



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 Epiphany of the Lord

January 4, 2026

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 3:30 pm St. Andrew
- ♦ Saturdays 3:30 pm Immaculate Conception
- ♦ Saturdays 4:30 pm St. Mary
- ♦ Sundays 11:00 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**.

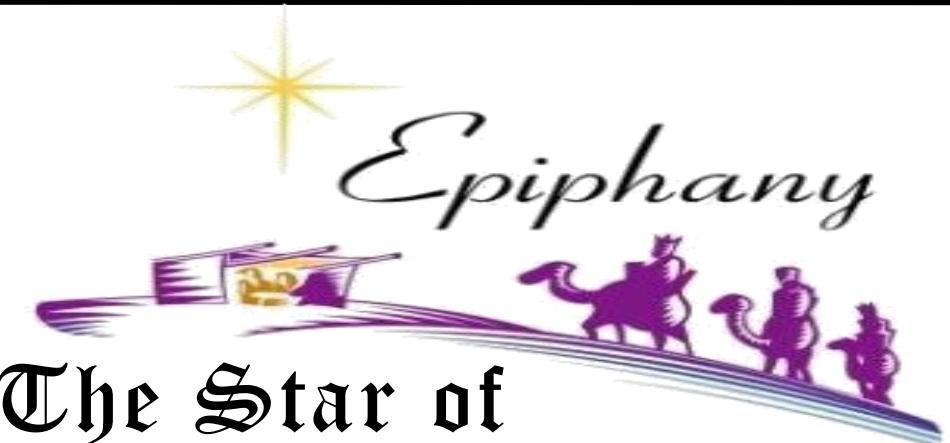
*Diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes are required.

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.



The Star of

Bethlehem

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Matthew 2:1-3

Why did God use a star to reveal the birth of the King of Kings to foreigners from the East? To Mary, Joseph, and even the shepherds, God sent an angel to announce the Good News. But to the Magi, He chose to use a medium they understood—a star.

The Magi, originally a priestly caste from Persia, were skilled in astrology, astronomy, dream interpretation, and other forms of wisdom and divination. The three Magi mentioned in Matthew's Gospel were clearly experts in astrology, carefully studying the night sky. On the night of Christ's birth, they made an extraordinary discovery: a new star had appeared in the sky. They knew it was a sign of great significance. According to their beliefs, the appearance of a new star heralded the birth of a new king.

This star was not just a celestial phenomenon; it symbolized the light of Christ breaking into the world, guiding all nations—Jew and Gentile alike—toward the Savior. Just as God drew humble Jewish shepherds to the newborn King, He also drew representatives of the Gentiles to adore Him, for Jesus came to save all of humanity.

The divine initiative to include the Gentiles was not a new concept but a fulfillment of a promise made to Abraham: "All the families of the earth will find blessing in you" (Genesis 12:3). The prophets and Psalms echo this theme, emphasizing that all nations will come to the Lord (see Isaiah 2:2-4; Psalm 67). In Jesus' public ministry, we see His outreach to the Gentiles, a mission that continued in the early Church, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. At the time of Jesus' birth, however, the Jewish emphasis was primarily on being the chosen people. The story of the Epiphany reveals God's universal call to holiness from the very beginning of Jesus' life, establishing that His mission was for all people, not just for Israel.

Because of this universal call to holiness, we who believe in Christ and live our Catholic faith must avoid becoming isolated or insular, creating a small, self-contained world. Instead, we are called to live our faith in a way that is welcoming to all and engaged with the broader world, reflecting the universal mission of the Church. Being Catholic is not merely a cultural heritage; it is the spiritual means of eternal salvation that everyone needs. The word "epiphany" means "manifestation," and Christ must be made manifest to all, becoming the King of every soul.

Continued on page 3

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ JANUARY 5 - 11

ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo	6:30 pm	Misa en Español †Betty Dickenson
Tu	8:00 am	NO MASS
We	8:00 am	NO MASS
Th	8:00 am	NO MASS
*Fr	8:30 am	NO MASS
Sa	5:00 pm	†Sylvester & †Alvina Woeste
*Su	9:00 am	†Edward & Florence Hinnenkamp †Bernice Garbina
Su	11:30 am	Misa en Español †Angelica Hernandez Becerra

SACRED HEART - Freeport

We	8:15 am	William Wiechman
Fr	8:15 am	Herman Wiechman
Su	8:00 am	†Wesley Prax

*Mass will be livestreamed.

Visit: oneinfaith.org for the YouTube link.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Th	8:15 am	Fr. Roger Klassen
Sa	4:00 pm	Poor Souls in Purgatory

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Tu	8:15 am	†Anthony Rolfes
Su	10:00 am	For the People

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill

Tu	8:00 am	†Holy Souls in Purgatory
Su	10:00 am	For the People

ST. ANDREW - Greenwald

Th	8:00 am	†Mathew Kasper
Sa	4:00 pm	†David Walz

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

We	8:00 am	†Maureen Luetmer
Su	8:00 am	†Sr. Suzanne Slominski, OSB

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)
and
Saturdays, 8:00 - 9:00 am

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 ~

- **Children's Envelopes** are available in the parish office. If you would like your child/ren to have them, please contact the office and we will assign them.
- **Thank You** to Freeport State Bank for the warm Christmas greetings and the generous Christmas gifts given to our four parishes. We are sincerely grateful for the continued support and appreciate their dedication to the communities they serve.

Updating Contact Information Please notify the respective parish office to add, remove, or modify phone numbers, addresses, and any other information that has changed. If you are receiving contribution envelopes and do not wish to, or have not been receiving them and want to, please contact the respective parish office.

Bulletin Advertisements Thank you to all who have chosen to advertise on the back of our One In Faith Area Catholic Community bulletin for the upcoming year! It is greatly appreciated, and we hope it is beneficial to your business as well. There are still spots open on the back of the bulletin. If you are interested in advertising or have questions, please contact Amy Hoeschen at 320-836-2143.



Prayer Requests for the Sick If you or a loved one would like to be added to the prayer list, please email bulletin@catholic-centered.org or call one of the parish offices.

Currently Accepting Nominations SJSAs 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 SJSAs 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.

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.

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

Parish News:

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

- **Blessed Epiphany Items** Salt, chalk, and water will be available for use in your homes after the weekend Masses, January 3/4. Please remember the chalk is blessed. After using the chalk, please return it to the church or Tri-Parish Office, or bury it in the ground.

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.

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.

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.

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.



One in Faith ACC News Continued on page 7

CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$13,761.83
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,644.33
Plate	474.00
Building/Maintenance.....	217.50
Christmas Envelopes	9,645.00
Christmas Plate	576.00
Central MN Catholic Magazine ...	45.00
Cash Bazaar	150.00
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes	10.00

Parish Events

Su 01/04 10:00 am Private Event
We 01/07 6:00 pm FF Grades 1-6 - FR
We 01/07 7:00 pm FF Grades 7-10 - FR
We 01/07 7:00 pm Go & Make Disciples - FR
Sa 01/10 3:30 pm Individual Confessions

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.

C.U.F. Calendar Raffle Winners:

Dec. 22	\$40	June Schwieters
Dec. 23	\$40	Sandy Mattox
Dec. 24	\$40	Tom Fuechtmann
Dec. 25	\$200	Tanner Schwieters
Dec. 26	\$40	Julie Boecker
Dec. 27	\$40	Roger Meyer
Dec. 28	\$100	Gary Feldewerd
Dec. 29	\$40	Greg Gaebel
Dec. 30	\$40	Joyce Winter
Dec. 31	\$40	Roger Meyer

Prayer Requests...

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

For the Sick: Len Frieze, Dave Humbert, Fr. Roger Klassen, 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. Michael:	
Sharon Schulzetenberg	320-248-7702
St. Mary's	320-256-3878

CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$14,435.42
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,143.46
Plate	358.00
Votive	237.00
Building/Maintenance	100.00
Christmas Envelopes	11,325.05
Christmas Plate	1,221.91
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes	50.00

Parish Events

Tu 01/06 7:00 am Adoration
Tu 01/06 9:00 am Quilting
We 01/07 6:00 pm FF Grades 1-6 - FR
We 01/07 7:00 pm FF Grades 7-10 - FR
We 01/07 7:00 pm Go & Make Disciples - FR
Fr 01/09 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.

One In Faith ACC Catholic Schools
Dinner & Auction Fundraisers

♦SHS 31st Annual Wine & Dine Dinner and Auction will be held on Saturday, January 24. We will have an online Silent Auction (more info to follow in the next few weeks) as well as a live auction on the night of the event. The fundraiser will also include a \$100 cash raffle with a top prize of \$20,000. Dinner and Raffle tickets are available from all SHS families as well as at the school and parish offices. We will also be selling after

Masses in the Tri-Parish this weekend as well as January 10-11 and 17-18.

♦The 24th St. Mary's Annual Auction 4 Education will be held on Saturday, March 7, at the American Legion in Melrose. Doors open at 5:00 pm. The night will start with a game of Family Feud. A free-will offering meal will be served from 5:00-8:00pm. Pot O' Gold \$100 Raffle tickets can be purchased after Masses and are available 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. Winners will be drawn on Saturday, March 7 at the Legion. We will again use our online platform to bid for silent auction items, while the classroom projects will be auctioned live in person at the Legion. Please come dressed in your best Shamrocks and Shenanigans outfit. Visit our auction website for more details.



♦34th Annual Steak & Wine Dinner & Auction to support St. John's - St. Andrew's Catholic School will be Saturday, February 7, at The Greenwald Pub. More info to come!



Join us at each of these fundraisers for a great meal and lots of fun.
All are welcome!

CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$15,598.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	290.00
Children	4.00
Plate/Loose	134.00
Religious Retirement	20.00
Maintenance Fund	280.00
Fuel Fund	1,305.00
Christmas	13,565.00

Liturgical Ministries

Sunday, January 11 - 10:00 am

(S) Lukas Kalthoff & Noah Terres
(L) Darlene Schoenberg
(U) Melvin Kalthoff & Jim Klassen
(EM) (B) Melvin Kalthoff
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood
(Sacristan) Lisa Feldewerd
(RL) Kathy Welle
(CC) Peter Wuertz & Roger Meyer
(HK: January 11 - 24) Kathy (Chico) Welle, Kathy (Ron) Welle, & Tia Welle

Coffee & Rolls St. Michael's Catholic United Financial is sponsoring Coffee & Rolls after the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, January 18 in the church basement. Everyone is invited, please join us!!



CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$9,547.00
Regular Adult Offering	823.00
EFT	900.00
Plate/Loose	389.00
Votives	17.00
Cemetery	175.00
Religious Retirement	250.00
Maintenance Fund	150.00
Fuel Fund	305.00
School Support	300.00
Christmas	6,238.00

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday, January 10 - 4:00 pm

(S) Leo Kasper & Clara Kasper
(L) Isaiah Gilk
(U) Bill Frieler & Duane Frieler
(GB) Jeff & Wanda Ahrens
(EM) (B) Herman Lensing
(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	\$10,836.78
Regular Adult Offering	975.00
Children's26
EFT	140.00
Plate/Loose	181.00
Votives	83.00
Fuel Fund	25.00
Maintenance Fund	10.00
Christmas Crib	35.52
Christmas	9,387.00

Liturgical Ministries
Sunday, January 11 - 8:00 am

(S) Morgan Funk & Paige Funk
(L) Rita Meyer
(U) John Primus & Ray Primus
(GB) Nick & Kate Kelzer
(EM) Karl Meyer & Sue Meyer
(HK - January) *Ruth Klaphake, Mary Kay Leukam, Theresa Loxtercamp, Sheri Luetmer, Irene Marthaler, & Char Meyer



Public Rosary...

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

St. Mary, Melrose

- Tuesday: 7:00 am
- Wednesday: 1:00 pm
- Thursday (Spanish): 6:30 pm
(Except the 1st Thursday)

Sacred Heart, Freeport

- Wednesday: 7:45 am
- Friday: 7:45 am
- Sunday: 7:30 am

Immaculate Conception, New Munich

- Thursday: 7:45 am
- Saturday: 3:30 pm

St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa

- Tuesday: 7:45 am
- Friday: 7:30 pm
- Sunday: 9:30 am

St. Michael, Spring Hill

- Tuesday: 7:30 am
- Sunday: 9:30 am

St. Andrew, Greenwald

- Thursday: 7:40 am
- Saturday: 3:40 pm

St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove

- Sunday: 7:30 am
- Monday: 7:00 am



HISPANIC MINISTRY

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

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.

January 14, Wednesday

♦January Soup Luncheon Sponsored by the Melrose Area Senior Citizens will be held from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm at the Melrose Area Senior Center, located in the lower level of the Melrose City offices. Freewill offering, all are welcome!

January 18, Sunday

♦Coffee & Rolls Sponsored by St. Michael's Catholic United Financial at St. Michael's Church basement in Spring Hill. Serving after the 10:00 am Mass. Everyone is invited, please join us!!

♦All You Care To Eat Breakfast at St. Anthony Parish Center 2405 1st St. N. St. Cloud, MN. Serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Adults \$12. Grades 7-12 \$6. PreK-6 are free.

♦Holy Spirit Parish's Bouja Fundraiser A healthy, meaty, vegetable stew - ready to serve! \$20 per gallon, \$10 per half gallon. Pre-purchase tickets: Holy Spirit website: spiritandsaints.org, Holy Spirit Parish office: 2405 Walden Way, The Boot Shack: 2221 Roosevelt Rd (the week prior) and The Bouja Shack: 1615 - 11th Ave. S. St. Cloud, Saturday mornings from 7:30 am - 9:00 am prior to each "Bouja Sunday" and "Bouja Sunday" beginning at 7:00 am until sold out. Drive-thru pick-up Bouja Sunday at The Bouja Shack from 8:30 am - 11:00 am. Gift certificates are available at the parish office. For more information call 320-251-3764.

FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information:

faithformation@catholic-centered.org

- **Grades 1-6:** Next class Wednesday, January 7, from 6:00-7:00 pm. Students will meet in their classrooms in the parish office. Parents, please pick up from the church basement at 7:00 pm.
- **Grades 7-10:** Next class Wednesday, January 7, from 7:00-8:30 pm. Students will meet in their classrooms. **10th grade Classroom location change.** Your classroom will now be in the school gym due to the painting project.
- **Faith Formation Mass** on January 14 is canceled due to the painting project in Sacred Heart Church. Students will have class as usual in place of Mass.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information:

faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

- **Grades 1, 3-6** - Wednesday, January 7, 6:00 pm - Roseview Manor Service Project - game night with the residents - sign up for one session for the year.
- **Grades 7/8, 9/10, Confirmation** - Wednesday, January 7, 7:15 pm - 8:30 pm, ST. MARY'S SCHOOL (NOT the church) - Safe Environment Speaker
- **First Communion Class** - Sunday, January 11, 10:00 am -11:15 am (between the 9:00 and 11:30 am Masses) - First Reconciliation Learning Centers for students and parents



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
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

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

• **Classes will resume** on Monday, January 5.

• Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!
LOOKING AHEAD:

• Catholic School's Week January 18-24.

• **Sacred Heart School Wine and Dine** Fundraiser will be on Saturday, January 24.



Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

12/28	\$25	Judy Kluempke - Melrose
12/29	\$25	Matt & Kayla Schmitz - Grey Eagle
12/30	\$25	Bill Blommel - Willmar
12/31	\$120	Joe & Danielle Toenyan - Sauk Centre

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 your relationship with God. Registration forms are available on the Tri-Parish website: www.sacredheartfreeport.org. Cost is \$40 until Thursday, 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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Mitchell Bechtold
PRINCIPAL: Autumn Nelson
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Briana Worms
SMS BOARD:

Jenn Lubarski, Cindy Hemmesch, Jake Primus, Pat Christenson, Lindsey Gruber, and Greta Rademacher
Phone: 320-256-4257
www.smsmelrosemn.org



PASTOR: Fr. Mitchell Bechtold
PRINCIPAL: Mary Miller
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Kristen Pattinson
SJS BOARD:

Amber Bueckers, Kathy Gilk, Adam Kalthoff, Kate Kelzer, Heidi Meyer, Trista Roelike, and Jenny Wilson
Phone: 320-987-3133
www.sjsaschool.org

- St. Mary's School is **seeking a long-term substitute teacher** for the 5th grade classroom, from mid-March through the end of the school year. Email Autumn Nelson at anelson@smssmn.org to inquire.
- **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!
- There will be an **Open House for our Little Saints program** from 9:30 am -12:00 pm on Sunday, January 25.

- St. Mary's School is holding an **SMS\$4Kids Incentive Drive** until January 22 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. Visit our auction website for more details.



ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

**Marriage & Natural Family Planning:**

Faithfully Yours: Discover Natural Family Planning (NFP)! NFP cooperates with nature and God's plan for married love. The Billings Ovulation Method is a natural, highly effective method for postponing or achieving pregnancy without the use of drugs or devices. A First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method will be offered in Sauk Centre on Thursday, January 15 and Thursday, February 19 at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's Church or CentraCare Health – Sauk Centre Hospital. For more information, or to register, contact Jill and Isaac Uphus at uphus.nfp@gmail.com or 320-290-8751. The class is approximately 1½ to 2 hours long. *Note: Most insurance plans cover the cost of NFP Instruction and follow-up!

Stewardship as a Way of Life: *"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."* Matthew 2:11 The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

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)

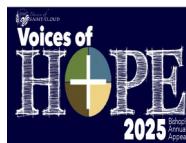
Life Awareness is a retreat program for single Catholic women and men, ages 18–30, interested in learning more about serving our Church and world as future priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and lay ministers/missioners. Join us from Friday, February 20 through Saturday, February 21 at Saint Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minn., as we explore this question and others together in Christ's company. Please register by Wednesday, February 18 at <https://sbm.osb.org/community/vocations/life-awareness-retreat/> For more information, contact Sister Laura Suhr at lsuhr001@csbsju.edu or 320-363-7100.

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://buytickets.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 Saint John's 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:**

Blessings to you in the New Year! We are very grateful to those of you who have already supported diocesan ministries in 2025 through the Appeal. As of December 22, the Bishop's Annual Appeal for 2025 has raised \$1,532,689 toward our goal of \$1,500,000 (102.18%). This was made possible through the generous donations of 6,902 people throughout the 16 counties of our diocese. Your support of these vital ministries make a real difference in people's lives. Visit www.stcdio.org/annualappeal.

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.studio.org.

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/>

 **Did you know you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world?** 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/stedio>

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.





Paul Kollmann Monument
(320) 363-4571
25% off per 1 transaction
Top Quality Products / Please
contact me for free Consultations
Competitive & transparent pricing
paulkollmann.com



Freeport 836-2126
Melrose 256-7208
Greenwald 987-2265



RJ'S
Country Store
St. Rosa
BAIT * GAS * ATM
GROCERIES

Creekside
WOODWORKS LLC
CABINETS • TRIM • FURNITURE

**ADVERTISE
HERE**

Building Relationships Since 1958



**ADVERTISE
HERE**



Freeport
Lions Club

BAR BINGO / MEAT RAFFLE
Saturdays November - March

Freeport MN Lions Club

**BILL KEMPER
EXCAVATING**

BASEMENTS - WATERINES - SEPTIC
SYSTEMS - EXCAVATING - PERC TEST &
DESIGN - GRAVEL - SEWER & WATER

320-256-3982
320-250-2068



YOUR TRUSTED
INSURANCE TEAM

Call for a bundle quote today!

Kyle Hoiium, Agent
Kyle Hoiium Agency LLC



Insure carefully, dream fearlessly.



HOME | AUTO | LIFE | BUSINESS | FARM & RANCH



320-836-2154

Hoeschen Auto
Your
Complete Auto Repair Specialists
Dan Hoeschen, Owner - 320-836-2130

In business
since
1980



**Spanier/Nathe
Cabinets**

Custom Made Cabinets for your whole house
Mike Nathe cell: 320-290-0505
35428 County Road 13 • Melrose, MN 56352
320-256-3985



**MAGNIFI
FINANCIAL**

**FREEPORT
COMMUNITY
CENTER**
FOR HALL RENTAL CALL
320-836-2526



Livestock and Poultry Feeds



Nolan Sand
Melrose, MN
320-429-0606



MELROSE, MN
Proud to be a part of
the Ag Industry

**Oak
Electric
Service Inc.**

THOMAS HOPPE
36484 300th Ave. Melrose, MN 56352
320-837-5853

**Hennen
Floor Covering, Inc.**

FREEPORT

Munson Feed Company, Inc.
Box 184, Melrose, MN 56352
Pete Jr., Mike, Josh Terres
and employees
Business Phone 256-4219



**revermann
lund ross**

Estate Planning | Probate | Business
Real Estate | Employment

Melrose
320.256.4205

Waite Park
320.258.9383

rllegal.com

**WHEELS
WATER SERVICE**
37276 County Road 13
PO Box 233 • Melrose, MN 56352
320-256-4146
JAMMIE WIELING

Independent
Monument Consultant
Courtney
Imlieke

Licensed
Bonded
Insured
Electrical Contracting
Free Estimates
**MELROSE
ELECTRIC, INC.**
MEMBER OF MINNESOTA ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION
119 8th Ave. W (320) 256-3846
PO Box 234 (320) 256-7359
Melrose, MN 56352 Fax (320) 256-4240

**ADVERTISE
HERE**

**MELROSE MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY**
"Neighbor helping Neighbor since 1901"
Stacy Schiffler, Manager
303 Main Street East
Melrose, MN 56352
256-7290
www.melrosemutual.com

**MELROSE
IMPLEMENT INC.**
NEW HOLLAND
AGRICULTURE
Sales - Parts - Service
Phone 256-4253 - Melrose, MN
www.melroseimplement.com

**Tree of Life
ASSISTED LIVING
OF NEW MUNICH**
Offers 24-hour customized assisted
living, private rooms, activities, and
adult daycare.
Call **320-837-5100**
for a tour.

WORMS
Lumber & Ready Mix, Inc.
All your
building needs
in one place!

**Atkinson
Well & Pump Ltd.**
"Serving you since 1942"
Service you can count on 365 days a year
(320) 832-2597
Rodney Atkinson
Ben Atkinson

**ADVERTISE
HERE**

**AGRONOMY
PROPANE
REFINED FUELS**
Office locations in Belgrade & Melrose 320-254-8231

DAN SCHMIDT
DSPI
PRINTING, INC.
AND
DESIGN
SERVICES
SINCE 1985
302 East Main Street Melrose, MN 56352
320.256.3700
dsprint@meltel.net

**RAHN'S
OIL & PROPANE**



God Bless
our
Parish
Families!

**Cornerstone
ag services**
Our focus is crop insurance.
~ Dana Pohl ~
5 Central Ave. N • St. Stephen, MN 56375
(320) 257-CROP (2767)

**Cornerstone
ag services** Our focus is crop insurance.

**ADVERTISE
HERE**

MAYERS, INC.
MELROSE, MN
256-4479

Excavating, Water, Sewers,
Site Prep., Basements,
Sand, Gravel

For All Your Building Needs
**J&R
Frericks**
Construction Inc.
Melrose, MN
Lic. #BC-20457080
Jim 249-7404
Russell 290-5669

MELROSE 1 STOP
**Car Wash
Truck Wash**

**Jcmo
feeds**

Welcome HOME to Brenny
Your TRUCKING
Career starts
HERE!
Call Cara!
320.363.6999
WWW.BRENNYTRASPORTATION.COM

**Hennen
LUMBER CO. INC.**
Freeport, MN 56331
(320) 836-2135

MARTINEZ
MEAT & GROCERY
420 E. Main St. - Melrose, MN
ilulmartinezmeat123@gmail.com
320.256.2363
Productos Mexicanos
fax: 320.256.2364

**CAR WASH
TRUCK WASH**

Engelmeyer
LAND SURVEYING
Land Surveying • GPS Surveys
Platting • Sub-Division
Lot • Acreage • Boundary • ALTA Surveys
320-836-2291
Or Call 320-256-7298
www.engelmeyerlandsurveying.com
David A. Engelmeyer, Land Surveyor
engelsur@meltel.net | 41701 Co Rd 167 - Melrose

Brenda Kraemer
Member Advisor

- Insurance
- Retirement
- Planning
- Charitable Giving
- Credit Union

**Catholic United
Financial**

**CAP
Enterprises**
511 3rd Ave SW
Melrose, MN 56352
320-256-3900

**God
Bless
America!**

Please patronize these advertisers, their sponsorship makes our bulletin possible.

12/30/25