



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 8, 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@stmarysofmelrose.com

Office Email: pam@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

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

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.



Removing the Obstacles to Grace

“Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” Luke 3:5-6

These, the words of the prophet Isaiah, were spoken about the mission of Saint John the Baptist. John was to “Prepare the way of the Lord” and to “make straight his paths.” In prophesying this, Isaiah goes on to give this very descriptive image of John’s ministry. It would be one that levels mountains and valleys, straightens every winding road, and smooths out the rough terrain. In other words, John came to remove every obstacle to God, making it easy to encounter the Messiah.

How does John complete this mission? By calling the people of that time to the dry and empty desert where all the false allurements cease to exist. This is done by detachment from the many sins and temptations they faced. Their repentance was an act by which the people humbled themselves before God, admitted their sins and acknowledged their need for a Savior. This humble admission, coupled with the commitment to change their ways, prepared heart after heart for the grace and mercy that came through Christ the Lord.

Today, there are countless obstacles to grace that so many people encounter. Some have been drawn into the satisfactions of earthly riches and material comforts and find little need for God. Others have very little that this world can offer but are consumed with a desire for money and the passing comforts it promises. And still others are drawn into many other forms of sins and false satisfactions. But there are some who are like a dry and deserted desert, just waiting to soak up the gentle rain of God’s grace. These are those who have sought to detach themselves from the false promises of this world and remain “empty” and “dry” so as to be prepared for the abundance of grace when it comes. These holy souls have heeded the call to repentance and have humbly acknowledged their need for the Savior.

Reflect, today, upon whether or not your soul is like that dry and barren desert, detached from all the false and passing satisfactions of this world, and prepared to soak up the mercy and grace of God alone. Repentance brings forth detachment, and detachment prepares the soul for God. When one is truly detached and free from the many obstacles to God, then the road from God to your soul will be straight and easily traveled. Reflect upon your soul today and where you see unhealthy attachments. Repent with all your heart so that you are among those most fully ready for an abundance of the grace and mercy of God.

Lord, I turn to You in my need and repent of the many lies and false promises of satisfaction in this world. Please free me from all that is not of You so that my soul will be more fully prepared to soak You and Your mercy up like a gentle rain upon a dry and barren desert. I open myself to You, my Lord. Come fill and satiate my soul. Jesus, I trust in You.

mycatholic.life

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ DECEMBER 9 - 15

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo 8:30 am Immaculate Conception Mass
SM School Mass
 †Marcella Blenker
Mo 6:30 pm Misa en Español
 †Manuel Ramirez
 †Aurora Raya
Tu 8:00 am †Bernie & †Mary Schad
We 8:00 am †Ernest Meyer
Th 8:00 am Fr. Newton
Fr 8:30 am †Bill Massmann
Sa 5:00 pm †Doochie & †Shawn Salzl
***Su 10:00 am** †Arlene Arnzen
Su 12:30 pm Misa en Español
 Por el Pueblo

SACRED HEART - Freeport

Mo 8:15 am Immaculate Conception Mass
SH School Mass
 Fr. Dan
We 8:15 am SH School Mass
 †Paige Luethmers
Fr 8:15 am †Betty Goebel
Su 8:00 am †Alex & †Gertie Cremers

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Mo 7:00 pm Immaculate Conception Mass
 †Kathleen "Kathy" Wolbeck
Th 8:15 am Special Intention
Sa 4:00 pm †Howard & †Lois Adams
 †Jackson Neuens-Studer

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Mo 8:00 am Immaculate Conception Mass
 For the People
Tu 8:15 am †Jeannette Kerfeld
Su 10:00 am For the People

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill

Mo 7:30 pm Immaculate Conception Mass
 †David Schoenborn
Tu 8:00 am †Christ Wander
Su 10:00 am †Lisa Schoenberg

ST. ANDREW - Greenwald

Mo 8:00 am Immaculate Conception Mass
SJSA School Mass
 †Asha Gregory
Th 8:00 am †Viola Berscheid
Sa 4:00 pm †Lloyd Lucken

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

We 8:00 am †Lucille Imdieke
Su 8:00 am †Rosie & †Perry Meyer



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

***Mass will be livestreamed.**

Visit: oneinfaith.org for the YouTube link.

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** If you would still like to sign up for texts from the church, please visit eva.us/oneinfaith to sign up. You can also contact the parish office if you'd like help.
- **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.

Thank You The Freeport Christian Women would like to thank everyone who came to our Holiday Quarter Craze. We raised over \$1,300 and so appreciate the Freeport Community Center for donating the space for our event. It was a fun evening and we look forward to our Spring event next year. Special thank you to the Knights of Columbus for working with us to get our gambling license. This event couldn't happen without our community support.

The 34th Annual Steak and Wine Dinner and Auction to support St John's-St Andrew's Catholic School will be February 8, at The Greenwald Pub. Tickets cost \$35 and are now available at the school, QPC in Meire Grove, Freeport State Bank in Greenwald, as well as the night of the event at the Pub. Online auction takes place the week leading up to the event, with the live auction taking place on Saturday night. Donny Brang will be playing live music during supper. More info to come!



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.
- **"Shower for Baby Jesus"** The Christian Women organizations from Immaculate Conception, Sacred Heart, and St. Rose of Lima are hosting a "Baby Shower for Jesus" this Advent. There is a bassinet in each of the churches to put new or like-new items for infants through age 4. Car seats are an especially difficult item for the site to obtain. All donations will be given to Options for Women, a crisis pregnancy center in Sauk Centre.

Tri-Parish Faith Formation 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.



Advent Healing Mass You are invited to join the Crosier Fathers and Brothers at the National Shrine of St. Odilia in Onamia on Sunday, December 15, at 9:00 am, for an Advent Healing Mass. The Mass will include the Anointing of the Sick and the ritual of blessing with the Relic of St. Odilia. Coffee and rolls will be served following the Mass. All are welcome! For further information call 320-532-3103 or email onamia@crosier.org.

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

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

Total.....	\$21,252.50
Regular Adult Offering	17,544.00
Plate/Loose	1,904.00
Designated Funds	1,804.50

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle



12-01	\$25	Lenore Jenc - Sauk Centre
12-02	\$25	Kevin O'Brien - Rogers
12-03	\$25	Rosalie A. Welle - Melrose
12-04	\$25	Bill Latzka - Melrose
12-05	\$25	Duane & Carol Hiltner - Melrose
12-06	\$25	Chelsea Mattos - Denver, CO
12-07	\$25	Renee Kemper - Melrose

Fellowship There will be refreshments served after all the Masses this next weekend, December 14/15 at St. Mary's. Please plan to come and stay awhile!

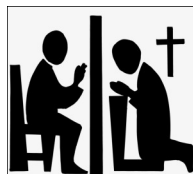
St. Mary's Mission Society Meeting on Wednesday, December 11 at St. Mary's Church at 8:45 am. All are welcome!

Calendar Raffle We are in the last month! You can still purchase tickets at Magnifi - Melrose, Freeport State Bank - Melrose, and the parish office. Committee members will also be selling before and after most weekend Masses.

The Scriptures This Week
 Year C, Weekdays - Cycle I

Mo	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38
Tu	Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14
We	Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30
Th	Our Lady of Guadalupe Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Fr	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19
Sa	Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:19a, 10-13
Next Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent Zep 3:14-18a Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18	

Sacrament of Confession



- **Communal Celebration with Individual Confession:**
 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 THE SACRED HEART

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

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

Total.....	\$13,085.32
Regular Adult Offering.....	3,312.85
Plate/Loose.....	479.22
Votive.....	99.25
School Support.....	100.00
Thanksgiving Envelopes.....	8,029.00
Thanksgiving Plate.....	150.00
Christmas.....	150.00
Christmas Flowers.....	715.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	50.00

Parish Events

Su	12/08	9:00 am	CUF Member Breakfast & Meeting
Tu	12/10	1:00 pm	SHS Confessions
Tu	12/10	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
We	12/11	2:00 pm	SHS First Confessions
We	12/11	6:00 pm	Faith Formation First Confession
We	12/11	7:00 pm	Communal Confession
We	12/11	7:00 pm	Faith Formation Winter Fellowship
Fr	12/13	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	12/13	9:00 am	Adoration

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

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

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

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$22,460.31
Regular Adult Offering.....	17,500.69
Plate/Loose.....	480.00
Thanksgiving Envelopes.....	4,180.00
Thanksgiving Plate.....	90.00
Christmas Flowers.....	175.00
Building/Maintenance	34.62

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$5,910.35
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,403.85
Plate/Loose.....	276.50
Christmas Flowers.....	80.00
Thanksgiving Envelopes.....	3,625.00
Thanksgiving Plate.....	525.00

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$4,224.50
Regular Adult Offering.....	338.00
Plate/Loose	309.00
Votives.....	153.00
Bake Sale.....	389.50
Fuel Fund.....	50.00
Thanksgiving.....	2,985.00

Parish Events

Su 12/08	8:30 am	Private Event
Mo 12/09	8:00 pm	Social
We 12/11	6:00 pm	FF First Confession - FR
We 12/11	7:00 pm	Communal Confession - FR
We 12/11	7:00 pm	FF Winter Fellowship - FR
Th 12/12	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sa 12/14	3:30 pm	Individual Confessions

Parish Events

Tu 12/10	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
We 12/11	6:00 pm	FF First Confession - FR
We 12/11	7:00 pm	Communal Confession - FR
We 12/11	7:00 pm	FF Winter Fellowship - FR
Th 12/12	6:00 pm	Setup for Jaycee's Kids Christmas Party
Fr 12/13	7:30 pm	Rosary
Sa 12/14	10:00 am	Jaycee's Kids Christmas Party

Liturgical Ministries
Immaculate Conception Mass
Monday, December 9 - 7:30 pm
 (S) Kenny Niehoff
 (L) Ralph Klassen
 (U) Steve Welle & Hugo Wuertz
 (EM) (B) Nick Waldorf
 (EM) (C) Kathy Welle & Adam Kalthoff
 (Sacristan) Ruth Heinen
 (RL) Marilyn Gruber
 (CC) Sandra Gruber & Kathy LeClaire

Liturgical Ministries
Sunday, December 15 - 10:00 am
 (S) Olivia Kalthoff & Stella Schoenberg
 (L) Pete LeClaire
 (U) Peter Wuertz & Randy Barten
 (EM) (B) Jenny Kalthoff
 (EM) (C) No Precious Blood
 (Sacristan) Lisa Feldewerd
 (RL) Kathy Welle
 (CC) Stan Heinen & Melvin Kalthoff
 (HK: Dec. 8 - 21) Rhonda Sunderman, Bre Terres, & Brenda Terres

Calendar Raffle Winners
 Catholic United Financial December 2024

12-01	\$100	Gary & Ashley Feldewerd
12-02	\$40	Phil Poepping
12-03	\$40	Dave Ehlert
12-04	\$40	Elmer Boecker
12-05	\$40	Chad Thielen
12-06	\$40	Kevin Massman
12-07	\$40	Tara Christian
12-08	\$100	April Rademacher



Welcome to our Parish... We welcome Adam & Jeni Eckblad to our parish.



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.

Thank You to all who attended the Immaculate Conception Church Fall Harvest Supper which made a profit of \$4,888.87. Thanks to all the workers and donators of this great fundraiser.
 ~Fall Supper Committee

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 11, Wednesday**
 ♦ **Quilting** at 1:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All are welcome.
 ♦ **World Service Holiday Luncheon** hosted by the New Munich Lions Club at the City Hall in New Munich. Lunch will be served at 12:00 pm. Bingo will be played for prizes. All seniors 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.
- December 14, Saturday**
 ♦ **Breakfast with Santa** at Hotshots Bar & Grill in New Munich, MN sponsored by the New Munich Lions. Come for breakfast and stay for the kids activities from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.
 ♦ **St. Rose Jaycees Children's Christmas Party** from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm in the church basement.
 ♦ **Santa Claus is coming to Greenwald** at 1:00 pm in the Rec building. There will be treats, prizes, and rides. This event is sponsored by the Greenwald Rec Club and everyone is invited.

Advent Giving Trees The Faith Formation students have once again decorated the Advent Giving Trees using paper ornaments with Food Shelf suggestions written on them. Please take an ornament (or 3), purchase the suggested items and place them back under the tree prior to Wednesday, December 25. The students will pick up and deliver the donated items to the Melrose Food Shelf before Wednesday, January 1. Thank you for your help and generosity!



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

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

HISPANIC MINISTRY

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$3,061.00
Regular Adult Offering	1,210.00
Plate/Loose	143.00
Votives	27.00
Thanksgiving.....	1,571.00
Cemetery.....	50.00
School Subsidy.....	5.00
Maintenance.....	35.00
Christmas Flowers.....	20.00

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$4,230.25
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,170.00
Children.....	0.25
Plate/Loose	276.00
Votives.....	64.00
School Subsidy.....	105.00
Thanksgiving.....	1,555.00
Steeple Lighting.....	60.00

¡Agradecimiento! El consejo parroquial Hispano de la Iglesia de Santa Maria agradece a todas las personas que nos apoyaron económicamente o con alimentos para realizar la celebración de nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Más adelante realizaremos el corte de caja para dar cuentas de los gastos. Gracias a todos también por asistir y hacer de esta celebración un ambiente de armonía, felicidad y 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.

¡Rosca de reyes! El domingo 5 de enero se partirá la rosca de reyes después de misa por este motivo los invitamos a que hagan sus planes para quedarse con nosotros para convivir como Iglesia y hermanos en Cristo que somos.

Liturgical Ministries
Immaculate Conception Mass
Monday, December 9 - 8:00 am
 (S) SJSA Students
 (L) SJSA Students
 (U) Volunteers Needed
 (GB) SJSA Students
 (EM) (B) Volunteers Needed
 (EM) (C) Volunteers Needed

Liturgical Ministries
Sunday, December 15 - 8:00 am
 (S) Faith Meyer & Miranda Meyer
 (L) Rita Meyer
 (U) Andrew Primus & Josh Primus
 (GB) Jamey & Shannon Groetsch
 (EM) (B) Karl Meyer & Sue Meyer
 (EM) (C) No Precious Blood
 (HK - December) *Martha Meyer, Rita Meyer, Virginia Meyer, Brenda Nathe, Virginia Nathe, & Geri Primus

Liturgical Ministries
Saturday, December 14 - 4:00 pm
 (S) Aubrey Stepan & Emily Stepan
 (L) Herman Lensing
 (U) Jeff Ahrens & Jason Barten
 (GB) Pete & Linda Heinze
 (EM) (B) Mike Barten
 (EM) (C) No Precious Blood
 (HK - December) *Wanda Ahrens, Angie Barten, Ann Barten, & Clarine Beier

Advent Giving Trees The Faith Formation students have once again decorated the Advent Giving Trees using paper ornaments with Food Shelf suggestions written on them. Please take an ornament (or 3), purchase the suggested items and place them back under the tree prior to Wednesday, December 25. The students will pick up and deliver the donated items to the Melrose Food Shelf before Wednesday, January 1. Thank you for your help and generosity!

Finance and Leadership Meetings: St. Andrew's Parish Finance and Leadership councils will meet in the SJSA school basement on Thursday, December 12: Finance at 6:30 pm and Leadership at 7:00 pm.

Advent Giving Trees... The Faith Formation students have once again decorated the Advent Giving Trees using paper ornaments with Food Shelf suggestions written on them. Please take an ornament (or 3), purchase the suggested items and place them back under the tree prior to Wednesday, December 25. The students will pick up and deliver the donated items to the Melrose Food Shelf before Wednesday, January 1. Thank you for your help and generosity!

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), 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.

Knights of Columbus
St. Joseph the Worker Council
December 2024
Calendar Raffle Winners

12-01	\$100	Al Herzog
12-02	\$20	Mike Ronweiler
12-03	\$40	Dan Roerick
12-04	\$60	Joe Eibensteiner
12-05	\$20	Jim Schmiesing
12-06	\$40	Donald Novotny
12-07	\$60	Barb Hammer
12-08	\$100	Dianne Herkenhoff




Christmas Programs

St. Mary's School:
 Wednesday, December 11 at 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM at Marit Elliot Auditorium

St. Mary's Little Saints:
 Friday, December 13 at 10:00 AM at St. Mary's School Gym

SJSA School:
 Thursday, December 19 at 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM at St. Andrew's Church, Greenwald

Sacred Heart School:
 Thursday, December 19 at 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM at Sacred Heart School Gym



FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: csand@catholic-centered.org

- **Grades 1, 3-6: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 11. Home Lesson.
- **Grade 2: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 11 at 6:00 pm. First Confession, meet in the church.
- **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.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

- **Grades 7/8: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 11, 7:15-8:30 pm, St. Mary's Church. Finding God in the stranger. Students and some parents.
- **Confirmation: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 11, 7:15-8:30 pm, St. Mary's Church. Topic of the night: The Vineyard: What needs pruning in my life? Students and adult mentor, sponsor or parent.
- **First Communion: Next Class:** Saturday, December 14, 9:00-10:30 am, St. Mary's Church. Students only.

YOUTH MINISTRY

One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

Contact Information: youthministry@catholic-centered.org
or faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.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 or 320-836-2143, or Pam Pundsack at pam@stmarysofmelrose.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 or 320-836-2143, or Pam Pundsack at pam@stmarysofmelrose.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 Media Center. 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

Marriage Encounter Give the best gift possible this CHRISTmas, an awesome marriage! Make plans today to attend the December 14-15 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington. Information and register at: www.marriages.org. Questions please call 651-454-3238 or email: mary@marriages.org.

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.



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.

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.



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.

- Advent Silent Retreat for Men & Women - December 13-15 (Weekend)

The St. John's Boys' Choir, beautifully accompanied by the SJBC Orchestra, presents a concert of seasonal music in the stunning St. Mary's Cathedral at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm. The Alumni Choir also returns this year, conducted by founding artistic director Br. Paul Richards. Tickets are available online and at the door www.sjbchoir.org/tickets.

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 19 and Thursday, January 16 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!

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

- Heavenly Queen and Earthly Mother: Typologies of the Virgin Mary in Art from West to East - Friday, December 13

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
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 Kelzer, Kurt Meyer, Trista Roelike,
 Jenny Wilson, and Kristi Zimmer

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

♥ **Advent Service Project** 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.

♥ **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!

♥ **SHS Christmas Program** will be on Thursday, December 19 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

♥ **We will be selling SHS Raffle Calendars** as well as Wine and Dine Cash Raffle and Dinner Tickets at the Tri-Parish Masses the next few weekends. Thank you in advance for your support.

♥ **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!

12/01	\$25	Deanna Keefe - Blaine
12/02	\$25	Deb Burg - Freeport
12/03	\$25	Jenna Middendorf - Melrose
12/04	\$25	Lucy Rieland - Melrose
12/05	\$25	Sara Arvig - Grey Eagle
12/06	\$25	Jerry Meyer - Freeport
12/07	\$25	Al Bueckers - Albany

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.

♦ **Advent Prayer Services** will be held on Mondays, December 9, and 16, at 2:15 pm in the school gym. You are welcome to attend.

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

♦ **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.

♦ **The Deadline** for Christmas SMSS4Kids orders to be delivered from RaiseRight is December 12 at 8:00 pm to ensure cards arrive at school before winter break. In-stock local cards can be purchased until December 20.

♦ **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.

♦ **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!



♦ **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.

♦ **Pizza Sale and Cookie Dough pick-up** is Saturday, December 14 from 9:00-10:00 am in the school basement. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser!

♦ **SJSA student council** has planned "15 Days of Christmas" dress up days for the month of December.

♦ **SJSA 3rd - 6th graders** will receive reconciliation on Thursday, December 12 after the morning Mass.

♦ **34th Annual Steak and Wine Dinner and Auction** to support St. John's-St. Andrew's Catholic School will be February 8, 2025 at the Greenwald Pub. Tickets cost \$35 and are now available at the school, QPC in Meire Grove, Freeport State Bank in Greenwald, as well as the night of the event at the Pub. Online auction takes place the week leading up to the event, with the live auction taking place on Saturday night. Donny Brang will be playing live music during supper. More info to come!

♦ **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.

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