



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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 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.

Turn From Sin



The crowds asked John the Baptist, *“What should we do?”* Luke 3:10

Among those within the crowds who were asking Saint John the Baptist this question were tax collectors, soldiers and ordinary people. John gave an answer to them all, first telling them to turn away from the sins that they struggled with the most. Sin takes on many forms and often is closely associated with our daily duties in life. Some sins are sins of commission, meaning sins we commit by an intentional act. Some sins are those of omission, meaning a lack of certain virtues or a failure to do what we ought to do.

After addressing the particular sins that those in the crowds were struggling with, John then turns their attention to Christ. He states to them that “one mightier than I is coming” and that “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” In other words, John was giving the people a twofold command. First, work to overcome sin. And second, turn your eyes to Him Who is coming to you. Repenting from sin is not enough. Once we repent, we must then fill the void within our souls with the presence of Christ.

Advent, just like Lent, is an important time within our liturgical year to heed these messages. Though it’s true that we must work to overcome sin and turn to Christ every day of the year, God knows we need a special time each year when we give concerted effort to these spiritual endeavors. So before Advent passes you by, heed the words of the Baptist and take some time to examine your conscience thoroughly. Perhaps use a detailed list of the Ten Commandments or the Seven Capital Sins. Once you do that, seek out an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Doing so is essential to a fruitful Advent season.

Once you thoroughly repent of the sins you struggle with the most right now, turn to the Savior of the World with special attentiveness to the miracle of the Incarnation this Advent. Spend time adoring the God Who came to us in the form of a little child. Meditate on this Gift. Gaze at a nativity scene prayerfully. Read the Scripture passages about the birth of Christ. Close your eyes and imagine yourself there at His birth.

Reflect, today, upon this twofold exhortation from John and apply it to your Advent preparations. Cleanse your soul in a special way from all sin this Advent. Then prayerfully ponder and meditate upon the reality we are preparing to celebrate. As John says, allow the Christ Child to truly “baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” through your deepening devotion and prayer this Advent.

My dear Jesus, please help me to see my sins as You see them. Help me to be attentive to every sinful action I commit and even those smaller sins of omission. As I ponder my sin, please draw me to Your mercy and grace so that I can then open the eyes of my soul more deeply to see You and to adore You more completely this Advent. Jesus, I trust in You.

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ DECEMBER 16 - 22

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo 6:30 pm **Misa en Español**
 †Juvenal Hernandez
 †Rafaela Hernandez
 †Alfredo Hernandez
 Tu 8:00 am Fr. Marvin Enneking
 We 8:00 am †Donna Kociemba
 Th 8:00 am †Marcy Blenker
 *Fr 8:30 am **SM School Mass**
 †Clarence & †Marcella Doyle
 †Donald Meyer
 Sa 5:00 pm For the People
 *Su 10:00 am **Misa en Español**
 Su 12:30 pm †Sergio Hernandez Chavez

SACRED HEART - Freeport

We 8:15 am **SH School Mass**
 †Cyrilla Michael
 Fr 8:15 am †Neil Middendorf
 Su 8:00 am †Dorothy Hollenkamp

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Th 8:15 am †Celestine "Cel" Rieland
 Sa 4:00 pm For the People

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Tu 8:15 am †Leo Eveslage
 Su 10:00 am †Joan Dobmeier

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill

Tu 8:00 am †Marcella Lieser
 Su 10:00 am †Agnes Theiler

ST. ANDREW - Greenwald

Th 8:00 am **SJSA School Mass**
 †Kim Fuechtmann
 Sa 4:00 pm †Clarence & †Gary Winter

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

We 8:00 am †Aloysius "Al" Luetmer
 Su 8:00 am †Joyce Yarke
 †Albert Yarke, Sr.
 †Mary Yarke



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!

Parish Office Holiday Hours for Melrose and Freeport office are as follows:

December 24: 9:00 am - Noon **December 25:** Closed
December 31: 9:00 am - Noon **January 1:** Closed

Prayer Requests for the Sick The prayer requests for the sick will be cleared out December 31. If you would like to be added back to the prayer list, please email bulletin@catholic-centered.org or call one of the parish offices.



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 on Saturday, December 21 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.

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 and diapers 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. If considering monetary donations, please make checks out to Christian Women of St. Rosa, Freeport or New Munich or dropped in collection notating which church.

Attention College Students Totus Tuus Leaders are needed for 2025. Leaders help with week-long summer Catholic retreats for youth across the diocese by providing lively skits, songs, and lessons in the Catholic faith. Training is provided. Brochures are available in the churches. More information is available at <https://stedio.org/vocations/totus-tuus/>, by calling 320-251-5001, or emailing vocations@gw.stedio.org.

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.



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

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

Total.....	\$10,454.96
Regular Adult Offering	6,644.00
Plate/Loose	971.64
Designated Funds	2,839.32

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle



12-08	\$125	Richard & Carla Van Heel - Melrose
12-09	\$25	Bernie Winter - Greenwald
12-10	\$25	Loren Goebel - Freeport
12-11	\$25	Ken & Dar Douvier - Melrose
12-12	\$25	Jane Seifermann - Melrose
12-13	\$50	Kevin O'Brien - Rogers
12-14	\$25	Dr. Jim & Nancy Mohs - Melrose

Calendar Raffle Get your calendar raffle tickets before they're gone! They are at Magnifi - Melrose, Freeport State Bank - Melrose, and the parish office. Committee members will also be selling before and after most weekend Masses.



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

December 18, Wednesday

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

December 19, Thursday

◆**Freeport Senior Citizens meeting** at 1:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All area seniors welcome. Bingo and 500 will be played.

December 20, Friday

◆**"All You Can Eat" Fish Fry** at the Melrose American Legion. Please join us from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Take outs are available. Your support is appreciated!

January 18, Saturday

◆**Breakfast & Bibles** with guest speaker Jaime Liestman at St. Martin Parish Hall in St. Martin, MN from 9:00 - 10:30 am. \$20 per ticket to register for this event please visit <https://www.gracevineco.com/ouevents>. Reach out to Grace Hopfer with questions at 320-333-8412 or graceandvineco@gmail.com.

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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

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

Total.....	\$7,208.65
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,023.85
Plate/Loose.....	553.00
Votive.....	239.80
Thanksgiving Envelopes.....	800.00
Christmas.....	230.00
Christmas Flowers.....	335.00
Religious Retirement	590.00
Immaculate Conception Plate	265.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes	2,172.00

Parish Events

Su	12/15	9:00 am	Private Event
Tu	12/17	9:00 am	Church Decorating
Tu	12/17	7:10 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting - SR
We	12/18	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
Fr	12/20	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	12/20	9:00 am	Adoration
Fr	12/20	12:30 pm	Lion's Bingo with SHS
Su	12/22	9:00 am	Choir Practice

2025 Calendars are in the back of the church.

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.

Shower for Baby Jesus... For information see "Parish News: Sacred Heart ~ Immaculate Conception ~ St. Rose of Lima" on page 2

The Scriptures This Week

Year C, Weekdays - Cycle I

Mo	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a	Mt 21:23-27
Tu	Gn 49:2, 8-10	Mt 1:1-17
We	Jer 23:5-8	Mt 1:18-25
Th	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a	Lk 1:5-25
Fr	Is 7:10-14	Lk 1:26-38
Sa	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a	Lk 1:39-45
Next Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Advent	Mi 5:1-4a	Heb 10:5-10
		Lk 1:39-45



Prayer Requests...

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

For the Sick: Dorothy Schneider, Joan Schlicht, John Niehaus, Joyce Hauser, Loura 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

• **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.....	\$4,878.31
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,282.69
Plate/Loose.....	276.00
Thanksgiving Envelopes.....	180.00
Christmas Flowers.....	240.00
Building/Maintenance	34.62
Religious Retirement	195.00
Immaculate Conception Plate	402.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes .	1,268.00

Parish Events

- Tu 12/17 7:10 pm K of C Mtg. - SR
- Th 12/19 8:45 am Confessions
- Th 12/19 7:00 pm Choir Practice
- Sa 12/21 3:30 pm Individual Confessions
- Sa 12/21 5:00 pm Choir Practice

Calendar Raffle Winners



December 2024

- 12-09 \$100 Janet Fuechtmann
- 12-10 \$40 Sheila Humbert
- 12-11 \$40 Gary & Ashley Feldewerd
- 12-12 \$40 Tom Neal
- 12-13 \$40 Janet Elfering
- 12-14 \$40 Lisa Maus
- 12-15 \$100 Craig Maus

Shower for Baby Jesus... For more information see "Parish News: Sacred Heart ~ Immaculate Conception ~ St. Rose of Lima" on page 2.

Mass Schedule for Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 24 (Vigil):

- 4:00 pm *St. Mary, Melrose*
- 4:00 pm *Sacred Heart, Freeport*
- 4:00 pm *St. Michael, Spring Hill*
- 6:30 pm *St. Mary, Melrose Misa en Español*
- 7:00 pm *Immaculate Conception, New Munich*
- 7:30 pm *St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove*

Wednesday, December 25:

- 8:00 am *Sacred Heart, Freeport*
- 9:00 am *St. Mary, Melrose*
- 9:00 am *St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa*
- 9:00 am *St. Andrew, Greenwald*
- 11:00 am *St. Mary, Melrose Misa en Español*

CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$3,893.86
Regular Adult Offering.....	728.85
Plate/Loose.....	180.01
Thanksgiving Envelopes.....	100.00
Christmas Envelopes	275.00
Christmas Flowers	110.00
Religious Retirement	190.00
Immaculate Conception Plate	35.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes	2,275.00

Parish Events

- Tu 12/17 8:45 am Confessions
- Tu 12/17 7:10 pm Knights of Columbus Mtg.
- We 12/18 1:30 pm Blood Drive
- Fr 12/20 7:30 pm Rosary

Christmas Cookie Social Sunday,

December 22 after 10:00 am Mass join us for a Christmas cookie social in the gathering area at St. Rose of Lima. Treats will be provided by the St. Rose of Lima Christian Women.

Shower for Baby Jesus... For more information see "Parish News: Sacred Heart ~ Immaculate Conception ~ St. Rose of Lima" on page 2.



CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$3,869.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	981.00
Children	4.00
Plate/Loose	67.00
Maintenance	470.00
Fuel Fund.....	300.00
Thanksgiving.....	1,715.00
Immaculate Conception	297.00
Religious Retirement	35.00

Liturgical Ministries

Sunday, December 22 - 10:00 am

- (S) Gabby & Celia Schoenberg
- (L) Gary P. Lieser
- (U) Pat Bertram & Randy Bertram
- (EM) (B) Conrad Gruber
- (EM) (C) Sandra Gruber & Ruth Heinen
- (Sacristan) Kathy welle
- (RL) Marilyn Gruber
- (CC) Peter Wuertz & Roger Meyer
- (HK: Dec. 8 - 21) Rhonda Sunderman, Bre Terres, & Brenda Terres

Advent Giving Tree ~ Faith Formation students have once again decorated the Advent Giving Tree 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!

Christmas Programs

Sacred Heart School:

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

SJSA School:

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

Advent Prayer to Be Like Mary

Blessed Mother, Mary, as we reflect on your yes to bring the Savior into the world, we ask that you be with us as we strive to bring Jesus to all those we encounter. In this season of joyful hope, we turn to you for guidance. May we imitate your loving example and steadfastly bring peace and justice to our world. When we are tempted to distance ourselves from another, give us the grace to say yes to charity. When we are frustrated, let us listen with our hearts to our neighbors. When we are disappointed, help us seek new solutions as you did when the Inn was full. Let us embrace our own need for poverty and humility in order to work toward creative solutions for our world as we await the coming of Christ. Amen.

-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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!




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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$1,749.00
Regular Adult Offering	1,147.00
Plate/Loose	302.00
Thanksgiving.....	250.00
Religious Retirement.....	30.00
Christmas Flowers.....	20.00

Liturgical Ministries
Saturday, December 21 - 4:00 pm
 (S) Matthew Dehmer & Noah Dehmer
 (L) Isaiah Gilk
 (U) Gary Bertram & Eric Dehmer
 (GB) Eric & Sara Dehmer
 (EM) (B) Mary Opatry
 (EM) (C) Herman Lensing & Clarine Beier
 (HK - December) *Wanda Ahrens, Angie Barten, Ann Barten, & Clarine Beier

 **Christmas Music** Please join us for Christmas music before the 9:00 am Mass on Christmas Day.

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.

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$4,829.25
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,960.00
Children.....	0.25
Plate/Loose	186.00
Votives.....	38.00
Cemetery.....	300.00
Catholic United Grant Match.....	1,000.00
Thanksgiving.....	1,160.00
Religious Retirement.....	100.00
Christmas Flowers.....	85.00

Liturgical Ministries
Sunday, December 22 - 8:00 am
 (S) Mya Nathe & Tyler Nathe
 (L) Karen Meyer
 (U) Ray Primus & Dennis Schmiesing
 (GB) Nicholas & Kate Kelzer
 (EM) (B) Abby Zenzen & Daryl Zenzen
 (EM) (C) Nick Kelzer & Jim Leukam
 (HK - December) *Martha Meyer, Rita Meyer, Virginia Meyer, Brenda Nathe, Virginia Nathe, & Geri Primus

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!



HISPANIC MINISTRY


¡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.

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

12-09	\$20	Craig Jepperson
12-10	\$40	Cheryl Wiechman
12-11	\$60	Gerald Weber
12-12	\$20	Bailey & Martha Van Beck
12-13	\$40	Kate Euteneuer
12-14	\$60	Juliana Boecker
12-15	\$100	Cheryl Wiechman



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

Mass Schedule For Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



Tuesday, December 31 (Vigil):

4:00 pm	Immaculate Conception, New Munich
4:00 pm	St. Andrew, Greenwald
5:00 pm	St. Mary, Melrose
7:00 pm	St. Mary, Melrose Misa en Español

Wednesday, January 1:

8:00 am	Sacred Heart, Freeport
8:00 am	St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove
9:00 am	St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa
10:00 am	St. Mary, Melrose
10:00 am	St. Michael, Spring Hill

FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: csand@catholic-centered.org

- **Grades 1, 3-6: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 18. Home Lesson.
- **Grade 2: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 8 at 6:00 pm. Meet at the parish office.
- **Grades 7-10: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00 pm. Bring your Bible, books, notebook, and pen. Meet in your classroom.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information:

faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

- **Grades 1, 3-6: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 18, 6:00-7:00 pm, students and parents. We'll learn about the story of Moses, and we'll do our annual service project of helping to clean the church a little bit before Christmas!
- **Grades 7/8: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 18, 7:15-8:30 pm, students and some parents. Our guest speakers will be talking about finding God in art and in beauty.

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.

ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2



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!

Online Evening Prayer with Young Adults Young adults ages 18+ are invited to pray online together with other young adults and School Sisters of Notre Dame from across the U.S. and Canada on Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 pm. Learn more and register for the Zoom link at sncd.org/events/12-17-24/.

Bishop's Annual Appeal Blessings to you on this third week of Advent as we remember the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus. As you celebrate this season, please consider supporting diocesan ministries with a year-end gift. To donate, visit www.stcldio.org/annualappeal or mail to: Bishop's Annual Appeal, P.O. Box 1538, St. Cloud, MN 56302.



Low Gluten Hosts are available for individuals that have a gluten intolerance. Please note, these hosts still contain gluten, less than 0.001% gluten, and are not completely gluten free. If you would like to have more information about the low gluten hosts, please contact the Parish Office in Freeport. When you are planning to have a low gluten host for Mass, it will be necessary to have the host within a pyx (the parish can provide a pyx) and placed upon the altar for consecration. You will need to let Father know that you are present prior to Mass, and that you will be in his Communion line.

Central Minnesota TEC celebrates 46 years of hosting Together Encountering Christ (TEC) retreats in the diocese of St. Cloud. It is the largest TEC retreat program in the United States, with more than 42,000 participants. TEC is geared towards youth (age 16+) as well as adults. As Pope Francis invites us to "Moments of Encounter" with our God and each other, TEC provides the perfect three-day retreat experience to do just that. Consider taking time over the coming months to participate in an encounter retreat like Central Minnesota TEC. You won't regret it. Check out the monthly TEC retreat schedule at www.cmtec.org.



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.



COME AND FOLLOW ME... Have you ever encountered someone that has made you say, "I want to be like that"? Someone who, not only talks the talk but walks the faith every day? Central Minnesota Koinonia is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St. Cloud Diocese and is designed to help you on your faith journey. The next retreat is scheduled for March 21-23, 2025, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, MN. Cost of the weekend is \$70. Please visit our website at www.centralmnkoinonia.org for more information and to register for retreats.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
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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
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Phone: 320-256-4257
 www.smsmelrosemn.org



PASTOR: Fr. Mitchell Bechtold
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Kristen Pattinson
SJSA BOARD:

Kathy Gilk, Adam Kalthoff, Kate
 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.

♥**Sacred Heart School Raffle Calendars are HERE!!** They are just \$25 a calendar with 367 chances to win. These make GREAT Christmas gifts! You can buy one from any Sacred Heart School family, the school office or at weekend Masses.

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

♥**Christmas Break** is Saturday, December 21 - Wednesday, January 1. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 2.

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

♥**A Huge Thank You** to Catholic United Financial for their donation of over \$6,600 from the breakfast. It was a great day displaying the importance of community working together, and for this, we are thankful!

♥**Thank You** to Brenda Von Wahlde, Jean Hemker, and Deana Middendorf for helping us get the SHS Raffle Calendars all ready to go out to families last Friday! We appreciate all your help!

♥**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.

♥**SMS Students Put Together Notes** of Christmas joy that will be shared with customers at Coborns.

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

♥**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.

♥**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. \$100 Raffle tickets are available now at St. Mary's School & Parish Office, All Stars Sports Bar & Grill, Double "R" Bar & Grill, Freeport State Bank - Melrose, Hennen Lumber, Kraemer Lumber, Magnifi Financial - Melrose, Melrose Bowl, St. Rosa Lumber.

♥**Christmas Vacation Begins** on Monday, December 23. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 2.



Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

12/08	\$50	Amanda Walz - St. Joseph
12/09	\$25	Bryan & Kim Scherping - Freeport
12/10	\$25	Joan Dick - Freeport
12/11	\$25	Judy Merwin - Freeport
12/12	\$25	Joe Wiechman - Melrose
12/13	\$25	Ed Overman - Freeport
12/14	\$25	Ben & Sarah Wiechman - Melrose

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.



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