



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

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 28, 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
froswaldo@stmaryofmelrose.com
Office Email: pam@stmaryofmelrose.com
Faith Formation: faithformation@stmaryofmelrose.com
Website: www.oneinfaith.org
Facebook: Church of St. Mary, Melrose
Mailing Address: 755 Kraft Drive SE
Melrose, MN 56352

Freeport - New Munich - St. Rosa Office:

Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Office Phone: 320-836-2143
Office Email: triparish@albanytel.com
Faith Formation: faithformation@catholic-centered.org
Website: www.sacredheartfreeport.org
Facebook: Tri Parish
Mailing Address: PO Box 155
Freeport, MN 56331

Bulletin Announcements

Deadline: Tuesday before 9:00 am
Email information to: bulletin@catholic-centered.org

Confession Times

♦ Fridays 7:45 am Sacred Heart
♦ Saturdays 3:00 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.



Family Life and the Holy Family

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt.

Matthew 2:13-14

Today we honor and ponder the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The love within their home exceeded that of any other household, and the love within their family poured forth upon their extended family and wider community. Scripture gives us limited details about the life of the Holy Family. What we do know is that from the very beginning, they suffered through enormous challenges.

Mary's pregnancy was the first challenge they faced. She conceived the Christ Child before she and Joseph lived together. Though she knew how she conceived the Son of God, Joseph did not understand until the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. We can imagine that relatives and members of the community expressed their disapproval, given that the angel of the Lord did not reveal the truth to everyone.

Jesus was born far away from their home, in the little town of Bethlehem, in a cave, where animals dwelt. Humble shepherds were their first guests, and the magi from the East soon followed. Within a year or two after Jesus' birth, this family had to uproot from their home and flee to Egypt, find accommodations, and earn a living because Herod sought to kill the child Jesus.

After Herod's death, Joseph was instructed in two subsequent dreams that he could return to Israel and was to move his family to the small and unremarkable village of Nazareth. Though Nazareth was not held in high esteem, it was within this simple setting that Jesus was raised and learned the virtues of hard work, obedience, and humility. Nazareth, though overlooked by the world, became the sacred ground where the Savior of the world was prepared for His mission. Finally, given that Saint Joseph is not mentioned during the time that Jesus exercised His public ministry, it is commonly believed that Jesus and His mother experienced the human sorrow of Joseph's earthly death.

Continued on page 5

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ DEC. 29 - JAN. 4, 2026

ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo	6:30 pm	Misa en Español †Refugio Hernandez
Tu	8:00 am	†Bernie, †Allen, & †Pat Revermann
*We	5:00 pm	Solemnity of Mary Vigil †Betty Dickenson
We	7:00 pm	Misa en Español †Jose Luis Ambriz Hernández
*Th	9:00 am	Solemnity of Mary †Beatrice Rademacher
Fr	8:30 am	†Deceased/Living Members of the Helen & Frank Gruber & Leo & Bernetta Heinen Families
Sa	5:00 pm	†Eddie, †Jeffrey, & †Mark Bussmann
*Su	9:00 am	For the People
Su	11:30 am	Misa en Español †Odaliz Orozco Acevedo

SACRED HEART - Freeport

We	8:15 am	NO MASS
Th	8:00 am	Solemnity of Mary †Werner Ostendorf
Fr	8:15 am	†Viola Meyer
Sa	8:00 am	First Saturday †Anthony Bueckers
Su	8:00 am	†Rose Hinnenkamp

*Mass will be livestreamed.

Visit: oneinfaith.org for the YouTube link.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

We	4:00 pm	Solemnity of Mary Vigil †Elaine Funk
Th	8:15 am	NO MASS
Sa	4:00 pm	For the People
		ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa
Tu	8:15 am	†Millie & †Ed Kociemba
Th	9:00 am	Solemnity of Mary For the People
Su	10:00 am	†Deceased/Living Members of St. Rose of Lima Christian Women

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill

Tu	8:00 am	†Vernon Welle
Th	10:00 am	Solemnity of Mary For the People
Su	10:00 am	†Kathleen Meyer

ST. ANDREW - Greenwald

We	4:00 pm	Solemnity of Mary Vigil †Karlyann Boecker
Th	8:00 am	NO MASS
Sa	4:00 pm	†Ray & †Mary Ann Barten †Karlyann Boecker

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

We	8:00 am	NO MASS
Th	8:00 am	Solemnity of Mary †Lucille Imdieke
Su	8:00 am	†Al Luetmer

ADORATION

St. Rose of Lima - St. Rosa

First Tuesday of the month
7:00 - 8:00 am

Immaculate Conception - New Munich

First Thursday of the month
7:00 - 8:00 am

St. Mary - Melrose

First Thursday of the month 6:30 pm
in Spanish (en Español)

Sacred Heart - Freeport

Adoration is suspended

until further notice due to painting of the interior of the church.



ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish News:

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

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

MASS TIME 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 31 and January 1. The parish office in Freeport are as follows:

December 31: 9:00 am-noon January 1: Closed

Bulletin Deadline Change Looking ahead, due to the holidays, the bulletin deadline will be as follows: 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 Wednesday, 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.

Go and Make Disciples Everyone in grade 11 through adult is invited to a monthly Faith Formation event from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the lab in the basement of Sacred Heart School in Freeport. We will have snacks and discuss various Catholic topics. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, January 7. Come and bring a friend for a fun filled faith enrichment night.



Are You Looking for some Infant/Toddler Love?

Sacred Heart School is currently hiring in our Infant and Toddler Care Center from 7:30 am - 10:30 am and/or from 2:30 pm - 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 ~

• **Thank You** to the Freeport State Bank for their generous donation of \$1,000 to each of our 3 parishes. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated!

• **Parish Directories** If you had your photo taken or submitted a photo to be included in the directory and have not picked up your directory, please contact the Parish Office in Freeport.

• **Christmas Flower Memorials** Thank you to everyone who made donations for Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one. Much beauty was added to the churches this Christmas season. A list of those remembered by the donors can be found on the Tri-Parish website. If you would like a hard copy, please contact the Parish Office in Freeport.

• **"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.



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

One in Faith ACC News Continued on page 7

CHURCH OF ST. MARY

Physical Address: 755 Kraft Drive SE
Melrose, MN 56352

♦♦♦♦♦ Weekly Offerings ♦♦♦♦♦

Total.....	\$13,058.00
Regular Adult Offering	7,994.00
Plate/Loose	903.00
Designated Funds	4,161.00

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle

12-21	\$25	Gene Enneking, Melrose
12-22	\$25	Shawn Becker, St. Augusta
12-23	\$50	Richard Middendorf, Melrose
12-24	\$25	Jorge Carillo, Melrose
12-25	\$350	Trevor Wensman, Melrose
12-26	\$25	St. Mary's Church
12-27	\$25	Jason & Elisha Seanger, Melrose

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

†Mildred "Millie" Wiechmann, 80

 **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 Last call! There are only a few days until the drawing for the 30th Annual Calendar Raffle! You can still purchase tickets at the parish office.

Thank You St. Mary's Parish, thank you for your generous gift to Catholic Charities! We are truly grateful for community partners like you! If we can ever assist, please reach out. Happy Holidays!

~Emmitt Edwards, Catholic Charities

The Scriptures This Week

Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II

Mo	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (<i>Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr</i>)		
	1 Jn 2:3-11	Lk 2:22-35	
Tu	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord		
	1 Jn 2:12-17	Lk 2:36-40	
We	Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (<i>Saint Sylvester I, Pope</i>)		
	1 Jn 2:18-21	Jn 1:1-18	
Th	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Solemnity <i>The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord (Holyday of Obligation)</i>		
	Nm 6:22-27	Gal 4:4-7	Lk 2:16-21
Fr	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church (Memorial) (<i>Memorial</i>)		
	1 Jn 2:22-28	Jn 1:19-28	
Sa	Christmas Weekday (The Most Holy Name of Jesus)		
	1 Jn 2:29—3:6	Jn 1:29-34	
Next Sunday - The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)			
	Is 60:1-6	Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6	Mt 2:1-12

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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

♦♦♦♦♦ Weekly Offerings ♦♦♦♦♦

Total.....	\$6,919.54
Regular Adult Offering	4,390.54
Plate	376.00
Votive	228.00
School Support	500.00
Christmas Envelopes	1,050.00
Christmas Flowers	25.00
Religious Retirement	100.00
Sacred Heart School Endowment	250.00

Parish Events

Fr 01/02	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr 01/02		NO Adoration
Sa 01/03	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass
Mo 01/05		Church Painting Begins

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.



JESUS
is the reason for the season

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 Schulzenberg</i>	320-248-7702
St. Mary's	320-256-3878

CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,910.83
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,948.33
Plate	352.00
Votive	378.00
Christmas Envelopes	65.00
Religious Retirement	10.00
Christmas Flowers	120.00
Building/Maintenance.....	37.50

Parish Events

Th 01/01 NO Adoration
Sa 01/03 3:30 pm Individual Confessions
Sa 01/03 5:00 pm Cash Raffle Drawing
Su 01/04 10:00 am Private Event

God's Housekeepers for the month of



January: *Lu Rademacher, Cindy Heinen, Lisa Hennen, Michelle Rademacher, Ann Holdvogt, and Donna Welle. The first person on the list should contact the others to schedule a cleaning time. Thank you for being "God's Housekeepers" for our church this month.

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 ASAP. 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 Saturday, January 3 following the 4:00 pm Mass.

C.U.F. Calendar Raffle Winners:

Dec. 15	\$40	Megann Preston
Dec. 16	\$40	Linda Mastey
Dec. 17	\$40	Sheila Humbert
Dec. 18	\$40	Willie Nathe
Dec. 19	\$40	Char Mayers
Dec. 20	\$40	Nathan Schwieters
Dec. 21	\$100	Carl & Kathy Schulzetenberg



CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$3,446.46
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,603.46
Plate	353.00
Religious Retirement	200.00
Christmas Envelopes	1,200.00
Christmas Flowers	90.00

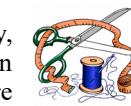
Parish Events

Fr 01/02 7:30 pm Rosary

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.

Knights of Columbus

St. Joseph the Worker Council

December 2025
Calendar Raffle Winners

12-22	\$20	Justin Middendorf
12-23	\$40	Diane Herkenhoff
12-24	\$60	Richard & Cathy Sand
12-25	\$250	Judy Hennen
12-26	\$40	Jeron Wiechman
12-27	\$60	Kevin Wiechman
12-28	\$100	Charlene Theis
12-29	\$20	Nate Van Beck
12-30	\$40	Jerry Trisko
12-31	\$100	Willie Nathe

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. MICHAEL

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$1,592.26
Regular Adult Offering.....	445.00
Children	5.00
Plate/Loose	68.26
Votives	209.00
Fuel Fund	645.00
Christmas	150.00
Christmas Flowers	70.00

Liturgical Ministries

Solemnity of Mary Mass

Thursday, January 1 - 10:00 am

(S) Olivia & Lukas Kalthoff
(L) Pete LeClaire
(U) Conrad Gruber & Stan Heinen
(EM) (B) Grace Hopfer
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood
(Sacristan) John & Sharon Schulzetenberg
(RL) Kathy Welle
(CC) Sandra Gruber & Kathy LeClaire

Liturgical Ministries

Sunday, January 4 - 10:00 am

(S) Olivia Kalthoff
(L) Gary P. Lieser
(U) Dan Hemmesch & Adam Kalthoff
(EM) (B) Jeanette Kalthoff
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood
(Sacristan) Ruth Heinen
(RL) Marilyn Gruber
(CC) Stan Heinen & Melvin Kalthoff
(HK: December 28 - January 10)
Deanna Welle, Diane Welle & Donna Welle

Thank You to Duane Moscho for sanding the very icy church parking lot! It made it much safer and is greatly appreciated.

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.



Sacred Heart School Wine and Dine

CASH RAFFLE SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2026 7:30 PM AT FREEPORT COMMUNITY CENTER

and via live stream on the SHS Facebook page

Need not be present to win

TICKETS \$100 - 1000 SOLD

Must be 18 years or older to win

All winners are responsible for applicable fees and taxes.

\$20,000 GRAND PRIZE

2ND PRIZE - \$3,000 3RD PRIZE - \$2,000

4th Prize: \$1000

5th Prize: \$500

6th Prize: \$500

7th Prize: \$500

8th Prize: \$500

9th Prize: \$500

10th Prize: \$500

11th Prize: \$500

12th Prize: \$250

13th Prize: \$250

14th Prize: \$250

15th Prize: \$250

16th Prize: \$250

17th Prize: \$250

18th Prize: \$250

19th Prize: \$250

20th Prize: \$250

**WATCH LIVE
ON FACEBOOK!**



facebook.com/sacredheartmn

LIC# X-94409

----- ORDER FORM - Clip and return to SHS -----

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Number of Tickets wanted _____ X \$100 = \$ _____ (amount enclosed)

Return To: Sacred Heart School
PO Box 39
Freeport, MN 56331

LIC# X-94409

Deadline for Tickets by Mail
JANUARY 20TH

Proceeds to Benefit Sacred Heart School

Tickets available from: SHS Families or the SHS Office 320.836.2591

Sacred Heart School Wine and Dine

Dinner and Auction

SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2026
at the Freeport Community Center**

Dinner Catered by D'Lish

SERVED 4:00 - 8:00 PM

**STEAK OR CHICKEN CORDON BLEU SERVED WITH
BAKED POTATO AND GREEN BEENS (INCLUDES
BREAD, FULL SALAD BAR, AND DESSERT).**

Bar provided by the Freeport Rec Club

Silent Auction

ONLINE ONLY JANUARY 17 - JANUARY 24, 2025

SILENT AUCTION WILL END AT 2:00 PM

ITEMS WILL BE LISTED AT:

WWW.32AUCTIONS.COM/WINEANDDINE2026

Live Auction

WITH AUCTIONEER DANNY WINTER

WILL START AT 8:00 PM

**AUCTIONS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE
NO TICKET REQUIRED**

Cash Raffle - \$20,000 Grand Prize

(MORE DETAILS ON BACK)

**RAFFLE DRAWING WILL BE AT 7:30 PM LIVE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER
and broadcast on the SHS Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/sacredheartmn**

**Dinner and Raffle tickets are available in the school office (320-836-2591)
or from any SHS Parent**

****VENUE PROVIDED BY THE FREEPORT COMMUNITY CENTER**

CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$1,287.00
Regular Adult Offering	550.00
Plate/Loose	256.00
Votives	41.00
Cemetery	50.00
Immaculate Conception	25.00
Christmas Flowers	10.00
Fuel Fund	155.00
Christmas	200.00

Liturgical Ministries

Solemnity of Mary Mass

Wednesday, December 31 - 4:00 pm

(S) Noah Dehmer & Zachary Rieland
(L) Herman Lensing
(U) Eric Dehmer & Jeff Ahrens
(GB) Jon & Laurel Worms
(EM) (B) Mike Barten
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday, January 3 - 4:00 pm

(S) Isaiah Gilk & Jackson Gilk
(L) Kathy Gilk
(U) Dan Boecker & Dan Eveslage
(GB) Scott & Kristen Young
(EM) (B) Clarine Beier
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood
(HK - Jan.) *Sheryl Braun, Kate Buermann, Sara Dehmer, & Rita Eveslage

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$4,106.00
Regular Adult Offering	1,949.00
Plate/Loose	1,795.00
Votives	44.00
Fuel Fund	15.00
Immaculate Conception	10.00
Christmas	150.00
Christmas Flowers	128.00
Religious Retirement	15.00

HISPANIC MINISTRY



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

Feliz Navidad



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

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

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.

January 11, Sunday

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

♦ Knights of Columbus Breakfast at Saint Boniface, Cold Spring. Serving from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. Age 13-Adult \$12. Ages 6-12 \$6. 5 and under are free.



Family Life and the Holy Family

Cont'd. from page 1



Despite the hardships the Holy Family endured, the love in their home overshadowed every challenge, making their family life a source of the utmost consolation and joy. Amidst the trials they faced, the Holy Family found joy, not in worldly comforts, but in their deep union with God and with each other. Their home was a sanctuary of love, prayer, and mutual support, where God's presence was always felt. How fascinating it will be one day, in Heaven, if God reveals to us the details about the earthly and hidden life of the Holy Family. Though the angels witnessed their lives as they unfolded in time, we can hope and imagine that God, in His goodness, will share these mysteries with the saints, revealing the true beauty of the Holy Family's earthly life together. Their conversations, interactions, charity, prayer, fun, work, and all that made up their family life will be a source of eternal admiration and gratitude.

Reflect today on the Holy Family. Ask God to give you insight into their lives together. As you do, use any insights as a source of inspiration for your own life and relationships with those closest to you. Though we will all fall short of the charity that permeated the home of the Holy Family, we can work to imitate them by allowing God to increase our charity toward one another. Through daily prayer, acts of sacrifice, and a commitment to love one another, we can create a family life that reflects the holiness and unity of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Your family life was holy beyond imagination. In your daily interactions, Your love was manifest and inspiring to each other and to Your relatives and friends. Please draw me into Your family life and teach me to love those in my family so that we will become a stronger community of love. Jesus, I trust in You.

FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information:
faithformation@catholic-centered.org

- **Grades 1-10:** Next Class: Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Happy 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!

your relationship with God. Registration forms are available on the Tri-Parish website: www.sacredheartfreeport.org. Cost is \$40 until January 15, then \$50 through January 22. Additional cost for busing TBD. Contact Kasia in the Parish Office in Freeport with any questions.

♦ **Castaway Retreat** for Grades 9-12: Friday, March 20 through Sunday, March 22, 2026, at the Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes, MN. Castaway has been an energizing experience for our young Church in the Diocese of St. Cloud for over 50 years. This retreat is a weekend filled with powerful prayer, fun skits, inspirational speakers, awesome music, an incredible Mass, and many faith-growing opportunities. Come together with over 300 others and make new friends, take time to relax, laugh, eat fantastic food, and renew your spirit while strengthening your relationship with God. Cost is \$210 through Friday, February 13, and \$230 after that. To register, please turn in a Youth Interest Form along with a \$110 non-refundable deposit. Forms are available in the churches and on the parish websites. Contact either parish office with questions. Please turn in your Interest Forms by the end of January to secure your spot.

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

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



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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:
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SMS BOARD:
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 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

- ♦ **Wine & Dine Raffle/Dinner Tickets** SHS Families will be selling our Wine and Dine raffle and dinner tickets the next few weekends after Mass.

- ♦ **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!

♦ **Wishing You** a peaceful close to the year and a bright beginning to the new one. May the coming year be filled with joy, growth, and many blessings from all of us at St. Mary's School.

♦ **Thank You** to all the businesses and individuals who donated money to St. Mary's School during this holiday season. Those donations play a crucial role in our students' academic journey and faith development, helping us to nurture the next generation of compassionate, faithful leaders.

♦ **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 **SMS\$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.

**Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!**

12/21	\$25	Naomi Klaphake - Freeport
12/22	\$25	Ginny Schiffler - Melrose
12/23	\$25	Dave & Teri Heidgerken - Sauk Rapids
12/24	\$150	Ann Heidgerken - Freeport
12/25	\$250	Clarence Borgerding - Freeport
12/26	\$25	Candace Scherping - Freeport
12/27	\$25	Ruthann Nathe - 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 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.



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.

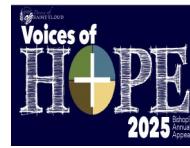
- Men's Silent Retreat - January 16-18 (Weekend)
- Women's Silent Retreat - January 23-25 (Weekend)

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://buyltktickets.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 - 9:00 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.



Voices of Hope - Bishop's Annual Appeal: Thank you so much for your support of diocesan ministries through your prayers and gifts in 2025. May you be blessed with peace and joy in the new year.

Catholic Men's Conference 2026 February 28, 2026 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, St. John's University in Collegeville. Keynote speaker: Craig Gould, M.A., Program Director, Notre Dame Vision. Workshop: will be available, including topics for young adults ages 15 and up. Cost: \$40 or \$35/each for groups of 5, includes morning refreshments and lunch. Cost for young adults ages 15 - 22: \$10, scholarships available for the first 50 registrants. Registration deadline: February 17, 2026. Visit <https://stcdio.org/event/catholic-mens-conference-2026/> to register or for more information. You can also contact Jan at 320-258-7615 or jan.zylla@gw.stcdio.org.



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/>.



Are you living the Be-Attitudes? 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.

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

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

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



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

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