



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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 & OCIA

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

Anointing of the Sick, 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.



Wonder and Awe

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

Luke 1:42-43

Elizabeth expressed a beautiful humility in this statement. The Blessed Virgin Mary had just made a long journey to be with Elizabeth in her final months of pregnancy. As soon as our Blessed Mother greeted Elizabeth, Elizabeth’s child, Saint John the Baptist, leaped for joy in her womb. Elizabeth acknowledges this and then humbly expresses the fact that she is exceptionally blessed to have Mary, the mother of her Lord, come to visit her.

There are many things worth pondering in this visitation of our Blessed Mother. But try to focus upon the humble wonder and awe expressed by Elizabeth. “And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” Elizabeth was clearly grateful for Mary’s visit. But it appears that her reaction went even beyond gratitude. She was given the gift of wonder and awe. She clearly knew she was incredibly blessed by the fact that both the Mother of God and her Lord Himself were now in her presence in her home.

This gift of wonder and awe that Elizabeth experienced is one of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. It’s a gift that enters a humble heart, enabling it to first see its unworthiness of a special grace given. But then this humble soul receives the special grace and responds with an overwhelming amazement. Thus, not only is gratitude present, but there is also this holy amazement that results in praise of God.

In our own lives, there are so many incredible graces we have received from God. But too often we fail to see them for what they are. We fail to see the incredible graces God has given us and, thus, fail to experience the amazement that should result from God’s gifts.

As you look at your own life, what graces has God given to you? Do you see them? Are you grateful for them? And, if so, are you able to go even beyond gratitude so as to experience a holy wonder and awe of God’s goodness and blessings in your life? Though it might be difficult to arrive at this level of amazement, it is a true gift that we must all strive to obtain and experience every day of our lives.

Reflect, today, upon this holy gift of the Holy Spirit that Elizabeth experienced. Place

Continued on page 3

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ DECEMBER 23 - 29

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo 6:30 pm **Misa en Español**
 †Luis Ambriz
 *Tu 4:00 pm **Christmas Vigil Mass**
 †Deceased/Living Members of
 Herman & Margaret Hinnenkamp
 Tu 6:30 pm **Misa en Español**
 †Refugio Juarez
 *We 9:00 am **Christmas Day Mass**
 †Jeffery Hinnenkamp
 We 11:00 am **Misa en Español**
 †Jose Aguilar, †Ignacio Aguilar
 & †Maria Morales
 †Rick Wensmann
 Th 8:00 am †Marcy Blenker
 Fr 8:30 am †Lucille Mae Moore
 Sa 5:00 pm †Elmer Hellermann
 *Su 10:00 am **Misa en Español**
 Su 12:30 pm †Juana Alvarez y †Demesio Ramirez

SACRED HEART - Freeport

Tu 4:00 pm **Christmas Vigil Mass**
 †Norb & †Adelle Renneker
 Deceased Family
 We 8:00 am **Christmas Day Mass**
 For the People
 Fr 8:15 am †Deceased/Living Members
 of the Eveslage Family
 Su 8:00 am †Lawrence & †Laura Scherping
 †LaVern Scherping

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Tu 7:00 pm **Christmas Vigil Mass**
 †Leo & †Gracie Eveslage
 Th 8:15 am †Mark Malsted
 Sa 4:00 pm †Joseph & †Eric Mergen

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Tu 8:15 am **NO MASS**
 We 9:00 am **Christmas Day Mass**
 †Tony & †Adella Klasen
 †Urban & †August Toennies
 Su 10:00 am For the People

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill

Tu 4:00 pm **Christmas Vigil Mass**
 For the People
 Su 10:00 am †Mary Ann Terres

ST. ANDREW - Greenwald

We 9:00 am **Christmas Day Mass**
 †Danny Schoenberg
 †Peter Van Beck
 Th 8:00 am For the People
 Sa 4:00 pm For the People

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

Tu 7:30 pm **Christmas Vigil Mass**
 †Raphael Imdieke
 Su 8:00 am †Vincent & †Rosie Schmiesing



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:

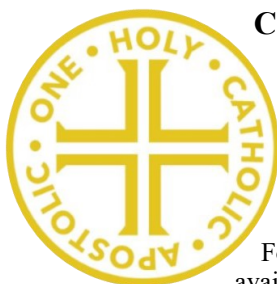
~ St. Mary ~ St. Michael ~ St. Andrew ~ St. John ~

•Votive Candles As of January 1, the suggested donation for votive candles will increase to \$4 per candle.

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.



Catholic Men's Conference Saturday,

February 22, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at St. John's University in Collegeville; Bishop Patrick Neary will celebrate Mass at 4:00 pm. Keynote speaker: Father Scott Traynor, JCL, a priest in the Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is the Vicar for Lay and Clergy Formation. Various Workshops will be available, including topics for young men ages

15 and up. Cost: \$40 or \$35/each for groups of 5, includes morning refreshments and lunch. Cost for young men ages 15 - 22: \$10, scholarships available for the first 50 registrants. Registration deadline: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025CMC>. If you have any questions please contact Janet by calling 320-258-7616 or email at janet.dusek@gw.studio.org or visit <https://studio.org/event/2025-catholic-mens-conference/> for more information. Confessors are also needed (lunch provided) please contact Janet Dusek.

Parish News:

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

•January Ministry Schedule was mailed or emailed to all ministers. It is also available on the Tri-Parish website. If you are unable to fulfill your ministry, please find a replacement. Thank you for sharing your time and talent with our parish.

•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.

Thank You... With sincere 'Thanks' to all who donated to the Catholic Relief Services Collection and to the Rice Bowl program in this challenging time. CRS operates on a grassroots level in over 100 countries around the world and donations like yours continue to make this possible. This is the primary outreach of the Catholic Church in the United States to assist with the global needs of our brothers and sisters in faith. You also contribute toward local hunger relief with 25% of the Rice Bowl funds being distributed throughout our diocese to organization like area food shelves which are seeing increasing needs during this time. On behalf of those who benefit from your kindness and generosity, our heartfelt gratitude!

Elizabeth M. Brown, Mission Office Director
Father Bill Vos, Diocesan Director, CRS

One in Faith ACC News Continued on page 7


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

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

Total.....	\$10,944.00
Regular Adult Offering	8,741.00
Plate/Loose	970.00
Designated Funds	1,233.00

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle

12-15	\$25	Hallie Dufner - Melrose
12-16	\$25	Carol Athmann - Melrose
12-17	\$25	Rachel Geertsema - Clearwater
12-18	\$25	Ruth Johnson - SMS
12-19	\$25	Chris Ritter - Melrose
12-20	\$25	Harvey Butkowski - Sauk Centre
12-21	\$25	Tessa Beuning - Melrose



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

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

Total.....	\$6,970.50
Regular Adult Offering.....	4,988.85
Plate/Loose.....	582.65
Votive	504.00
School Support	50.00
Christmas	700.00
Christmas Flowers	125.00
Religious Retirement	20.00


Parish Events

Su	12/22	9:00 am	Choir Practice
Fr	12/27	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	12/27	9:00 am	Adoration

Calendar Raffle One week to go! Be sure to get yours before it's too late. Calendar raffle tickets make excellent Christmas gifts!



Baptized in Christ... We welcome **Maria Jean Heinen**, the daughter of Ryan & Barbara Heinen, to our parish. Maria Jean was baptized on Sunday, December 15.

 **Sponsor a Votive Candle** The parish is looking for someone to sponsor the military remembrance candle by the votive stand. There are also other candles available to be sponsored for the upcoming months. If you are interested, please contact the Tri-Parish Office. The suggested donation for a month is \$16.

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

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

- January 5, Sunday**
 ♦ Green Grove Rod & Gun Club All You Can Eat Breakfast. Serving from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Greenwald Pub. Proceeds for Wildlife Projects.
- January 8, Wednesday**
 ♦ Soup Luncheon The Melrose Area Senior Citizens invite you to join them for their Soup Luncheon, at the Melrose Senior Center, located in the Melrose City Center. Serving from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. If anyone would like to contribute a pot of soup or some bread for the luncheon, please contact Pat Seanger at 320-248-6630. Freewill offering. All are welcome!
- ♦ Feet First Clinic at the Senior Center in Freeport. Please call to make an appointment 320-836-2450. Free will offering.
- January 11, Saturday**
 ♦ Green Grove Rod & Gun Club Gun Bingo & Raffle Drawing at Horseshoe Bar & Ballroom in Spring Hill. Proceeds go toward local high school archery and trap teams. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Bingo starts at 7:00 pm.

Christmas Carols
 will be sung prior to Mass at the following parishes.

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Vigil Mass:
 3:30 pm *St. Mary, Melrose*
 3:30 pm *Sacred Heart, Freeport*
 3:30 pm *St. Michael, Spring Hill*
 6:30 pm *Immaculate Conception, New Munich*
 7:00 pm *St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove*

Wednesday, December 25
Christmas Day Mass:
 7:40 am *Sacred Heart, Freeport*
 8:45 am *St. Mary, Melrose*
 8:30 am *St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa*
 8:40 am *St. Andrew, Greenwald*




Wonder and Awe cont'd from page 1

yourself at the scene. Try to see the experience within her heart. Try to feel how she felt. Try to sense the praise that resulted. And try to open yourself more fully to receive this same gift of the Holy Spirit in your life. The Lord comes to you constantly by grace, especially every time you receive Him in Holy Communion. For that reason, we must all strive to live a holy wonder and awe every day of our lives.

My most glorious Lord, You grace me beyond imagination. Too often, I fail to experience the gratitude and the wonder and awe that should result. Please help me to first see the countless blessings of Your grace and presence in my life. And as I see them, please fill me with the Holy Spirit so that I, too, may continually sing Your worthy praises. Jesus, I trust in You.

CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$4,284.43
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,935.69
Plate/Loose	278.00
Votive.....	89.12
School Support.....	50.00
Thanksgiving Envelopes.....	50.00
Christmas.....	425.00
Christmas Flowers.....	115.00
Building/Maintenance.....	34.62
Religious Retirement.....	170.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes ..	137.00

Parish Events

Sa 12/28 3:30 pm Individual Confessions

Calendar Raffle Winners



December 2024

12-16 \$40	Tanya Christenson
12-17 \$40	Linda Schmiesing
12-18 \$40	Roger Boecker
12-19 \$40	Lori Sand
12-20 \$40	Dave Welle
12-21 \$40	Roger Meyer
12-22 \$100	Judy Gaebel

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

Thank You to the Catholic United Financial for their \$2,000 donation to the elevator project. Thank you also for the \$1,921.08 matching fund breakfast donation from the local court as well as \$1,500 from the high court towards the new "Mass Times" sign.

CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$9,184.76
Regular Adult Offering.....	7,978.85
Plate/Loose	200.00
Votive.....	150.91
Christmas Envelopes.....	575.00
Christmas Flowers.....	280.00

Parish Events

Fr 12/27 7:30 pm Rosary

Christmas Cookie Social Today, 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.

Sponsor a Votive Candle

The parish is looking for someone to sponsor the 2 candles on the St. Rose of Lima statue stand. There are also other candles available to be sponsored for the upcoming months. If you are interested, please contact the Tri-Parish Office. The suggested donation for a month is \$16.



CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$866.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	248.00
Children	4.00
Plate/Loose	74.00
Fuel Fund.....	415.00
Christmas Flowers	65.00
Immaculate Conception	50.00
Religious Retirement	10.00

Liturgical Ministries

Christmas Vigil Mass

Tuesday, December 24 - 4:00 pm

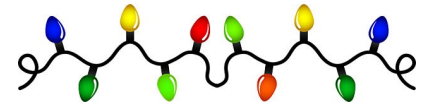
- (S) Landon Schmidt & Eleanor Schmidt
- (L) Lisa Wuertz
- (U) Robert Bertram & Tyler Bertram
- (EM) (B) Stan Heinen
- (EM) (C) Grace Hopfer & Jeanette Kalthoff
- (Sacristan) John & Sharon Schulzetenberg
- (RL) No Rosary - Choir Singing
- (CC) Amy Orbeck & Marvin Rademacher

Liturgical Ministries

Sunday, December 29 - 10:00 am

- (S) Kenny Niehoff
- (L) Ralph Klassen
- (U) Conrad Gruber & Stan Heinen
- (EM) (B) Melvin Kalthoff
- (EM) (C) No Precious Blood
- (Sacristan) Ruth Heinen
- (RL) Kathy Welle
- (CC) Doreen Schwierters & Tom Stalboerger
- (HK: Dec. 22 - Jan. 4) Jamie Terres, Jane Terres, & Maggie Terres

Rosary Rally... Please join us at 10:00 am on Saturday, December 28 at St. Michael's Church.



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.

Sacred Heart School

Calendar Raffle Winners!

12/15 \$25	Haley Schoenberg - Cold Spring
12/16 \$25	Kevin Wiechman - Grey Eagle
12/17 \$25	Jeremy Berscheid - Grey Eagle
12/18 \$25	Hanna Schneider - Melrose
12/19 \$25	Molly Greb/Joyce Hoeschen - Freeport
12/20 \$25	Laura Spanier - Brooten
12/21 \$25	Beth Arnzen - Melrose



Sacred Heart School Wine and Dine

Dinner and Auction

SATURDAY JANUARY 25, 2025
at the Freeport Community Center**

Dinner Catered by D'Lish

SERVED 4:00 - 8:00 PM

STEAK OR CHICKEN CORDON BLEU SERVED WITH
BAKED POTATO AND GREEN BEANS (INCLUDES
BREAD, FULL SALAD BAR, AND DESSERT).

Bar provided by the Freeport Rec Club

Silent Auction

ONLINE ONLY JANUARY 18 - JANUARY 25, 2025

SILENT AUCTION WILL END AT 3.00 PM

ITEMS WILL BE LISTED AT:

WWW.32AUCTIONS.COM/WINEANDDINE2025

Live Auction

WITH AUCTIONEER DANNY WINTER

WILL START AT 8:00 PM

AUCTIONS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE
NO TICKET REQUIRED

Cash Raffle - \$20,000 Grand Prize

(MORE DETAILS ON BACK)

RAFFLE DRAWING WILL BE AT 7:30 PM LIVE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER
and broadcast on the SHS Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/sacredheartmn

Dinner and Raffle tickets are available in the school office (320-836-2591)
or from any SHS Parent

**VENUE PROVIDED BY THE FREEPORT COMMUNITY CENTER

Sacred Heart School Wine and Dine

CASH RAFFLE
SATURDAY JANUARY 25, 2025
7:30 PM AT FREEPORT COMMUNITY CENTER

and via live stream on the SHS Facebook page

Need not be present to win

TICKETS \$100 - 1000 SOLD

Must be 18 years or older to win

All winners are responsible for applicable fees and taxes.

\$20,000 GRAND PRIZE

2ND PRIZE - \$3,000 3RD PRIZE - \$2,000

4th Prize: \$1000

5th Prize: \$500

6th Prize: \$500

7th Prize: \$500

8th Prize: \$500

9th Prize: \$500

10th Prize: \$500

11th Prize: \$500

12th Prize: \$250

13th Prize: \$250

14th Prize: \$250

15th Prize: \$250

16th Prize: \$250

17th Prize: \$250

18th Prize: \$250

19th Prize: \$250

20th Prize: \$250

**WATCH LIVE
ON FACEBOOK!**



facebook.com/sacredheartmn

LIC# X-94409

-----ORDER FORM - Clip and return to SHS-----

NAME: _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Number of Tickets wanted _____ X \$100 = \$ _____ (amount enclosed)

Return To: Sacred Heart School

PO Box 39
Freeport, MN 56331

LIC# X-94409

Deadline for Tickets by Mail

JANUARY 20TH

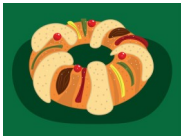
Proceeds to Benefit Sacred Heart School

Tickets available from: SHS Families or the SHS Office 320.836.2591

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



¡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.

Regístrese ahora para el segundo anual Festival de Familias Diocesana en St. Francis Xavier en Sartell, de 11:00 a. m. a 4:00 p. m. Habrá algo para toda la familia: sesiones para padres (en español), adolescentes y niños, carnaval, premios, proyectos de servicio y Misa. ¡Traiga a toda su familia por solo \$25! Enlace de registro: <https://stcdio.org/event/2025-festival-of-families/>



◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$8,413.00
Regular Adult Offering	965.00
Plate/Loose	114.00
Fuel Fund	5.00
Votives	59.00
Religious Retirement.....	10.00
Christmas Flowers.....	120.00
Immaculate Conception	640.00
Catholic United Financial	6,500.00

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$2,361.25
Regular Adult Offering.....	705.00
Children.....	.25
Plate/Loose	130.00
Votives.....	26.00
Fuel Fund	360.00
Meire Grove Athletic Club	1,000.00
Christmas Flowers.....	140.00

Liturgical Ministries
Christmas Day Mass
Wednesday, December 25 - 9:00 am
 (S) Jada Worms & Luke Worms
 (L) Kathy Gilk
 (U) Dan Boecker & Dan Eveslage
 (GB) Pat & Deb Keller
 (EM) (B) Kris Winter
 (EM) (C) Mike Barten & Clarine Beier

Liturgical Ministries
Christmas Vigil Mass
Tuesday, December 24 - 7:30 pm
 (S) Morgan Funk & Paige Funk
 (L) Missy Illies
 (U) Don Schneider & Ken Schneider
 (GB) Jim & Kay Leukam
 (EM) (B) Char Meyer & Dan Meyer
 (EM) (C) Karl Meyer & Sue Meyer

Liturgical Ministries
Saturday, December 28 - 4:00 pm
 (S) Zachary Rieland
 (L) Linda Heinze
 (U) Bill Frieler & Duane Frieler
 (GB) Dave & Doris Nathe
 (EM) (B) Herman Lensing
 (EM) (C) No Precious Blood
 (HK - December) *Wanda Ahrens, Angie Barten, Ann Barten, & Clarine Beier

Liturgical Ministries
Sunday, December 29 - 8:00 am
 (S) Cole Funk & Luke Funk
 (L) Jim Leukam
 (U) Marvin Schneider & Matt Silbernack
 (GB) Viola Leukam & Family
 (EM) (B) Abby Zenzen & Daryl Zenzen
 (EM) (C) No Precious Blood
 (HK - December) *Martha Meyer, Rita Meyer, Virginia Meyer, Brenda Nathe, Virginia Nathe, & Geri Primus

EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)
 St. Andrew's parishioners, if you are interested in EFT, please have signed forms to the office before Friday, January 10.

Thank You everyone for your support of the calendar raffle fundraiser thus donating \$5,500 plus \$1,000 matching grant from Catholic United Financial to our parish. Thank you also to the Greenwald Rec Club for allowing us use of their gambling permit.



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

12-16	\$20	Tom Schneider
12-17	\$40	Dennis Schmiesing
12-18	\$60	Sam K. Wiechman
12-19	\$20	Steven Mages
12-20	\$40	Rob Schumer
12-21	\$60	John Funk
12-22	\$100	LoriRose Mackedanz



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.

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/YOUTH MINISTRY

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: csand@catholic-centered.org

- **Grades 1, 3-6: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 1. 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

- **No Faith Formation Classes over Christmas Break.**



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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
PRINCIPAL: Kristie Harren
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Amy Van Beck
SHS BOARD:

Myranda Beuning, Julie Job,
 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

Phone: 320-256-4257
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 Roelike,
 Jenny Wilson, and Kristi Zimmer

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

- ♥ **We have full-time openings for our Toddler Care Program!** Please contact the school office for more information.
- ♥ **Thank You** to Freeport State Bank for their donation for our lighting and spotlights for in the gym!
- ♥ **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.
- ♥ **Christmas Break** is Saturday, December 21 through 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.
- ♥ **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.

- ♦ **St. Mary's Staff and Students wish you** a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- ♦ **Thank You** for your participation in collecting items for Eagle's Healing Nest this Advent season.
- ♦ **Save the Date** for St. Mary's Catholic Schools Week Breakfast in the school gym on Sunday, January 26, from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. All are welcome!
- ♦ **School resumes** on Thursday, January 2.
- ♦ **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.

- ♦ **We are looking for nominees for the SJSA Supporter Award** to be presented at this year's St. John's-St. Andrew's Steak and Wine. The award is given to a person in the community who has been a great support to the school in some way. Nominees are due by January 17 so the Board has time to discuss and vote. Please send names to one of the following people: Mary Miller 320-987-3133, Kristi Zimmer 320-249-6702, or Kathy Gilk 320-290-6603.
- ♦ **Thank You** to the Greenwald Rec Club for their generous Christmas gift of \$1,000 to St. John's - St. Andrew's Catholic School.
- ♦ **SJSA Christmas Break** is Monday, December 23 - Wednesday, January 1. School resumes Thursday, January 2.
- ♦ **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** from the staff and students at SJSA.

Merry Christmas

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.



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.

Diocesan Festival of Families

Register now for the second annual Diocesan Festival of Families at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell, on Sunday, February 2 from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. There will be something for the whole family: Parent, teen and children’s sessions, carnival, prizes, service projects, and Mass. Bring your whole family for only \$25! Registration link: <https://stcdio.org/event/2025-festival-of-families/>



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://stcdio.org/vocations/totus-tuus/>, by calling 320-251-5001, or emailing vocations@gw.stcdio.org.



Bishop’s Annual Appeal Blessings to you on this fourth week of Advent as we contemplate the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.” Please take a moment to pray for the people of our diocese and all who serve to build the Kingdom of God here in Central Minnesota.

Stewardship as a Way of Life “For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.” Luke 1:44 When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you “leap for joy?” If not, don’t blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

Time to Expand Your Circle of Friends? Try a TEC Retreat. “God has a wonderful way of connecting the dots in our lives to people that will honor who we are, right where we are” (Tiffany Wilson). A TEC retreat will expand your circle of friends with those who will lift you up, support you, encourage you, and bring you closer to God. Come meet some new friends. Register for one of our three-day TEC retreats. www.cmtec.org. Together Encountering Christ (TEC) is open to both youth (age 16+) as well as adults and is located just north of Little Falls.



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.



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

For the Sick: Vivian Weber, 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

The Scriptures This Week
Year C, Weekdays - Cycle I

Mo	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	Lk 1:57-66
Tu	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25	Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
We	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6	Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Th	Saint Stephen, The First Martyr Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	Mt 10:17-22
Fr	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist 1 Jn 1:1-4	Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Sa	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 1 Jn 1:5—2:2	Mt 2:13-18
Next Sunday	- The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52	

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

Kyle Hoium Agency LLC
www.KyleHoium.com

WealthCare Inc.
Focusing on Business, Farm and Individual Returns
Taxes, Payroll & Bookkeeping
Services adaptable to YOUR needs!

Chad Middendorf, IRS Enrolled Agent • Jan Gabriel, IRS Enrolled Agent
Jean Hart, CPA • Donna Stone, CPA, IRS Enrolled Agent
Carter Phillip, IRS Enrolled Agent

210 Main Street, Cold Spring, MN 56320, 320.85.7070
306 East Main Street, Melrose, MN 56352, 320.256.7070
101 Stearns Ave. E, Eden Valley, MN 56529, 320.463.7070

CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT

PATTON & SCHAD
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

Revering Life's Memories

256-4249

Linda Holm, owner/operator

Proliant
DAIRY INGREDIENTS

KRAFT DRIVE, MELROSE
www.proliantdairy.com/careers

FREEPORT STATE BANK
Freeport • Melrose • Greenwald

“Customer Service Is Our Priority”

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

www.freeportstatebank.com

ST. ROSA LUMBER INC. ARNZEN CONSTRUCTION, INC.
AGRICULTURE • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

Residential - Commerical - Agricultural

320-836-2284 | 29033 Co. Rd. 17, Freeport

Albany Mutual TELEPHONE

Technology. All the Way Home.

320.845.2101 | albanytel.com

Creekside WOODWORKS LLC

CABINETS • TRIM • FURNITURE

New Munich Mutual Insurance Co.
512 Main St. Suite 2
Sauk Centre, MN 56378

320-351-3300

Manager: Darcy Pfeffer

Building Relationships Since 1958

BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A **True Value.**

KRAEMER LUMBER CO., INC.

TRUE NORTH Marketplace

COFFEE • CAFE • GIFTS

Freeport Lions Club

BAR BINGO / MEAT RAFFLE
Saturdays November - March

Freeport MN Lions Club

BILL KEMPER EXCAVATING

BASEMENTS • WATER LINES • SEPTIC SYSTEMS • EXCAVATING • PERC TEST & DESIGN • GRAVEL • SEWER & WATER

320-256-3982
320-250-2068

RJ's Country Store
St. Rosa

BAIT * GAS * ATM
GROCERIES

Interstate Service Center

216 Country Club Road
Melrose, MN 56352

Phone: (320) 256-2160

Free alignment with four tire purchase

ALL STARS Sports Bar & Grill

320-836-2154

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

In business since 1980

MICHELIN UNIROVAL BF Goodrich

Spanier/Nathe Cabinets

Custom Made Cabinets for your whole house

Mike Nathe cell: 320-290-0505
35428 County Road 13 • Melrose, MN 56352
320-256-3985

MAGNIFI FINANCIAL

FREEPORT COMMUNITY CENTER

FOR HALL RENTAL CALL
320-836-2526

JDS TAPHOUSE
MELROSE, MN 320-256-3333

Klapphake FEED MILL INC.
MELROSE, MN

Proud to be a part of the Ag Industry

Oak Electric Service Inc.

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

Hennen Floor Covering, Inc.

FREEPORT

Munson Feed Company, Inc.

Box 184, Melrose, MN 56352
Pete Jr., Mike, Josh Terres and employees

Business Phone 256-4219

Manufacturers of **Munson's QUALITY** Livestock and Poultry Feeds

ALBANY 845-2035
UPSALA 573-6234

HOLDINGFORD 746-9994
ST. CLOUD 252-7004

Miller Carlin FUNERAL HOMES

MID CENTRAL HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

320-836-2502
300 Industrial Drive
Freeport, MN

MELROSE IMPLEMENT INC.

NEW HOLLAND AGRICULTURE

Sales - Parts - Service
Phone 256-4253 - Melrose, MN
www.melroseimplement.com

WHEELS WATER SERVICE

37276 County Road 13
PO Box 233 • Melrose, MN 56352
320-256-4146

JAMMIE WIELING

Independent Monument Consultant

Courtney Indieke

320-293-6518
courtneyindieke@gmail.com

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

Electrical Contracting
Free Estimates

MELROSE ELECTRIC, INC.

MEMBER OF MINNESOTA ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION

119 8th Ave. W (320) 256-3846
PO Box 234 (320) 256-7359
Melrose, MN 56352 Fax (320) 256-4240

NAPA CENTRAL MN

WE ARE YOUR LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED AUTO PARTS, PAINT SUPPLIERS AND ACCESSORIES RESOURCES

320-256-7441
www.NAPACentralMN.com

MELROSE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
Neighbor helping Neighbor since 1901

Stacy Schiffler, Manager
303 Main Street East
Melrose, MN 56352

256-7290
www.melrosemutual.com

DAN SCHMIDT DSPI PRINTING AND DESIGN SERVICES SINCE 1985

302 East Main Street Melrose, MN 56352
320.256.3700
dsprint@meltel.net

Tree of Life ASSISTED LIVING OF NEW MUNICH

Offers 24-hour customized assisted living, meals, activities, etc.
Call 320-837-5100 for a tour.

WORMS Lumber & Ready Mix, Inc.

All your building needs in one place!

Atkinson Well & Pump Ltd.

“Serving you since 1942”
Service you can count on 365 days a year
(320) 836-2597

Rodney Atkinson
Ben Atkinson

BELGRADE CO-OP

AGRONOMY
PROPANE
REFINED FUELS

320-254-8231
www.belgradecoop.com

MELROSE 1 STOP SERVICE CENTER

CAR WASH TRUCK WASH

RAHN'S OIL & PROPANE

FUEL WITH MUSCLE

God Bless our Parish Families!

Cornerstone ag services

Our focus is crop insurance.

~ Dana Kerfeld ~
5 Central Ave. N • St. Stephen, MN 56375
(320) 257-CROP (2767)

Cornerstone ag services Our focus is crop insurance.

State Farm

Providing Insurance and Financial Services
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710

Dina Pierskalla
307 East Main St, Melrose, MN 56352
Bus: 320-256-4617
Toll Free: 877-256-4617
www.dinapierskalla.com

MAYERS, INC. MELROSE, MN

256-4479

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

For All Your Building Needs

J&R Frericks Construction Inc.
Melrose, MN
Lic. #BC-20457080

Jim 249-7404
Russell 290-5669

MELROSE 1 STOP SERVICE CENTER

CAR WASH TRUCK WASH

God Bless America!

Famo feeds

AGRI-CERTIFIED HACCIP CERTIFIED RUPP CERTIFIED

Welcome HOME to Brenny

Your TRUCKING Career starts HERE!

Call Cara!
320.363.6999
WWW.BRENNYTRANSPORTATION.COM

Hennen LUMBER CO. INC.

Freeport, MN 56331
(320) 836-2135

MARTINEZ MEAT & GROCERY
420 E. Main St. • Melrose, MN
lulumartinezmeat123@gmail.com

320.256.2363
Productos Mexicanos
fax: 320.256.2364

Engelmeyer LAND SURVEYING

Land Surveying • GPS Surveys
Platting • Sub-Division
Lot • Acreage • Boundary • ALTA Surveys

320-836-2291
Or Call 320-256-7298
www.engelmeyerlandsurveying.com
David A. Engelmeyer, Land Surveyor
engelsur@meltel.net | 41701 Co Rd 167 • Melrose

Brenda Kraemer Member Advisor

- Insurance bkraemer@catholicunited.org
- Retirement (320) 493-3957
- Planning
- Charitable Giving Catholic United
- Credit Union

CAP Enterprises

511 3rd Ave NW
Melrose, MN 56352
320-256-3900