



ONE IN FAITH Area Catholic Community of:

Church of St. Mary

Campuses in Melrose & Meire Grove, serving the communities of
Melrose, Meire Grove, Greenwald & Spring Hill

Church of the Sacred Heart Freeport

Church of the Immaculate Conception New Munich

Church of St. Rose of Lima St. Rosa

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 4, 2026

Fr. Daniel Walz, Pastor
Fr. Mitchell Bechtold, Pastor

Melrose 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: 320-247-4907 (call or text)

mlbechtold@outlook.com

Office Email: oif@stmarysofamelrose.com

Faith Formation: faithformation@stmarysofamelrose.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

Fr. Daniel Walz: frwalz@catholic-centered.org

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 8:00 am During Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament - St. Mary - Melrose

♦Saturdays 3:30 pm Immaculate Conception

♦Saturdays 4:30 pm St. Mary - Meire Grove

♦Sundays 11:00 am St. Mary - Melrose

♦Or by appointment. Call the Parish Office.

Marriage

Couples are to begin preparation 6-12 months in advance and
must call the respective Parish Office **before setting a date.**

*Diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes are required.

Baptism & OCIA

If you are interested in having your child baptized or
participating in the OCIA program, contact the respective
Parish Office.

Anointing of the Sick - Homebound

Communion

Pastoral Visitation - Joining/Leaving a Parish

If you have any of the above or other pastoral needs, please
call the respective Parish Office or check the parish websites.



The New Vineyard of Grace

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit." Matthew 21:42-43

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants is rich in Old Testament imagery. The image of the vineyard comes from the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 5:1-7) and represents the people of Israel. The landowner is God, who, from the time of Abraham, has lovingly and intentionally cultivated His people. The hedge, tower, and winepress symbolize God's providential care, protection, and the structure He established for their spiritual growth, respectively.

The tenants are the religious elite of Israel who were entrusted with guiding the people in holiness. The servants sent by the landowner are the prophets—faithful messengers consistently rejected and mistreated. Finally, the son is Jesus Himself, sent by the Father as the culmination of His divine outreach.

The parable ends in tragedy with the son's murder. Yet from that tragedy arises a new beginning: "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit" (Matthew 21:43). Though Jesus was addressing the religious leaders of His time—the scribes, Pharisees, chief priests, Sadducees, and elders—His enduring promise of a new beginning speaks to us today.

We are invited to be part of the people to whom God now entrusts His vineyard, the Church. Today, the hedge, winepress, and tower represent the Sacraments, the teaching authority of the Church, Sacred Scripture, and the communion of the faithful. God continues to cultivate His vineyard with great care, expecting it to bear fruit through our lives of holiness, fidelity, charity, and truth. Each of us, as members of the Body of Christ, is called to receive this trust with gratitude and to labor diligently for the Kingdom, never forgetting the price paid by the Son who was cast out and killed for our redemption.

Continued on page 2

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ OCTOBER 5 - 11

ST. MARY - MELROSE

Tu	6:30 pm	No hay Misa en español (Melrose)
We	8:00 am	No Mass – Priest Retreat (Meire Grove)
Th	8:00 am	SJSA School Mass (Greenwald) †Otto & †Francella Thelen
*Fr	8:30 am	SM School Mass (Melrose) †Robert Koetter †James Thoma
Sa	5:00 pm	†Kenny Thomes (Melrose)
Su	7:30 am	Living/†Deceased Members of the Karl & Geri Meyer Family (Meire Grove)
*Su	9:30 am	Ed & Virginia Keller Family (Melrose)
Su	12:00 pm	Misa en Español (Melrose) Por el Pueblo

SACRED HEART - FREEPORT

Tu	8:15 am	No Mass
We	8:15 am	No Mass
Th	8:15 am	No Mass
Fr	10:00 am	SH School Mass Grandparent's Day Mass Leo, Adalyn, and Maria Wiechman
Su	8:00 am	For the People

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - NEW MUNICH

Sa	4:00 pm	Council of Catholic Women
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ST. ROSE OF LIMA - ST. ROSA

Su	10:00 am	†Claude Toenyan
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**Mass will be livestreamed. Visit: oneinfaith.org for the YouTube link.*

REFLECTION Continued from Page 1



Sometimes, when we speak of “the Church,” we do so as if it were some distant institution. Our minds may turn immediately to the Vatican, the pope, or the local bishop. While these shepherds hold crucial and foundational roles within the vineyard, we need to understand the Church in a more encompassing way.

To use the image from today’s parable, the vineyard and the fruit it is meant to bear are not equated exclusively with the tenants, the servants, the son, or even the landowner. The vineyard itself represents the entire people of God. The fruit it produces is the grace-filled witness of lives transformed by faith. This includes all of us: clergy, religious, and laity alike. Every member of the Church is a laborer in the vineyard, called to work together, under the guidance of Christ, the true Son, and to offer to the Father a rich harvest of justice, mercy, and truth.

Reflect today on how to make this parable your personal calling. The Kingdom of God has been partly entrusted to you to be one who will labor for the salvation of souls—“people that will produce its fruit.” The work of evangelization is an ongoing and urgent mission. In what ways is God calling you to work in His Divine Vineyard? Is it through faithful prayer, by which the vines of grace are pruned and nourished? Is it through the work of harvesting, where you draw others to Christ by your words, your witness, and your works of love? Is it through quiet perseverance in suffering,

offered in union with the Crucified One? However God calls you, do not delay. Receive His trust with humility and labor with joy. The vineyard is His, but the fruit depends, in part, on you.

My glorious King, You have called us to Yourself and made us members of Your Kingdom. You have also sent us forth to labor in the vineyard of Your Church and help draw many souls to Your Sacred Heart. Please reveal to me the role and mission You have entrusted to me. May I listen attentively to Your gentle commands and respond with a heart full of generosity and faith. May Your Church—of which I am a living member—continue to bear abundant fruit through the grace You pour forth.

Jesus, I trust in You.

mycatholic.life

ADORATION

St. Mary - Melrose

First Thursday of the month 6:30 pm
in Spanish (en Español) and
Saturdays, 8:00 am - 9:00 am
in English

Sacred Heart - Freeport

NO Adoration Friday, October 9

The Scriptures This Week
Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II

Mo	Weekday (Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin; USA: Blessed Francis Seelos, Priest)
	Gal 1:6-12 Lk 10:25-37
Tu	Weekday (Saint Bruno, Priest; USA: Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin)
	Gal 1:13-24 Lk 10:38-42
We	Our Lady of the Rosary (Memorial)
	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14 Lk 11:1-4
Th	Weekday
	Gal 3:1-5 Lk 11:5-13
Fr	Weekday (Saint Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs; Saint John Lenardie, Priest)
	Gal 3:7-14 Lk 11:15-26
Sa	Weekday
	Gal 3:22-29 Lk 11:27-28
Next Sunday	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
	Is 25:6-10a Phil 4:12-14, 19-20
	Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

CHURCH OF ST. MARY

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

Meire Grove Physical Address: 20 State Highway 4 S.; Meire Grove, MN 56352

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦ Weekly Offerings ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

St. Mary – Melrose

Total	\$10,689.25
Regular Adult Offering	9,220.00
Plate/Loose	990.25
Designated Funds	479.00

Spring Hill	\$610.00
(CUF donation)	4,000.00
Greenwald	\$70.00

St. Mary – Meire Grove

Total	\$2,503.50
Regular Adult Offering	2,335.00
Children's	.50
Plate/Loose	141.00
Votives	27.00

St. Mary's - Melrose Calendar Raffle

09-27	\$25	Aubrey Braegemann, Melrose
09-28	\$25	Rita Woeste, Melrose
09-29	\$25	Paula Lange, St. Cloud
09-30	\$25	Rich & Charlene Van Drehle, Melrose
10-01	\$25	Melvin Hinnenkamp, Melrose
10-02	\$25	Carissa Drossel, Jamestown, ND
10-03	\$25	Kaitlyn Klasen c/o Tony Klasen, Melrose



Died in the Hope of Resurrection...

†Hildegard "Hilde" Winter, 96

St. Mary's Mission Society will meet on Wednesday, October 14 at St. Mary's Church at 8:45 am in the gathering area. All are welcome!

Save the Dates: ♦*Spring Hill Annual Worn-A-Bit Rummage and Bake Sale* is set for October 24 & 25. Lunch available both days. ♦*St. Mary's Christian Women Dues Collection & Craft Sale* - November 14 & 15.



Lector Workbooks have arrived. If you ordered a copy, please pick it up from the sacristy at St. John's or St. Mary's.

October is Mission Month. All parishioners are members of the Mission Society. All, both male and female, are encouraged to attend our meetings. Check the bulletin for dates and times. We are asking all parishioners to donate a free will offering to the Mission Society. We used to call it "dues." As we reflect on our MANY blessings, we realize we have been given much. We are called - as a parish - to respond to those in need. Place your donation in an envelope, write "**St. Mary's Mission Society**" on it, and place in the collection or bring to the office. All unmarked mission donations will be given to the diocesan mission appeal. Please be generous in your support of the St. Mary's Mission Society! Thank you.

Potato Pancake Supper in Meire Grove will be Sunday, October 18. Serving from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Takeouts will be available.



Hospitality Please join us for cookies, refreshments and fellowship after all Masses at St. Mary's in Melrose October 10 & 11. That means 5:00 pm Saturday and 9:30 am and 12:00 noon on Sunday. Hope to see you all there!

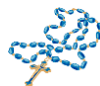
Additional Volunteers are Needed to lead the rosary and distribute communion to residents at Pine Villa on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Mass is at 10:00 am. The rosary starts 20 minutes before Mass. Communion is brought to the rooms of residents who cannot attend Mass in person. The time commitment is about 2 hours. Regularly scheduled ministers and substitutes are needed. Contact the office for more information.

Mass Intentions Mass intentions may be scheduled through Tuesday, February 9, 2027. If you have not scheduled a Mass intention since July 1, 2026, and would like to request one during this period, please contact the parish office. Our Mass intention policy is available in the church, on our website, and in the parish office.



Daily Raffle will again take place for the month of November. Raffle tickets have been given out to members of Catholic Financial members and members of the community. Reminder the tickets need to be turned in by October 20, to either Mike Barten, Angie Barten or Greenwald Farm Center. If you would like to purchase more tickets or didn't receive any, please contact one of the above. All proceeds will be going to support SJSA Catholic School. Thank you in advance for your support.

Ministry Help Needed Through baptism the faithful share in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission. Helping with ministries during Mass is an expression of faith and baptismal responsibility. We appreciate all of our current liturgical ministers and encourage others to begin serving. The 5:00 pm Mass in Melrose is particularly in need of Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristans, Audio Visual Ministers, Altar Servers, Lectors, Greeters, and Musicians. These are more than practical jobs. When performed prayerfully, they are ministries offered for the good of the Church and its people. We can use your help even if you can serve only once a month. Contact Sarah Woeste at 320-256-9516.



Rosary Rally All are welcome to our Rosary Rally on Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 am at the Church in Spring Hill. We are celebrating the Final Apparition-the last day (Tuesday, October 13) that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to the three shepherd children and the Miracle of the Sun.

October is Respect Life Month Help us build a culture of life by supporting Options for Women in Sauk Centre, a faith-based pregnancy resource center that offers hope, compassion, education, and practical assistance to women facing unexpected pregnancies. Bassinets will be located at St. Mary's and St. John's churches throughout October to collect the following items: •New or gently used clothing, sizes 3 mo. - 4T, •Enfamil formula, •Diapers, especially sizes 5 and 6, •Baby healthcare items, •Pack 'n Plays, •New car seats. Monetary donations are also welcome. Envelopes will be available near the bassinets. Thank you for helping mothers and babies in our community!

TRI-PARISH NEWS:

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

•**All Souls' Remembrance** St. John's Abbey has invited our parishes to submit names of deceased loved ones as part of their All Souls' Remembrance ministry. In the entry of our parishes, there is a sign-up sheet to add deceased loved ones' names. We will collect these names through the month of October and submit them to St. John's for them to pray for these individuals during the month of November.

**Prayer Requests...**

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

Banns of Matrimony:

- I Joran Carlson♥Dominic Einyck, 10/24 - FR
 II Katelyn Wehlage♥Tyler Dregney, 10/15 - MG
 III Emily Scherping♥Mitchell Brown, 10/10 - FR

For the Sick: Pat Bushman, Carol, Bethany Downs, Cali Dickhoff, Dorothy Schneider, Joyce Klaphake Hauser, Ken VanderWeyst, Len Frieze, Marv Stueve, Michelle Russel

Contact Persons for Prayer Line Requests:

Sacred Heart:	Judy Caveny	320-248-8830
Immaculate Conception:	Bernice Zink	320-837-5321
St. Rose of Lima:	Kayla Harren	320-333-8461
St. Mary's (Spring Hill):	Sharon Schulzetenberg	320-248-7702
St. Mary's (Melrose):		320-256-3878

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEARTPhysical Address: 106 3rd Avenue NE; Freeport MN 56331

Church Basement 320-836-2191

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offerings ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Total	\$6,166.46
Regular Adult Offering	4,203.46
Plate	1,406.00
Votive	267.00
School Support	290.00

Parish Events

Su 10/04	1:00 pm	Confirmation
Mo 10/05	6:30 pm	Youth Night at SHS Gym
Tu 10/06	5:30 pm	Christian Women Setup
Tu 10/06	6:30 pm	Christian Women Annual Meeting
Tu 10/06	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
We 10/07	6:00 pm	Faith Formation Grades 1-6
We 10/07	7:00 pm	Faith Formation Grades 7-11
We 10/07	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples at SHS
Fr 10/09		No Individual Confessions
Fr 10/09		No Adoration
Fr 10/09	10:00 am	SHS Grandparent's Day Mass & Social
Fr 10/09	4:30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Sa 10/10	9:00 am	Catholic United Financial Breakfast Setup
Sa 10/10	1:30 pm	Wedding Prep/Pictures
Sa 10/10	3:00 pm	Scherping/Brown Wedding
Su 10/11	8:30 am	Catholic United Financial Breakfast



Wedding... Congratulations to Joey & Gwen (Welle) Gomez who were married at Sacred Heart on Saturday, September 26. May God bless you with many years of happiness together.

Baptized in Christ... We welcome Landen Tucker Gerads, the son of Dustyn & Brianna Gerads, to our parish. Landen Tucker was baptized on Sunday, September 27.

Annual Meeting Freeport Christian Women are hosting their Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 6 beginning at 6:30 pm in the Sacred Heart Church basement. Join us for a light meal, a quick year in review and a fun round of Trivia. All Freeport Christian Women and those interested in joining are invited to attend. Door prizes will be given out as well.



Community Garden Please remove all items from the garden by Wednesday, October 14, so it can be plowed. Thank you.

Looking Ahead: A Pancake/Sausage Breakfast sponsored by Sacred Heart Catholic United Financial #101 for the benefit of Sacred Heart School will be held on Sunday, October 11 from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm.

Embroiderers Needed If you enjoy embroidering or appliquéing, the festival quilting group would like assistance with dish towels. You can stop at the Tri-Parish Office entryway and pick up a packet to complete and return. The packets will have 7 dish towels and applique patterns. Please sign the towels out and return to the parish office when complete. Thank you!

**CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Physical Address: 650 Main Street; New Munich, MN 56356

Church Basement: 320-837-5217

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offerings ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Total	\$2,411.92
Regular Adult Offering	1,862.92
Plate	269.00
Cash Bazaar	100.00
Building/Maintenance	110.00
Human Development	70.00

Parish Events

Su 10/04	1:00 pm	Confirmation - FR
Mo 10/05	6:30 pm	Youth Night at SHS Gym
We 10/07	6:00 pm	Faith Formation Gr 1-6 - FR
We 10/07	7:00 pm	Faith Formation Gr 7-11 - FR
We 10/07	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples at SHS
Th 10/08	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sa 10/10	11:00 am	Rosary
Sa 10/10	3:30 pm	Individual Confessions

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CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Continued from page 4



God's Housekeepers for the month of October: *Linda Feldewerd, Georgine Nathe, Peggy Thelen, Joelle Niebergall, Char Mayers, and Diane Boeckers. 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.

Thank You to the Christian Women St. Ann's Society for their donation of \$1,000 towards fuel and \$1,500 towards the Elevator Expansion project.

CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

◆◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offerings ◆◆◆◆◆

Total	\$4,902.08
Regular Adult Offering	4,570.08
Plate	322.00
Building/Maintenance	10.00

Parish Events

Su 10/04	1:00 pm	Confirmation – FR
Mo 10/05	6:00 pm	Christian Women Rosary & Social
Mo 10/05	6:30 pm	Youth Night at SHS Gym
Mo 10/05	7:00 pm	Christian Women Meeting
Tu 10/06	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
We 10/07	6:00 pm	Faith Formation Gr 1-6 - FR
We 10/07	7:00 pm	Faith Formation Gr 7-11 - FR
We 10/07	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples at SHS
Fr 10/09	7:30 pm	Rosary

May He Rest in Peace... Our parish offers prayers and sympathy to the family of †Thomas "Tom" Stangler, who passed away Saturday, September 26. A memorial service was celebrated on Saturday, October 3.

Baptized in Christ... We welcome Fynn Jason Sprenger, the son of Jason & Kallista Sprenger, to our parish. Fynn Jason was baptized on Sunday, September 27.



The St. Rose Choir is always looking for new voices and musicians to help lead our congregation in worship. Whether you've sung in a choir for years, or simply enjoy making a joyful noise, we'd love to have you join us. We typically practice twice a month on Tuesday evenings. Join us for our next rehearsal, Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 pm, or contact Amy Wilwerding if you need more information 320-836-2344. Every level of singer is welcome. We'd love to have you!

Christian Women Meeting Monday, October 5. In honor of the Month of the Holy Rosary, join us for a Scriptural Rosary in the church at 6:00 pm followed by a social in the church basement and the meeting beginning at 7:00 pm. All women from the parish are invited to attend.

**America Needs Fatima Public Square Rosary:**

Everyone is welcome to come pray the rosary for peace, protection of life, and the elections. Join us on Saturday, October 10 at 12:00 pm by the grotto.

FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: faithformation@catholic-centered.org

- Grades 1-6: Next Class:** Wednesday, October 7 at 6:00 pm. All classes will meet in their designated classrooms in the Tri-Parish Office.
- Grades 7-10: Next Class:** Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00 pm.
- Grade 11: Confirmation Mass** is TODAY, Sunday, October 4 at 1:00 pm at Sacred Heart. Students and sponsors meet in the church basement at 12:00 pm.
- Grade 11: Next Class:** Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00 pm. Please meet in the Sacred Heart School Gym.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofamelrose.com

- Next Class:** Wednesday, October 7.
- Save the Date:** Faith Formation students in grades 4 through 12 and their parents are invited to help with Road Ditch Cleanup at 9:00 am on Saturday, October 10. We will meet at St. John's Church in Meire Grove. Treats will be provided. Please let Mark Kociemba know if you plan to attend.
- Volunteers are needed** for our parish Bingo event on Sunday, October 11! Both parents and youth are encouraged to help. If you are available, please contact Mark Kociemba. Thank you!
- Please Join Us for bingo** on Sunday, October 11 at Saint Mary's Catholic School gym. Doors open at 3:30 pm and games begin at 4:00 pm. Proceeds will support youth participation in Castaway, summer camp, and other events. We hope to see you there!
- Please call the Faith Formation phone number** rather than sending a text message. This phone does not receive text messages.

Public Rosary...

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

St. Mary – Melrose

Wednesday: 1:00 pm

Thursday (Spanish): 6:30 pm
(Except the 1st Thursday)

St. Mary – Meire Grove

Monday: 7:00 am

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Greenwald

Thursday: 7:40 am

Sacred Heart, Freeport

Tuesday: 7:45 am

Wednesday: 7:45 am

Thursday: 7:45 am

Friday: 7:45 am

Sunday: 7:30 am

**Immaculate Conception, New Munich**

Saturday: 3:30 pm

St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa

Friday: 7:30 pm

Sunday: 9:30 am



Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

09/27	\$25	Frank & Callie Lehner - Freeport
09/28	\$25	Tom Toenyan - Freeport
09/29	\$25	Alvin Schneider - Melrose
09/30	\$25	Matthew Weismann - Cold Spring
10/01	\$25	Nate & Emily Arnzen - Freeport
10/02	\$25	Denise Gagner - Andover
10/03	\$25	Nicole Welle - Freeport

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tri-Parish Youth Ministry:Contact Information: youthministry@catholic-centered.org

•**Youth Night** Monday, October 5 and 19 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Sacred Heart School Gym in Freeport! Open to grades 9-12 from any parish!

•**St. Cloud Diocese Apostle Games Grades 9-12:** Sunday, October 25. This year the St. Cloud Diocese is excited to announce the exciting, competitive, and enriching Apostle Games coming to our very own St. Cloud State University! The day will be filled with prayer, food, games, and Mass. We invite and encourage all our youth to embark on this fun-filled day celebrating National Youth Day. If interested, please pick up an interest form at the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport or in the back of the church in Freeport, New Munich, or St. Rose. For more information contact Alexandra at 320-836-2143 or faithformation@catholic-centered.org.

St. Mary's Youth Ministry:Contact Information: faithformation@stmaryofmelrose.com

•**Join us for roadside cleanup** on Saturday, October 10, beginning at 9:00 AM. We will meet at St. John's Church in Meire Grove. After the cleanup, we will enjoy an ice cream treat.

•**Youth and adult volunteers** are needed for bingo on October 11. Please consider helping!

•There will be **no regular Youth Group meeting** on October 11. Bingo will be our Youth Group activity that day.

•If you would like to **donate to Youth Ministry**, please place your gift in an envelope labeled "St. Mary's Youth Ministry." Donations will support Castaway, summer camp, retreats, and other activities that help lead our youth closer to Christ.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
PRINCIPAL: Kristie Harren
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Amy Van Beck
SHS BOARD:

Myranda Beuning, Bethanie Ettle, Ben Kalthoff,
 Mike Moscho, 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, Becky Hukriede, Lindsey Gruber,
 and Greta Rademacher

www.smsmelrosemn.org

School Phone: 320-256-4257



PASTOR: Fr. Mitchell Bechtold
PRINCIPAL: Hope Klein
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Kristen Pattinson
SJSA BOARD:

Amber Bueckers, Kathy Gilk, Adam
 Kalthoff, Kate Kelzer, Heidi Meyer,
 Trista Roelike, and Kristi Zimmer

www.sjsaschool.org

School Phone: 320-987-3133

♥Our **Care-A-Thon** was on Friday, October 2. Our goal this year is \$18,000. The fundraiser involved students participating in a service project - cleaning gravestones in each of the parishes of our Tri-Parish community and then holding a prayer service to pray for requests we receive from friends, family, parishioners, etc. A group visited Tree of Life Assisted Living in New Munich as well. Donations are still being accepted.

♥The Sacred Heart **Caring Coats Drive** will begin on Monday, October 5. If you have any new or gently used coats, hats, or mittens that you are not using anymore, we will gladly take your donations and get them to those in need.

♥**Horse Races and Meat Raffle** at All Stars in St. Rosa on Friday, October 9. Come out for a fun night and support Sacred Heart School.

♥**Grandparents Day** will be celebrated on Friday, October 9 with Mass at 10:00 am in Freeport, a short program to follow and then lunch in the church basement for the grandparents and students.

♥**Catholic United Financial Matching Grant Breakfast** is Sunday, October 11. It will take place in the Sacred Heart Church basement from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Enjoy Swany White pancakes, Pep's Pork sausage, eggs, applesauce, sweet bread and beverage.

♦**Next School Board Meeting** is on Wednesday, October 21, at 6:00 pm.

♦**The Melrose Fire Department visited** St. Mary's School this past week. We appreciate their dedication to keeping our community safe and showing our kids the importance of service and helping others.

♦**Join Us** on Wednesday, October 7 at 1:00 pm in the Church for an unforgettable afternoon of inspiring music and testimony with world-renowned musician Tony Melendez. Born without arms, Tony shares his incredible story of faith and resilience, delivering a powerful message of hope that will uplift and draw your heart closer to God.

♦**No School** on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, October 14-16 due to a workshop day to prepare for our accreditation visit on November 16-18 and Education MN.

♦St. Mary's School will celebrate **Grandparents Day** on Friday, October 23. Kindergarten through 6th grade will begin the day with Mass at church at 8:30 am, followed by a program at 10:15 am with preschool-6th grade at church, and ending the day with lunch at school.

♦**Homecoming Fun** has been happening at SJSA! Our students had a great time celebrating Homecoming Week with special dress-up days and activities all week long!

♦**SJSA Harry's Pizza Sale** fundraiser made \$2,329.50. Thank you for your support!

♦**Greenwald Catholic United Financial calendar raffle** tickets are currently available for purchase at school for \$20 per ticket. All proceeds generously benefit SJSA school.

♦Our **Prayer-a-thon** is well underway! Help us reach our \$18,000 goal while surrounding our students, families, and community in prayer. Whether you give a donation, share a prayer intention, or simply pray alongside us, we are grateful for your support of Catholic education at SJSA.



ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS

Go and Make Disciples Everyone in grade 11 through adult is invited to a monthly Faith Formation event from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at Sacred Heart School in Freeport. We will have snacks and discuss various topics, including Soul Ties, Discernment of Spirits, and many more. Our first gathering will be on Wednesday, October 7. Come and bring a friend for a fun-filled faith enrichment night.



Wreath and Poinsettia Fundraiser... The Tri-Parish Youth are once again be selling wreaths and poinsettias. Please support our youth by placing an order. Orders can be placed by contacting one of our youth or by calling the Tri-Parish Office at 320-836-2143. Deadline to order is Wednesday, October 7.

West Central Deanery All women in the West Central Deanery are invited to the Council of Catholic Women Fall General Meeting on Thursday, October 22 at St. Martin Church in St. Martin, MN. Registration will be at the Parish Hall across the street. Event Schedule: 5:30 pm: registration and Silent Auction set-up Parish Hall, 6:00 pm: Prayer Service at the St. Martin Church, followed by a light supper (\$6), business meeting, short program, and Silent Auction all held at the Parish Hall. Closing: Silent Auction item awards and door prizes. Kindly RSVP for the supper to Jean Hopfer at 320-837-5239 or ecthull@albanytel.com by October 15. Feel free to bring a friend.

Save the Date: St. Mary's Youth Ministry will host BINGO on Sunday, October 11 at St. Mary's School gym. Doors open at 3:30 pm, with games beginning at 4:00 pm. Admission is \$15 and includes food and a bingo card. Proceeds will support youth activities throughout the year. Please plan to join us for an afternoon of fun!



Care for Creation: The Church teaches that caring for creation is inseparable from caring for the people who depend on it. When we protect the land, we protect families, communities, and future generations. Learn more at <https://stcdio.org/care-for-creation/>.



Low-Gluten Hosts are available for individuals who have 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.

Beginning Experience, October 9-11, Separated? Divorced? Widowed? You are not alone. Join others who have experienced the same losses in a weekend retreat for adults focused on the grief-resolution process. Rooted in the Catholic tradition, but open to those of all faiths. Visit <http://www.beginningexperiencemn.com> or call 320-319-8863.



40 Days For Life Fall Campaign Pray with us on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood 451 East St. Germain Street, St. Cloud for an end to abortion. Please join us—we need you! We are in need of volunteers to sign up for an hour time slot from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm Monday - Friday during the September 23 to November 1 campaign. We need at least 2 people each hour time slot. Signing a Peace Agreement is mandatory so if yours is not current you will be directed to sign it online. Sign up on our website or contact Helena bhhalverson51@gmail.com.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

October 4, Sunday

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast hosted by the Melrose Fire Department Relief Association. Serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Melrose Fire Hall.

Harvest Sunday Festival at St. Augustine Church in St. Cloud. All are welcome from 7:30 am - 12:00 pm for parish breakfast, a produce sale, bake sale, jewelry sale, and kids activities including mini pumpkin painting. A Meat and Treat Raffle will be held from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. We will celebrate Sunday Mass at 9:00 am.

77th Annual Sausage Supper at St. Alexius Catholic Church in West Union. All stands and ticket sales open at 11:00 am, with serving from 12:00 - 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$20; children 8 and younger eat free. Drive-thru takeout is available.

October 9, Friday

Burger Night at the Melrose American Legion Post 101. Baskets starting at \$10. Serving from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Takeouts available. Doors open at 3:00 pm.

October 11, Sunday

Knights of Columbus Chicken & Ham Dinner at Pelican Lake Ballroom, St. Anna. Serving 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Takeouts available.

October 15, Thursday

Freeport Senior Citizens Meeting at 1:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All area seniors welcome. 500 cards and Bingo will be played.

October 16, Friday

Central Minnesota's Aging with Attitude Expo at Sauk Centre High School. Free and open to the public 8:00 am until 1:30 pm.

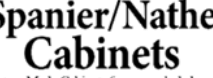
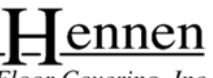
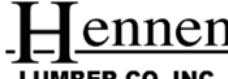
October 18, Sunday

Quilt/Ham Bingo at St. Elizabeth Church in Foley, MN. Bingo starts at 1:00 pm. \$10 per card for 20 games. 2 \$100 blackout games at \$2 per card per blackout game.

**Prayer for Life**

A Prayer for Life to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

O Jesus, you came that we might have life—and have it in abundance. Together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you form us in our mothers' wombs and call us to love you for all eternity. As your most precious gift of human life is attacked, draw us ever closer to your Real Presence in the Eucharist. Dispel the darkness of the culture of death, for you are the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. By the power of your Eucharistic Presence, help us to defend the life of every human person at every stage. Transform our hearts to protect and cherish all whose lives are most vulnerable. For you are God, forever and ever. Amen.

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