



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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.**

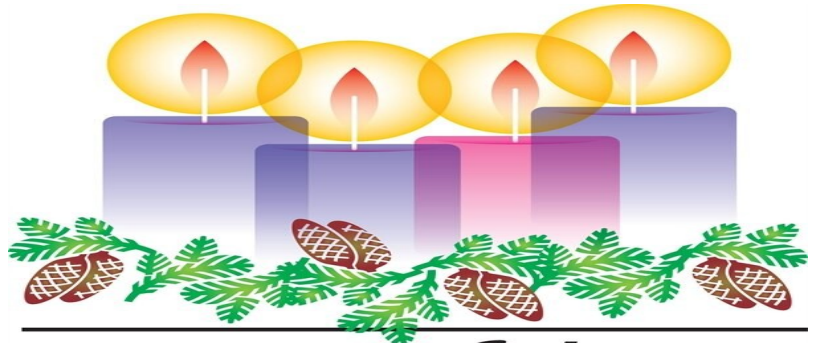
*Diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes are required.

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.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Saint Joseph, Our Patron and Protector

Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.” Matthew 1:20

Joseph knew that the penalty for adultery was death by stoning. His heart must have been deeply conflicted. On one hand, the virtues of his betrothed wife, Mary, were abundantly clear. Mary radiated holiness. Impurity was foreign to her Immaculate Heart. Yet she was pregnant, and Joseph was not the father. What should he do?

To protect Mary from public shame, Joseph decided to do what he believed was the most merciful thing—he “decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention...” Though little is known about Joseph, this Gospel passage identifies him as “a righteous man.” Many saints, popes, and Church documents highlight his unquestionable sanctity. He was not immaculate and free from sin as was his wife, but God the Father would have chosen a righteous and holy man to be the foster father of the Son of God.

Joseph’s actions reveal his deep faith. As he slept, “the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.’” The angel explained to him that Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be born of a virgin (see [Isaiah 7:14](#)) and that Joseph was to take Mary and her unborn Son into his home and care for them. When he awoke, he did as the angel commanded.

Joseph’s dream was no ordinary dream. The Holy Spirit accompanied the angel and instilled the certitude of faith in Joseph’s mind, empowering his will to obey God’s will. Joseph became the father and guardian of the Savior of the World. On December 8, 1847, Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph to be the Universal Patron and Protector of the Catholic Church. Just as he protected the Son of God, so he intercedes for us who are members of Christ’s body, the Church.

As our Advent season enters its final week, we are reminded of the role that Jesus’ foster father played not only in the life of the Holy Family, but also about the role Saint Joseph continues to play in the life of the Church and in each one of our lives. His intercessory power from Heaven is great, and we should not hesitate to call upon his prayers, especially when we need protection, struggle with fear, or face some grave challenge.

Continued on page 5

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ DECEMBER 22 - 28

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo 6:30 pm **Misa en Español**
†Hermana Adela

Tu 8:00 am †Danny Schoenberg

***We 4:00 pm Christmas Vigil**
†Lucille Mae Moore

We 6:30 pm Misa de Nochebuena en Español
†Encarnacion Luis de la Cruz

***Th 9:00 am Christmas Day**
†Ron Heinen

Fr 8:30 am †Bernie, †Allan, & †Pat Revermann

Sa 5:00 pm †Richard Hellermann
†Elmer & †Anna Hellermann

*Su 9:00 am †Eymard & †Lucille Orth

Su 11:30 am **Misa en Español**
†Monseñor Francisco Moreno Barron

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Th 9:00 am **Christmas Day**
Lester & Bernice Zink Family
For the People

Sa 4:00 pm

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Tu 8:15 am †Allen & †Willetta Stanlake

We 7:00 pm Christmas Vigil
†Jeanette Barth
†Steven Petermeier
†Diane Scherer

Su 10:00 am

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill

Tu 8:00 am †Monica Barten

We 7:30 pm Christmas Vigil
†Werner Gruber
†Mary Ann Terres

Su 10:00 am

ST. ANDREW - Greenwald

Th 9:00 am **Christmas Day**
For the People
†Clarence & †Gary Winter

Sa 4:00 pm

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

We 4:00 pm Christmas Vigil
†Maureen Luetmer
For the People

Su 8:00 am

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

Adoration is suspended
until further notice due to painting of
the interior of the church.



*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 ~

•Incense will be used at all Christmas and Solemnity of Mary Masses.

Music before Masses Join us on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day before Masses for carols by our choirs. See the schedule on page 3.

CORRECTION: Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Mass at Immaculate Conception, New Munich will be at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, December 31, and St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa will be at 9:00 am on Thursday, January 1. The Advent brochure and December 14 bulletin incorrectly had these Masses swapped. We apologize for the error.

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.

Adoration at Sacred Heart will be suspended until after the painting project is finished. Please watch the bulletin for when it will begin again.

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

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.
- January 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 parishes.
- Parish Directories** The parish directories have arrived. If you had your photo taken or submitted a photo to be included in the directory, you can pick up your directory in the church you are registered in until **noon on Monday, December 22**. After that time, they can be picked up at the Parish Office in Freeport. All directories have been labeled with family names/addresses. If you do not find your directory, please contact the parish office.
- St. Joseph the Worker Knights of Columbus December Meeting/Advent Social** will take place Tuesday, December 23 at Sacred Heart Church in Freeport. We will begin the evening with the Rosary at 7:10 pm followed by fellowship including snacks and beverages in the church basement. All Brother Knights are invited! Hope to see many of you there!

~Grand Knight, Richard Sand

CHURCH OF ST. MARY

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

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

Total.....	\$16,763.93
Regular Adult Offering	13,095.18
Plate/Loose	762.25
Designated Funds	2,906.50

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle

12-14	\$25	Dave & Heather Fraser, Rosemount
12-15	\$25	Kent & JudyAnn Beissel, Sauk Centre
12-16	\$25	Gail J. Ebensteiner, Melrose
12-17	\$25	St. Mary's Church
12-18	\$25	Darlene Ostendorf, Melrose
12-19	\$25	Sara & Matt Heinen, Melrose
12-20	\$25	Ralph & Kelly Revermann, Melrose



Baptized in Christ... Maverick Arthur Skillings



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.

Calendar Raffle There are only 10 days until the drawing for the 30th Annual Calendar Raffle! 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 Masses.

Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Choir: Students in grades 3 and older are welcome to join the Youth Choir and Parish Choir in music ministry. Interested students and/or adults need to come to rehearsal on Tuesday, December 23 from 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm in church. Contact Sarah Woeste (320-256-9516) in the parish office for more information.

The Scriptures This Week

Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II

Mo	Advent Weekday		
	1 Sm 1:24-28	Lk 1:46-56	
Tu	Advent Weekday (<i>Saint John of Kanty, Priest</i>)		
	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	Lk 1:57-66	
We	Advent Weekday		
	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16	Lk 1:67-79	
Th	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) <i>Solemnity</i> <i>(Holyday of Obligation)</i>		
	Vigil:		
	Is 62:1-5	Acts 13:16-17, 22-25	Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
	Night:		
	Is 9:1-6	Ti 2:11-14	Lk 2:1-14
	Dawn:		
	Is 62:11-12	Ti 3:4-7	Lk 2:15-20
	Day:		
	Is 52:7-10	Heb 1:1-6	Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Fr	Saint Stephen, the First Martyr (<i>Feast</i>)		
	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	Mt 10:17-22	
Sa	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist (<i>Feast</i>)		
	1 Jn 1:1-4	Jn 20:1a, 2-8	
	Next Sunday - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (<i>Feast</i>)		
	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14	Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17	Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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

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

Total.....	\$5,456.34
Regular Adult Offering	3,786.54
Plate	874.80
Thanksgiving Envelopes	300.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes	60.00
Christmas Envelopes	125.00
Christmas Flowers	140.00
Religious Retirement	150.00
Sacred Heart School Endowment	20.00

Parish Events

Mo	12/22	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
Tu	12/23	7:10 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting
Fr	12/26	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	12/26		NO Adoration

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.



Children's Liturgy will continue through Sunday, January 4. After that, there will be no children's liturgy while the church is being repainted. Watch the bulletin for when we are able to start back up again.

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

Christmas Carols

will be sung prior to Mass at the following parishes.

Wednesday, December 24**Christmas Vigil Mass:**

3:30 pm	<i>St. Mary, Melrose</i>
3:30 pm	<i>Sacred Heart, Freeport</i>
3:30 pm	<i>St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove</i>
6:30 pm	<i>St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa</i>
7:00 pm	<i>St. Michael, Spring Hill</i>

Thursday, December 25**Christmas Day Mass:**

7:40 am	<i>Sacred Heart, Freeport</i>
8:30 am	<i>Immaculate Conception, New Munich</i>
8:45 am	<i>St. Mary, Melrose</i>
8:45 am	<i>St. Andrew, Greenwald</i>



CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$3,965.83
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,829.33
Plate	469.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes	135.00
Religious Retirement	340.00
Christmas Flowers	155.00
Building/Maintenance.....	37.50

Parish Events

Tu 12/23 7:10 pm Knights of Columbus Mtg. - FR
Sa 12/27 3:30 pm Individual Confessions

C.U.F. Calendar Raffle Winners:

Dec. 8 \$100 Paula Schwieters
Dec. 9 \$40 Barb Nathe
Dec. 10 \$40 Cindy Schmiesing
Dec. 11 \$40 Renee Kampsen
Dec. 12 \$40 Dave Ehlert
Dec. 13 \$40 Chuck Schaefer
Dec. 14 \$100 Willy Nathe



Thank You to Catholic Order of Foresters St. Leo's Court #786 for their generous donation of \$2,341.41 and the matching grant for \$1,500 from the Catholic Order of Foresters High Court to be put towards the painting of the sacristy at Immaculate Conception Church.

Winter Raffle Please return your raffle tickets. Unsold/Sold tickets and money can be returned to Worms Lumber, New Munich Gas & Grocery, or the parish office in Freeport by December 26. All tickets must be accounted for, consequently, if you cannot sell the ticket(s), please return them as soon as possible. Additional tickets can be picked up at Worms Lumber, New Munich Gas & Grocery or by calling Richard Sand at 320-250-2357. The drawing will be held on January 3 following the 4:00 pm Mass.

Thank You to all Harvest Supper committee members, those who prepared the meal, and the funeral group for helping serve the meal. Also thank you to all who came to help support our Parish. We had a profit of \$4,554.77.

Knights of Columbus

St. Joseph the Worker Council

December 2025

Calendar Raffle Winners

12-15 \$20 Jim Barten
12-16 \$40 Kathleen Welle
12-17 \$60 Jason Kolb
12-18 \$20 Peter Wiechman
12-19 \$40 Phil Rolfes
12-20 \$60 Judy Hennen
12-21 \$100 Adam Jandro

**CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA**

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

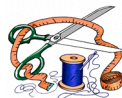
Total.....	\$3,188.46
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,568.46
Plate	300.00
Religious Retirement	230.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes	45.00
Christmas Flowers	45.00

Parish Events

Tu 12/23 7:00 pm Choir Practice
Tu 12/23 7:10 pm Knights of Columbus Mtg. - FR
Fr 12/26 7:30 pm Rosary

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.

**Public Rosary...**

We have much to pray for and even more to be thankful for.

- 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. MICHAEL

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$1,315.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	567.00
Plate/Loose	99.00
Fuel Fund	74.00
School Support	500.00
Immaculate Conception	50.00
Christmas Flowers	25.00

Liturgical Ministries**Christmas Eve Mass**

Wednesday, December 24 - 7:30 pm

(S) Jameson Schoenberg, Lukas Kalthoff & Noah Terres
(L) Lisa Wuertz
(U) Pat Bertram & Randy Bertram
(EM) (B) Ruth Heinen
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood
(Sacristan) Lisa Feldewerd
(RL) No Rosary
(CC) Mark Schoenberg & Rick Terres

Liturgical Ministries

Sunday, December 28 - 10:00 am

(S) Kenny Niehoff & Hank Primus
(L) Ralph Klassen
(U) Robert Bertram & Tyler Bertram
(EM) (B) Stan Heinen
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood
(Sacristan) Kathy Welle
(RL) Marilyn Gruber
(CC) Chico Welle & Steve Welle
(HK: December 28 - January 10)
Deanna Welle, Diane Welle & Donna Welle

Ministry Schedules are available on the website and in the church.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

December 21, Sunday

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

January 4, Sunday

◆**All You Can Eat Breakfast** Hosted by Green Grove Rod & Gun Club at the Greenwald Pub. Serving from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm. Proceeds for Wildlife Projects.

January 10, Saturday

◆**Raffle & Gun Bingo** Hosted by Green Grove Rod & Gun Club at the Melrose American Legion. Proceeds go toward local high school archery and trap teams. Doors open at 5:00 pm and Bingo starts at 7:00 pm.

CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$15,832.00
Regular Adult Offering	500.00
EFT	1,350.00
Plate/Loose	119.00
Votives	23.00
School Support	100.00
Immaculate Conception	40.00
Christmas Flowers	95.00
Retirement for Religious	105.00
Barley Days from Rec Club	6,000.00
Fuel Fund from Rec Club	1,000.00
Catholic United Financial	6,500.00

Liturgical Ministries**Christmas Day Mass****Thursday, December 25 - 9:00 am**

(S) Isaiah Gilk, Wyatt & Connor Roelike
(L) Cassandra Kettner
(U) Bob Worms & Jon Worms
(GB) Dale & Kris Winter
(EM) (B) Mary Opatrny
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood

Liturgical Ministries**Saturday, December 27 - 4:00 pm**

(S) Isaiah Gilk & Jackson Gilk
(L) Julie Kulzer
(U) Jason Barten & Gary Bertram
(GB) Ron & Carol Winter
(EM) (B) Kris Winter
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood
(HK - Jan.) *Sheryl Braun, Kate Buermann,
Sara Dehmer, & Rita Eveslage

Thank You to the Rec Club for the generous donations to St. Andrew's Church. This week the organization donated \$1,000 toward fuel and \$6,000 from Barley Days proceeds.

Ministry Schedules are available on the website and in the church.

Thank You The Catholic United Financial #324 officers would like to thank all who bought or sold raffle tickets for our yearly Matching Grant Fundraiser this past month. Without your support we could not have done as well as we did. A huge Thank you goes out to the Greenwald Rec Club for all their assistance, use of their gambling permit and their monetary donation. \$6,500 will be donated to St. Andrews Parish for continued upkeep.

**CHURCH OF ST. JOHN**

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$2,753.68
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,645.00
EFT	140.00
Children	0.25
Plate/Loose	95.00
Votives.....	38.43
Cemetery	500.00
Christmas Flowers	135.00
Religious Retirement	200.00

Liturgical Ministries**Christmas Eve Mass****Wednesday, December 24 - 4:00 pm**

(S) Cole Funk & Luke Funk
(L) Jim Leukam
(U) Doug Meyer & Elmer Meyer
(GB) Matt & Joy Silbernack
(EM) Karl Meyer & Sue Meyer

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

(S) Carter Kelzer & Logan Kelzer
(L) Char Meyer
(U) Karl Meyer & Kurt Meyer
(GB) Mike & Julie Wehlage
(EM) Abby Zenzen & Daryl Zenzen
(HK - January) *Ruth Klaphake, Mary Kay Leukam, Theresa Loxtercamp, Sheri Luetmer, Irene Marthaler, & Char Meyer

Ministry Schedules are available on the website and in the church.

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Happy Birthday,
Fr. Oswaldo!

Saturday,
December 27

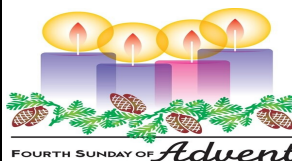
**Sacrament of Reconciliation**• **Individual Celebration:**

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

**Saint Joseph, Our Patron and Protector**

Cont'd. from page 1

FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Reflect today on your personal devotion to Saint Joseph. Ponder, especially, his deep faith and obedience to the will of God as was communicated to him in a dream. Strive to imitate that obedience in your own life, never hesitating to undertake the mission God has given you. Turn to Saint Joseph in prayer and know that his powerful intercession will help protect you and win God's grace in the areas you need it the most.

Saint Joseph, you were a holy and righteous man, entrusted with the guardianship of the Mother of God and the Son of God. You fulfilled your role faithfully and continue that role from Heaven, protecting all of God's children through your intercession. Please pray for me, that I will imitate your obedience and will be protected from all sin so as to fulfill the unique role God has given me. Saint Joseph, pray for me.

Jesus, I trust in You.

mycatholic.life

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 1-10:** No Faith Formation classes until Wednesday, January 7, 2026 because of the holidays. See you in the new year!

- **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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

Contact Information: youthministry@catholic-centered.org or 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. Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 14. Registration forms are available on the Tri-Parish website: www.sacredheartfreeport.org.
- **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!

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

- We have just a few **SHS Raffle Calendars** left! Please reach out to a SHS family or grab one after Mass this weekend!
- **Wine & Dine Raffle/Dinner Tickets** SHS Families will also be selling our Wine and Dine raffle and dinner tickets the next few weekends after Mass.
- **Thank You** to everyone that donated to our Advent Service Project! We hope this brings joy and hope to the families.
- **Thank You** to all who attended the SHS Christmas Program. It is always such a special event to share with our friends, family and community.
- **Christmas Break** Saturday, December 20 - Sunday, January 4, 2026. Classes will resume on Monday, January 5.
- **Wishing You All** a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

- **St. Mary's Staff and Students Wish You** a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your homes be filled with love, laughter, family, friendship, and most importantly, Christ.
- **School Resumes** on Monday, January 5.
- **Thank You** for your participation in collecting items for the Melrose Food Shelf and Eagle's Healing Nest this Advent season.
- **Save the Date** for St. Mary's Catholic Schools Week Breakfast in the school gym on Sunday, January 25 from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. All are welcome!
- St. Mary's School is holding an **SMSS\$4Kids Incentive Drive** until January 22nd 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.

- **Thank You** to the Greenwald Rec Club for their generous Christmas gift of \$1,000 to St. John's - St. Andrew's Catholic School.
- **SJSA Received a Check** for \$155.10 for aluminum can recycling. The recycling trailer is located in the south parking lot of St. John's Church in Meire Grove. Thank you for recycling with SJSA.
- **Christmas Vacation** begins Monday, December 22. Classes will resume on Monday, January 5.
- **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** from the students and staff at SJSA.
- **Mark Your Calendars!** SJSA Steak and Wine Dinner and Auction is Saturday, February 7 at the Greenwald Pub. Donny Brang will once again be playing for the event. If you would like to donate to this event, please contact the school. More info to come!



Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

12/14	\$25	Emily & Kirby Wensmann - Melrose
12/15	\$25	Christine Heinen - Avon
12/16	\$25	Shirley Worms - New Munich
12/17	\$25	Glen & Peggy Stangler - Albany
12/18	\$25	Vicki Schleper - Freeport
12/19	\$25	Calista Sand - Andover
12/20	\$25	Pat Groetsch - Albany



ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

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.



Time to Expand Your Circle of Friends? Try a TEC Retreat. "God has a wonderful way of connecting the dots in our lives to people that will honor who we are, right where we are" (Tiffany Wilson). A TEC retreat will expand your circle of friends with those who will lift you up, support you, encourage you, and bring you closer to God. Come meet some new friends. Register for one of our three-day TEC retreats. www.cmtec.org. Together Encountering Christ (TEC) is open to both youth (age 16+) as well as adults and is located just north of Little Falls. The next TEC Retreats are December 27-29, January 17-19 and February 14-16.

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.



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.

Voices of Hope - Bishop's Annual Appeal: Blessings to you in this fourth week of Advent as we contemplate the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men." Please take a moment to pray for the people of our diocese and all who serve to build the Kingdom of God here in Central Minnesota.

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.
 •Men's Silent Retreat - January 16-18 (Weekend)
 •Women's Silent Retreat - January 23-25 (Weekend)



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.



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.

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://buytickets.at/reallifecatholic/1765324>

Theology Day. Find Out. Pathways of Hope

- Beyond Belief: How Belonging, Joy, and Encounter** Awaken Faith for Young People Today Discover from Donelle what youth and young adults say they need from the church to be catalysts for faith renewal. Presenter: Director Donelle Poling -Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at Emmaus Hall at St. John's University, Collegeville from 6:30 - 9:30 pm.
- The Stones of Corinth: Looking for Hope in the Ruins** Explore with Micah as he uncovers Corinth's ancient struggles, how they mirror ours today, and why there is hope for the future. Presenter: Micah Kiel, Ph.D. - Thursday, January 22, 2026 at Church of St. Mary, Alexandria from 6:30 - 9:00 pm.



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



Wednesday, December 31 (Vigil):

4:00 pm *Immaculate Conception, New Munich*
 4:00 pm *St. Andrew, Greenwald*
 5:00 pm *St. Mary, Melrose*
 7:00 pm *St. Mary, Melrose Misa en Español*

Wednesday, January 1:

8:00 am *Sacred Heart, Freeport*
 8:00 am *St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove*
 9:00 am *St. Mary, Melrose*
 9:00 am *St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa*
 10:00 am *St. Michael, Spring Hill*

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