



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-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23, 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@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

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.



Overcoming the Gates of Hell

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, *"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"* They replied, *"Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."* He said to them, *"But who do you say that I am?"* Simon Peter said in reply, *"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."* Matthew 16:13-16

The symbolism associated with Caesarea Philippi is central to today's Gospel. Located north of Jesus' home base in Capernaum, it was a predominantly pagan city known for its shrines to false gods. One of the most prominent was Pan, after whom the region was named Pnias (later Banias). Pan, a Greek god, was honored at a shrine near a large cave and spring considered the entrance to Hades. Pan was the god of nature, shepherds, flocks, wild places, fertility, and rustic music, and was often depicted as half man, half goat, with horns and hooves. He played the pan flute and was associated with lust, chaos, and sudden fear—from which we get the word panic.

Additionally, the city was the site of a temple dedicated to the late emperor, Caesar Augustus, who was worshiped as a god throughout the Roman Empire. It was into this spiritually dark pagan setting that Jesus led His disciples—on what may have been a two-day journey—for what culminated in a single, monumental question.

Jesus took the Twelve away from the comfort of their familiar fishing village and Jewish neighbors for a reason. He wanted them to answer His question not in the midst of the familiar and safe, but in a place marked by spiritual confusion and idolatry. Why? So that faith could be professed even there, and divine grace could confront the darkness that permeated the region.

Continued on page 5

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ AUGUST 24 - 30

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Tu	6:30 pm	Misa en español (Melrose) †Janice Meyer
We	8:00 am	†Lucille Imdieke (Meire Grove)
Th	8:00 am	†Vernon Welle (Spring Hill)
Fr	8:00 am	†Jeanette Barth (Melrose)
Sa	5:00 pm	†Peter Van Beck †John Schoenberg (Meire Grove)
*Su	9:00 am	†Ervin, Virginia, & Danny Klaphake (Melrose)
Su	11:30 am	Misa en Español (Melrose) Por el Pueblo

SACRED HEART - Freeport

Tu	8:15 am	†Sister Suzanne Slominski
We	8:15 am	†Larry Dvorak
Th	8:15 am	†Burke Engelmeyer Anniversary
Fr	8:15 am	†Boni Stoermann
Su	8:00 am	For the People

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Sa	4:00 pm	†Virgil Schleper
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ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Su	10:00 am	†Chad Toenyan
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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

Fridays, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



*Mass will be livestreamed. Visit: oneinfaith.org for the YouTube link.

ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS



Employment Opportunity... Sacred Heart is seeking a part-time Parish Groundskeeper/Custodian. This individual oversees the care of the parish grounds and buildings. Individuals interested in this position are asked to send a letter of interest and resume to ahoeschen@catholic-centered.org. For more information, please contact Amy Hoeschen at PO Box 155, Freeport, MN 56331 or call 320-836-2143.

Save the Dates: ♦August 21-23, 2026: The Holy Face Relic will be available to venerate at St. Clare's Monastery in Sauk Rapids, MN. Call ahead or ask upon arrival at any time during those days (except during daily 7 AM Mass) to venerate the relic.

♦August 28-29, 2026: Dr. John Bergsma, renowned Scripture scholar from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, will speak at St. Clare's Monastery in Sauk Rapids, MN. Friday at 3:00 & 6:00 pm Saturday at 8:00 & 9:30 am Free to attend!

Thank You to all of the people who came out to give the precious gift of life on Tuesday, August 11. The American Red Cross blood drive at the Freeport Community Center had a great turnout with 80 units of blood collected. Five units over the goal!! This is an awesome amount and helps to save hundreds of lives. A HUGE thank you goes out to my workers who volunteer their time year after year. See you February 16, 2027.

Adore at George! Outdoor Eucharistic Adoration at Lake George 1101 7th St S, St. Cloud, MN on the south end of the lake with Fr. Derek Wiechmann on Tuesday, August 25, starting at 3:00 pm with Exposition, reading, homily and testimony, and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Silent Prayer, prayer teams, and confession will be available at 4:00 pm. Praise and worship will begin at 6:00 pm followed by Benediction and closing prayer at 7:15 pm. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and a bottle of water. Unless there is lightning, the event will happen rain or shine!

Theology Day at Saint John's University in Collegeville is a chance for people in our communities who are seeking a deeper spiritual life or understanding of their faith and its place in their everyday lives to learn from and interact with the theologians of Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary. It offers a chance for these scholars to gain insights and grow in their faith, as well. Enhance your spiritual life with one of the events listed below. All events are held from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm in Emmaus Hall. For more information or to register, please call 320-363-3560 or visit www.theologyday.com.

•**Vatican II and the Beauty of the Church** Presenter: Fr. William Orbih, Ph.D. (Friday, September 4)

•**And Who is My Enemy?** Presenter: Ben Durheim, Ph.D. (Friday, October 2)

•**Active Participation: From Liturgy to Daily Life** Presenter: Fr. Anthony Ruff, OSB (Friday, October 16)



Parish News:

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

- The Feast of St. Cloud** is Monday, September 7. Novena booklets for anyone who would like to pray a novena in honor of St. Cloud are in the back of the church in Freeport, New Munich, and St. Rosa. The novena begins on Saturday, August 29.
- Mission Appeal Special Collection** This weekend, August 22-23, Fr. Thaddeus Nnebedum from The Missionary Servants of the Needy will be here to celebrate the Masses in our Tri-Parish and to share about this mission. All loose collection and any designated donations will be given to this mission. Please prayerfully consider donating to this special collection. To learn more about the organization, please visit www.msnmission.org.
- September 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 parish.
- Faith Formation Teachers Needed** We are in need of faith formation teachers for some of our elementary, Jr High, and High School classes. If we do not have enough catechists, we may not be able to offer class. If you are passionate about our youth knowing Jesus and wanting vocations to increase in our Diocese, please reach out to Alexandra and Father Dan about becoming a Catechist. Anyone in 11th and 12th grade, as well as adults, are invited and encouraged to help out. You may teach in pairs as well.

Do You Have Questions About the Catholic Faith? Are you or anyone you know interested in exploring the Catholic Church as your church home? Have you been sitting in the pew next to your Catholic spouse for years wondering what you have to do to become Catholic? The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is the Catholic Church's way of welcoming new members. It can also be the path to prepare for First Eucharist and/or Confirmation for baptized Catholics. OCIA is much more than a program. It is a learning and loving process in which conversion of the heart brings one to Jesus Christ. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact one of the parish offices or Deacon Ernie Kociemba at kociemba@meltel.net or call 320-248-5124 by Monday, September 21.

Do You Want to Share Your Catholic Faith with Others? The One in Faith ACC is seeking out individuals who would like to assist with the OCIA program. We are looking for catechists, sponsors, mentors, etc. If you are interested in helping with this program, please contact one of the parish offices or Deacon Ernie Kociemba at kociemba@meltel.net or call 320-248-5124.

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.....	\$13,184.00
Regular Adult Offering	9,674.00
Plate/Loose	837.00
Kenya Mission	1,925.00
Designated Funds	748.00
 Spring Hill	 \$2,015.00
Greenwald	\$695.00

St. Mary - Meire Grove

Total	\$3,985.25
Regular Adult Offering.....	3,535.00
Children's	0.25
Plate/Loose	92.00
Votives	83.00
Assumption	265.00
School Support	10.00

St. Mary's - Meire Grove Liturgical Ministries

Saturday, August 29 - 5:00 pm

(S) Carter Kelzer & Collin Kelzer

(L) Char Meyer

(U) Elmer Meyer & Karl Meyer

(GB) Don & Cindy Schneider

(EM) Abby Zenzen & Daryl Zenzen

(HK - August) *Virginia Nathe, Geri Primus, Cindy Schneider, Karen Schneider, Linda Schneider, & Joy Silbernick

St. Mary's - Melrose Calendar Raffle

08-16	\$25	Adam & Becky Fiedler, Melrose
08-17	\$25	Marcie Welle, Melrose
08-18	\$25	Kathy Klasen, Melrose
08-19	\$25	Mary Ann Wensman, Greenwald
08-20	\$25	Jeron & Amanda Hellermann, Melrose
08-21	\$25	Tom Jacobs, Melrose
08-22	\$25	Mark & Amy Pohlmann, Melrose



Baptized in Christ... Ellie Grace Frieler

Died in the Hope of Resurrection...

†Joan Budde, 84

†Neil Blenker, 50

Welcome to our Parish... We welcome Boe and Taylor Garthus and family to St. Mary's Parish.

Blessing at St. Andrew's Cemetery Fr. Mitchell will do a blessing of Jackson Gilk's Eagle Scout project on Monday, August 24, at 5:30 pm at St. Andrew's Cemetery in Greenwald. His project included installing new cement ribbons and map shelter, and raising footstones in the cemetery. All are welcome!



Cemetery Clean-Up Day will be Monday, August 31, at 6:00 pm. In case of bad weather, it will be Tuesday, September 1 at 6:00 pm. Please bring lawn mowers, leaf blowers, weed trimmers, rakes, and brooms. Parishioners, it is important that you remove all items that are not permanently attached to the headstone or cement to make cleanup easier. They will otherwise be removed.

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offerings ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$4,277.46
Regular Adult Offering	3,262.46
Plate	502.00
Assumption Plate	58.00
Assumption Envelope	455.00

Parish Events

Tu	08/25	7:10 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting
We	08/26	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Fr	08/28	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	08/28	9:00 am	Adoration

The Scriptures This Week

Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II

Mo	Saint Bartholomew, Apostle (Feast)	
	Rv 21:9b-14	Jn 1:45-51
Tu	Weekday (Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest)	
	2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17	Mt 23:23-26
We	Weekday	
	2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18	Mt 23:27-32
Th	Saint Monica (Memorial)	
	1 Cor 1:1-9	Mt 24:42-51
Fr	Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Memorial)	
	1 Cor 1:17-25	Mt 25:1-13
Sa	The Passion of Saint John the Baptist (Memorial)	
	1 Cor 1:26-31	Mk 6:17-29
Next Sunday - Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	Jer 20:7-9	Rom 12:1-2
		Mt 16:21-27



Temporary Help Needed St. Mary's Church is seeking a temporary, part-time grounds and maintenance person beginning Wednesday, August 19 for approximately six to eight weeks. Duties will include general groundskeeping and maintenance for the church, school and cemeteries. For more information, please contact Fr. Mitchell or Pam at the parish office.

Liturgical Ministers at St. Mary's - Meire Grove including Eucharistic ministers, ushers, altar servers, lectors, and gift bearers will have their next schedule created in Ministry Scheduler Pro, which is an online program. In preparation for this change, these ministers were sent a text or email last week with more information. If you have not received the message, please let Sarah Woeste know. The current schedule runs through September. Notification will be given when the October/November schedule is ready. Printed schedules will continue to be available for those who do not have online access.

That Man Is You! Becoming a Man After God's Own Heart That Man is You! is an interactive men's program that combines the latest findings of modern science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop authentic male leaders capable of transforming themselves, their families and greater society. Join us for food, fellowship, and faith every Saturday starting Saturday, September 12 at St. Mary's - Melrose from 6:00-7:30 am. All men are welcome. Register online at <https://programs.paradisusdei.org/join/07CC24>. Contact Bob Arceneau with any questions at 320-267-2616 or barceneau@outlook.com.

CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$3,784.92
Regular Adult Offering.....	3,012.92
Plate	361.00
Building/Maintenance	100.00
Assumption Plate	57.00
Assumption Envelope	254.00

Parish Events

Mo 08/24 10:00 am Shirley Steinhofers Visitation
Mo 08/24 11:00 am Shirley Steinhofers Funeral
Tu 08/25 7:10 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting - FR
We 08/26 7:00 pm Confirmation Class - FR
Sa 08/29 3:30 pm Individual Confessions

Prayer for Trust in Your Providence

Everlasting God, by any means necessary, You see to it that Your people are taken care of. Just as You used the raven to feed Elijah in the wilderness, use these same means to bring about the rains that are needed to bring about a good harvest. Do whatever is needed to get this done, for You are a God of means and a God of providence. Amen.

**CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA**

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,028.08
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,518.08
Plate	348.00
Assumption Plate	57.00
Assumption Envelope	105.00

Parish Events

Tu 08/25 7:10 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting - FR
We 08/26 7:00 pm Confirmation Class - FR
Fr 08/28 5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal
Fr 08/28 7:30 pm Rosary
Sa 08/29 12:30 pm Wedding Prep/Pictures
Sa 08/29 2:00 pm Westerman/Revermann Wedding
Su 08/30 11:00 am Baptism

Baptized in Christ... We welcome Blaise Wilbur Kerfeld, the son of Brian & Kathryn Kerfeld, to our parish. Blaise Wilbur was baptized on Sunday, August 16.



Pink Cash Raffle Tickets. Reminder ALL pink cash raffle tickets must be returned by Sunday, August 30, at church or drop off at St. Rosa Lumber.

Parish Festival News:

- ◆**Tomatoes** If you have any tomatoes to donate for the taco in the bag stand for the festival, please bring them to the church basement the Saturday before the festival.
- ◆**Meal Assistants** If anyone is willing and available to assist with the meal set up on Saturday, September 5, your assistance is greatly appreciated!
- ◆**Want to show our set up crew some appreciation** for all their hard work? If you have the time, please bring a disposable plate/tray of goodies to share for the set up meal by noon on Saturday, September 5.

CALLING ALL COOKS! GOLDEN LADLE SOUP COOK-OFF



at the
St. Mary's Fall Picnic



We are accepting up to
20 PARTICIPANTS
to enter a soup or chili in
the Golden Ladle Cook-Off!

Compete for bragging rights
and **GOLDEN LADLE HONORS!**

SEPTEMBER
13
4:00 - 7:00 PM

**SIGN UP TO ENTER
A SOUP OR CHILI:**
CALL MICHELLE AT
320-248-5273
BY 9/6



Come enjoy great soup, good company,
and fall fun!

**HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA**

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

August 24, Monday

◆**American Red Cross Blood Drive** at the Church of St. Mary, Melrose sponsored by Melrose Area High School from 12:00 - 6:00 pm.

August 25, Tuesday

◆**Bologna Daze** at Elrosa Bar & Lounge serving from 5:00 - 7:30 pm. Music by Jerry & Joyce Dance Band. \$12 all you can eat. Sponsored by: Elrosa Senior Citizens.

August 28, Friday

◆**Burger Night** at the American Legion Post 101, Melrose. Doors open at 3:00 pm. Serving from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Baskets starting at \$10. Take-outs available.

August 30, Sunday

◆**28th Annual Quilt Bingo** at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Center in Richmond, MN. Bingo starts at 6:30 pm. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Food available. Cost \$15 per packet good for 15 regular games. Must be 18 to play.

August 31, Monday

◆**American Red Cross Blood Drive** at Holy Spirit Catholic Church 2405 Walden Way, St. Cloud, MN from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Schedule your appointment online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Holy Spirit Catholic Church or call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment.

September 6, Sunday

◆**St. Rose of Lima Parish Festival.** 10:00 am Outdoor Polka Mass, 11:00 am Games & Food stands open, 12:30 pm Bean Bag Tournament Sign-up, 1:00 pm Horse Races, 2:00 pm Quilt Auction, 4:00 pm Music by The Sunday Stars, 7:00 pm Grand Raffle & Cash Raffle drawings.

September 7, Monday

◆**St. Stephen Parish Festival.** Festival activities from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Games and fun, stands and sales, and food and beverages. Homemade chicken and ham dinner begins at 11:00 am. Auctions and raffles at 12:00 pm, 1:30 pm, 2:00 pm, and 5:30 pm. Live music from 11:00 am - 6:30 pm by the MN Dutchman Polka Band.

September 12, Saturday

◆**Block Party at St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Cloud.** Join us as we kick off with Mass at 4:00 pm. After Mass, the festivities roll on with delicious food and ice-cold beverages and games for all ages. Live music will be Honkytonk Heartthrobs and Stone Road. But beyond the celebration, this event has a sacred purpose: sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, and ensuring our campus can support that mission. For more information, contact Kelly Bjork at 320-251-1840.

FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: faithformation@catholic-centered.org

- **The First Night of Faith Formation** will be Wednesday, September 9. Parents are required to attend the parent meeting, and students will go off to their classroom to complete their Safe Environment course. Grades 1-6 will be from 6:00-7:00 pm, and Grades 7-10 will be from 7:00-8:00 pm.
- **11th Grade Confirmation Classes** with Father Dan start Wednesday, August 26 at 7:00 pm in the Nave of the Church. Confirmation Mass will be on Sunday, October 4, at 1:00 pm.
- **Beginning of Year Mass for Faith Formation** will be Wednesday, September 16 from 7:00-8:00 pm at Sacred Heart Church for all grades 1-11. Parents are highly encouraged to join their child! Students must check in with their Catechist when they arrive at Mass. If your child comes to Mass without their parent, they are required to sit with their Catechist. If your child comes to Mass with their parent, they may sit with their parent elsewhere if they choose. If you are unable to join your child, but know of a parent who will be at Mass that you are ok with your child sitting with, please email Director of Faith Formation, Alexandra, providing this permission at faithformation@catholic-centered.org.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.org

- **Parent Meeting for Faith Formation** for Grades 1, 3-5 grade will be on Wednesday, August 26 from 5:00-6:00 pm at St. Mary's Church. Parent Meeting for grades 6-10 will be on Wednesday, August 26 from 6:10-7:00 pm at St. Mary's Church. One parent from each family is asked to attend.
- **First Faith Formation Classes** will be held Wednesday, September 9 at St. Mary's Catholic School. Grades 1, 3-5 will be from 6:00-7:00 pm and grades 6-12 will be from 7:15-8:30 pm. 11th grade confirmation will meet at the church from 7:15-8:30 pm.
- **First Sacraments** will be held from 10:00-11:15 am starting on Sunday, September 13 at St. Mary Church. If you have questions about Faith Formation, please let Mark Kociemba know at faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com or at 320-256-9501.
- **We are Looking for about 5 Adults and 5 Youth** to help with the Fall Festival on Sunday, September 13. If you are interested, please let Mark Kociemba know.
- **Faith Formation Registration** It is not too late to turn in your Faith Formation registration forms. We want to see all of our youth participating in faith formation. Forms can be found on the Faith Formation table by the office or in the kiosks in the church. They can also be found on the website or by emailing Mark Kociemba or calling 320-256-9501.
- **Parent & Youth Advisory Committee/Board** If you would like to be part of the parent advisory committee or the youth advisory board for faith formation or youth ministry, please contact Mark Kociemba.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tri-Parish Youth Ministry:

Contact Information:

youthministry@catholic-centered.org

- **Youth Night** Monday, September 7 at 6:30 pm in the Sacred Heart School Gym! Students in grades 9-12 are invited to join us!

St. Mary's Youth Ministry:

Contact Information:

faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

- **First Youth Group Meeting** on Sunday, September 13 from 10:00-11:15 am at St. Mary's School for Youth in grades 6 - 12. Please let Mark Kociemba know if you are interested in being part of the Youth Group by emailing Faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com or calling 320-256-9501.



Overcoming the Gates of Hell

cont.'d from pg 1

At first, He asked who the people said He was. They answered, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one

of the prophets." But then He posed the question that reached the heart of His mission: "But who do you say that I am?" This was a moment of divine testing—one which Simon passed with profound faith: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus' extraordinary and consequential response has enduring significance to this day. He declared:

"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:17-19).

With these sacred words, Jesus founded His Church upon Peter, making him the first pope. In biblical tradition, a change of name signifies a new mission and identity. Simon, son of Jonah, was now to be called Peter—*Petros* in Greek and *Cephas* in Aramaic—meaning "rock." Peter became the solid foundation upon which Christ's Church would be built. No pagan power, false god, or earthly ruler would ever overcome what Christ established with divine authority.

Reflect today on the significance of the papacy. Even now, in the successor of Saint Peter, the words of Simon continue to echo throughout the world: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." This is the pope's first and most important duty—to bear witness to Christ, the Son of God. Despite the personal weaknesses of some popes and the saintliness of others, it is Jesus who established Peter and his successors as the visible foundation of the Church. Pray for the Holy Father, and trust in the timeless witness of every pope since that first moment in Caesarea Philippi—a witness upheld not by human strength, but by Christ's own promise. To profess faith in the papacy is to profess faith in the One who instituted it and endowed it with His divine authority.

My Lord, You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. With Simon, I profess this truth and place my faith in You, who established Simon, son of Jonah, as Peter—the rock and foundation of Your Church. I believe and profess that the gates of hell shall never prevail against the Church, not because of human strength or perfection, but because of Your eternal promise. I pray for our Holy Father, the pope, and for all his successors. Make them true and faithful witnesses to the confession first spoken by Saint Peter. Jesus, I trust in You.

mycatholic.life



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
PRINCIPAL: Kristie Harren
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Amy Van Beek
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
 Phone: 320-256-4257
 www.smsmelrosemn.org



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
 Phone: 320-987-3133
 www.sjsaschool.org

♥**SHS Campus will be Closed** to all students August 31 - September 4 to prepare for open house, school start and required training for staff.

♥**Early Childhood/PreK Open House** at SHS is on Wednesday, September 2 from 4:00 - 6:30 pm.

♥**Kindergarten-Grade 6 Open House** is on Thursday, September 3 from 4:00 - 6:30 pm.

♥If you are looking for **Toddler Care** at SHS, we have some openings. Please contact Chrystal at 320-836-2585.

♥**The School Office Will Be Open Periodically** throughout the summer. If you need something, please send a fast direct message. Or call the office at 320-836-2591.

♦**New Staff at St. Mary's School** this year are Katelyn Groetsch, 2nd grade, and Ahna Matt as a part-time teacher assistant. We are excited to welcome back all of our other teachers from last year.

♦**We are grateful** for the \$2,300 grant we were awarded through the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of St. Cloud, which will be used to purchase a new teacher computer. Since the program began in 2004, more than \$4 million has been distributed to strengthen faith formation and Catholic education across the diocese.

♦**Open House for Parents and Students** is Tuesday, August 25, from 4:00 - 7:00 pm.

♦**The First Day of School for All** preschool through 6th grade students will be Tuesday, September 1.

♦**SJSA received a check** for \$179 for aluminum can recycling. The recycling trailer is in the south parking lot of St. John's Church in Meire Grove. Thank you for recycling with SJSA.

♦**SJSA First Day of School** for grades K-6 is Tuesday, September 1. The first day of preschool is Wednesday, September 2. SJSA offers preschool all day on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

♦**The First School Mass** is Thursday, September 3 at 8:00 am at St. Andrew's Church in Greenwald. We'd love for you to join us.



Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

08/16	\$25	Mike Berscheit - Burtrum
08/17	\$25	Don & Irene Lieser - Sauk Centre
08/18	\$25	Ralph Eickhoff - Freeport
08/19	\$25	Jake Renneker - Freeport
08/20	\$25	Dan Luethmers - Albany
08/21	\$25	Tony & Sam Scherping - Melrose
08/22	\$25	Tamara Rotert - Hutchinson

Prayer Requests...

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

Banns of Matrimony:

I Mikenzie Gessell♥Christopher Meyer, 9/12 - M
 III Madison Westerman♥Grant Revermann, 8/29 - SR

For the Sick: Pat Bushman, Carol, Bethany Downs, Cali Dickhoff, Dolores Notch, 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

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
- Thursday: 7:30 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
- Friday: 7:30 pm
- Sunday: 9:30 am



Stewardship as a Way of Life:

"Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?"

Romans 11:35

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give God anything - He already owns it all. God made everything, including us. Since we are made in His image, we, too, are called to be generous. How we use our God-given gifts becomes our gift back to Him. Gratitude for all we have been given opens our hearts to joyful generosity! And, through our generosity, we just may be the answer to someone else's prayer.

ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

The Road to Holiness: Finding Our Identity in the Eucharistic Heart of Christ with instructor Fred Blonigen at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, St. Cloud. This six-session series meets on Tuesdays from September 8 to October 13 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

- September 8:** Rediscovering with Amazement God's Greatest Gift to Humanity: The Holy Eucharist
- September 15:** Praying, Understanding, and Living the Holy Mass with the Faith and Fervor of the Saints
- September 22:** Eucharistic Adoration: How to Defeat the Culture of Death
- September 29:** Sacred Heart Devotion and the Holy Eucharist: The Mystery of God's Infinite Love for Us.
- October 06:** The Path of Sanctity: Imitating the Eucharistic Saints
- October 13:** Questions and Answers on the Eucharist

"Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace" is the theme of the St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Annual Fall Conference to be held Saturday, September 19, from 8:00 am - 2:15 pm at Holy Family Parish in Belle Prairie, featuring Fr. Tim Tran as the speaker. The day will also include Mass and a documentary film on the life of Archbishop Fulton Sheen. Registration fee is \$25 by September 10; \$30 after September 10 or at the door. Send registration fee to: St. Cloud DCCW c/o Nita Hayes, 16695 Jewel Road, Little Falls, MN 56345. For questions, call Nita at 320-630-0388.

Is the Light of Christ in You? Are you looking for that light? How can you bring the light of Christ to someone else if you don't have it within yourself?  **CENTRAL MINNESOTA KOINONIA** is sponsored by the St. Cloud Diocese and designed for adults. The next weekend is scheduled for September 18-20, 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 retreat.



Toddler Care If you are looking for Toddler care at Sacred Heart School, we have some openings. Please contact Chrystal at 320-836-2585.

Healing the Whole Person: The Eight-Part Group Video Series by Dr. Bob Schuchts and Sr. Miriam James Heidland. Come experience eight talks, community reflections, and healing and restoration. Join Fr. Greg Paffel and St. Stanislaus Church, Bowlus for this three-day weekend retreat - October 23, 24 & 25. Friday (2:00 - 9:00 pm), Saturday (9:00 am - 3:30 pm), & Sunday (starts with weekend Mass at 10:00 am - 4:30 pm). Early bird registration by Monday, October 12 - \$75. Starting Tuesday, October 13, registration will be \$100. If you have any questions about the retreats, contact Janice at 320-640-7623 or at healing@spiritandsaints.org. Registration for Bowlus can also be done at: <https://forms.gle/NZkuqkG6xUnXy4mw7>. Please note: This is a licensed video series used with the permission of the JPPI Healing Center. This is not a JPPI Healing Center event.

St. Rose Fall Festival

Sunday, September 6th, 2026

Fun for the Entire Day!

* Food * Games * Bingo * Dice *

* Cakewalk * Beer Garden * Horse Races *

\$20,000 Cash Raffle for Church Maintenance

Unlimited kids' inflatable wristband for \$5

10:00 am Outdoor Polka Mass

Music by: LaVerne and the Starlites

-Sponsored by Catholic United Financial

11:00 am Children, Teen & Adult Games, and
Food Stands Open

12:30 pm Bean Bag Tournament Sign-Up

\$10 per participant, 75% payout

1:00 pm Horse Races

2:00 pm Quilt Auction – Beautiful Homemade Quilts!!

To view the quilts, you can visit www.sacredheartfreeport.org
or the Tri Parish Facebook page

4:00 pm Music by The Sunday Stars

(Featuring Donny Brang, Mike Noonan, and Jay Skrukud)

7:00 pm Grand Raffle & Cash Raffle Drawing
Over \$13,000 in cash/gifts to be awarded

St. Rose of Lima Parish – St. Rosa, MN



You're Invited!
To St. Mary's
Fall Picnic
— and —
Golden Ladle Soup Cook-Off
All are welcome!
Sunday, September 13, 2026
4:00 to 7:00pm at St. Mary's Church

Come for food, music,
entertainment and fellowship!

Food is:
SOUP
SANDWICHES
COOKIES
and DRINKS

St. Mary's School
Lemonade Stand!

Kids Games

Free Will Offering Proceeds to The Melrose Area Food Shelf.

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