



# 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

**First Sunday of Advent**

**December 1, 2024**

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@stmarysofmeire.com

Office Email: pam@stmarysofmeire.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

Email: triparish@albanytel.com

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](mailto: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 & RCIA**

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

## **Anointing of the Sick, Home Bound 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.



# SUPERNATURAL INSTINCT

*“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.” Luke 21:34-36*

“That day.” These two words are spoken twice in the passage above. To which day is our Lord referring? Clearly, He is referring primarily to the day of our final judgment and is warning us to make sure we are prepared for it in case it were to come at an unexpected moment. So how do we prepare?

Animals have the natural gift of instinct. They know how to survive, how to reproduce, how to gather food and how to avoid danger. They know this because God has implanted this knowledge within them. By this natural gift of instinct, they know what to do and what to avoid.

We, as humans, also have basic natural instincts. But our natural instincts are only sufficient to help us accomplish that which the animals accomplish. Therefore, if we are to gain an even greater knowledge and are to know how to properly prepare ourselves spiritually for the sudden and unexpected coming of Christ, then we need more.

The way we most properly prepare is through a special grace by which God reveals Himself and His will to our human reason. When that happens, we will know the best way to be fully prepared for “that day” the moment it comes. Perhaps one of the best ways to describe this ability is by describing it as a “supernatural instinct.” When our natural instincts become open to grace, and when the information on which we base our daily decisions in life comes to us by an ongoing and personal revelation from God through the infused gift of faith, then we will find that we simply know what to do and what to avoid. By analogy, just as a bird knows to fly south for the winter or a salmon knows to return to its place of birth to lay its eggs, so we will “know” within our spirit how to best serve the will of God and, thus, be most fully prepared for His imminent return. “Supernatural instinct” is nothing other than us allowing the grace of God to enter our lives so as to take control of everything we do and to lead us into the fulfillment of the perfect and glorious will of God. When that happens, we can be certain that we are perpetually prepared for all that comes and will never be caught by surprise like a trap.

Reflect, today, upon whether you are daily led by the knowledge of God’s will alive within you as a supernatural instinct. If this language seems foreign to you, then perhaps it is a time to ponder the question “Why?” Why aren’t you led by God’s grace through an ongoing gift of supernatural knowledge of His will? And if this language does resonate within you, then spend time pondering this gift and being grateful for the way that God has truly taken over your day-to-day life.

*My revealing Lord, I pray that I will always know Your will and be led only by Your gentle but unmistakable promptings of grace. Please lead me, dear Lord, so that I will be perpetually prepared for Your glorious and final coming the moment it arrives. Jesus, I trust in You.*

*mycatholic.life*

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ DECEMBER 2 - 8 ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose
Mo 6:30 pm Misa en Español
†Jesus Rodriguez Maldonado y
†Agustin Martinez Medel
Tu 8:00 am †Duane Lieser
We 8:00 am †Lorraine Imdieke
Th 8:00 am †Norbert & †Leona Schaefer
Fr 8:30 am †Russ Roelike
\*Sa 6:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe - Bilingual
†Eddie, †Jeffrey, & †Mark Bussmann
\*Su 10:00 am †Paul Spaeth
†Jeremy Brickweg
Su 12:30 pm Misa en Español
†Abelardo Botello Lopez

SACRED HEART - Freeport
We 8:15 am SH School Mass
†Edward & †Agnes Job
Fr 8:15 am †Kenny Feldewerd
†Dorene Feldewerd
Sa 8:00 am First Saturday Mass
†Lori Scherping
†Hubert, †Florence, & †Marvin Lange
Su 8:00 am For the People

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich
Th 8:15 am †Otto & †Fran Thelen
Sa 4:00 pm †Hildegard (Fuechtmann) Sand

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa
Tu 8:15 am †Deceased/Living Members of the
St. Rose Catholic United Financial
Su 10:00 am †Bob & †Bernice Kluempke

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill
Tu 8:00 am †Werner Gruber
Su 10:00 am †John & †Leona Frieler

ST. ANDREW - Greenwald
Th 8:00 am SJSA School Mass
†Allison Ende
Sa 4:00 pm †Cel & †Rose Uphoff

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove
We 8:00 am †Sam Schneider
†Amy Granby
Su 8:00 am For the People

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



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)

Sacred Heart - Freeport
Fridays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish News:

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

- Votive Candles As of January 1, the suggested donation for votive candles will increase to \$4 per candle.
•Text Notifications Fr. Mitchell or church staff may send an occasional text to tell everyone about Mass changes, send reminders or details about upcoming events, or share a quick announcement.
•Christmas Flowers 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!



Office Closures The Parish Offices in Melrose and Freeport will be closed on Monday, December 9 in observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Adoration with Praise & Worship Music Wednesday, December 4 from 5:30-8:30 pm at Sacred Heart Church in Freeport. Come spend time with the Lord in Adoration and music.

24 Hour Adoration: Meditate on the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist: Consider taking an hour from your schedule to adore and spend time with the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. The Tri-Parish invites all the faithful for a special opportunity to kick off the Advent season to grow in relationship with Jesus through His real presence in the Eucharist. Eucharistic Adoration will begin on Friday, December 6 after the 8:15 am Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Freeport and extend through the night until the First Saturday Mass at 8:00 am on December 7. Volunteers are needed around the clock. Sign-up sheets are available at Sacred Heart, Immaculate Conception, and St. Rose of Lima. We cannot leave our Lord alone.



Parish News:

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

- Calling All TECites: The Tri-Parish Office is compiling a listing of parishioners who have attended TEC retreats in the past. Please contact the parish office to be added to the list.

Go and Make Disciples Anyone in grade 11 through adult are invited to a monthly Faith Formation event from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport. We will share a meal and discuss the Rosary and Sacramentals. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, December 4. Come and bring a friend for a fun filled faith enrichment night.

Eagle's Healing Nest Donation Drive

The Tri-Parish Faith Formation will be collecting items to help the Eagle's Healing Nest provide for the needs of our many veterans. How can you help? You can donate items such as cleaning supplies, toiletries, bed sheet sets, paper plates, paper towels, winter gloves, general art supplies, or a monetary donation. Please drop off items in designated boxes in the back of the Tri-Parish churches in Freeport, New Munich and St. Rosa, in the weekend collection with the envelope marked Eagle's Healing Nest, or at the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport no later than Tuesday, December 10.



Committed Adorers: We are looking for some individuals or couples to be committed adorers for the Wednesday Evening Praise and Worship Adoration Nights at Sacred Heart. The dates are December 4, 2024; January 8, 2025; February 12, 2025; March 19, 2025; and April 9, 2025 from 5:30-8:30 pm. If you are able to commit to 30 minutes or more one month, a few months, or several months, that would be great. Please contact Amy at 320-836-2143 to sign up.

House Blessing... If you are interested in having your house blessed by Fr. Dan call the Tri-Parish Office, Freeport (320-836-2143).


**CHURCH OF ST. MARY**  
 Physical Address: 755 Kraft Drive SE  
 Melrose, MN 56352

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

Total.....	\$11,106.00
Regular Adult Offering .....	8,194.00
Plate/Loose .....	1,149.00
Designated Funds .....	1,763.00

**St. Mary's Calendar Raffle**

11-24	\$25	Beth Kluempke - Melrose
11-25	\$25	Ma Soledad Juarez - Melrose
11-26	\$25	Adam Viere - Melrose
11-27	\$25	Mike Klasen - Melrose
11-28	\$125	Karen Heinen - Melrose
11-29	\$25	St. Mary's School (Art & Pat Roehrl) - Melrose
11-30	\$25	Pamela Roske - Melrose



**St. Mary's Mission Society Meeting** on Wednesday, December 11 at St. Mary's Church at 8:45 am. All are welcome!

**Calendar Raffle** We are in the last month! Purchase your calendar raffle tickets soon! You can get them at Magnifi - Melrose, Freeport State Bank - Melrose, and the parish office. Committee members will also be selling before and after most weekend Masses.

**Ministry Schedules** For ministers who do not receive schedules via email, there are some available in the kiosks. Please only take them if you are a minister and you do not receive the schedule electronically.

**CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART**  
 Physical Address: 106 3rd Avenue NE Freeport, MN 56331  
 Church Basement 320-836-2191

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

Total.....	\$4,989.25
Regular Adult Offering.....	3,964.05
Plate/Loose.....	491.20
Votive.....	92.00
School Support.....	262.00
Thanksgiving.....	110.00
Christmas.....	10.00
Christmas Flowers.....	40.00
Immaculate Conception.....	10.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	10.00

**Parish Events**

We	12/04	4:30 pm	Marion Consecration Mini Session - NM
We	12/04	5:30 pm	Praise and Worship Adoration
We	12/04	6:00 pm	Elementary Faith Formation Grades 1-6
We	12/04	7:00 pm	Faith Formation Grades 7-10
We	12/04	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples
Fr	12/06	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	12/06	9:00 am	24 Hour Adoration Starts
Fr	12/06	3:00 pm	Confirmation Service Project
Sa	12/07	8:00 am	24 Hour Adoration Ends
Sa	12/07	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass
Sa	12/07	8:00 am	Confirmation Service Project
Su	12/07	9:00 am	CUF Member Breakfast & Meeting

**Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
 (Holy Day of Obligation)

**Monday, December 9**

- 8:00 am St. Andrew, Greenwald (School Mass)
- 8:00 am St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa
- 8:15 am Sacred Heart, Freeport (School Mass)
- 8:30 am St. Mary, Melrose (School Mass)
- 6:30 pm St. Mary, Melrose (Misa en Español)
- 7:00 pm Immaculate Conception, New Munich
- 7:30 pm St. Michael, Spring Hill



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

**Catholic United Financial #101** will be hosting a Membership Breakfast on Sunday, December 8 after the 8:00 am Mass. All members and their families are invited to attend. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, fellowship, goodie bags for the kids and Bingo for door prizes. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Shelf.



**Sacristy/Sanctuary Cleaning** The parish is looking for volunteers to help clean the sacristy and sanctuary. Cleaners typically work in teams of 2 and are assigned to clean once every 1-2 months. Please contact the Parish Office in Freeport if you have questions or are willing to assist with this ministry.


**Prayer Requests...**  
 Please call the parish office to be added to this list.

**For the Sick:** Dorothy Schneider, Joan Schlicht, John Niehaus, Joyce Hauser, Laura Beuning, Lori Austing, Petra Oevermann, Sandy Welle, Tony Niehaus

**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

**Sacrament of Confession**



- **Communal Celebration with Individual Confession:**
  - Wednesday December 4 4:00 - 5:30 pm St. Mary, Melrose
  - 6:30 - 8:00 pm St. Mary, Melrose
  - Sunday December 8 7:00 pm St. Andrew, Greenwald
  - Wednesday December 11 7:00 pm Sacred Heart, Freeport
- **Individual Celebration:**
  - Fridays 7:45 am Sacred Heart, Freeport
  - Saturdays 3:30 - 3:50 pm St. Andrew, Greenwald
  - Saturdays 3:30 pm Immaculate Conception, New Munich
  - Saturdays 4:30 - 4:50 pm St. Mary, Melrose
  - Sundays 12:00 - 12:20 pm St. Mary, Melrose
  - Tuesday December 17 St. Rose of Lima after 8:15 am Mass, St. Rosa
  - Thursday December 19 Immaculate Conception after 8:15 am Mass, New Munich

**CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
*Physical Address:* 650 Main Street  
 New Munich, MN 56356  
*Church Basement 320-837-5217*

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,575.31
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,074.69
Plate/Loose.....	316.00
Thanksgiving.....	150.00
Building/Maintenance .....	34.62

**Parish Events**

We 12/04	4:30 pm	Marion Consecration Mini Session
We 12/04	5:30 pm	Praise & Worship Adoration - FR
We 12/04	6:00 pm	Elementary FF Gr. 1-6 -FR
We 12/04	7:00 pm	FF Grades 7-10 - FR
We 12/04	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples - FR
Th 12/05	7:00 am	Adoration
Th 12/05	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Fr 12/06	9:00 am	24 Hour Adoration Start -FR
Sa 12/07	8:00 am	24 Hour Adoration Ends -FR
Sa 12/07	3:30 pm	Individual Confessions
Su 12/08	8:30 am	Private Event

**Thank You** to the New Munich Lions for their generous donation of \$3,000 towards the loan for the elevator and expansion project.

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

**Feast of Immaculate Conception Social:** There will be a social in the Gathering Space after the Immaculate Conception Mass on Monday, December 9. Everyone is welcome to join us in celebrating our Patronal Feast Day. **Servers Requested:** Chairs: Dan & Bette Frieler, Co-Chairs: Aloys & Janet Fuechtmann, Servers: Art & Kay Funk, Bruce & Jan Funk, Jeff & Tami Funk. All servers please bring cake or bars. Thank you in advance for serving.



JESUS IS THE  
**HOPE**  
 OF THE WORLD

**CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA**  
*Physical Address:* 28905 County Road 17  
 St. Rosa, MN 56331  
*Church Basement 320-836-2537*

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,836.11
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,433.85
Plate/Loose.....	242.26
Christmas Flowers.....	15.00
Thanksgiving.....	1,135.00
Building/Maintenance.....	10.00

**Parish Events**

Su 12/01	11:00 am	Catholic United Financial Mtg.
Mo 12/02	7:00 pm	Christian Women Mtg.
Tu 12/03	7:00 am	Adoration
Tu 12/03	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
We 12/04	4:30 pm	Marion Consecration Mini Session-NM
We 12/04	5:30 pm	Praise & Worship Adoration - FR
We 12/04	6:00 pm	Elementary FF Gr. 1-6 - FR
We 12/04	7:00 pm	FF Grades 7-10 - FR
We 12/04	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples - FR
Fr 12/06	9:00 am	24 Hour Adoration Starts -FR
Fr 12/06	7:30 pm	Rosary
Sa 12/07	8:00 am	24 Hour Adoration Ends -FR
Sa 12/07	10:00 am	Private Event

**St. Rose Christian Women Meeting** Monday, December 2 at 7:00 pm in the church basement. Appetizers, \$15 gift exchange, and free will offering for serving wine for Cura Melrose residents. All members are invited and anyone who is considering joining the Christian Women! We are also looking for a Vice President for the 2025-2026 year!



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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$900.75
Regular Adult Offering.....	262.00
Children's Envelopes.....	0.75
Plate/Loose .....	98.00
Cemetery.....	50.00
Fuel Fund.....	240.00
Thanksgiving.....	250.00

**Liturgical Ministries**  
**Sunday, December 8 - 10:00 am**  
**(S)** Landon Schmidt & Eleanor Schmidt  
**(L)** Lisa Wuertz  
**(U)** Chico Welle & Ron Welle  
**(EM) (B)** Melvin Kalthoff  
**(EM) (C)** John & Sharon Schulzetenberg  
**(Sacristan)** John & Sharon Schulzetenberg  
**(RL)** Kathy Welle  
**(CC)** Chico Welle & Steve Welle  
**(HK: Nov. 24 – Dec. 7)** Sharon Schulzetenberg, Mary Ann Spanier, & Mary Stalboerger

**Parish Leadership Council** will meet on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:30 pm in the church basement.

**Annual Meeting and Christmas Party** for Catholic United Financial Council #126 of Spring Hill will be held on Sunday, December 1 in the church basement. Membership meeting at 12:30 pm, kids games at 1:00 pm and Santa will come at 2:30 pm. There will be a potluck lunch. All are welcome to join us.

**St. Mary's Mission Christmas Party** will be Saturday, December 14 at 1:00 pm in the church basement. There will be a potluck lunch and \$5 gift exchange. New members are always welcome.

**HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA**  
*Look for more information about these and other events in Central Minnesota Catholic Magazine or Local Paper or Online*

**December 4, Wednesday**  
 ◆**Quilting** at 1:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All are welcome.  
 ◆**Feet First Clinic** at the Senior Center in Freeport. Please call to make an appointment 320-836-2450. Free will offering.

**December 7, Saturday**  
 ◆**Rec Club & Community Christmas Party & Annual Meeting** at Extra Innings Bar & Grill in Spring Hill, MN 7:00 pm meal with meeting to follow.

**December 11, Wednesday**  
 ◆**Quilting** at 1:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All are welcome.

**December 12, Thursday**  
 ◆**Free Health Clinic** at the Melrose Senior Center located in the Melrose City Center from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. First come, first served. You don't need health insurance to see a doctor. Free consultation with a family doctor. School vaccinations (by appointment only). If you have a chronic condition, we can help you contact a clinic, but there will be a cost that you must cover. Information about other community resources. We will have flu and COVID-19 vaccines available! For more information contact Julia Gordon 320-251-2700 ext. 53630.

**CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW**

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$2,159.00
Regular Adult Offering .....	1,090.00
Plate/Loose .....	82.00
Votives .....	17.00
Thanksgiving.....	250.00
Donations.....	200.00
Fuel Fund.....	500.00
Maintenance.....	20.00

**Liturgical Ministries**

**Saturday, December 7 - 4:00 pm**

- (S) Sophia Kasper & Lydia Kasper
- (L) Julie Kulzer
- (U) Bob Worms & Jon Worms
- (GB) Steve & Kathy Gilk
- (EM) (B) Kris Winter
- (EM) (C) Clarine Beier & Herman Lensing
- (HK - December) \*Wanda Ahrens, Angie Barten, Ann Barten, & Clarine Beier

**Calendar Raffle Winners:** Catholic United Financial #324  are listed below:

- 11/24 \$50 Cheryl Braun
- 11/25 \$25 Dale Meyer
- 11/26 \$25 Tyler & Tracy Rademacher
- 11/27 \$25 Linda Trisko
- 11/28 \$150 Phil Meyer
- 11/29 \$50 Joan Rademacher
- 11/30 \$50 Linda Trisko

Thank you to all who sold or bought raffle tickets for our first annual calendar raffle.

**EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)**

St. Andrew's now has the option for EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)! If you are interested in signing up to handle your contributions to the church in this way, please pick up a form at the church, check the parish website ([oneinfaith.org/standrews](http://oneinfaith.org/standrews)), or stop in the parish office. The first transaction is scheduled for January 15, 2025. Please have signed forms to the office before Friday, January 10.

**Public Rosary...**

We have many intentions to pray for and much to be thankful for.  
*All are invited and welcome!*

- 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.



**CHURCH OF ST. JOHN**

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$7,248.25
Regular Adult Offering.....	949.00
Children.....	0.75
Plate/Loose .....	183.00
Votives.....	31.00
Fuel Fund.....	10.00
Donations.....	500.00
Thanksgiving.....	850.00
Maintenance.....	90.00
Equity from Co-op.....	4,634.50

**Liturgical Ministries**

**Sunday, December 8 - 8:00 am**

- (S) Isaac Zenzen & Collin Kelzer
- (L) Kurt Meyer
- (U) Tim Meyer & Jeron Nathe
- (GB) Daryl & Abby Zenzen
- (EM) (B) Nick Kelzer & Jim Leukam
- (EM) (C) Char Meyer & Dan Meyer
- (HK - December) \*Martha Meyer, Rita Meyer, Virginia Meyer, Brenda Nathe, Virginia Nathe, & Geri Primus

**One in Faith ACC Schools Gift Card Programs**

A gift card rebate program that allows you to purchase your everyday items with gift cards and earn money for our area Catholic schools without paying any extra money! A percentage of each gift card will be donated back to the area Catholic schools. Each school has a variety of local and national gift cards available to purchase.  
**\*Gift cards are great gift ideas!**



**HISPANIC MINISTRY**

**¡Celebración de nuestra Señora de Guadalupe!**

El Ministerio Hispano de la Iglesia de Santa Maria los invita a todos ustedes a la celebración de nuestra señora de Guadalupe el sábado 7 de diciembre. Iniciaremos con el santo rosario a las 5:30 am, para seguir con las mañanitas a las 6:00 am dirigidas por los coros parroquiales. A las 7:00 am se ofrecerá chocolate caliente, café y pan mientras inicia la participación de una banda musical. La Misa de acción de Gracias será bilingüe a las 6:00 pm. Después, se realizará una representación de las 4 apariciones guadalupanas y para terminar se ofrecerá una cena mientras nos deleitamos con la música del mariachi Cristo Rey.



**¡Trajes típicos!** Está totalmente permitido usar los trajes típicos originarios de nuestros países de origen o comunidades indígenas para la Festividad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Los invitamos a que hagamos de esta festividad una celebración llena de colores, cultura y sobre todo de Fe.

**¡Posadas!** Este año celebraremos de una forma diferente la preparación para la Navidad. Nuestra comunidad celebra las posadas de una forma muy tradicional y este año queremos realizarlas algo parecido a lo que estamos acostumbrados. Si tu deseas recibir una posada en tu hogar habla con cualquier miembro del Consejo hispano para anotarte en la lista o llama a la oficina parroquial de lunes a viernes de 8:00 am a 12:00 pm.

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**Prayers, Mass, and Celebration Saturday, December 7 St. Mary's, Melrose**

- Morning:**
- 5:30 am Rosary (Spanish)
  - 6:00 am Songs to Mary (Spanish)
  - 7:00 am Hot Chocolate & Breads served
- Evening:**
- 6:00 pm Bilingual Mass
  - 7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Play, Ethnic Food, & Fellowship

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



## FAITH FORMATION

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

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

- **Grades 1, 3-6: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 4. Classroom Lesson 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Please meet in the parish office.
- **Grade 2: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 4 at 6:00 pm. Please meet in the parish office.
- **Grade 7-10: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 pm. Bring your Bible, books, notebook, and pen. Meet in your classroom.
- **Grade 1-12: Winter Family Fellowship Night** Wednesday, December 11 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 making tie fleece blankets and collecting donations for the Eagle's Healing Nest.

### Service Project:

- **Christmas Caroling** Saturday, December 7 from 1:30 - 5:00 pm. We will meet in Immaculate Conception church basement. We will sing carols for the residents at local care facilities. We will end the evening with Mass in New Munich.

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

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

- **All Classes: Advent Reconciliation Liturgies:** Wednesday, December 4, 4:00 OR 6:30 pm (attend whichever is more convenient for your family), St. Mary's Church.
- **First Reconciliation/Communion Class:** We are asking parents and students to come to one of the Wednesday night parish reconciliation liturgies (you can choose whichever time is more convenient for you - 4:00 or 6:30 pm) on Wednesday, December 4. For the first part of the liturgy (about 20 minutes), we will sit together as a class, so that students can see what a reconciliation liturgy looks like. Then when the other parishioners start going to individual confession, we will leave the liturgy and go to the gathering space. In the gathering space, we will take about 20 minutes to explain to students and parents a little bit more about what your First Reconciliation liturgy in January will look like.

## 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)

- **Middle School Lock-In for Grades 6-8:** Saturday - Sunday, January 25-26 starting at 8:00 pm at the St. Cloud YMCA. This lock-in will have Mass, great food, swimming, dodgeball, gaga ball, prayer opportunities, wallyball, a silent disco, game shows, 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. Cost - \$56 prior to January 16 and \$66 after January 16. Registration forms are available on the parish websites. Contact Chrystal Sand at [csand@catholic-centered.org](mailto:csand@catholic-centered.org) or 320-836-2143, or Pam Pundsack at [pam@stmarysofamelrose.org](mailto:pam@stmarysofamelrose.org) or 320-256-9503 with questions.
- **Castaway Retreat for Grades 9-12:** Friday - Sunday, March 28-30 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 52 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 - \$200. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, February 5 with a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Registration forms are available on the parish websites. Contact Chrystal Sand at [csand@catholic-centered.org](mailto:csand@catholic-centered.org) or 320-836-2143, or Pam Pundsack at [pam@stmarysofamelrose.org](mailto:pam@stmarysofamelrose.org) or 320-256-9503 with questions.
- **Bible & Breakfast** Students in grades 7-12 are invited to enjoy scripture and breakfast with peers at the Melrose Area High School ITV Room 203. We will meet on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:00 am. If there is no school or a late start, we will not meet. To register contact Chrystal at 320-266-5554.

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

**Radiating Joy: The Michelle Duppong Story** is the story of Servant of God Michelle Duppong, who bore witness to Christ through heroic suffering and a passion for inviting others to be transformed by His love. Michelle was a native of North Dakota and a FOCUS missionary for whom a Cause of Beatification and Canonization has been initiated. The film, directed by Danny Anderson, tells the story of Michelle's beautiful and faith-filled life, especially during her diagnosis, treatment, and death. There is interest in having this movie brought to Main Street Theatre in Sauk Centre, however, before they can request the movie and set a date, there would need to be at least 60 people committed to attend the movie. If you are interested in having the opportunity to see this movie, please contact the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport to sign up.

**Holiday Décor** Do you need a centerpiece or mini tree for your table? The Tri-Parish Youth Group has some available for purchase as part of their annual fundraiser. Contact the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport at 320-836-2143 to purchase. This is a great way to support the Tri-Parish Youth Group and enjoy beautiful holiday décor.



**Rural Catholic Middle Ages Singles Group:** Join us for prayer, topical information, discussions, and social activities for people ages 30-60 who are looking to socialize with other single adults. We meet at 7:00 pm on the second Saturday (December 14) of each month at All Saints-St. Mary's Church basement in Holdingford (on River Street). Call or text Janel at 320-290-2877 for more information.

### Advent Enrichment Materials and Advent Brochures



with confessions opportunities, Advent Service Projects, Mass times, and more are available in the back of 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.

**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).

• Advent Day of Prayer for Men & Women - December 4

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



**PASTOR:** Fr. Dan Walz  
**PRINCIPAL:** Kristie Harren  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**  
 Amy Van Beck  
**SHS BOARD:**  
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 Ben Kalthoff, Tamara Welle,  
 Lindsay Frieler, and Jenelle Herkenhoff  
 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:**  
 Cory Ellering, Bob Arceneau,  
 Jenn Lubarski, Cindy Hemmesch,  
 Jake Primus, and Pat Christenson  
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 www.smsmelrosemn.org



**PASTOR:** Fr. Mitchell Bechtold  
**PRINCIPAL:** Mary Miller  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**  
 Kristen Pattinson  
**SJSA BOARD:**  
 Kathy Gilk, Adam Kalthoff, Kate  
 Kelzer, Kurt Meyer, Trista Meyer,  
 Jenny Wilson, and Kristi Zimmer  
 Phone: 320-987-3133  
 www.sjsaschool.org

- ♥ **Thank You** for attending The Johnny Holm Band on Friday, November 29. Also, thank you to the "Friends of Sacred Heart" for always organizing a great event!
- ♥ Sacred Heart School kicked off their **Advent Service Project** this week. We will be collecting items for Options for Women in Sauk Centre, MN as well as toys for Toys for Tots. Donations for both organizations can be brought to the school before Monday, December 16.
- ♥ **Santa Days** will be at the Sacred Heart School Gym again on Friday, December 6 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. Come get your picture taken with Santa, enjoy some food, games, cookie decorating, and more!
- ♥ **Need some Gift Cards for Christmas Gifts?** SHS will be putting in a Scrip order on Tuesday, December 3. Please stop in at the office to place your order.
- ♥ Watch for the **Sacred Heart School Raffle Calendars** that will be in soon! They are just \$25 a calendar with 367 chances to win. These make GREAT Christmas gifts!
- ♥ **Thank You** to Stearns Electric for the \$500 Operation Round Up Grant that we are going to use for new smoke detectors.
- ♥ **Looking Ahead:**
  - **Save the Date:** SHS Wine & Dine Fundraiser will be on Saturday, January 25 at the Freeport Community Center. Cash raffle tickets and dinner tickets are in circulation. Please reach out to a SHS family or contact the office if you would like a ticket.

### Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

11/24	\$25	Norb & Audrey Overman - Albany
11/25	\$25	Amy Sand - Freeport
11/26	\$25	Brenda Goebel - Freeport
11/27	\$25	Mike Sellner - Richmond
11/28	\$120	Joel Welle - Freeport
11/29	\$25	Ben Atkinson - Freeport
11/30	\$25	Lisa Moscho - Freeport

- ♦ **Advent Prayer Services** will be held on Mondays, December 2, 9, and 16, at 2:15 pm in the school gym. You are welcome to attend.
- ♦ **Students in Grades 3 - 6** receive reconciliation this coming week.
- ♦ **School Mass** on Friday, December 6, will be a regular week day Mass at 8:30 am. Students will plan the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass for Monday, December 9. There will be a regular school Mass on Friday, December 13.
- ♦ **For Advent**, the students and staff at St. Mary's will collect new winter gloves, washcloths, Ziploc bags, paper plates, and paper towels for Eagle's Healing Nest. Please feel free to help us collect these items, which can be dropped off at the school entrance.
- ♦ St. Mary's School is holding an **SMSS4Kids Incentive Drive** to raise funds for acoustics in the gym. You can help by starting or continuing to use the scrip program for your daily shopping or upcoming holiday purchases. The amount earned from purchasing the scrip cards will go towards the acoustics.
- ♦ **Save The Date!** St. Mary's Christmas Program is at the Marit Elliot Performing Arts Center, Melrose Area School, on Wednesday, December 11, at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. The Little Saints program is on Friday, December 13, at 10:00 am in the SMS gym.
- ♦ **St. Mary's School's Auction 4 Education** will be held on Saturday, March 1, at the Legion. The theme this year is Stayin' Alive in '25.

- ♦ **Harry's Pizza Sale and Mrs. Field's Cookie Dough Sale** It's time to stock up for the holidays! SJSA students are selling pizzas and cookie dough now through Thursday, December 5. You can also order by calling the school at 320-987-3133. Pizza and cookie dough pick-up is Saturday, December 14 from 9:00-10:00 am.
- ♦ **Monday, December 9** is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. SJSA students will attend the 8:00 am Mass at St. Andrew's.
- ♦ **It's the Day Before with The Mystery of the Manger.** SJSA students in grades K-6 will present *It's the Day Before with The Mystery of the Manger* on Thursday, December 19 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Church in Greenwald. All are welcome! Refreshments will be served after each program.
- ♦ **Preschool Christmas Program** is Thursday, December 19 at 1:00 pm at St. Andrew's Church. The preschoolers will be the "Opening Act" for the K-6 afternoon program.
- ♦ **Advent Service Project:** *"For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."* Matthew 25:35 Not everyone is privileged enough to have a place to call home. Being homeless can make it a struggle to fulfill basic needs. Catholic Charities of St. Cloud is collecting Blessing Bags for the homeless this Advent season. As an Advent service project, SJSA students are collecting personal care items December 2-13 to put together Blessing Bags. Personal care items can include: socks, gloves, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, bar soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, personal size tissues, comb or brush, deodorant, washcloths, lip balm, and water bottles. Gift bags, Christmas cards and spiritual notes of encouragement are also welcome. If you would like to donate, please drop items off at SJSA during the school hours (7:30 am - 3:30 pm). Thank you!

### The Scriptures This Week Year C, Weekdays - Cycle I

<b>Mo</b>	Is 2:1-5	Mt 8:5-11
<b>Tu</b>	<b>Saint Francis Xavier, Priest</b> Is 11:1-10	Lk 10:21-24
<b>We</b>	Is 25:6-10a	Mt 15:29-37
<b>Th</b>	Is 26:1-6	Mt 7:21, 24-27
<b>Fr</b>	Is 29:17-24	Mt 9:27-31
<b>Sa</b>	<b>Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</b> Is 30:19-21, 23-26	Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
<b>Next Sunday - Second Sunday of Advent</b>	Bar 5:1-9	Phil 1:4-6, 8-11
		Lk 3:1-6



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