Mass Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation during the Advent and Christmas Seasons

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Monday, December 7	7:00 PM	Immaculate Conception, New Munich
Tuesday, December 8	8:15 AM	Sacred Heart, Freeport (school Mass)
	8:30 AM	St. Mary, Melrose
	6:30 PM	St. Mary, Melrose

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

Saturday, December 12 5:00 PM—St. Mary, Melrose—Bishop Neary presiding

Christmas:

(Vigil) Thursday, December 24:

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

Friday, December 25:

8:00 AM	Sacred Heart, Freeport
9:00 AM	St. Mary, Melrose
9:00 AM	St. Andrew, Greenwald

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God:

(Vigil) Thursday, December 31:

4:00 PM	Sacred Heart, Freeport
5:00 PM	St. Mary, Melrose

Friday, January 1:

7:30 AM	St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove
8:00 AM	Sacred Heart, Freeport
9:30 AM	St. Mary, Melrose
12:00 PM	St. Mary, Melrose Misa en Español

ACC Advent Enrichment Materials

Each church in the ACC will have an assortment of books available to help you on your faith journey this Advent. Each parish will have different offerings.

There are some online Advent Enrichment options. Here are a couple:

Best Advent Ever—Dynamic Catholic with Matthew Kelly
Joy to the World—Ascension with Fr. Mike Schmitz

2026 Advent

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.
The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- **Communal Celebration with Individual Confession:**

Wednesday, December 2	4:30-6:00 PM	St. Mary's, Melrose
	7:00-8:30 PM	St. Mary's, Melrose
Sunday, December 6	2:00-3:30 PM	St. Mary's, Melrose
Wednesday, December 9	7:00 PM	Sacred Heart, Freeport

- **Individual Celebration:**

Fridays	7:45 AM	Sacred Heart, Freeport
Saturdays	8:00-8:50 AM	St. Mary's, Melrose
Saturdays	3:30 PM	Immaculate Conception, New Munich
Saturdays	4:30-4:50 PM	St. Mary, Melrose
Sundays	11:30-11:50 AM	St. Mary, Melrose

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



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

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"
Amen.

-Henri J.M. Nouwen



Christmas Programs

St. Mary's School:
Wednesday, December 9 at 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM at Marit Elliott Performing Arts Center, Melrose

St. Mary's Little Saints:
Wednesday, December 9 at 10:00 AM at St. Mary's School Gym, Melrose

SJSA School:
Wednesday, December 16 at 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM at St. Andrew's Church, Greenwald

Sacred Heart School:
Thursday, December 17 at 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM at Sacred Heart School Gym, Freeport

ADVENT SERVICE PROJECTS

Warming Hearts: Sacred Heart School will embrace the spirit of giving this Advent by participating in the Warming Hearts project. Warming Hearts is an organization that helps families in need.
The students will be collecting bulk shelf stable snacks, gently used toys, personal care items, cash, snowpants, and socks. You can drop items off at the school during school hours.

Blessing Box, Melrose Food Shelf and Eagle's Healing Nest: St. Mary's School and faith formation classes will collect socks, winter gloves, washcloths, Ziploc bags, paper plates and paper towels for both these organizations. Drop items off at St. Mary's school or church.

180 Degrees Youth Shelter: St. John's–St. Andrew's School students will be collecting items for the 180 Degrees Youth Shelter in St. Cloud this Advent season. Donations of new hats, mittens, gloves, socks, blankets, hygiene products, art supplies, journals, and games are welcome. All items should be dropped off at the school during school hours from November 30th–December 11th.



"Shower for Baby Jesus" The Christian Women organizations from Immaculate Conception, Sacred Heart, and St. Rose of Lima 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.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena will start at 6:00 PM on Thursday, December 3.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayers, Mass and Celebration
Saturday, December 12 at St. Mary's, Melrose

5:30 AM—Holy Rosary
6:00 AM – Mañanitas
7:00 AM—Hot Chocolate and Bread
5:00 PM—Holy Mass with Bishop Patrick Neary and Fr. Mitchell Bechtold
6:00 PM—The Apparitions Play
6:20 PM—Authentic Mexican Dinner and Mariachi Band

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!