



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 10, 2023

Fr. Marvin Enneking, Pastor
Fr. Daniel Walz, Pastor
Fr. Arockiya Newton, 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. Marvin Enneking Phone: 320-256-3108

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.



CALLED TO THE DESERT

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* Mark 1:1-3

These, the opening lines from the Gospel of Saint Mark, present us with Saint John the Baptist. John was the one that Isaiah prophesied would come before the Messiah. John was given the responsibility and privilege of being the one who would be the most immediate preparer for the Savior of the World.

Perhaps if most people were given the task of instructing John on how best to prepare the way for the Lord, they would tell him he must go to the leaders of the people, the civil authorities, the influential and those of status in society to win them over first. Many would conclude that the Messiah needed to have the full support of the leaders at that time. But that's obviously not what John did.

John the Baptist, at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was driven not into the homes of the most prestigious and wealthy, not into the halls of the civil governors, and not into the synagogues or Temple. Instead, John was driven into the desert. And in the desert, that dry and deserted place, he drew many people to himself and to his message of repentance.

God continues to call many today to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist. Though John was a real person sent on a real mission at one particular moment in time, the mission he fulfilled is one that still needs fulfilling in various ways today. The "way of the Lord" still needs to be prepared. The Lord still desires to come to many, and He needs prophets to prepare the way for His continual coming by grace. Are you one of those people?

Truth be told, every one of us, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, young or old, etc., is called by God to prepare the way for His coming by grace every day. We are called to prepare the way by calling others to sincere repentance and conversion of life. This is done by the witness of our actions, by our words and by numerous other ways that God calls. How is God calling you to do His work? He is certainly calling you. You simply need to be open to that calling and generously respond.

Continued on page 5

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ DECEMBER 11 - 17

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo 6:30 pm **Misa en Español**
 †Maria Ambriz
 †Juvenal Raya
 †Jesus Raya
 †Jaime Raya
 Tu 8:00 am †Domingo Cardona
 †Leonard Cardona
 We 8:00 am †Arlene Arnzen
 Th 8:00 am †Jeanette Barth
 *Fr 8:30 am †Bill Massmann
 Sa 5:00 pm †Hermie Westendorf
 For the People
 *Su 10:00 am ††Doochie & Shawn Salzl
 †Jerry Sand
 Su 12:30 pm **Misa en Español**
 †Josefina Sanchez Martinez

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Th 8:15 am †Ken Feldewerd
 †Dorene Feldewerd
 Sa 4:00 pm For the People

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Tu 8:15 am ††Roman & Martha Vos
 Su 10:00 am †Carla Wolbeck

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill

Tu 8:00 am †Lisa Schoenberg
 Su 10:00 am ††Mike & Jeanette Heinen

ST. ANDREW - Greenwald

Th 8:00 am **SJSA School Mass**
 †Francis Uphus
 Sa 4:00 pm †Perry Meyer

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

We 8:00 am †Alcuin Caspers
 Su 8:00 am †††Tony, Darlene, & Mark Kulzer

SACRED HEART - Freeport

We 8:15 am †Ronald Elfering
 Fr 8:15 am †Bob Van Heel
 Su 8:00 am ††Norbert & Veronica Toenies



St. Rose of Lima - St. Rosa
 Tuesdays 7:00 - 8:00 am

Immaculate Conception - New Munich
 Thursdays 7:00 - 8:00 am

St. Mary - Melrose
 First Thursday of the month 6:30 pm
 in Spanish (en Español)

Sacred Heart - Freeport
 Wednesdays 5:30 - 8:00 pm
 Fridays 9:00 am - 2:00 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 ~

•**Special Diocesan Collection** will be held for Retirement for Religious this weekend, December 9 and 10, in all four parishes.

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.



Go and Make Disciples Grade 11 though young adults are invited to a monthly Faith Formation event from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport. We will have a meal and discuss the Catholic Mass. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, December 13. Come and bring a friend for a fun filled faith enrichment night.

An Epoch in Time, a history of St. Rose of Lima parish, will be available for pickup or purchase after the 10:00 am Mass in St. Rosa today, Sunday, December 10. Cost \$35.

The 33rd Annual Steak and Wine Dinner and Auction to support St. John's-St. Andrew's Catholic School will be February 9 and 10, 2024 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 nights of the event at the Pub. Online auction prior to the event. Live auction Saturday night. Donny Brang will play live music BOTH nights! More information to come!

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 21 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!

Parish News:

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

•**Men's Group** will meet on December 10 and 17. Then we will conclude this session.

Best Advent Ever Most people spend the month before Christmas feeling overwhelmed, busy, anxious, and anything but peaceful. With so much worry, it's easy to miss out on the beauty and joy of Advent. Don't let that be you this year. Sign up for BEST ADVENT EVER and make the radical choice to slow down and spend just a few minutes each day immersed in God's word. Sign up at www.dynamiccatholic.com.

Journey to Bethlehem Thanks to an anonymous donor, SJSA, Sacred Heart, and St. Mary's students and staff were able to attend the movie *Journey to Bethlehem* this past week. We are so thankful for our community supporters. What a wonderful way to kick off Advent!

Bishop's Annual Appeal: Blessings to you in this second week of Advent and thank you to those who have already supported diocesan ministries through the Appeal. As of November 20, the diocese has raised \$1,362,478 in gifts and pledges toward the goal of \$1,400,000, with gifts from 7,284 households. Every dollar raised goes directly to ministries that support our Catholic faith and is not used for any other purpose. Will you help these ministries meet their funding needs? Visit www.studio.org/annualappeal.



Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo hold 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.

- Men's Silent Retreat - January 12-14 (Weekend)
- Women's Silent Retreat - January 19-21 (Weekend)


SHS Calendar Raffle Sacred Heart School has started their Calendar Raffle. If you are interested in a calendar, please reach out to a SHS family or you can pick one up in the office. They are \$25 each - over \$10,000 in prizes and 367 chances to win.

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

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

Total.....	\$9,178.25
Regular Adult Offering.....	6,986.00
Plate/Loose	1,079.00
Designated Funds.....	1,113.25

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle

12-03	\$25	Nathan & Sarah Klaphake - Maple Grove	
12-04	\$25	Carole Austing - Melrose	
12-05	\$25	Marlene Reller - Melrose	
12-06	\$25	Deacon Ernie & Denise Kociemba - Grey Eagle	
12-07	\$25	Thomas Kolb - Melrose	
12-08	\$125	Isaac Schmidt - New Munich	
12-09	\$25	Jim & Deb Welz - Melrose	

Baptized in Christ... Evan John Goebel and Leo James Negen

Died in the Hope or Resurrection...
 †Michael "Mike" Rieland, 73
 †Rick Wensman, 54

Calendar Raffle If you need more tickets, call the parish office!
 Please turn in all raffle tickets before December 31!

Christmas Flowers... If you wish to donate toward Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please put money in an envelope, include the name or names of the loved one, and mark it "Christmas Flowers." Thank You!

Rectory Update: There is an open house this weekend from 4:00 to 5:00 pm before 5:30 pm Mass on Saturday, December 9, and between Masses on Sunday, December 10.

Celebrating Advent There are several opportunities to participate in Advent activities. There is a place to donate socks, a chance to place straw in the manger, and a church Giving Tree.

St. Mary's Mission Society Meeting on Wednesday, December 13 at St. Mary's Church at 8:45 am. All are welcome!

Christmas Programs

St. Mary's School:
 Wednesday, December 13 at 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
 at Marit Elliot Auditorium

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

Sacred Heart School:
 Wednesday, December 20 at 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
 at Sacred Heart School Gym





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

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

Adult Envelopes.....	\$5,180.62
Plate.....	310.00
Total Weekly Contributions	\$5,490.62

Other Donations

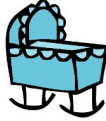
Votive	\$197.00
School Support.....	100.00
Immaculate Conception	5.00
Christmas.....	50.00
Christmas Flowers.....	485.00

Parish Events

Su	12/10	7:00 pm	Men's Group
We	12/13	1:00 pm	SHS Confessions 3-6
We	12/13	2:00 pm	SHS First Confessions
We	12/13	5:30 pm	Adoration
We	12/13	6:00 pm	FF First Confession
We	12/13	7:00 pm	FF Grade 7-10
We	12/13	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples
Fr	12/15	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	12/15	9:00 am	Adoration
Su	12/17	7:00 pm	Men's Group

May She Rest in Peace Our parish offers prayers and sympathy to the family of †**Betty Hennen**, who passed away Tuesday, November 28. Her funeral was celebrated here on Monday, December 4.

2024 Calendars are available in the back of the church.

 **Baby Shower for Jesus** The Freeport Christian Women are hosting a Baby Shower for Jesus! Drop off any NEW item in the bassinet in the back of church by Christmas Eve. All items will be given to Options for Women in Sauk Centre. Suggested items to donate are diapers, wipes, clothes 3-12 months, blankets or car seats. Thank you for prayerfully considering a donation.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

***The Melrose Senior Center** will not have quilting again until after the first of the year.

***Freeport Senior Citizens will NOT meet** in December. Christmas Party will be in January 2024.

December 10, Sunday
 ♦**St. John's Boys' Choir presents** *This Christmastide* at Our Lady of the Angels in Sauk Centre at 1:30 pm. There is no cost to attend the concert, and free-will donations will be graciously accepted to support this season's concerts and tours. Learn more at www.sjbchoir.org.

December 13, Wednesday
 ♦**Quilting** at 1:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All are welcome.

December 15, Friday
 ♦**The Melrose American Legion** will host a fish fry. Please join us from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. Take outs are available. Your support is appreciated!

December 16, Saturday
 ♦**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. Everyone is invited!

♦**VFW and American Legion** are sponsoring a bus to Camp Ripley to help lay Christmas wreaths on the graves of our brave soldiers. Departing from the American Legion parking lot, Melrose at 9:00 am sharp, returning approximately at 12:45 pm. Limited seating, if interested please call 320-836-2882.

CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Adult Envelopes	\$12,394.08
Plate.....	232.75
Total Weekly Contributions	\$12,626.83

Other Donations

Boiler.....	\$30.00
Thanksgiving Envelopes.....	125.00
Christmas	40.00
Christmas Flowers.....	84.00
Immaculate Conception	25.00
Building/Maintenance	37.50

Parish Events

Su 12/10	7:00 pm	Men's Group - FR
We 12/13	6:00 pm	FF First Confession - FR
We 12/13	7:00 pm	FF Grade 7 - 10 - FR
We 12/13	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples - FR
Th 12/14	7:00 am	Adoration
Th 12/14	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sa 12/16	3:30 pm	Individual Confessions
Su 12/17	7:00 pm	Men's Group - FR

Baptized in Christ... We welcome **Wilson Robert Pillsbury**, the son of Nathan & Laken Pillsbury, to our parish. Wilson Robert was baptized on Saturday, December 2.

New Addition Update At this time, roughly \$945,000 has been donated, pledged, or loaned to this project that is estimated at \$1,000,000. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this project and helping reach the needed goal.



Shower for Baby Jesus The Christian Women of Immaculate Conception will be sponsoring a "Shower for Baby Jesus" during the month of December. There will be a bassinet in the front of the church throughout The Christmas Season. Please donate new or like-new items for ages one to four, which will be taken to Options for Women in Sauk Centre after Christmas. Thank you and may you all have a Very Blessed Christmas.

CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Adult Envelopes	\$1,321.54
Plate.....	285.32
Total Weekly Contributions	\$1,606.86

Other Donations

Thanksgiving Envelopes.....	\$20.00
Christmas Flowers.....	225.00

Parish Events

Su 12/10	7:00 pm	Men's Group - FR
Tu 12/12	7:00 am	Adoration
We 12/13	6:00 pm	FF First Confession - FR
We 12/13	7:00 pm	FF Grade 7-10 - FR
We 12/13	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples - FR
Fr 12/15	7:30 pm	Rosary
Sa 12/16	1:00 pm	Jaycees Kids' Christmas Party
Su 12/17	7:00 pm	Men's Group - FR



Gifts for Baby Jesus During the Advent Season, the Christian Women of St. Rose will have a bassinet in the gathering area. We are seeking new and like new donations for infants through toddlers which we will drop off periodically throughout the season of Advent at the Options for Women in Sauk Centre. Car seats are an especially difficult item for the site to maintain. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.

An Epoch in Time, a history of St. Rose of Lima parish, will be available for pickup or purchase after the 10:00 am Mass in St. Rosa today, Sunday, December 10. Cost \$35.

Fellowship St. Rosa Christian Women will be hosting a fellowship following Mass on Sunday, December 17 with Christmas treats and milk. Please join us! Christian Women- please drop off treats in the church basement before Mass.



- Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$912.05
Regular Adult Offering.....	547.00
Children.....	4.05
Plate/Loose	139.00
Votives.....	192.00
Maintenance Fund	10.00
Christmas Flowers.....	20.00

Liturgical Ministries

Sunday, December 17 - 10:00 am

- (S) Gabby or Celia Schoenberg & Olivia Kalthoff
- (L) Pete LeClaire
- (U) Robert Bertram & Tyler Bertram
- (EM) (B) Darlene Schoneberg
- (EM) (C) NO Precious Blood
- (Sacristan) Ruth Heinen
- (RL) Marilyn Gruber
- (CC) Chico Welle & Steve Welle
- (HK: December 10 - 23) Mary Stalboerger, Rhonda Sunderman, & Bre Terres



Christmas Flowers or Monetary Offering If anyone prefers to make a monetary offering for Christmas flowers, please use the envelope dated December 17 and labeled Christmas Flower Offering. Please turn in by December 10 and flowers will be purchased for you before Christmas. If you choose to buy flowers yourself, bring them to the back of the Church any time and mark them appropriately.

Knights of Columbus

St. Joseph the Worker Council

December 2023

Calendar Raffle Winners



12-01	\$40	Chuck Uphoff
12-02	\$60	Isidore Schmitz
12-03	\$100	Bailey & Martha Van Beck
12-04	\$20	Don Austing
12-05	\$40	Bev Winter
12-06	\$60	Amy Van Beck
12-07	\$20	Joe Christen
12-08	\$40	Kurt Mayers
12-09	\$60	Avery Van Beck
12-10	\$100	Duane Hellmann

Catholic United Financial



Calendar Raffle winners

December 2023

12-01	\$40	Kathy Schulzetenberg
12-02	\$40	Taylor Nathe
12-03	\$100	Norm Schwieters
12-04	\$40	Jerry Schmiesing
12-05	\$40	Darin Funk
12-06	\$40	Julie Mayers
12-07	\$40	Jerry Revermann
12-08	\$100	Beth Williams (Rayce)
12-09	\$40	Tom Neal
12-10	\$100	Bryce Nathe

*O Jesus,
I surrender myself to
you, Take Care of
everything.*

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

Formación en la fe: Información de contacto:
Faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com
 •Grados 7/8 - Próxima clase: Miércoles, 13 de diciembre, 7:15-8:30 pm. Iglesia de St. Mary. Estudiantes y algunos padres.

Habrà Adoración al Santísimo cada Primer Jueves del Mes a las 6:30 pm.



Rosario y Oración con la comunidad de Oración Santa María los últimos tres jueves del mes a las 6:30 pm. ¡Todos son bien venidos!

Si desea, ofrecer una misa por un ser querido, o si desea recibir algún sacramento de bautismo o matrimonio, favor de hablar con el Padre Arockiya Newton o con el Diacono Jorge Carrillo o el Diacono Jesús Hernández. O llama a la oficina 320-256-4207.

Clínica de Salud Gratis. Cada tercer jueves del mes en el Centro Hispano de Waite Park, de 2 a 5:30 pm se atiende con cita o sin cita. 106 7th Ave North, Waite Park, 56387. Llame hoy para programar una cita. 320-492-2220.

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆


Total	\$1,238.00
Regular Adult Offering	604.00
Plate/Loose	53.00
Votives.....	6.00
School Subsidy.....	75.00
Thanksgiving.....	470.00
Christmas Flowers.....	30.00


◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$4,010.25
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,324.00
Children.....	0.25
Plate/Loose	352.00
Votives.....	48.00
School Subsidy.....	76.00
Steeple Lighting.....	60.00
Thanksgiving.....	1,150.00

Liturgical Ministries
Saturday, December 16 - 4:00 pm
 (S) Sophia Kasper & Lydia Kasper
 (L) Linda Heinze
 (U) Bill Frieler & Duane Frieler
 (GB) Ron & Carol Winter
 (EM) (B) Clarine Beier
 (EM) (C) NO Precious Blood
 (HK - December) *Marilyn Welle, Doreen Wenker, Lucy Wessel, Bev Winter, Carol Winter, & Kris Winter

Liturgical Ministries
Sunday, December 17 - 8:00 am
 (S) Carter Kelzer & Logan Kelzer
 (L) Doug Meyer
 (U) Jayme Klaphake & Tom Loxtercamp
 (GB) Karl & Geri Meyer
 (EM) (B) Karl Meyer & Char Meyer
 (EM) (C) NO Precious Blood
 (HK - December) *Joni Imdieke, Sharon Imdieke, Kate Kelzer, Amy Klaphake, Ruth Klaphake, & Mary Kay Leukam

 **Christmas Flowers...**If you would like to donate toward Christmas Flowers, in memory of a loved one, please put a note along with your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Flowers. Thank you!

 **Christmas Flowers...**If you would like to donate toward Christmas Flowers, in memory of a loved one, please put a note along with your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Flowers. Thank you!

Finance & Parish Council will meet Tuesday, December 12 in the Greenwald Parish house. Finance Council at 7:00 pm and Parish Council at 7:30 pm.

A Big Thank You to all who contributed their efforts of time, talent and/or treasure to the addition of the parking stops and boulevard in the parking lot by the park. It looks great! The grass will be seeded in the spring.

CALLED TO THE DESERT



con.'t from page 1

Reflect, today, upon that "desert" to which you have been called, so as to prepare yourself and others for the coming of Christ. That desert is any place where there is need and every place where our Lord is not. It might be your family, work environment, community, among friends, or any place that lacks the superabundance of God's grace. Seek to enter those deserts and to be open to be a channel of our Lord's grace to those in need.

Lord, You desire to come to me and to all of Your children every day. Please use me to not only prepare my own heart and soul for Your divine coming but to also prepare others to meet You. Give me wisdom and compassion, insight and strength, so that I can imitate Saint John the Baptist and prepare the way for Your most glorious coming by grace. Jesus, I trust in You.

mycatholic.life

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 Christmas gift ideas!**



Public Rosary...

We have many intentions to pray for and much to be thankful for.

All are invited and welcome!

- 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.



FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: csand@catholic-centered.org

- **Grade 1, 3-6 Next Class:** Wednesday, December 13. Home Lesson.
- **Grade 2: Next Class: First Confession** - Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00 pm. Meet in Sacred Heart Church.
- **Grade 7-10: Next Class:** Wednesday, December 13 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 7/8 - Next Class:** Wednesday, December 13, 7:15-8:30 pm. St. Mary's Church. Students and some parents.

ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2



Together Encountering Christ (TEC) is a three-day retreat weekend. The experience of TEC brings alive the heart of our Christian Faith – that being the life of Jesus, his death, and his resurrection.

But it's not just about who Jesus was or what Jesus did. A TEC retreat makes that experience real and relevant for each person. In that sense, the retreat is a "lived experience" – deeply personal yet very much part of a larger loving community. TEC has influenced the lives of over 41,000 youth, young adults, and adults in Central Minnesota and beyond. You are invited to check out a TEC weekend and encounter Christ in perhaps a new and most profound way. For information, retreat dates, and registration, go to CMTEC.org.

"A Voice is Calling" Is Christ calling you to let Him manifest His love in you as a priest or consecrated religious? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 320-251-5001 or via email: Julie.Jacobs@gw.studio.org

Ministry Help Needed We are looking for help with Mass ministries. There are many opportunities for you to help with the Mass. You can be a sacristan and be behind the scenes setting up and taking down for Mass. You can share the Word of God by becoming a lector. You can be commissioned to distribute communion by being an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. There is also need for servers, ushers and rosary leaders. Please prayerfully consider taking on one of these rolls. Contact your parish office if you are interested in helping with any of these ministries.

The Scriptures This Week

Year B, Weekdays - Cycle II

Mo	Is 35:1-10	Lk 5:17-26
Tu	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
We	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Is 40:25-31	Mt 11:28-30
Th	Saint John of the Cross, Priest, and Doctor of the Church Is 41:13-20	Mt 11:11-15
Fr	Is 48:17-19	Mt 11:16-19
Sa	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11	Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11	1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

YOUTH MINISTRY

One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

Contact Information:

csand@catholic-centered.org or faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

- ♥ **Youth in Grades 6-12**, please join us to wrap Christmas gifts for the St. Nick Project and enjoy hot chocolate and snacks on Sunday, December 17 from 6:00-7:30 pm at St. Mary's School.
- ♥ **Castaway Retreat for Grades 9-12:** Friday - Sunday, March 22-24 at the Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes, MN. Castaways has been an energizing experience for our young Church in the Diocese of St. Cloud for 51 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 - \$190. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, January 31 with a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Registration forms are available on the parish websites. Contact Chrystal Sand at csand@catholic-centered.org or 320-836-214, or Pam Pundsack at pam@stmarysofmelrose.org or 320-256-9503 with questions.

Mass Schedule for Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day

Sunday, December 24 (Vigil):

4:00 pm	<i>St. Mary, Melrose</i> (Carols will be sung 20 minutes before Mass)
4:00 pm	<i>Sacred Heart, Freeport</i> (Carols will be sung 30 minutes before Mass)
4:00 pm	<i>St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove</i> (Carols will be sung 30 minutes before Mass)
7:30 pm	<i>St. Andrew, Greenwald</i>
7:30 pm	<i>St. Michael, Spring Hill</i> (Carols will be sung 35 minutes before Mass)

Monday, December 25:

8:00 am	<i>St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa</i> (Carols will be sung 15 minutes before Mass)
9:00 am	<i>St. Mary, Melrose</i> (Carols will be sung 20 minutes before Mass)
9:00 am	<i>Immaculate Conception, New Munich</i> (Carols will be sung 30 minutes before Mass)
9:00 am	<i>St. Andrew, Greenwald</i>
6:30 pm	<i>St. Mary, Melrose Misa en Español</i>



Prayer Requests...

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

For the Sick: Belester Vazquez Sobreyra, Shari Salina, Joe Salina, Lynn Bussmann MacRae

Contact Persons for Prayer Line Requests:

• Sacred Heart - Judy Caveny	248-8830
• Immaculate Conception - Bernice Zink	837-5321
• St. Rose of Lima - Kayla Harren	333-8461
• St. Mary's	256-3878

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
PRINCIPAL: Kristie Harren
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Amy Van Beck
SHS BOARD:
 Nick Shaw, Jamie Engelmeyer,
 Tamara Welle, Lindsay Frieler,
 Jenelle Herkenhoff, and Julie Job
 Phone: 320-836-2591 Fax: 320-836-2514
 www.shsfreeport.org



Phone: 320-256-4257 www.smsmelrosemn.org

PASTOR: Fr. Marvin Enneking
PRINCIPAL: Autumn Nelson
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Briana Worms
SMS BOARD:
 Cory Ellering, Bob Arceneau,
 Ali Arnzen, Cindy Hemmesch,
 Jake Primus, and Pat Christensen



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

PASTOR: Fr. Marvin Enneking
PRINCIPAL: Mary Miller
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Kristen Pattinson

SJSA BOARD: Kathy Gilk, Adam
 Kalthoff, Kate Kelzer, Kurt Meyer,
 Trista Meyer, Jenny Wilson, and Kristi Zimmer

- ♥ **On Friday, December 8** we recognized and blessed a former alumni, Abby Heinen (daughter of Matt and Cindy Heinen of New Munich), as she will be deployed to Kuwait shortly.
- ♥ **School Liturgy** on Wednesday, December 13 will be planned by the staff of SHS.
- ♥ **SHS is selling their Calendars** again this year for the calendar raffle. If you are interested in a calendar, please reach out to a SHS family or you can pick one up in the office. They are \$25 each - over \$10,000 in prizes and 367 chances to win.
- ♥ **The SHS 2nd Graders** will have their First Confession on Wednesday, December 13 at 2:00 pm. The other grades will also have an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation on that day as well.
- ♥ **SHS Christmas Program** is on Wednesday, December 20. We will have performances at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm in the gym. All are welcome!
- ♥ **Sacred Heart Advent Project** has begun, and we are supporting a local shelter - 180 degrees. This shelter creates safe spaces and services that honor each individual's healing journey by creating emergency housing, supportive housing, trauma informed care to youth, and much more. We would like to collect youth clothing, youth personal care items, and youth holiday gifts by Tuesday, December 12. Visit <https://www.180degrees.org/> to learn more about this organization.
- ♥ **Save the date** for our annual WINE and DINE. This year the event will be on Saturday, January 27. Raffle and Dinner tickets will be available shortly.

- ♦ **Halos to Melrose Bowl** for allowing each of the classrooms to bowl complimentary during the month of December. This experience is greatly appreciated.
- ♦ **The last date to order SMSS4Kids** for pre-Christmas arrival for cards that we don't have in-stock is today, Sunday, December 10 by 8:00 pm to arrive before Christmas break. In-stock cards and certificates can be purchased from the office until Thursday, December 21 by 3:00 pm. We will resume weekly orders the week of January 1.
- ♦ **For Advent**, the students and staff at St. Mary's will collect new socks for men, women, girls, and boys of all ages, to be given to Melrose Food Shelf, Eagle's Healing Nest, Place of Hope, and Anna Marie's Alliance. Please feel free to drop off socks when you go to Mass or leave them at the school entrance.
- ♦ **Advent Prayer Services** will be held on the following Mondays: December 11 and 18 at 2:15 pm in the school gym. You are welcome to join us.
- ♦ **St. Mary's Christmas Program** at the Marit Elliot Performing Arts Center, Melrose Area School, on Wednesday, December 13, at 1:00 and 7:00 pm. Little Saints program on Wednesday, December 15, at 9:30 am in the SMS gym.
- ♦ **Auction 4 Education** St. Mary's Catholic School's 22nd Annual Auction 4 Education will be held on Saturday, March 2, at the Legion. The theme this year is Down on the Farm.

- ♦ **Harry's Pizza Pick-Up** is Saturday, December 16 from 9:00-10:00 am in the school basement.
- ♦ **SJSA Received a Check** for \$101.15 for aluminum can recycling. Thank you for recycling with SJSA. The can trailer is located in the south parking lot of St. John's Church in Meire Grove.
- ♦ **Thank You** to Stearns County American Dairy Association for donating \$500 for "dairy treats" for SJSA students throughout the school year.
- ♦ **Three Wisemen and A Baby...** SJSA students will present *Three Wisemen and A Baby* on Tuesday, December 19 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Church in Greenwald. Refreshments will be served in the school basement after each program.
- ♦ **Advent** SJSA students will gather the Monday mornings of Advent to light the Advent wreath and offer Advent prayers. The students will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Melrose Area Food Shelf December 4 - 15 as their Advent Service Project. If you would like to contribute, please drop your items off at the school.
- ♦ **St. John's-St. Andrew's school board** is asking for nominations for the SJSA Supporter Award to be given out at the Annual Steak and Wine Dinner and Auction (February 9 and 10, 2024). This award is given to community members who have shown great support to the school over the years. Please send nominations by December 31 to Kathy Gilk at skgilk@meltel.net or 320-987-2873, or by calling the school at 320-987-3133.

Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

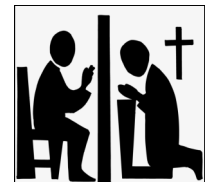
12/03 \$25 Amy Orbeck - Melrose
 12/04 \$25 Dawson Waldvogel - Melrose
 12/05 \$25 Jenny Lieser - St. Joseph
 12/06 \$25 Lisa Wolak - Foley
 12/07 \$25 Christine Heinen - Avon
 12/08 \$50 Erin Welle - St. Paul
 12/09 \$25 Craig Tschida - Sauk Centre



Sacrament of Confession

• Individual Celebration:

Tuesday	December 19	after 8:15 am Mass	St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa
Wednesday	December 20	7:30 pm	St. Andrew, Greenwald
		7:30 pm	St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove
Thursday	December 21	after 8:15 am Mass	Immaculate Conception, New Munich
		7:30 pm	St. Mary, Melrose
		7:30 pm	St. Michael, Spring Hill
Fridays	7:45 am	Sacred Heart, Freeport	
Saturdays	3:30 pm	St. Andrew, Greenwald	
Saturdays	3:30 pm	Immaculate Conception, New Munich	
Saturdays	4:30 pm	St. Mary, Melrose	
Sundays	12:00 pm	St. Mary, Melrose	



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