

- Believe and profess the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and be able to promote and proclaim them.
- Have experience in teaching Faith Formation classes and a familiarity with youth ministry models.
- Have a valid driver's license and ability to drive to multiple locations with self-provided reliable transportation.
- Successfully pass Criminal Background Checks and complete Safe Environment requirements for the Diocese of St. Cloud and maintain this clearance.

The position is full-time exempt. The ability to work a flexible schedule, including some nights and weekends, is necessary to succeed in this position. The Director will have office and storage space. The salary is based on qualifications and experience.

Specific Job Responsibilities & Duties:

- Direct and coordinate the Faith Formation program for K-12 and oversee youth ministry, being mindful that all curriculum needs to be in compliance with the Diocese of St. Cloud guidelines and requirements.
- Oversee and coordinate Sacrament Preparation within the parish (Reconciliation/1st Holy Communion & Confirmation).
- Recruit and support teachers, volunteers, and chaperones from within the parish for the programs.
- Engage in networking with colleagues in the diocese by attending Faith Formation and Youth Ministry meetings.

If you have questions, would like more information about this position, or want to apply please contact oif@stmarysofmelrose.org.

On a more serious note

This Pastor's Bulletin was begun with the goal of helping me to communicate from beyond the pulpit and to guard against under-informing our parishioners. That said, I am keenly aware that this bulletin cannot be a substitute for me to communicate WITH the people of God even if it is a tool helping me to communicate TO the people of God.

Unfortunately, while developing key elements of the structural framework which are intended to help us get us through this transition in as smooth, collaborative and compassionate way as I know how, I have been less available to our parishioners. And from that vacuum of my presence I am hearing comments like, "People are saying you are going to _____," and "I heard that you are going to do _____ with the churches."

People need to talk with and be of support to one another, and I am glad when we can find this. Even still, to any such comment about what I have said or what I am going to do, please always ask one question: Did I hear that from Fr. Mitchell, himself? And even then, ask one more question: Did Fr. Mitchell use those exact words? We have all experienced the pains of miscommunication, both in misunderstanding and in being misunderstood ... such miscommunications can be deeply painful.

Effective communication can be difficult, and I only ask that you help me and one another to communicate accurate information about anticipated changes in our churches, much of which I intend to communicate here and with other official parish communication tools in the months ahead.

FATHER MITCHELL'S PASTORAL BULLETIN

Sunday, March 1, 2026

To the parishioners of Saint Andrew's, Greenwald,
Saint John the Baptist's, Meire Grove, Saint Mary's, Melrose &
Saint Michael's, Spring Hill, of the One In Faith Area Catholic Community

From my earliest years as an associate priest and pastor, my experience has seemed to reveal two practices common in parishes: 1. Don't ask the pastor, and 2. Ask anyone but the pastor. And this practice has pained me deeply because though not perfect, and yes at times very busy, I go to great efforts to make myself both approachable and accessible.

My residence location is well known, my calling number is available in the bulletin, if I have ever called you then you have my cell phone number, my email is found in our weekly bulletin and, if you ask to schedule a meeting with me, I make reasonable efforts to be available.

This availability is important to me because there are some questions which you can safely find answers to from your neighbor or even from our parish staff; there are others which are best brought to me directly. If you are hearing something about any forthcoming changes, especially those which are particularly dramatic, salacious or shocking, please ask me.

Please continue to pray for one another and this process in the days ahead, and please know of my daily prayers and efforts for you.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, pray for us.

In Christ,

Father Mitchell Bechtold

Greetings!

After years of dedicated service to our parish families and Faith Formation programs, Juliann Heller is retiring from her role as Director of Faith Formation for our parishes. Pastors and parishes have numerous responsibilities, making team members and volunteers like Juliann (and so many of you) both invaluable and necessary. I hope you will join me in echoing a word of thanks to her, Rita Meyer, Chris and Terri Ellering, Sheila Hellerman and so many others who, each in their own way over the years, have helped to foster a knowledge and love of our Church and Lord Jesus in the minds and hearts of our sons and daughters and their families.

Mindful of this, our parishes are currently seeking a Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry. The ideal candidate will bring a deep love for the Catholic faith, the ability to develop and adapt curriculum, and be skilled in the organization and coordination of volunteers.

Qualified applicants must:

- Be a practicing Catholic in good standing (a registered member of a Catholic parish faith community).