



# 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

**Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

**January 12, 2025**

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](mailto:bulletin@catholic-centered.org)

## Confession Times

- ◆Fridays 7:45 am Sacred Heart
- ◆Saturdays 3:30 pm Immaculate Conception
- ◆Saturdays 3:30 pm St. Andrew
- ◆Saturdays 4:30 pm St. Mary
- ◆Or by appointment. Call the Parish Office.

## Marriage

Couples are to begin preparation 6-12 months in advance and **must** call the respective Parish Office **before setting a date.**

\*Diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes are required.

## Baptism & 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.



# You are My Beloved Son

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, ***"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*** Mark 1:9-11

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes for us the Christmas Season and transitions us into the beginning of Ordinary Time. From a Scriptural point of view, this event in Jesus' life is also a transitional moment from His hidden life in Nazareth to the beginning of His public ministry. As we commemorate this glorious event, it's important to ponder a simple question: Why was Jesus baptized? Recall that John's baptism was one of repentance, an act by which he invited his followers to turn from sin and to turn to God. But Jesus was sinless, so what was the reason for His Baptism?

First of all, we see in the quoted passage above that Jesus' true identity was made manifest through His humble act of baptism. "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased," spoke the voice of the Father in Heaven. Furthermore, we are told that the Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. Thus, Jesus' baptism is in part a public declaration of Who He is. He is the Son of God, a divine Person Who is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. This public testimony is an "epiphany," a manifestation of His true identity for all to see as He prepares to begin His public ministry.

Second, by His baptism, Jesus' incredible humility is made manifest. He is the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, but He allows Himself to become identified with sinners. By sharing in an act that was focused upon repentance, Jesus speaks volumes through His action of baptism. He came to unite Himself with us sinners, to enter our sin and to enter into our death. By entering the water, He symbolically enters into death itself, which is the result of our sin, and rises triumphantly, allowing us to also rise with Him to new life. For this reason, Jesus' baptism was a way of Him "baptizing" the waters, so to speak, so that water itself, from that moment onward, would be endowed with His divine presence and could be communicated to all who are baptized after Him. Therefore, sinful humanity is now able to meet divinity through baptism.

Lastly, when we share in this new baptism, through water that has now been sanctified by our divine Lord, we see in Jesus' baptism a revelation of who we become in Him. Just as the Father spoke and declared Him as His Son, and just as the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, so also in our baptism we become the adopted children of the Father and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Thus, Jesus' baptism gives clarity as to whom we become in Christian baptism.

*Lord, I thank You for Your humble act of baptism by which You opened the Heavens to all who are sinners. May I open my heart to the unfathomable grace of my own baptism each and every day and more fully live with You as a child of the Father, filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus, I trust in You.*

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ JANUARY 13 – 19

ADORATION

**ST. MARY - Melrose**

Mo 6:30 pm **Misa en Español**  
 Por las almas del Purgatorio y  
 †Guadalupe Garcia Moreno  
 Tu 8:00 am †Leona Bertram  
 We 8:00 am †Ralph Muellner  
 Th 8:00 am †Caroline Pohlmann  
 \*Fr 8:30 am **SM School Mass**  
 †Jean Hellermann  
 Sa 5:00 pm †Victor & †Dorine Sunderman  
 \*Su 10:00 am †Ron Leners  
 Su 12:30 pm **Misa en Español**  
 2do Aniversario Luctuoso de  
 Gilberto Orozco Vazquez

**SACRED HEART - Freeport**

We 8:15 am **SH School Mass**  
 †Olivia & †Cyril Schneider  
**We 7:00 pm** Faith Formation Families  
 Fr 8:15 am †Joe Rueter  
 Su 8:00 am For the People

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich**

Th 8:15 am †Norb & †Marilyn Schaefer  
 Sa 4:00 pm †Cel Rieland

**ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa**

Tu 8:15 am †Jim Matchinsky  
 Su 10:00 am †Deceased/Living Toenyan Family

**ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill**

Tu 8:00 am †Vernon Welle  
 Su 10:00 am For the People

**ST. ANDREW - Greenwald**

Th 8:00 am **SJSA School Mass**  
 †Deceased Members of  
 Edwin Frieler Family  
 Sa 4:00 pm †Luella Marthaler  
 †Joan Marthaler-Gerads

**ST. JOHN - Meire Grove**

We 8:00 am †Norm Wehlage  
 Su 8:00 am †Lucille Imdieke



**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](http://oneinfaith.org) for the YouTube link.

ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

**Parish News:**

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

- Children's Envelopes** are available in the parish office. If you would like your child/ren to have them, please contact the office and we will assign them.
- Sharing Your Talents** Do you love to play the piano? Do you love church music? Please consider sharing your talents at Mass. Teen and adult piano players who have studied for several years will receive one-on-one training in liturgical music. You will be supported as you start to play for Masses. Training is free, scheduling is flexible, and music will be provided. Playing at Mass is rewarding and a great way to share your talent. Please contact Sarah Woeste at 320-256-9516 for more information.

**Updating Contact Information** Please notify the respective parish office to add, remove, or modify phone numbers, addresses, and any other information that has changed. If you are receiving contribution envelopes and do not wish to, or have not been receiving them and want to, please contact the respective parish office.



**MCCL Bus to the Capitol** Sauk Centre MCCL will be sponsoring a bus to the Capitol in St. Paul for the March For Life on Wednesday, January 22. This bus will leave from Wal-Mart in Sauk Centre at 9:00 am and should arrive at St. Mary's Church Parking Lot by 9:15 am. To reserve a seat on the bus please call 320-250-9904. Please dress warm and bring a bag lunch.

**Jubilee Year 2025** Pope Francis has declared the new Jubilee Year as the Year of Pilgrims of Hope. This Jubilee Year officially opened at the diocesan level on Sunday, December 29, 2024. More details about these celebrations can be found in the Minnesota Catholic Magazine's December issue or by visiting <https://stcdio.org/jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>.

**Christ the King Retreat Center** in Buffalo holds retreats throughout the year. Enhance your faith life with one of the retreats below. For more information or to register, please call 763-682-1394 or visit [www.kingshouse.com](http://www.kingshouse.com).

•Women's Silent Retreat - January 17-19 (Weekend)

**Parish News:**

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

- Blessed Epiphany Chalk** Please remember the chalk is blessed. After using the chalk, please return it to the church or Tri-Parish Office, or bury it in the ground.



**Prayer Requests for the Sick** If you or a loved one would like to be added to the prayer list, please email [bulletin@catholic-centered.org](mailto:bulletin@catholic-centered.org) or call one of the parish offices.

**Stewardship as a Way of Life** "John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit..." (Luke 3:16) The Catholic Catechism states that "Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will." In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus - the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

**Vespers/March for Life...Vespers:** Sunday, January 19, at Church of St. Anthony, 2405 1st St N, St Cloud, MN 56303. Rosary at 3:30 pm and Vespers at 4:00 pm. Bishop Patrick Neary will preside. The service includes music, prayer, scripture and reflection for the millions of children who have been aborted since 1973. Monetary donations accepted to Mother Mary's Fund to assist pregnancy resource centers in the Diocese of St. Cloud. **March:** Wednesday, January 22, at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul, MN. The Sauk Centre MCCL will be sponsoring a bus to the Capitol in St. Paul. Please see the "MCCL Bus to the Capitol" notice on this page for more information on busing to this event. The Diocese of Saint Cloud is also coordinating a bus to St. Paul. A free-will offering will be accepted to help with the transportation cost. Bus will depart at 7:45 am from St. Mary's Cathedral. Registration is required. Deadline to register for the bus is Wednesday, January 15. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.stcdio.org/march4life2025> or call 320-258-7615.



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

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

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

Total.....	\$13,468.66
Regular Adult Offering .....	10,461.00
Plate/Loose .....	1,334.66
Designated Funds .....	1,673.00

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

Total.....	\$9,655.85
Regular Adult Offering.....	3,802.85
Plate.....	3,196.00
Votive.....	323.00
School Support.....	10.00
Central MN Catholic Magazine.....	50.00
Building/Maintenance .....	175.00
Epiphany Supplies .....	179.00
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes .....	1,750.00
Solemnity of Mary Plate .....	170.00

**St. Mary's Calendar Raffle**

01-05	\$25	Karl & Jill Funk - Melrose
01-06	\$25	Judy Hennen - Freeport
01-07	\$25	Kevin Costello - Grey Eagle
01-08	\$25	Abby Zenzen - Sauk Centre
01-09	\$25	Nancy Rausch - Prior Lake
01-10	\$25	Judy Hennen - Freeport
01-11	\$25	Bernie & Lisa Brixius - Melrose



**Thank You** to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with the Christmas Environment. All your hard work created a great worship space for the Christmas season.

**Prayer Requests...**

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

**Banns of Matrimony:**

I Hallie Feldewerd♥Kole Barten, 2-01 NM

**For the Sick:** Fred Pfau, Dorothy Schneider, Sandy Welle, Vivian Weber

**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

**Parish Events**

Mo	01/13	9:00 am	Take Down Church Decor
We	01/15	6:00 pm	Faith Formation Grade 2
We	01/15	7:00 pm	Mid-Year Faith Formation Mass
Fr	01/17	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	01/17	9:00 am	Adoration
Su	01/19	9:00 am	Catholic Schools Week Social



*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.*



**One In Faith ACC Catholic Schools Dinner & Auction Fundraisers**



◆SHS 30th Annual Wine & Dine Dinner and Auction will be held on Saturday, January 25. We will have an online Silent Auction (more info to follow in the next few weeks) as well as a live auction on the night of the event. The fundraiser will also include a \$100 cash raffle with a top prize of \$20,000. Dinner and Raffle tickets are available from all SHS families as well as at the school and parish office. We will also be selling after Masses in the Tri-Parish this weekend as well as January 18 - 19.



◆34th Annual Steak & Wine Dinner & Auction to support St. John's - St. Andrew's Catholic School will be Saturday, February 8, at The Greenwald Pub. Tickets cost \$35 and are now available at the school, Meire Grove Gas & Grocery, 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!



◆23rd St. Mary's Annual Auction 4 Education will be held on Saturday, March 1, at the American Legion in Melrose. Doors open at 5:00. The night will start with a game of Family Feud. How well do you know the students at SMS? A free-will offering meal will be served from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. Disco for Dollar \$100 Raffle tickets can be purchased after Masses and are available 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. Winners will be drawn on March 1 at the Legion. We will again use our online platform to bid for silent auction items, while the classroom projects will be auctioned live in person at the Legion. Please come dressed in your best Disco attire. Visit our auction website for more details. <http://www.bidpal.net/smsmelrose>

Join us at each of these fundraisers for a great meal and lots of fun. All are welcome!



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

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

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$6,063.82
Regular Adult Offering.....	2,502.69
Plate.....	194.50
Christmas Envelopes.....	1,720.00
Building/Maintenance.....	239.62
Epiphany Supplies .....	116.01
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes .....	1,115.00
Solemnity of Mary Plate .....	176.00

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$3,087.70
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,504.85
Plate.....	322.00
Christmas Envelopes.....	250.00
Epiphany Supplies .....	103.85
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes .....	800.00
Solemnity of Mary Plate .....	107.00

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$1,406.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	389.00
Children .....	4.00
Plate/Loose .....	115.00
Fuel Fund.....	100.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	593.00
School Subsidy.....	5.00
Christmas.....	200.00

**Parish Events**

We 01/15 6:00 pm FF Grade 2 - FR  
 We 01/15 7:00 pm FF Mid-Year Mass - FR  
 Sa 01/18 3:30 pm Individual Confessions  
 Su 01/19 9:00 am Catholic Schools Week Social - FR

**Parish Events**

Tu 01/14 9:00 am Quilting  
 We 01/15 6:00 pm FF Grade 2 - FR  
 We 01/15 7:00 pm FF Mid-Year Mass - FR  
 Fr 01/17 7:30 pm Rosary  
 Su 01/19 9:00 am Catholic Schools Week Social - FR  
 Su 01/19 9:00 am Family Gathering

**Liturgical Ministries**  
**Sunday, January 19 - 10:00 am**  
 (S) Olivia Kalthoff & Stella Schoenberg  
 (L) Ralph Klassen  
 (U) Roger Meyer & Mark Schoenberg  
 (EM) (B) Nick Waldorf  
 (EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
 (Sacristan) Ruth Heinen  
 (RL) Kathy Welle  
 (CC) Stan Heinen & Melvin Kalthoff  
 (HK: January 5 - 18) Jenn Tshida, Renee Van Drehle, & Daisha Welle

*This is my beloved  
 Son,  
 listen to Him*



**Quilting...** Come join us in St. Rose. The quilters will be quilting on Tuesdays at 9:00 am. Lunch is provided, everyone is welcome.

**Coffee and Rolls** St. Michael's Catholic United Financial is sponsoring Coffee and Rolls after the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, January 19 in the church basement. Everyone is invited, please join us!

**Mass Time Switch** Please note the January 26 weekend Mass times will switch. The 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, January 25 will be at St. Michael's Church in Spring Hill and the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday is at St. Andrew's.



**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.

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

<b>Mo Weekday</b> (First Week in Ordinary Time)	Heb 1:1-6	Mk 1:14-20
<b>Tu Weekday</b>	Heb 2:5-12	Mk 1:21-28
<b>We Weekday</b>	Heb 2:14-18	Mk 1:29-39
<b>Th Weekday</b>	Heb 3:7-14	Mk 1:40-45
<b>Fr Saint Anthony, Abbot</b> (Memorial)	Heb 4:1-5, 11	Mk 2:1-12
<b>Sa Weekday</b>	Heb 4:12-16	Mk 2:13-17
<b>Next Sunday - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Is 62:1-5	1 Cor 12:4-11
		Jn 2:1-11

**Sacred Heart School**  
 Calendar Raffle Winners!

01/01	\$250	Brenda Knutson - Browerville
01/01	\$50	Tami Greenslade - Rochester
01/02	\$25	Jeanette Gerads - Freeport
01/03	\$25	Glen & Peggy Stangler - Albany
01/04	\$25	Dan Zenner - Paynesville
01/05	\$25	Dick Koll - Melrose
01/06	\$25	Mark & Tina Heidgerken - Melrose
01/07	\$25	Don & Deb Hellermann - Melrose
01/08	\$25	Darlene Masters - Hanover
01/09	\$25	Jan Hoffmann - Grey Eagle
01/10	\$25	Hailey Owskey - Albany
01/11	\$25	Matt & Rhonda Schmidt - Melrose



**CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW**

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$2,772.00
Regular Adult Offering .....	2,150.00
Plate/Loose .....	218.00
Votives .....	19.00
Christmas.....	300.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	20.00
School Subsidy.....	65.00

**Liturgical Ministries**

**Saturday, January 18 - 4:00 pm**

- (S) Aubrey Stepan & Emily Stepan
- (L) Isaiah Gilk
- (U) Tim Lucken & Dave Nathe
- (GB) Roger & Joyce Schoenberg
- (EM) (B) Mike Barten
- (EM) (C) No Precious Blood
- (HK - January) \*Lisa Bertram, Sheryl Braun, Kate Buermann, & Sara Dehmer

**Mass Time Switch** Please note the January 26 weekend Mass times will switch. The 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, January 25 will be at St. Michael's Church in Spring Hill and the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday is at St. Andrew's.

**CHURCH OF ST. JOHN**

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$3,856.91
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,550.00
Children.....	0.25
Plate/Loose .....	471.00
Votives.....	74.00
Steeple Lighting.....	60.00
Christmas Crib.....	6.66
School Subsidy.....	25.00
Christmas.....	1,200.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	470.00

**Liturgical Ministries**

**Sunday, January 19 - 8:00 am**

- (S) Faith Meyer & Miranda Meyer
- (L) Rita Meyer
- (U) Nick Kelzer & Jayme Klaphake
- (GB) Dean & Karen Meyer
- (EM) Char Meyer & Dan Meyer
- (HK - January) \*Cindy Schneider, Karen Schneider, Linda Schneider, Joy Silbernick, Julie Wehlage, & Abby Zenzen

**HISPANIC MINISTRY**

**¡Agradecimiento!** El consejo parroquial Hispano de la Iglesia de Santa Maria agradece a todas las personas que nos apoyaron en las celebraciones pasadas de Navidad. Nuestra meta es volver a crear el ambiente de fraternidad, unidad y comunidad que había antes de la pandemia. Seguiremos trabajando para que nuestras tradiciones sigan viviendo en nuestra comunidad y se sigan transmitiendo entre las nuevas generaciones. ¡Gracias a todos también por participar en los eventos y celebraciones que planeamos y les deseamos un año 2025 lleno de bendiciones, amor y prosperidad!

**¡Festival de Familias Diocesana:**

Reúnase con nosotros en St. Francis Xavier en Sartell de 11:00 am a 4:00 pm para un día de diversión y aprendizaje familiar. Los padres elegirán a qué sesiones (en español) asistirán mientras los niños y adolescentes participan en su propio aprendizaje. Registre a su familia por solo \$25 en: <https://stcdio.org/event/2025-festival-of-families/>



**HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA**

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

**January 15, Wednesday**

◆**Blood Drive** at the American Legion in Melrose from 12:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Please visit [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) enter: Melrose to schedule an appointment or call 1-800-REDCROSS.

**January 16, Thursday**

◆**Freeport Senior Citizens Meeting** Note: Time Change Meeting changed to 12:00 pm because of a booking later in the day. We will meet at the Freeport Senior Center. All area seniors welcome. Bingo and 500 will be played.

**January 17, Friday**

◆**“All You Can Eat” Fish Fry** at the Melrose American Legion. Please join us from 4:30 - 8:00 pm. Take outs are available.

**January 18, Saturday**

◆**Tenth Annual Holy Family School Snow Ball Dinner and Auction** at Seven Dolors Church in Albany will include a catered dinner, a live auction, an in person silent auction, a powersport vehicle raffle and a cash raffle. The dinner will be served 4:00 - 8:00 pm. The live auction begins at 8:00 pm. D'Lish Coffee and Catering of Freeport will cater the dinner, which will feature beef tips and smoked pork chops. Dinner tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door.

**January 18, Saturday Cont'd.**

◆**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. Register at [www.gracevineco.com/ouevents](http://www.gracevineco.com/ouevents). Questions contact Grace Hopfer at [graceandvineco@gmail.com](mailto:graceandvineco@gmail.com) or 320-333-8412

**January 19, Sunday**

◆**Melrose Lions Breakfast** at the Melrose American legion. Serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.

**January 20, Monday**

◆**Red Cross Blood Drive** hosted by Health & Wellness Team of the St. Stephen Catholic Church from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Call 800-Red-Cross or visit [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: St. Stephen Catholic to schedule an appointment.

**January 25, Saturday**

◆**Sacred Heart School Wine & Dine** at the Freeport Community Center beginning at 4:30 pm. See page 4 for more information.

**January 26, Sunday**

◆**St. Mary's School Catholic Schools Week Breakfast** in St. Mary's School Gym. Serving from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. Pancakes, sausage, eggs, and more. Tickets sold in advance and at the door; to-go options available. Adults (13 years old and up) \$10. Children (6-12 years old) \$5. Children (5 and under) Free.

ORA. PROMUEVE. PROTEGE.

**Vísperas/Marzo por La Vida**

JUNTOS, PODEMOS HACER LA DIFERENCIA

**VÍSPERA**

**19 DE ENERO**

ST. ANTHONY, ST. CLOUD | 3:30 - 5:00 P.M.

El Rosario por la vida comienza a las 3:30 p. m. seguido de un servicio de oración de Vísperas a las 4:00 p. m. incluyendo música, oración, escrituras y reflexión por los millones de niños abortados desde 1973. El obispo Patrick Neary presidirá.

Se aceptan donaciones monetarias a Mother Mary's Fund para ayudar a los centros de apoyo de embarazos en la Diócesis de Saint Cloud.

**MARZO**

**22 DE ENERO**

CATEDRAL DE SAN PABLO, ST. PAUL, MN

La Diócesis de San Cloud, está coordinando un autobús a St Paul. Se aceptarán donaciones para ayudar con el costo del autobús.

Vístanse abrigadamente y traigan su almuerzo. Para inscribirse visiten <https://www.stcdio.org/march4life2025> ó lláme al 320-258-7615.

El plazo de inscripción finaliza el 15 de enero.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN VISITE [WWW.STCDIO.ORG/MARCH4LIFE2025](http://WWW.STCDIO.ORG/MARCH4LIFE2025) Ó LLAME AL 320-258-7615



## FAITH FORMATION/YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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

- **Grades 1-10:** Wednesday, January 15 Mid-Year Mass at 7:00 pm. Families are encouraged to attend with their students. **All students are expected to attend Mass.**
- **Grades 1, 3-6: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 15 Home Lesson.
- **Grade 2: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 15 at 6:00 pm. Meet at the parish office.
- **Grades 7-10: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 29 at 7:00 pm. Bring your Bible, books, notebook, and pen. Meet in your classroom.
- **Grade 10: Confirmation Student and Parent Interviews:** Wednesday, January 22. Please see mailing or contact Chrystal at the office for scheduled time.

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

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

- **Confirmation: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 15 from 7:15 - 8:30 pm at St. Mary's Church. Students and mentors.
- **First Communion Students and Families:** Saturday, January 18 is our celebration of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation! Please be at St. Mary's Church at **8:45 am** (the liturgy will start at 9:00 am.) Parents, family, and friends are invited to join us in celebrating your child's First Reconciliation! There will be refreshments after the liturgy!

### One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

Contact Information:

[youthministry@catholic-centered.org](mailto:youthministry@catholic-centered.org) or [faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com](mailto: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 320-836-2143 or [csand@catholic-centered.org](mailto:csand@catholic-centered.org), or Pam Pundsack at 320-256-9503 or [pam@stmarysofmelrose.org](mailto:pam@stmarysofmelrose.org) with questions.
- **Castaway Retreat for Grades 9-12:** Friday - Sunday, March 28-30 at the Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes, MN. Castaway has been an energizing experience for our young Church in the Diocese of St. Cloud for 52 years. This retreat is a weekend filled with powerful prayer, fun skits, inspirational speakers, awesome music, an incredible Mass, and many faith-growing opportunities. Come together with over 300 others and make new friends, take time to relax, laugh, eat fantastic food, and renew your spirit while strengthening your relationship with God. Cost - \$200. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, February 5 with a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Registration forms are available on the parish websites. Contact Chrystal Sand at [csand@catholic-centered.org](mailto:csand@catholic-centered.org) or 320-836-2143, or Pam Pundsack at [pam@stmarysofmelrose.org](mailto:pam@stmarysofmelrose.org) or 320-256-9503 with questions.
- **NCYC** The Diocese of Saint Cloud will be bringing a group to Indianapolis, Indiana November 19 - 23 for NCYC 2025: I Am | Yo Soy. NCYC is a time for high school youth from around the nation to gather and celebrate being Catholic through prayer, Mass, and activities. The cost to attend is \$940. Deadline to register is April 15. Registration forms are available on the parish websites. Contact Chrystal Sand at 320-836-2143 or [csand@catholic-centered.org](mailto:csand@catholic-centered.org), or Pam Pundsack at 320-256-9503 or [pam@stmarysofmelrose.org](mailto:pam@stmarysofmelrose.org) with questions.
- **Bible & Breakfast** Students in grades 7-12 are invited to enjoy scripture and breakfast with peers at the Melrose Area High School Media Center. We will meet on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:00 am. If there is no school or a late start, we will not meet. To register contact Chrystal at 320-266-5554.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.sjsaschool.org)

- **Wine and Dine, Cash Raffle, and Dinner Tickets** will be sold at the Tri-Parish Masses in January. Thank you in advance for your support.
- **Catholic School's Week Celebrations** will kick off on Sunday, January 19 with Mass at 8:00 am in Freeport and we will have theme days, fun activities, the ski trip, etc. all week to celebrate.
- **Full-time Openings** available for our Toddler Care Program! Please contact the school office for more information.
- **Sacred Heart School Wine & Dine Fundraiser** information can be found on page 3.

- **2nd Grade Students** will receive their First Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, January 18. Please keep them in your prayers as they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.
- **Catholic Schools Week** will be celebrated from January 26 through January 31. We will celebrate Catholic Schools at the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, January 26. Breakfast is also served from 8:30 am-12:00 pm in the school gym. All are welcome! Tickets are available from SMS parents or the school office.
- **St. Mary's School's Auction 4 Education** information can be found on page 3.

- **SJSA Received a Check** for \$134.10 for aluminum can recycling. The SJSA recycling trailer is in the south parking lot of St. John's Church in Meire Grove. Thank you for recycling with SJSA.
- **Thank You** to Freeport State Bank for their generous Christmas gift of \$1,500 to SJSA.
- **Thank You** to John Wiese Ford for their generous Christmas gift of \$500 to SJSA.
- **SJSA Catholic Schools Week Service Project** SJSA students will be collecting pennies for Fr. Danny Ohmann's Charity "The Watulu Education Fund" in Africa where Fr. Danny served as a missionary. If you would like to donate, please drop off or send your donation to the school.

- **Catholic Schools Week Mass** SJSA will kick off Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 26 with an all-school Mass at 10:00 am at St. Andrew's Church in Greenwald. **Please note** this is a weekend Mass time switch. The 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, January 25 will be at St. Michael's Church in Spring Hill and the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday is at St. Andrew's.
- **34th Annual Steak and Wine Dinner and Auction** information can be found on page 3.



ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2



**Bishop's Annual Appeal**

Please remember the diocesan ministries that, through your generosity, continue to build the Kingdom of God here in Central Minnesota. They are not possible without your help. Please keep them thriving by making a gift at [www.stcdio.org/annualappeal](http://www.stcdio.org/annualappeal).

**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.

**Winter Retreat 2025** The Rue and Monastic Life in Art, January 24-26. This retreat offers a unique opportunity to explore the timeless wisdom of the rule of Saint Benedict through the lens of art and personal reflection. Brother Simon-HOA, A Monk of Saint John's Abbey for 30 years, will share his insights on Benedictine values, humility, hospitality, conversation, and prayer and work as expressed in his video art and his monastic journey. Begins with supper at 5:30 pm on Friday and concludes Sunday after a morning conference and an optional 10:30 am Mass. Cost: Single occupancy room: \$250. Double occupancy room: \$435. Suite: \$475. All rates include meals. To register, contact our spiritual life office at 320-363-2573 or email us at [spiritalife@osb.org](mailto:spiritalife@osb.org) or visit our website to register online [www.abbeyguesthouse.org](http://www.abbeyguesthouse.org).



**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.stcdio.org](mailto:janet.dusek@gw.stcdio.org) or visit <https://stcdio.org/event/2025-catholic-mens-conference/> for more information. Confessors are also needed (lunch provided) please contact Janet Dusek.

**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](mailto:vocations@gw.stcdio.org).



**Diocesan Festival of Families**

Join us at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell Sunday, February 2 from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm for a day of family fun and learning. Parents will choose which breakout session to attend while children and teens are engaged in their own learning. Register your family for only \$25 at: <https://stcdio.org/event/2025-festival-of-families/>.

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

**Theology Day... Ancient Christian Practices to Sustain Community**

Understanding differences matters when creating structures that people can step into and be a part of. It is all too easy for a person to feel squeezed out of a community. We cannot be indifferent to the wear and tear that exhaustion and uncaring brings to community life. Belonging is important. When we understand the differences between ourselves and others, we can better empathize with their experiences, challenges, and perspectives. Empathy is a bridge between the emotional and the cognitive—our heads and hearts—that shoulders the fruit of the spirit—kindness, peace, joy, self-control, and love. Our ancient Christian practices matter. When fully engaged, we cannot let the hard moments of life go unattended, unthought out. Time given over to spiritual practices and engaging differences both benefits the individual and grounds one for engagement in life together. Friday, January 24, presentation from 9:00 am -1:00 pm, Emmaus Hall, Saint John's University, Collegeville. Synchronous. Free event. Registration is required: [www.theologyday.com](http://www.theologyday.com), 320-363-3560, or [theologyday@csbsju.edu](mailto:theologyday@csbsju.edu).

**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, 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](mailto: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!



**First Friday Adoration at the Capitol**

Join the Minnesota Catholic Conference staff First Fridays (February 7) at the capitol January - May. Adoration available 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Governor's Dining Room (located in the lower level of the Minnesota State Capitol). Visit [www.MNCatholic.org/events](http://www.MNCatholic.org/events) to RSVP. Questions call Minnesota Catholic Conference 651-227-8777. Free parking at MCC's office 525 Park Street, St. Paul.



**A "Perfect Marriage"** is simply two imperfect people who refuse to give up on each other! In this month of love, plan to attend the February 15-16. Marriage Encounter and begin to create the marriage of your dreams. Weekends are held at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center. Register at: [www.marriages.org](http://www.marriages.org).

**Immaculate Conception Parish  
2025 Winter Cash Raffle Winners:**

<b>\$10,000</b>	Mike & Naomi Klaphake	<b>\$250</b>	Jane Johnson
<b>\$2,500</b>	Don & Marcene Austing	<b>\$250</b>	Tanny Fuechtmann
<b>\$1,500</b>	Matt & Christina Zink	<b>\$200</b>	Tom Neal
<b>\$1,000</b>	Dennis Maus	<b>\$200</b>	Carl & Briana Worms
<b>\$1,000</b>	Mary Krueger	<b>\$200</b>	Ray & Flo Mayers
<b>\$500</b>	Loren Niehoff	<b>\$200</b>	Dorothy Funk
<b>\$500</b>	Linda Mastey	<b>\$200</b>	Bruce Funk
<b>\$250</b>	Scott Poepping	<b>\$200</b>	Chris & Deana Middendorf
<b>\$250</b>	Wayne Tschida	<b>\$200</b>	Sharon Becker
<b>\$250</b>	Shiela Humbert	<b>\$200</b>	Erwin Feldewerd
<b>\$250</b>	Kevin & Barb Zierden	<b>\$200</b>	Aaron Wiechmann
<b>\$250</b>	Bob Gieske	<b>\$200</b>	Dan Krueger
<b>\$250</b>	Barb Nathe		

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