Raffle Winners

12-08	\$20	Adam Jandro
12-09	\$40	Judy Klaphake
12-10	\$60	Rick Athmann
12-11	\$20	Charlene Theis
12-12	\$40	Avery Van Beck
12-13	\$60	Chad Van Beck
12-14	\$100	Cheryl Messer

**REJOICING IN THE CROSS**

Cont'd. from page 1

life or in transforming your suffering by the power of His Cross? Ask for the grace to die with our Lord, to become a living sacrifice of love, and to have the strength to lay down your life for others. By choosing that which has eternal value, you choose the better part and will rejoice in that better part forever.

My sacrificial Lord, You invite me to take no offense at Your suffering and death; to see beyond the pain, blood, and physical death; and to discover the unfathomable riches of Your Sacrifice.

Please give me the eyes of faith to see the value of not only accepting Your Cross, but also to see the value of living Your Passion in my own life by laying down my life with You.

Jesus, I trust in You.

mycatholic.life

CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$5,167.83
Regular Adult Offering.....	3,015.33
Plate	384.00
Thanksgiving Envelopes	275.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes	765.00
Immaculate Conception Plate	186.00
Christmas Envelopes	40.00
Christmas Flowers	365.00
Cash Bazaar	100.00
Building/Maintenance.....	37.50

Parish Events

Th 12/18 7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sa 12/20 3:30 pm	Individual Confessions

Baptized in Christ... We welcome **Winona Florence Pillsbury**, the daughter of Nathan & Laken Pillsbury, to our parish. Winona Florence was baptized on Sunday, December 7.

C.U.F. Calendar Raffle Winners:

Dec. 1	\$40	Ron Schaefer
Dec. 2	\$40	Steph Boecker
Dec. 3	\$40	Nathan Schwieters
Dec. 4	\$40	Pam Boughton
Dec. 5	\$40	Jan Fuechtmann
Dec. 6	\$40	Renee Kampsen
Dec. 7	\$100	Jan Fiedler

Catholic United Financial
A Trusted Fraternal Life Brand

Public Rosary...

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

- Sundays at 7:30 am in the church in Meire Grove.
- Mondays at 7:00 am in the church in Meire Grove.
- Tuesdays at 7:00 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 ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$5,085.46
Regular Adult Offering.....	3,508.46
Plate	342.00
Thanksgiving Envelopes	550.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes	410.00
Immaculate Conception Plate	140.00
Christmas Flowers	135.00

Parish Events

Su 12/14 11:00 am	Private Event
Tu 12/16 7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Th 12/18 12:00 pm	Jaycees' Blood Drive
Fr 12/19 7:30 pm	Rosary



Christmas Cookie Fellowship Join the St. Rose Christian Women for fellowship after Mass today, December 14. *Christian Women please drop off goodies before the 10:00 am Mass.

Mass Intentions... There are Masses available for the month of January. If you would like to have a Mass offered for a loved one or a special intention, please contact the Parish Office in Freeport by Monday, December 22. The suggested stipend for a Mass is \$10.

Quilting will begin on Tuesday, January 6 starting at 9:00 am in the church basement. All are welcome. Lunch provided. We will likely be quilting well into April.

Welcome to our newest St. Rose Christian Women Officers. We thank them for their willingness to serve. May God bless and guide them in their new roles. We are still in need of a vice president. Please pray and reflect on the task and reach out to any officer if you are interested.

President: Sarah Toenyan **Secretary:** Cheryl Wiechman **Treasurer:** Jan Herzog

Sacrament of Reconciliation• **Individual Celebration:**

Fridays	7:45 am	Sacred Heart, Freeport
Saturdays	3:00 - 3:50 pm	St. Andrew, Greenwald
Saturdays	3:30 pm	Immaculate Conception, New Munich
Saturdays	4:00 - 4:50 pm	St. Mary, Melrose
Sundays	10:30 - 11:20 pm	St. Mary, Melrose

Or by appointment by contacting parish offices. Freeport 320-836-2143
Melrose 320-256-4207

**Christmas Programs****SJSA School:**

Wednesday, December 17 at 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Church, Greenwald

Sacred Heart School:

Thursday, December 18 at 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm at Sacred Heart School Gym, Freeport

CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$1,296.50
Regular Adult Offering.....	662.00
Children	3.50
Plate/Loose	101.00
Fuel Fund	30.00
Maintenance Fund	20.00
School Support	10.00
Thanksgiving	420.00
Christmas Flowers	50.00

Liturgical Ministries**Sunday, December 21 - 10:00 am**

(S) Stella & Jameson Schoenberg
(L) Darlene Schoenberg
(U) Peter Wuertz & Randy Barten
(EM) (B) Sandra Gruber
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood
(Sacristan) Ruth Heinen
(RL) Marilyn Gruber
(CC) Doreen Schwieters & Tom Stalboerger
(HK: December 14-27)
Renee Van Drehle, Daisha Welle, & Dani Welle

New Ministry Schedules Due to suspending the common cup, the EMs needed to be rescheduled. Please see the new schedules in the bulletin, in church, or online.

Advent Giving Tree... The Faith Formation families invite you to take an ornament (or 3!) from the Advent Giving Tree located in the back of church. You can bring the item named on the ornament back to church and set it under the tree. All donations will be taken to the Melrose Food Shelf after Thursday, December 25. Thank you for your help and generosity!

CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$934.00
Regular Adult Offering	315.00
Plate/Loose	298.00
Votives	12.00
Maintenance Fund	5.00
School Support	5.00
Thanksgiving	45.00
Immaculate Conception	84.00
Christmas Flowers	170.00

Liturgical Ministries**Saturday, December 20 - 4:00 pm**

(S) Jada Worms & Luke Worms
(L) Linda Heinze
(U) Dale Winter & Ron Winter
(GB) David & Marilyn Welle
(EM) (B) Herman Lensing
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood
(HK - December) *Angie Barten, Ann Barten,
Clarine Beier, & Lisa Bertram

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**Mass Schedule For
Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother
of God**

**Wednesday, December 31 (Vigil):**

4:00 pm	<i>St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa</i>
4:00 pm	<i>St. Andrew, Greenwald</i>
5:00 pm	<i>St. Mary, Melrose</i>
7:00 pm	<i>St. Mary, Melrose Misa en Español</i>

Wednesday, January 1:

8:00 am	<i>Sacred Heart, Freeport</i>
8:00 am	<i>St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove</i>
9:00 am	<i>St. Mary, Melrose</i>
9:00 am	<i>Immaculate Conception, New Munich</i>
10:00 am	<i>St. Michael, Spring Hill</i>

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$4,209.75
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,505.00
Children	0.25
Plate/Loose	194.50
Votives.....	50.00
Cemetery	750.00
School Support	10.00
Thanksgiving	1,025.00
Christmas Flowers	70.00
Immaculate Conception	605.00

Liturgical Ministries**Sunday, December 21 - 8:00 am**

(S) Morgan Funk & Paige Funk
(L) Missy Illies
(U) Tom Loxtercamp & Dean Meyer
(GB) Marvin & Karen Schneider
(EM) Char Meyer & Dan Meyer
(HK - December) *Kathy Illies, Darlene Imdieke, Joni Imdieke, Sharon Imdieke, Kate Kelzer, & Amy Klaphake

Baptized in Christ... Sidney Lucille Marthaler

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Advent Giving Tree... The Faith Formation families invite you to take an ornament (or 3!) from the Advent Giving Tree located in the back of church. You can bring the item named on the ornament back to church and set it under the tree. All donations will be taken to the Melrose Food Shelf after Thursday, December 25. Thank you for your help and generosity!

**The Scriptures This Week****Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II**

Mo	Advent Weekday	
	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a	Mt 21:23-27
Tu	Advent Weekday	
	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13	Mt 21:28-32
We	Advent Weekday	
	Gn 49:2, 8-10	Mt 1:1-17
Th	Advent Weekday	
	Jer 23:5-8	Mt 1:18-25
Fr	Advent Weekday	
	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a	Lk 1:5-25
Sa	Advent Weekday	
	Is 7:10-14	Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Advent		
	Is 7:10-14	Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

HISPANIC MINISTRY

¡Posadas! Las posadas este año se realizarán en la Iglesia del 15 al 23 de Diciembre. Aunque este año no será de casa en casa, aún seguimos invitando a 8 familias que deseen tomar un día de posadas. La responsabilidad de esa familia será traer alimentos, bebidas y/o dulces para compartir después del rezo de las posadas.

¡Necesitamos servidores! Los invitamos a que se unan a cualquier ministerio parroquial para ofrecer su tiempo y talento al Señor y a su Iglesia. Los ministerios en los que ustedes pueden servir son: ministros extraordinario de la comunión, lectores, sacristanes y monaguillos. Si están interesados hablen con cualquier diácono o llamen a la oficina parroquial para más información.

Coros Parroquiales: Los coros parroquiales hispanos están invitando a todas las personas que tienen talento para cantar o tocar algún instrumento a que se registren para formar parte del ministerio de música. Los coros necesitan más integrantes y todos son bienvenidos.

**Prayer Requests...**

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

For the Sick: Dave Humbert, Fr. Roger Klassen, Anne Wolke, Ted Hoeschen, Tillie Bueckers, Kathy Elfering, Sandy Welle, Joyce Hauser, Dorothy Schneider, 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

FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information:

faithformation@catholic-centered.org

- **Grades 1-10: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Have a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information:

faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

- **Grades 1, 3-6: Next Class:** Wednesday December 17, 6:00 - 7:00 pm at St. Mary's Church. Clean church and Christmas party.
- **Grades 7-8: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 17, 7:15 - 8:30 pm at St. Mary's Church. Students and some parents.

Advent

YOUTH MINISTRY

One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

Contact Information:

youthministry@catholic-centered.org or faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

- **Movie Night** Monday, January 12 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Freeport Church Basement. Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join the youth group as they gather to watch God's Not Dead. Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 7. Registration forms are available on the Tri-Parish website: www.sacredheartfreeport.org.
- **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. Watch for more information coming soon!
- **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.

ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

Marriage & Natural Family Planning: Faithfully Yours:

Discover Natural Family Planning (NFP)! NFP cooperates with nature and God's plan for married love. The Billings Ovulation Method is a natural, highly effective method for postponing or achieving pregnancy without the use of drugs or devices. A First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method will be offered in Sauk Centre on Thursday, December 18 and Thursday, January 15 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!

Currently Accepting Nominations. SJSA school board is taking nominations for the School Supporter Award which will be given at the Steak & Wine Dinner & Auction on Saturday, February 7 at the Greenwald Pub. The Supporter Award is for individuals who have made a great impact on SJSA or who have been involved with the school in a positive way. Nominations are open until Friday, January 16. Please call the school at 320-987-3133 or Kathy Gilk at 320-290-6603.

Closing the Jubilee Year of Hope: The Mass to close the Jubilee Year of Hope will be on Sunday, December 28, at 6:00 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral. All the faithful are invited to participate and thank the Lord for all God has done during this special year of prayer and conversion.



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/>.

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. Workshops: 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.



Voices of Hope - Bishop's Annual Appeal: Blessings to you in this third week of Advent that calls us to remember the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus. As you celebrate this season, please consider supporting diocesan ministries with a year-end gift. To donate, visit www.stcdio.org/annualappeal or mail to: Bishop's Annual Appeal, P.O. Box 1538, St. Cloud, MN 56302.

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/>.

Your ways are not my ways says the Lord

Do you know what the Lord's ways are? CENTRAL MINNESOTA KOINONIA is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St. Cloud Diocese and is designed for adults to help you on your faith journey. The next retreat is scheduled for January 23-25, 2026, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Cost of the weekend is \$70. Go to www.centralmnkoinonia.org for more information and to register for retreats.



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, Pat Christenson,
 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

♥**Thank You** to Catholic United Financial for their matching grant from the breakfast! We were able to get a matching grant check of over \$6,000!!

♥**Our Raffle Calendars** are in and always a big hit! Please reach out to a SHS family or stop in at school to buy yours today! SHS Families will also be selling our raffle calendars after Mass the next few weekends.

♥**Advent Service Project** We adopted a few local families and bringing in cash, gift cards, grocery cards, gas cards, etc. We encourage you all to participate. Your donation can be dropped off at the school office.

♥**Our Christmas Program** will be on Thursday, December 18 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

♥**Christmas Break** Saturday, December 20 - Sunday, January 4, 2026. Classes will resume on Monday, January 5.

♦**Our Last Advent Prayer Service** will be held on Monday, December 15, at 2:15 pm in the school gym. All are welcome to attend.

♦**Thank You** to Kurt and Mary Schwieters for their recent donation towards a flat panel for our lounge.

♦**SMS Students** put together notes of Christmas joy that will be personally shared with local businesses.

♦**Christmas Vacation** begins after school on Friday, December 19. Classes will resume on Monday, January 5.

♦**For Advent**, St. Mary's will collect new socks, winter gloves, washcloths, towels, Ziploc bags, paper plates, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, & shampoo/conditioner for Eagle's Healing Nest and the Melrose Food Shelf. Please feel free to help us collect these items, which can be dropped off at the school entrance or in the church gathering space.

♦St. Mary's School is holding an **SMS\$4Kids Incentive Drive** to raise funds for playground equipment. You can help by starting or continuing to use the scrip program for your daily shopping or upcoming holiday purchases.

♦**St. Mary's School's Auction 4 Education** will be held on Saturday, March 7, at the Legion. The theme this year is Shamrocks and Shenanigans. Pot O' Gold \$100 Raffle tickets are available now 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.

♦**SJSA Students will Present The Next Noel** Christmas program on Wednesday, December 17 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Church in Greenwald. Refreshments will be served after each program in the school basement. All are welcome.

♦**Thank You** to the Meire Grove Athletic Club for helping St. Nick deliver treat bags to the children at SJSA.

♦**Christmas Vacation** begins Monday, December 22. Classes will resume on Monday, January 5.

♦**Nominations Being Accepted** SJSA school board is taking nominations for the School Supporter Award which will be given at the Steak & Wine Dinner & Auction on Saturday, February 7 at the Greenwald Pub. The Supporter Award is for individuals who have made a great impact on SJSA or who have been involved with the school in a positive way. Nominations are open until Friday, January 16. Please call the school at 320-987-3133 or Kathy Gilk at 320-290-6603.



Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

12/07	\$25	Holly Gieske - Freeport
12/08	\$50	Erma Bertram - Freeport
12/09	\$25	Janet Hoffmeister - Albertville
12/10	\$25	Marylynn Roles - St. Joseph
12/11	\$25	Kyle & Brooke Rademacher - Freeport
12/12	\$25	Curt & Diane Schleicher - Freeport
12/13	\$25	Leo Olmscheid - New Munich

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

December 14, Sunday

♦**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** at St. Boniface Church - Cold Spring. Mass at 1:00 pm with Bishop Patrick Neary. Meal and Celebration after Mass until 4:30 pm. Highlights include: Mariachi band, Mass, and celebration as well as food and refreshments.

♦**Holy Spirit Breakfast All You Care to Eat** serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at Holy Spirit Church 2405 Walden Way, St. Cloud. Adults \$12. Ages 5-12 \$6. Children 4 and under are free.

December 16, 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. (Please note this is a week earlier than usual due to Christmas!) Learn more and register for the Zoom link at ssnd.org/events/12-16-25/.

December 18, Thursday

♦**Freeport Senior Citizens meeting** at 12:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All area seniors welcome. Bingo and 500 will be played.

December 19, Friday

♦**All You Can Eat Fish Fry** at the Melrose American Legion. Serving from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Dine in or grab a take-out to enjoy at home. We're grateful for your support. Come hungry!

December 20, Saturday

♦**Advent Concert** Please join us for our annual Advent concert featuring the Holy Spirit & Newman Center Choirs starting at 6:00 pm at the Church of the Holy Spirit 2405 Walden Way, St. Cloud.

December 21, Sunday

♦**St. Anthony Parish Breakfast** serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at St. Anthong Parish Center 2405 1st St. N., St. Cloud. Adults \$12. Grades 7-12 \$6. PreK-6 are free.

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.



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