



# 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

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 7, 2025**

**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

frosvaldo@stmarysofmelrose.com

**Office Email:** pam@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

**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 Immaculate Conception
- ◆Saturdays 3:30 pm St. Andrew
- ◆Saturdays 4:30 pm 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.



## *Repentance—the Foundation of Holiness*

**“I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Matthew 3:11-12**

This passage comes just before Jesus is baptized and begins His public ministry. John the Baptist had been ministering in the desert of Judea, preaching, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” Many came to him to be baptized with a baptism of repentance. But when John saw many scribes and Pharisees coming to him, he said, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.” The passage above is John’s warning to them—and to us—about what will happen if we fail to repent.

At that time, when wheat was harvested, it was left to dry. Then, a winnowing fan was used to blow the wheat and chaff into the air. The lighter chaff would blow away, while the grains of wheat would fall to the ground to be gathered, milled into flour, and used for baking. John uses this familiar image to depict what Jesus will do with the righteous and the wicked. The righteous are like the grains of wheat that will be gathered and brought to Heaven. The wicked are like the chaff that, once separated from the righteous, will burn in the unquenchable fire of hell.

Though it is comforting to speak of the glories of Heaven and to anticipate being brought there by our Lord, it is necessary to also consider the reality of the unquenchable fires of hell. Pondering the reality of those unquenchable fires is something we should not neglect.

In his spiritual classic, *The Spiritual Exercises*, Saint Ignatius of Loyola presents a format for a thirty-day directed silent retreat, considered by many to be the ideal retreat experience. During the first week of that retreat, the retreatant focuses primarily upon mortal sin and its consequences—the unquenchable fires of hell. Why would Saint Ignatius begin his retreat this way? Because he understood that the foundation of our growth in union with God is repentance, and repentance requires an honest and thorough examination of sin and its consequences.

**Continued on page 6**

## ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ DECEMBER 8 - 14

## ADORATION

**ST. MARY - Melrose**

*Mo	8:30 am	<b>Immaculate Conception</b> <b>SM School Mass</b> †Arlene Pflipsen
Mo	6:30 pm	<b>Misa de la Inmaculada</b> <b>Concepción en Español</b> †Refugio Juarez Montañez
Tu	8:00 am	†Leona Bertram
We	8:00 am	†Rosie Dickhaus
Th	8:00 am	†Beatrice Rademacher
Fr	8:30 am	<b>SM School Mass</b> †Carol Billigmeier
Fr	6:30 pm	<b>Misa de Nuestra Señora de</b> <b>Guadalupe en Español</b> †Refugio Juarez Montañez †Manuel Juarez
Sa	5:00 pm	For the People
*Su	9:00 am	†Jeffrey Hinnenkamp
Su	11:30 am	<b>Misa en Español</b> †Encarnacion Luis de la Cruz

**SACRED HEART - Freeport**

Mo	8:15 am	<b>Immaculate Conception</b> <b>SH School Mass</b> Special Intention
We	8:15 am	<b>SH School Mass</b> †Joe & †Jean Schulzetenberg
Fr	8:15 am	†Norbert & †Veronica Toenies
Su	8:00 am	For the People

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich**

Mo	7:00 pm	<b>Immaculate Conception</b> For the People
Th	8:15 am	†Joe Spanier
Sa	4:00 pm	†Rich Rademacher
Mo	9:00 am	<b>Immaculate Conception</b> †Rosemary "Rosie" Osendorf
Tu	8:15 am	St. Rose of Lima Parishioners
Su	10:00 am	†Paige Luethmers

**ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa**

Tu	8:00 am	†Vernon Welle
Su	10:00 am	†Lisa Schoenberg

**ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill**

Mo	8:00 am	<b>Immaculate Conception</b> <b>SJSA School Mass</b> For the People
Th	8:00 am	†David Walz
Sa	4:00 pm	†Cel & †Rose Uphoff

**ST. ANDREW - Greenwald**

Mo	8:00 am	<b>Immaculate Conception</b> <b>SJSA School Mass</b> For the People
Th	8:00 am	†David Walz
Sa	4:00 pm	†Cel & †Rose Uphoff

**ST. JOHN - Meire Grove**

Mo	7:00 pm	<b>Immaculate Conception</b> †Norm Wehlage
We	8:00 am	†Deceased/Living Members of St. John's Catholic United Fiancial
Su	8:00 am	†Sam Schneider †Amy Granby

**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)  
Saturday, December 13, 8:30 - 9:30 am

**Sacred Heart - Freeport**

Fridays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



\*Mass will be livestreamed.

Visit: [oneinfaith.org](http://oneinfaith.org) for the YouTube link.

## ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

**Parish News:**

~ St. Mary ~ St. Michael ~ St. Andrew ~ St. John ~

•**Christmas Flowers & Environment** If you wish to donate toward Christmas flowers and environment in memory of a loved one, please put money in an envelope (from your packet or a plain one), include the name or names of the loved one, and mark it "Christmas Flowers & Environment." Thank You!

•**Thank You from Catholic Charities:** Your gift is a beacon of light for people suffering through their darkest hour. The 20+ programs Catholic Charities provides to address urgent needs in our community are only possible because of your generous donation. Together, we are empowering our neighbors and creating impact in housing, food, and mental health - impact that will be seen and felt for generations. With you at our side, Catholic Charities is making a real difference in the lives of thousands across Central Minnesota. We are humbled by your generosity and thankful for your commitment to the work we do at Catholic Charities. With deepest gratitude, *Aaron Fisk, President/CEO*

**PARISH OFFICE**  
**IS CLOSED**

**Office Closures** The Parish Offices in Melrose and Freeport will be closed on Monday, December 8 in observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**Do You Love Spending Time With Infants/Toddlers?**

Sacred Heart School is currently hiring in our Infant and Toddler Care Center from 7:30 - 10:30 am and/or from 2:30 - 5:30 pm. If you are interested, please contact the school at 320-836-2591.

**Keep Christ in Christmas!** St. Joseph the Worker Council Knights of Columbus will again be sponsoring the Keep Christ In Christmas poster contest. This is open to all youths ages 5-14 in our ACC. The three Catholic schools, Sacred Heart, St. Mary's and St. John's-St. Andrew's, have information on the contest. Anyone else interested can contact Richard Sand 320-250-2357.

**Parish News:**

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

•**"Shower for Baby Jesus"** The Christian Women organizations from our Tri-Parish 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. Cash donations should have checks made out to the respective Christian Women's group or Options for Women.

•**Birthday Bags for the Food Shelf** The Tri-Parish Faith Formation will be including a service project during the Winter Family Fellowship Night on December 10. They will be putting gift bags together for the local food shelves. How can you help? You can donate items to help fill these bags. We are looking for cake mixes, frosting, candles, cans of lemon-lime soda, and **small unisex** games or children's gifts (playing cards, other card games, Playdoh, crayons, markers, etc.) to fill the bags. Our goal is to fill at least 50 gift bags. Please drop off items in designated boxes at Freeport, New Munich, and St. Rose Churches or at the Tri-Parish office.

**Join Us on a Pilgrimage to EWTN!** January 18-23,

2026 You're invited to join Fr. Mark Botzet in a special 6-day pilgrimage to EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network founded by Mother Angelica in Irondale, AL) and several inspiring Catholic sites, including:

- The Grotto of the Redemption, West Bend, IA
- National Shrine Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL
- The Gateway Arch, St. Louis, MO
- The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Henceville, AL

This unforgettable journey will be a time of prayer, fellowship, and renewal of faith as we visit some of the most meaningful Catholic landmarks in the country (bussing one way and flying back). For more information or to reserve your spot, please see [www.jericochristianjourneys.com](http://www.jericochristianjourneys.com). Deadline to sign-up is Monday, December 8.

One in Faith ACC News Continued on page 6



**CHURCH OF ST. MARY**

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

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Weekly Offerings** ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$19,706.42</b>
Regular Adult Offering .....	9,390.00
Plate/Loose .....	2,062.42
Thanksgiving .....	7,576.00
Designated Funds .....	678.00

**St. Mary's Calendar Raffle**

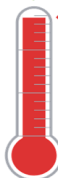
11-30	\$25	Micky Klasen, Melrose
12-01	\$25	Diane Gruber, Melrose
12-02	\$25	Renee Goerd, Melrose
12-03	\$25	Sheila Hellermann, Melrose
12-04	\$25	Pat Seanger, Melrose
12-05	\$25	Ann Viere, Melrose
12-06	\$25	Shar & Dan Gohl, Grey Eagle



Sound System Goal

\$58,767

Raised \$57,503

**Baptized in Christ...** Lennie Mae Neuschwander

**Sound System** Thank you for your generous support of our Sound System project! We've now received \$57,503 in gifts and pledges—98% of our goal! Contributions can be mailed, placed in the collection, or dropped off at the parish office.

**St. Mary's Calendar Raffle Reminder** Calendar raffle tickets were not sent out by mail as was done in the past. You should have received a flyer by mail that you could use to order tickets. Tickets can be purchased at the parish office, at Magnifi Financial-Melrose Branch, at Freeport State Bank-Melrose Branch, as well as before and after weekend Masses. Thank you for your support to make this year's Calendar Raffle a success!

**St. Mary's Mission Society Meeting** on Wednesday, December 10 at St. Mary's Church at 8:45 am in the gathering area. All are welcome!

**We Are Hiring!** Our parish is seeking a part time **Bilingual Administrative Assistant** to provide administrative and clerical support, assist with communications, and serve as a warm, welcoming first point of contact for parishioners and visitors—both in person and by phone. This position requires fluency in Spanish and English to support our diverse and vibrant Catholic community. To apply or learn more, please contact the parish office.



**Adoration** St. Mary's will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 8:30 - 9:30 am on Saturdays, December 13 and 20. All are welcome!

**Hospitality Weekend** Please join us after all Masses at St. Mary's December 13-14 for some holiday hospitality. Cookies and refreshments will be served. Spread the word that "Jesus is the reason for the season!"

**Prayer Requests...**

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

**For the Sick:** Fr. Roger Klassen, Anne Wolke, Ted Hoeschen, Tillie Bueckers, Kathy Elfering, Sandy Welle, Joyce Hauser, Dorothy Schneider, Michelle Russel

**Contact Persons for Prayer Line Requests:**

Sacred Heart: <i>Judy Caveny</i>	320-248-8830
Immaculate Conception: <i>Bernice Zink</i>	320-837-5321
St. Rose of Lima: <i>Kayla Harren</i>	320-333-8461
St. Michael: <i>Sharon Schulzetenberg</i>	320-248-7702
St. Mary's	320-256-3878

**CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART**

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

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Weekly Offerings** ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$14,024.09</b>
Regular Adult Offering .....	4,777.54
Plate .....	464.55
Votive .....	161.00
School Support .....	275.00
Thanksgiving Plate .....	159.00
Thanksgiving Envelopes .....	7,907.00
World Mission Sunday .....	10.00
Christmas Envelopes .....	50.00
Immaculate Conception .....	25.00
Christmas Flowers .....	195.00

**Parish Events**

Su	12/07	9:00 am	Catholic United Financial Member Breakfast
Tu	12/09	2:45 pm	SHS Strings Practice
We	12/10	1:00 pm	Sacred Heart School Confessions
We	12/10	6:00 pm	Faith Formation First Confessions
We	12/10	7:00 pm	Communal Confessions
We	12/10	7:00 pm	Faith Formation Winter Fellowship
Th	12/11	3:00 pm	Youth Choir Practice
Fr	12/12	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	12/12	9:00 am	Adoration



**Membership Breakfast** Sacred Heart Catholic United Financial #101 will be hosting a Membership Breakfast today, December 7, following the 8:00 am Mass in Freeport. All members and their families are invited to attend.

**Baptized in Christ...** We welcome **Edward John Overman**, the son of Justin & Kayla Overman, to our parish. Edward John was baptized on Sunday, November 30.

**Interior Painting of the Church** will take place beginning January 5, 2026. The cost of this project is \$385,000. The last time the interior of the church was painted in its entirety was in 1979. Please watch the bulletin for updates on this project. Donations are being accepted to help cover the cost.



**2025 Calendars** are in the back of the church.



**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!

**Christmas Programs****St. Mary's School:**

Wednesday, December 10 at 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm at Marit Elliott Performing Arts Center, Melrose

**St. Mary's Little Saints:**

Wednesday, December 10 at 10:00 am at St. Mary's School Gym, Melrose

**SJSA School:**

Wednesday, December 17 at 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Church, Greenwald

**Sacred Heart School:**

Thursday, December 18 at 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm at Sacred Heart School Gym, Freeport

**CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

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


## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$6,991.83
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,587.33
Plate .....	234.00
Thanksgiving Plate .....	747.00
Thanksgiving Envelopes .....	3,721.00
All Saints .....	10.00
Christmas Envelopes .....	500.00
Christmas Flowers .....	155.00
Building/Maintenance.....	37.50

**Parish Events**

Su 12/07 11:30 am	Baptism
Mo 12/08 8:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Social
We 12/10 6:00 pm	FF First Confessions - FR
We 12/10 7:00 pm	Communal Confessions - FR
We 12/10 7:00 pm	FF Winter Fellowship - FR
Th 12/11 3:00 pm	Youth Choir Practice - FR
Th 12/11 7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sa 12/12 3:30 pm	Individual Confessions

**Feast of Immaculate Conception**

 **Social** There will be a social in the Gathering Space after the Immaculate Conception Mass on Monday, December 8. Everyone is welcome to join us in celebrating our Patronal Feast Day.

**Servers Requested:** Chairs: Clarence & Renee Kampsen, Co-Chairs: Duane & Shelley Kemper, Servers: David & Jane Johnson, Denise Klaphake, Kenneth & Dorothy Klaphake, Mark & Jody Klaphake, Michael & Naomi Klaphake. All servers please bring cake, cookies or bars. Thank you.

**God's Housekeepers** for the month of December: \*Judy Uphoff, Mary Jane Revermann, Megan Gaebel, Lynn Van Drehle, Annette Roering and Shirley Worms. 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.

**HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA**

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

**December 7, Sunday**

◆Spring Hill Rec Club Christmas party and annual meeting at Horseshoe Bar at 1:00 pm. The whole community is invited!

◆Breakfast with Santa at Saints Peter & Paul School - Richmond from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. Adults \$12. Children \$5. Santa's visit 9:00 am - 12:00 pm for photos and goodies. Matching grant fundraiser for the Sts. Peter & Paul church bell tower restoration project.

◆Church of St. Augustine Parish Breakfast Serving from 7:30 am - 12:00 pm at the St. Augustine Parish 106 Wilson Ave SE, St. Cloud. Sunday Mass at 9:00 am. Adults \$12. Children 5-12 \$7. Ages 4 and under 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](http://spiritandsaints.org), Holy Spirit Parish

**CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA**

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$6,599.96
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,773.46
Plate .....	242.00
Thanksgiving Plate .....	54.50
Thanksgiving Envelopes .....	4,095.00
Christmas Envelopes .....	100.00
Christmas Flowers .....	335.00

**Parish Events**

Su 12/07 11:00 am	Catholic United Financial Mtg. & Christmas Party
We 12/10 6:00 pm	FF First Confessions - FR
We 12/10 7:00 pm	Communal Confessions - FR
We 12/10 7:00 pm	FF Winter Fellowship - FR
Th 12/11 3:00 pm	Youth Choir Practice - FR
Fr 12/12 7:30 pm	Rosary
Sa 12/13 10:00 am	Jaycees Kids' Christmas Party
Su 12/14 11:00 am	Private Event

**Christmas Cookie Fellowship**

Join the St. Rose Christian Women for fellowship after Mass on Sunday, December 14. \*Christian Women please drop off goodies before the 10:00 am Mass.

**Gifts for Baby Jesus...** Please see the Tri-Parish section on page 2 for more information.

**CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL**

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆


Total .....	\$9,164.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	353.00
Plate/Loose .....	165.00
Fuel Fund .....	330.00
Maintenance Fund .....	400.00
Thanksgiving .....	7,540.00
Bake Sale .....	376.00

**Liturgical Ministries****Sunday, December 14 - 10:00 am**


(S) Lukas Kalthoff & Noah Terres  
(L) Gary P. Lieser  
(U) Steve Welle & Hugo Wuertz  
(EM) (B) Conrad Gruber  
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
(Sacristan) John & Sharon Schulzetenberg  
(RL) Kathy Welle  
(CC) Amy Orbeck & Marvin Rademacher  
(HK: December 14-27)  
Renee Van Drehle, Daisha Welle, & Dani Welle

**Annual Meeting and Christmas Party for Catholic United Financial Council #126 of Spring Hill**

will be today, December 7, in the church basement. Membership meeting at 12:30 pm, kids games at 1:00 pm, and Santa will arrive at 2:30 pm.

There will be a potluck lunch. All are welcome to join us. 

**Advent Giving Tree...** The Faith Formation families invite you to take an ornament (or 3!) from the Advent Giving Tree located in the back of church. You can bring the item named on the ornament back to church and set it under the tree. All donations will be taken to the Melrose Food Shelf after Thursday, December 25. Thank you for your help and generosity!

 **Rosary Rally** Please join us for a Christmas Rosary Rally at 10:00 am on Saturday, December 13, at St. Michael's Church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

**Knights of Columbus**

St. Joseph the Worker Council

December 2025

**Calendar Raffle Winners**

12-01	\$20	Richard & Cathy Sand
12-02	\$40	John Wilwerding
12-03	\$60	Ron Welle
12-04	\$20	Karen Rademacher
12-05	\$40	Shirley Worms
12-06	\$60	Holly Borgerding
12-07	\$100	Judy Hennen



**CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW**

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,090.00</b>
Regular Adult Offering .....	580.00
EFT .....	900.00
Plate/Loose .....	282.00
Votives .....	13.00
Fuel Fund .....	20.00
Thanksgiving .....	155.00
Cemetery .....	1,120.00
Flowers .....	20.00

**Liturgical Ministries****Immaculate Conception****Monday, December 8 - 8:00 am**

(S) SJSA Students  
(L) SJSA Students  
(U) Volunteers Needed  
(GB) SJSA Students  
(EM) (B) Volunteers Needed  
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood

**Liturgical Ministries****Saturday, December 13 - 4:00 pm**

(S) Aubrey Stepan & Emily Stepan  
(L) Kathy Gilk  
(U) David Welle & Chuck Winter  
(GB) Robert & Judy Wehlage  
(EM) (B) Clarine Beier  
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
(HK - December) \*Angie Barten, Ann Barten, Clarine Beier, & Lisa Bertram

**Reminder: Parish Finance Meeting**

will be in the SJSA School Basement on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 pm.

**2026 Calendars**

Catholic United Financial #324 St. Andrew's has sponsored the 2026 Catholic calendar again this year. You are welcome to take one for your home or office. They are available in the vestibule of the church.

**Advent Giving Tree...** The Faith Formation families invite you to take an ornament (or 3!) from the Advent Giving Tree located in the back of church. You can bring the item named on the ornament back to church and set it under the tree. All donations will be taken to the Melrose Food Shelf after Thursday, December 25. Thank you for your help and generosity!

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe****Prayers, Mass, and Celebration****Friday, December 12, St. Mary's, Melrose****Morning:**

5:30 am Mañanitas  
7:00-8:00 am Serving Hot Chocolate, Coffee & Sweet Bread

**Evening:**

6:30 pm Misa en Español  
7:30 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Play  
8:00-10:00 pm Authentic Mexican Food and Mariachi Band

**ALL ARE WELCOME!****CHURCH OF ST. JOHN**

**Physical Address:** 20 State Highway 4 S.  
Meire Grove, MN 56352  
**Church Basement 320-987-3631**

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,843.35</b>
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,035.00
EFT .....	140.00
Children's .....	0.25
Plate/Loose .....	160.10
Votives.....	78.00
Fuel Fund .....	100.00
Thanksgiving .....	1,330.00

**Liturgical Ministries****Immaculate Conception****Monday, December 8 - 7:00 pm**

(S) Isaac Zenzen & Collin Kelzer  
(L) Rita Meyer  
(U) Herb Imdieke & Jerry Imdieke  
(GB) Marvin & Rita Meyer  
(EM) Abby Zenzen, Daryl Zenzen

**Liturgical Ministries****Sunday, December 14 - 8:00 am**

(S) Faith Meyer & Mya Nathe  
(L) Karen Meyer  
(U) Nick Kelzer & Jayme Klaphake  
(GB) Jeron & Brenda Nathe  
(EM) Nick Kelzer & Jim Leukam  
(HK - December) \*Kathy Illies, Darlene Imdieke, Joni Imdieke, Sharon Imdieke, Kate Kelzer, & Amy Klaphake

**Advent Giving Tree...** The Faith Formation families invite you to take an ornament (or 3!) from the Advent Giving Tree located in the back of church. You can bring the item named on the ornament back to church and set it under the tree. All donations will be taken to the Melrose Food Shelf after Thursday, December 25. Thank you for your help and generosity!

**HISPANIC MINISTRY**

**¡Posadas!** Las posadas este año se realizarán en la Iglesia del 15 al 23 de Diciembre. Aunque este año no será de casa en casa, aún seguimos invitando a 8 familias que deseen tomar un día de posadas. La responsabilidad de esa familia será traer alimentos, bebidas y/o dulces para compartir después del rezo de las posadas.

**Fiesta a la Virgen de Guadalupe 2025:**

este año estaremos celebrando a nuestra señora de Guadalupe el día 12 de Diciembre y el programa es el siguiente: 5:30 am - Novena, 6:00 am - Mañanitas, 7:00 am - Se ofrecerá pan y chocolate caliente, 6:30 pm - SANTA MISA, 7:30 pm - Cena y convivio

**¡Necesitamos servidores!** Los invitamos a que se unan a cualquier ministerio parroquial para ofrecer su tiempo y talento al Señor y a su Iglesia. Los ministerios en los que ustedes pueden servir son: ministros extraordinario de la comunión, lectores, sacristanes y monaguillos. Si están interesados hablen con cualquier diácono o llamen a la oficina parroquial para más información.

**Coros Parroquiales:**

Los coros parroquiales hispanos están invitando a todas las personas que tienen talento para cantar o tocar algún instrumento a que se registren para formar parte del ministerio de música. Los coros necesitan más integrantes y todos son bienvenidos.

**The Scriptures This Week****Year A, Weekdays - Cycle II**

<b>Mo</b>	<b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)</b> (Holyday of Obligation) (Patronal Feast day of the United States of America) Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38
<b>Tu</b>	<b>Advent Weekday (Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin)</b> Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14
<b>We</b>	<b>Advent Weekday (Our Lady of Loreto)</b> Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30
<b>Th</b>	<b>Advent Weekday (Saint Damasus I, Pope)</b> Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15
<b>Fr</b>	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe (Feast)</b> Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary
<b>Sa</b>	<b>Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr (Memorial)</b> Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13
<b>Next</b>	<b>Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent</b> Is 35:1-6a, 10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11



## FAITH FORMATION

### Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: [faithformation@catholic-centered.org](mailto:faithformation@catholic-centered.org)

- **Grades 1-10: Next Class:** All students are expected to attend Winter Fellowship. See more information below.
- **Winter Family Fellowship Night** Wednesday, December 10 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Families are strongly encouraged to join us for a fun night of activities, snacks, and fellowship. This is in place of class. All students are expected to attend. We will be putting together Birthday Bags for the local food shelves. Please bring cake mixes, frosting, candles, cans of lemon-lime soda, and small unisex games or children's gifts (playing cards, other card games, Playdoh, crayons, markers, etc.) to fill the bags. Our goal is to fill at least 50 gift bags. Please drop off items in designated boxes in the back of all three churches or at the Tri-Parish office.

### Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information: [faithformation@stmarysofamelrose.com](mailto:faithformation@stmarysofamelrose.com)

- **Grades 1, 3-6: Next Class:** Wednesday December 10, Roseview Manor service project = decorate Christmas cookies.
- **Grades 7-8: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 10, St. Mary's Church, 7:15-8:30 pm, Guest Panel. Students and some parents.



## ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2


### Advent Enrichment Materials and Advent Brochures



with confessions opportunities, Advent Service Projects, Mass times, and more are available in the churches. Feel free to take them to enhance your Advent. Additional Advent programs can be found online, including Dynamic Catholic's Best Advent Ever with Matthew Kelly and Ascension Press' Face to Face with Fr. Mike Schmitz. Visit their websites to sign up or for more information.

### End-of-Year Giving: Stock, IRA's and QCD's

Gifts of stock are always appreciated, and there are significant tax benefits available to those who give appreciated stock held longer than a year. Those who choose to donate stock are generally entitled to a tax deduction based on the full fair market value of the stock at the time the gift is made, not just the original cost. Additionally, donors do not incur any capital gains tax when stock is given away rather than sold. Please consider a stock gift when donating to your church, Sacred Heart School, St. Mary's School, or St. John's St. Andrew's School. When making a charitable rollover through IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), we always recommend that you seek professional advice in these matters. If you have any questions about this type of contribution, please contact the parish office in Melrose and Freeport with questions.

**Toys for Tots Collection** The Melrose FFA  has put a Toys for Tots box in the Melrose, Freeport, New Munich, and St. Rose churches. You can place new toys in the box, and they will be collected to send to children in need.

**"Making Room in the Inn to Welcome Christ"** Men & Women's Advent Silent Retreat - December 12-14 (Weekend) 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](http://www.kingshouse.com).

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

Contact Information: [youthministry@catholic-centered.org](mailto:youthministry@catholic-centered.org) or [faithformation@stmarysofamelrose.com](mailto:faithformation@stmarysofamelrose.com)

- **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](http://www.sacredheartfreeport.org).
- **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.

### 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, December 18 and Thursday, January 15 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](mailto: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!



### Repentance—the Foundation of Holiness

Cont'd. from page 1

Reflect today on the unquenchable fires of hell, and allow yourself to foster a burning desire to flee from every sin that leads to that end. As we enter the second week of the penitential season of Advent, ponder this warning from Saint John the Baptist. Hear him speak those words directly to you. We must fear sin and avoid it, as much as we want to avoid the unquenchable fires of hell. Start with this foundational truth, so that having fostered deep repentance, you are ready to turn your heart and mind toward the glorious promise of Heaven.

*Jesus, our Just Judge, You hold the winnowing fan in Your sacred hand and separate the righteous from the sinner. Please grant me the grace to see my sin clearly, so that I may humbly acknowledge it and turn from it with all my might. May I build this foundation of repentance during Advent, so that Christmas becomes an even greater time of union with You.*

*Jesus, I trust in You.*

*mycatholic.life*

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**  
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 Toddler Center Phone: 320-836-2585



**PASTOR:** Fr. Mitchell Bechtold  
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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**  
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**SMS BOARD:**

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 Jake Primus, Pat Christenson,  
 Lindsey Gruber, and Greta Rademacher

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 www.smsmelrosemn.org



**PASTOR:** Fr. Mitchell Bechtold  
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 Kristen Pattinson  
**SJSA BOARD:**

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 Kalthoff, Kate Kelzer, Heidi Meyer,  
 Trista Roelike, and Jenny Wilson

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

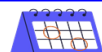
♦ **SHS School Board** will have a meeting on Thursday, December 11.

♦ **Our Raffle Calendars** are in and always a big hit! Please reach out to a SHS family or stop in at school to buy yours today! SHS Families will also be selling our raffle calendars after Mass the next few weekends.

♦ **We Kicked Off Advent** last week with our Advent service project. We will be adopting a few local families and bringing in cash, gift cards, grocery cards, gas cards, etc. We encourage you all to participate. Your donation can be dropped off at the school office.

♦ **Our Christmas Program** will be on Thursday, December 18 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

♦ **Christmas Break** Saturday, December 20 - Sunday, January 4, 2026. Classes will resume on Monday, January 5.



### Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

11/30	\$25	Brenda Rieland - Freeport
12/01	\$25	Kevin Huhne - Avon
12/02	\$25	Marge Evans - Little Falls
12/03	\$25	Lynn Wegleitner - Freeport
12/04	\$25	Kyle & Wendy Tschida - Sauk Centre
12/05	\$25	Andrew Holdvogt - Melrose
12/06	\$25	Robert & Judy Wehlage - Melrose

## Public Rosary...



We have much to pray for and even more to be thankful for.

*All are invited and welcome!*

- Sundays at 7:30 am in the church in Meire Grove.
- Mondays at 7:00 am in the church in Meire Grove.
- Tuesdays at 7:00 am in the church in Melrose.
- Wednesdays at 1:00 pm in the church in Melrose.
- Every Thursday except the first Thursday at 6:30 pm in Spanish in the church in Melrose.
- Fridays at 7:30 pm at the church in St. Rosa.
- 30 minutes prior to each weekday and weekend Mass in Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa, and Spring Hill.
- 20 minutes prior to each weekday and weekend Mass in Greenwald.

♦ Students will plan the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass** for Monday, December 8. Students will attend regular weekday Mass on Friday, December 12, at 8:30 am.

♦ **Thank You, Melrose Bowling Alley**, for inviting St. Mary's students to bowl during the month of December.

♦ **The deadline for Christmas SMS\$4Kids orders** to be delivered from RaiseRight is Sunday, December 14 at 8:00 pm to ensure cards arrive at school before winter break. In-stock local cards can be purchased until Friday, December 19.

♦ **Advent Prayer Services** will be held on Mondays, December 8 and 15, at 2:15 pm in the school gym. All are welcome to attend.

♦ **St. Mary's Christmas Program** will take place at the Marit Elliot Performing Arts Center, Melrose Area School, on Wednesday, December 10, at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. The Little Saints program is on Wednesday, December 10, at 10:00 am in the SMS gym.

♦ **For Advent**, St. Mary's will collect new socks, winter gloves, washcloths, towels, Ziploc bags, paper plates, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, & shampoo/conditioner for Eagle's Healing Nest and the Melrose Food Shelf. Please feel free to help us collect these items, which can be dropped off at the school entrance or in the church gathering space.

♦ **St. Mary's School** is holding an **SMS\$4Kids Incentive Drive** 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.

♦ **Pizza and Cookie Dough Sale Pick-up** is Saturday, December 13 from 9:00 - 10:00 am in the school basement.

♦ **Confession** SJSA students in grades 3-6 will go to confession Thursday, December 11 after Mass.

♦ **SJSA Advent Project:** SJSA students are collecting the following items for Eagle's Healing Nest as our Advent Service Project: Men's and Women's Gloves, Men's and Women's Socks, Washcloths, Ziploc Bags and Fleece Blankets. Items can be dropped off at the school during school hours December 1 - 12. Thank you for helping us support our veterans in need.

♦ **Mark Your Calendars!** SJSA Steak and Wine Dinner and Auction is Saturday, February 7 at the Greenwald Pub. Donny Brang will once again be playing for the event. If you would like to donate to this event, please contact the school. More info to come!

♦ **Monday, December 8** is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. SJSA students will attend the 8:00 am Mass at St. Andrew's.

♦ **Rosary** The 5th and 6th graders will lead the Rosary after the Immaculate Conception Mass on Monday, December 8. All are welcome to pray the Rosary with the children.

♦ **SJSA Students will Present The Next Noel** Christmas program on Wednesday, December 17 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Church in Greenwald. Refreshments will be served after each program in the school basement. All are welcome.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation



### • Communal Celebration with Individual Confession:

Sunday	December 7	2:00 - 3:30 pm	St. John, Meire Grove
Wednesday	December 10	7:00 pm	Sacred Heart, Freeport

### • Individual Celebration:

Fridays	7:45 am	Sacred Heart, Freeport
Saturdays	3:00 - 3:50 pm	St. Andrew, Greenwald
Saturdays	3:30 pm	Immaculate Conception, New Munich
Saturdays	4:00 - 4:50 pm	St. Mary, Melrose
Sundays	10:30 - 11:20 pm	St. Mary, Melrose

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

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