



# 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 24, 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.



## Gazing Upon the Mother of God

*The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." Luke 1:26-28*

What an amazing experience this would have been. This humble servant of God, a young girl, was visited by the archangel Gabriel and greeted with the salutation, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." Try to imagine her experience. She was humble beyond comprehension, filled with every heavenly virtue, loved God with all her heart and suddenly came face-to-face with this glorious and most magnificent archangel. And this heavenly visitor showered the deepest of praises upon this lowly servant of the Lord.

At first, in her humility, Mary simply pondered this greeting. She pondered it in her heart through prayer and faith. Then the archangel spoke further: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Though Mary inquired further about how this could be, she quickly gave her consent: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." And it was these words of this young woman that continuously echoed in her heart throughout her life.

Mother Mary was great for many reasons. She was the Immaculate Conception—the one singularly conceived without sin in the womb of her own mother. She was the one chosen by the Father to bring forth the Savior of the World as her only begotten Son. But her greatness is especially found in her ongoing submission to the will of God. "May it be done to me according to your word." This is what she said over and over throughout her life. This is her perfect "fiat" to her God. All she knew was surrender and submission to all that God asked of her. And it is this, more than anything else, that made her the worthy Mother of God.

Continued on page 3

**ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ DECEMBER 24 - 31**

**ADORATION**

**ST. MARY - Melrose**

**\*Su 4:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass**  
 †Lucille Orth

**\*Mo 9:00 am Christmas Day Mass**  
 †Lorraine Imdieke

**Mo 11:00 am Misa de navidad en Español**  
 †Martin Becerra  
 †Amanda Ambriz

**Tu 8:00 am** †Herman Koopmeiners  
**We 8:00 am** †Jeffrey Hinnenkamp  
**Th 8:00 am** †Mildred Mueller  
**Fr 8:30 am** †Lucille Orth  
**Sa 5:00 pm** †Elmer Hellermann  
 For the People

**\*Su 10:00 am** †Ronald Thieschafer  
**Su 12:30 am Misa en Español**  
 Por la Familia Rodriguez Martinez

**SACRED HEART - Freeport**

**Su 4:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass**  
 †††Lawrence, Laura & LaVern Scherping

**We 8:15 am** †Margaret Scherer Anniversary  
**Fr 8:15 am** †Betty Hennen  
**Su 8:00 am** †Deceased Members of the Renneker Family

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich**

**Mo 9:00 am Christmas Day Mass**  
 †Deceased & Living Christian Women Members.

**Th 8:15 am** †Marie Kampsen  
**Sa 4:00 pm** For the People

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

**Mo 8:00 am Christmas Day Mass**  
 For the People

**Tu 8:15 am** †Deceased & Living Members of the Margaret & Cyril Scherer Family  
**Su 10:00 am** †Teckla Scegura

**ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill**

**Su 7:30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass**  
 †Werner Gruber

**Tu 8:00 am** †Peter Waldorf  
**Su 10:00 am** †Jerome Terres

**ST. ANDREW - Greenwald**

**Su 7:30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass**  
 †Daniel "Dan" Schoenberg

**Mo 9:00 am Christmas Day Mass**  
 †Charlene Ohmann

**Th 8:00 am** †Daniel "Dan" Schoenberg  
 For the People  
**Sa 4:00 pm** †Vivian Bertram

**ST. JOHN - Meire Grove**

**Su 4:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass**  
 †Rose Mary "Rosie" Schmiesing

**We 8:00 am** †Rose Mary "Rosie" Schmiesing  
**Su 8:00 am** †Clarine Stalberger

**\*Mass will be livestreamed.**  
 Visit: [oneinfaith.org](http://oneinfaith.org) for the YouTube link.



**St. Rose of Lima - St. Rosa**  
 NO Adoration Tuesday, December 26

**Immaculate Conception - New Munich**  
 NO Adoration Thursday, December 28

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

**Sacred Heart - Freeport**  
 NO Adoration Wednesday, December 27  
 Fridays 9:00 am - 2:00 pm



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Office Closures** The Freeport and Melrose Parish Offices will be closed Monday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday and Monday, January 1 for the New Year holiday.

**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](mailto:bulletin@catholic-centered.org) or call one of the parish offices.

**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. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, January 10. There will be a slight change in the evening. We will begin in the Church basement with a presentation by Catholic United Financial, and then we will go back to the office where we will continue our discussion on the Catholic Mass and share some snacks. Come and bring a friend for a fun filled faith enrichment night.

**Young Adult Gathering** is Friday, December 29 at 7:00 pm. There will be games/relays, painting, a movie, puzzles, and more to celebrate the Christmas season! There will be snacks provided. We're looking forward to seeing new and familiar faces so bring friends! Contact Katie or Alyssa with questions or the address of the event!

**SHS Calendar Raffle** Last call for the calendars for the SHS Calendar Raffle! If you are still interested in a calendar, please call the office as they all need to be in by Tuesday, December 26.

**An Epoch in Time**, a history of St. Rose of Lima parish, will be available for pickup or purchase after Masses in St. Rose until January 1. After that they will be available at the parish office in Freeport. Cost \$35

**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.
- **Christmas Flower Memorials** Thank you to everyone who made donations for Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one. Much beauty was added to the churches this Christmas season. A list of those remembered by the donors can be found in the back of the churches.
- **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.



**SHS 29th Annual Wine & Dine Dinner/Auction** will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at the Freeport Community Center. We are still accepting items for the auction. Call the school office or connect with a SHS family if you have an item you wish to donate. Along with the Dinner/Auction, we will also have a \$100 Cash Raffle with a top prize of \$20,000. The Raffle tickets are available from any SHS family or at the school office.

**One in Faith ACC News Continued on page 6**


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

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

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Total.....                  | \$22,563.25 |
| Regular Adult Offering..... | 14,525.25   |
| Plate/Loose .....           | 767.00      |
| Designated Funds.....       | 7,271.00    |

**St. Mary's Calendar Raffle**

|       |      |                                   |
|-------|------|-----------------------------------|
| 12-17 | \$25 | Bill & Mary Spainer - Melrose     |
| 12-18 | \$25 | Don Austing - Melrose             |
| 12-19 | \$25 | Nancy Roering - Melrose           |
| 12-20 | \$25 | Dina Pierskalla - Melrose         |
| 12-21 | \$25 | Jerry Bierschbach - Melrose       |
| 12-22 | \$25 | Henry Middendorf - Melrose        |
| 12-23 | \$25 | Steve & Mona Schoenberg - Melrose |




**Children's Liturgy** We are excited to announce that we will now be offering Children's Liturgy of the Word during all Saturday evening **and** Sunday morning Masses!

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

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

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Adult Envelopes.....              | \$5,686.83        |
| Plate.....                        | 426.50            |
| <b>Total Weekly Contributions</b> | <b>\$6,113.33</b> |


**Other Donations**

|                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Votive .....                         | \$171.00 |
| Religious Retirement.....            | 20.00    |
| Immaculate Conception Envelopes..... | 20.00    |
| Christmas Flowers.....               | 75.00    |
| Christmas Envelopes.....             | 200.00   |


**Parish Events**

|    |       |          |                                  |
|----|-------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Su | 12/24 | 9:00 am  | Choir Practice                   |
| Tu | 12/26 | 7:10 pm  | Knights of Columbus Meeting - NM |
| We | 12/27 |          | NO Adoration                     |
| Fr | 12/29 | 7:45 am  | Individual Confessions           |
| Fr | 12/29 | 9:00 am  | Adoration                        |
| Sa | 12/30 | 11:00 am | Baptism                          |

**Sponsor a Votive Candle** The parish is looking for someone to sponsor the following candles: 1 on the St. Joseph Altar, 2 by the Our Lady of Guadalupe print, and 1 military remembrance candle by the votive stand. If you are interested, please contact the Tri-Parish Office. The suggested donation for a month is \$16.



**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.




# Christmas begins with Christ



**Gazing Upon the Mother of God** Con't from page 1

Though none of us were immaculately conceived within our mother's wombs and none of us have remained without sin throughout our lives, we must all strive to be inspired by this holy woman. We must all ponder her deep humility and her willing acceptance of God's will in her life. And we must all strive to imitate her fiat and her perfect virtue.

Imitation of our Blessed Mother is accomplished by first coming to know her, understand her and love who she is. Gazing upon her interior beauty and holiness presents us with the vision of the perfection to which we are all called. As we prayerfully gaze upon her heart and come to understand her virtues more clearly, we will be inspired to open our own hearts so as to imitate her by the grace of God. This prayerful exercise is one of the best and quickest ways to obtain the heights of holiness to which God has called us.

Reflect, today, upon this holy daughter of the Most High. She is not one we can "figure out." Instead, she is one whom we can come to know through prayer and through God's inspiration. Ponder her prayerfully. Be open to her inspiration. And allow the Holy Spirit to also overshadow you so that you will more closely be able to imitate her in her holy virtues.

*My dearest Mother, you lived a life of perfect virtue and holiness. You continuously pondered the mysteries of God in your heart and always surrendered to the will of God with perfection. Please inspire me so that I may not only learn from you but also be able to share in the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit given to you. Mother Mary, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You.*



**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 ◆◆◆◆

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Adult Envelopes .....             | \$4,994.08        |
| Plate.....                        | 157.00            |
| <b>Total Weekly Contributions</b> | <b>\$5,151.08</b> |

**Other Donations**

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Christmas Flowers.....            | \$190.00 |
| Building/Maintenance .....        | 67.50    |
| Immaculate Conception Envelopes.. | 10.00    |

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Adult Envelopes .....             | \$6,386.54        |
| Plate.....                        | 381.75            |
| <b>Total Weekly Contributions</b> | <b>\$6,768.29</b> |

**Other Donations**

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Thanksgiving.....               | \$25.00 |
| Christmas Flowers.....          | 25.00   |
| Immaculate Conception Envelopes | 25.00   |
| Christmas Envelopes.....        | 550.00  |

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total .....</b>          | <b>\$993.65</b> |
| Regular Adult Offering..... | 249.00          |
| Children.....               | 1.90            |
| Plate/Loose .....           | 60.00           |
| Votives.....                | 227.75          |
| Fuel Fund.....              | 250.00          |
| Immaculate Conception.....  | 20.00           |
| Thanksgiving.....           | 75.00           |
| Christmas Flowers.....      | 110.00          |

**Parish Events**


|          |         |                          |
|----------|---------|--------------------------|
| Tu 12/26 | 7:10 pm | Knights of Columbus Mtg. |
| Th 12/28 |         | NO Adoration             |
| Sa 12/30 | 3:30 pm | Individual Confessions   |

**Parish Events**


|          |          |                       |
|----------|----------|-----------------------|
| Tu 12/26 |          | NO Adoration          |
| Tu 12/26 | 7:10 pm  | K of C Meeting - NM   |
| Th 12/28 | 12:00 pm | Blood Drive Setup     |
| Th 12/28 | 1:00 pm  | Jaycees Blood Drive   |
| Th 12/28 | 7:00 pm  | Blood Drive Take Down |
| Th 12/28 | 7:30 pm  | Choir Practice        |
| Fr 12/29 | 7:30 pm  | Rosary                |

**Liturgical Ministries**  
**Sunday, December 31 - 10:00 am**

(S) Shantel Gruber & Kenny Niehoff  
 (L) Lisa Wuertz  
 (U) Jim Klassen & Allen Lieser  
 (EM) (B) Jenny Kalthoff  
 (EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
 (Sacristan) John & Sharon Schulzetenberg  
 (RL) Kathy Welle  
 (CC) Peter Wuertz & Roger Meyer  
 (HK: December 24 - January 6)  
 Brenda Terres, Jamie Terres, & Jane Terres

 **Boiler Update:** The new boilers are installed and up and running. The cost for replacement was a little over \$54,000. Currently, donations of \$12,370 have come in. Please consider donating to this need.

**New Addition Update** At this time, a little over \$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 meet the needed goal.


 **Thank You** to the Catholic Order of Foresters for their donation of \$2,565.07 and the matching funds of \$1,500 from the breakfast to be used toward the new sound system headset and the boiler.

**2024 Calendars** are available near the side entrances of the church.

**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.

**Winter Raffle Tickets** Please return your raffle tickets. Unsold/Sold tickets and money can be returned to Worms Lumber, New Munich Gas & Grocery, or the parish office in Freeport by Thursday, December 28. All tickets must be accounted for, consequently, if you cannot sell the ticket(s), please return them as soon as possible. Additional tickets can be picked up at Worms Lumber, New Munich Gas & Grocery or by calling Richard Sand at 320-250-2357. The raffle drawing will be held on January 6, 2024 following the 4:00 pm Mass.


**Nativity Scene** The new nativity scene is out for all to enjoy in front of the church. Thank you to the team that did the research on which one to purchase, the individuals who built the creche out of the cedar wood from the trees that were taken down in front of the church, as well as those who helped put it out on display for all to enjoy. Thank you also to those who have made financial contributions to help cover the cost.

 **Sponsor a Votive Candle**  
 The parish is looking for someone to sponsor one candle on the St. Rose of Lima Statue Stand. If you are interested, please contact the Tri-Parish Office. The suggested donation for a month is \$16.

**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.

**Knights of Columbus**  
 St. Joseph the Worker Council  
**December 2023**  
**Calendar Raffle Winners**

|       |       |                 |
|-------|-------|-----------------|
| 12-18 | \$20  | Glen Van Drehle |
| 12-19 | \$40  | Jim Thull       |
| 12-20 | \$60  | Tom Gerads      |
| 12-21 | \$20  | Roger Mages     |
| 12-22 | \$40  | Brady Mages     |
| 12-23 | \$60  | John Rademacher |
| 12-24 | \$100 | John Rademacher |



**Baptized in Christ...**  
 Boston Roger Imdieke

  
 and suddenly there was with  
 the **angel**  
 a multitude of the heavenly host  
 praising God and saying  
**Glory to God**  
 in the highest, and on earth  
 peace, goodwill towards  
 men  
 Luke 2  
 13-14

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

**Christmas Vigil Mass:**  
 3:40 pm *St. Mary, Melrose*  
 3:30 pm *Sacred Heart, Freeport*  
 3:30 pm *St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove*  
 6:55 pm *St. Michael, Spring Hill*

**Christmas Day Mass:**  
 7:45 am *St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa*  
 8:40 am *St. Mary, Melrose*  
 8:30 am *Immaculate Conception, New Munich*

**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](mailto:Faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com)

•No hay clases de formación en la fe durante las vacaciones de Navidad. La primera clase de regreso será la Clase de Confirmación el miércoles 3 de enero de 2024 de 7:00 a 8:30 pm.

**Regístrese** ahora para el primer **Festival de Familias Diocesana** en la Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón en Sauk Rapids el **11 de febrero, de 10:30 AM a 3:00 PM.** Habrá algo para toda la familia: sesiones para padres sobre salud mental, cuidado personal para padres, redes sociales y crianza en la fe, sesiones para adolescentes y niños, carnaval, juegos y misa con el obispo Neary. Registra a tu familia por solo \$20 en: <https://stcdio.org/event/festival-of-families/>.

**Habrá 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 bienvenidos!

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

|                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Total</b> .....            | <b>\$1,920.00</b> |
| Regular Adult Offering .....  | 870.00            |
| Plate/Loose .....             | 128.00            |
| Votives.....                  | 22.00             |
| Cemetery Fund.....            | 400.00            |
| Donations.....                | 200.00            |
| Fuel Fund.....                | 140.00            |
| Immaculate Conception.....    | 45.00             |
| Christmas Flowers.....        | 60.00             |
| Retirement for Religious..... | 55.00             |

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Total</b> .....          | <b>\$2,375.26</b> |
| Regular Adult Offering..... | 1,273.00          |
| Children.....               | 3.26              |
| Plate/Loose .....           | 249.00            |
| Votives.....                | 29.00             |
| Fuel Fund.....              | 126.00            |
| Immaculate Conception.....  | 30.00             |
| Maintenance.....            | 550.00            |
| Christmas Flowers.....      | 115.00            |

**Liturgical Ministries**  
**Christmas Day**  
**Monday, December 25 - 9:00 am**


(S) Savannah Finken & Zachary Rieland  
 (L) Herman Lensing  
 (U) Pat Keller & Herman Lensing  
 (GB) Jeff & Wanda Ahrens  
 (EM) (B) Herman Lensing  
 (EM) (C) Mary Opatrny & Claine Beier

**Liturgical Ministries**  
**Saturday, December 30 - 4:00 pm**

(S) Matthew Dehmer & Noah Dehmer  
 (L) Isaiah Gilk  
 (U) Eric Dehmer & Tim Lucken  
 (GB) Jason & Angie Barten  
 (EM) (B) Dustin Gregory  
 (EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
 (HK - January) \*Donna Worms, Laurel Worms, Kristen Young, Wanda Ahrens, Angie Barten, Ann Barten

**Liturgical Ministries**  
**Sunday, December 31 - 8:00 am**

(S) Isaac Zenzen  
 (L) Rita Meyer  
 (U) Elmer Meyer & Karl Meyer  
 (GB) Marvin & Rita Meyer  
 (EM) (B) Dan Meyer & Karl Meyer  
 (EM) (C) No Precious Blood  
 (HK - January) \*Theresa Loxtercamp, Sheri Luetmer, Irene Marthaler, Charlene Meyer, Sue Meyer, Geri Meyer

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

**Monday, January 1:**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 8:00 am  | <i>Sacred Heart, Freeport</i>            |
| 9:00 am  | <i>St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove</i> |
| 9:00 am  | <i>Immaculate Conception, New Munich</i> |
| 9:00 am  | <i>St. Mary, Melrose</i>                 |
| 10:00 am | <i>St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa</i>        |
| 6:30 pm  | <i>St. Mary, Melrose Misa en Español</i> |
| 7:30 pm  | <i>St. Andrew, Greenwald</i>             |
| 7:30 pm  | <i>St. Michael, Spring Hill</i>          |

**The Scriptures This Week**  
 Year B, Weekdays - Cycle II

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Mo</b>          | <b>The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</b><br>Is 52:7-10<br>Heb 1:1-6<br>Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14                            |
| <b>Tu</b>          | <b>Saint Stephen, The First Martyr</b><br>Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59<br>Mt 10:17-22   |
| <b>We</b>          | <b>Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist</b><br>1 Jn 1:1-4<br>Jn 20:1a, 2-8  |
| <b>Th</b>          | <b>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</b><br>1 Jn 1:5—2:2<br>Mt 2:13-18  |
| <b>Fr</b>          | <b>Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</b><br>1 Jn 2:3-11<br>Lk 2:22-35                                   |
| <b>Sa</b>          | <b>Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</b><br>1 Jn 2:12-17<br>Lk 2:36-40                                  |
| <b>Next Sunday</b> | <b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</b><br>Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3<br>Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19<br>Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40 |

## FAITH FORMATION

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

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

- **Grade 1, 3 - 6 Next Class:** Wednesday, December 27. Home Lesson.
- **Grade 2: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 3 at 6:00 pm. Meet at the Parish Office in Freeport.
- **Grade 1 - 10: Next Class: Mass** Wednesday, January 3 at 7:00 pm.
- **Grade 10: Confirmation Student and Parent Interviews:** Wednesday, January 17. Please see mailing or contact Chrystal at the office for scheduled time.

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

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

- **No Faith Formation classes during Christmas Break.** First class back will be Confirmation Class on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 from 7:00-8:30 pm.



## 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.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

Contact Information:

[csand@catholic-centered.org](mailto:csand@catholic-centered.org) or [faithformation@stmarysofamelrose.com](mailto:faithformation@stmarysofamelrose.com)

- **Pizza Making & Games for Grades 9-12** Wednesday, January 17 from 7:00-8:00 pm at Sacred Heart Church Basement. Join us as we make homemade pizzas and play card games and board games. Permission forms are on the Tri-Parish website: [www.sacredheartfreeport.org](http://www.sacredheartfreeport.org). Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, January 10.
- **Middle School Lock-In for Grades 6 - 8:** Saturday - Sunday, January 27 - 28 starting with 7:00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart, Sauk Rapids and ending at 6:00 am 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 - \$40 prior to January 18 and \$50 January 19 - 24. Registration forms are available on the parish website [sacredheartfreeport.org](http://sacredheartfreeport.org). Contact Chrystal Sand at [csand@catholic-centered.org](mailto:csand@catholic-centered.org) or 320-836-2143 with questions.
- **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](mailto:csand@catholic-centered.org) or 320-836-214, or Pam Pundsack at [pam@stmarysofamelrose.org](mailto:pam@stmarysofamelrose.org) or 320-256-9503 with questions.

## ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

**Vespers for Life** will be held January 21 from 3:30 - 5:00 pm at Church of St. Anthony, St. Cloud. 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. Rosary at 3:30 pm and Vespers at 4:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.



**March for Life** will be held Monday, January 22 in St. Paul. A prayer service for life will be held at the Cathedral of St. Paul at 10:30 am followed by the MCCL March for Life at the Minnesota Capitol from 12:00-1:00 pm.

Visit <https://stcdio.org/event/march-for-life-2024/> for more info.

**Diocesan Festival of Families** Register now for the first-ever Diocesan Festival of Families at Sacred Heart in Sauk Rapids on Sunday, February 11, from 10:30-3:00 pm. There will be something for the whole family: Parent sessions on mental health, self-care for parents, social media, and faithful parenting, teen and children sessions, carnival, games, and Mass with Bishop Neary. Register your family for only \$20 at: <https://stcdio.org/event/festival-of-families/>

**Bishop's Annual Appeal:** Blessings to you in 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.

## HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

### December 27, Wednesday

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

### January 3, Wednesday

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

♦ **Feet First Clinic** at the Senior Center in Freeport. New appointments please call 320-836-2450. Free will offering.

### January 10 & 17, Wednesday

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

### January 18, Thursday

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

### January 27, Saturday

♦ **The 29th Annual Wine & Dine Dinner/Auction** We are still accepting items for the auction. Call the school office or connect with a SHS family if you have an item you wish to donate. Along with the Dinner/Auction, we will also have a \$100 Cash Raffle with a top prize of \$20,000. The Raffle tickets are available from any SHS family or at the school office.

♦ **Breakfast & Bibles** will be held at Sportsman's Den in Lake Henry from 9:00 - 10:30 am. Please visit <https://youfourish.co/breakfast-and-bibles-paynesville/> for more information. Tickets are \$20 and you can register online or reach out to Grace Lange at [grace@youfourish.co](mailto:grace@youfourish.co) or 320-333-8412 to reserve your spot. All are welcome!



## 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



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**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: 320-256-4257 www.smsmelrosemn.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  
 Phone: 320-987-3133 www.sjsaschool.org

- ♥ **Last Call** for the SHS Calendar Raffle! If you are still interested in a calendar, please call the office as they all need to be in by Tuesday, December 26.
- ♥ **Thank You** to the Freeport Lions who came to school and played bingo with the students on Thursday, December 21.
- ♥ **Christmas Break** began on Friday, December 22. Child Care will be available December 27, 28, and 29. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.
- ♥ **SHS Christmas Program** was Wednesday, December 20. A big thank you to all the students, teachers and staff who put so much time into making the presentation so memorable! We appreciate all the extra time and effort.
- ♥ **The 29th Annual Wine & Dine Dinner/Auction** will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2024. We are still accepting items for the auction. Call the school office or connect with a SHS family if you have an item you wish to donate. Along with the Dinner/Auction, we will also have a \$100 Cash Raffle with a top prize of \$20,000. The Raffle tickets are available from any SHS family or at the school office.
- ♥ **From SHS Students and Staff to all of you** - Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Blessed and Peaceful Holiday Season.

### Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

12/17 \$25 Erik Bagley - Alexandria  
 12/18 \$25 Tod Pakit - New Prague  
 12/19 \$25 Brooklyn Rieland - New Munich  
 12/20 \$25 Judy Olmscheid - Freeport  
 12/21 \$25 Christine Heinen - Avon  
 12/22 \$25 Amy Bauer - Melrose  
 12/23 \$25 Geri Ettel - Freeport

- ♦ **St. Mary's Staff and Students** would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- ♦ **Thank You** for your participation in collecting socks this Advent season for the Melrose Food Shelf, Eagle's Healing Nest, Place of Hope, and Anna Marie's Alliance.
- ♦ **Save the Date** for St. Mary's Catholic Schools Week Breakfast in the school gym on Sunday, January 28. All are welcome!
- ♦ **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. \$100 raffle tickets are now available to purchase.

- ♦ **Steak and Wine Matching Grant** - We have exciting news! The *Joel and Cindi Schwieters Charitable Fund* and *John and Lynnea Schwieters and Family* are providing a matching grant for the first \$50,000 raised at our Steak and Wine Auction. This includes cash donations, online, and live auction bids. Through this matching grant, your cash donations and auction bids have the potential to be doubled! The Online Auction starts Friday, February 2 at 6:00 pm and runs through 8:30 pm on Thursday, February 8 at [32auctions.com/SJSA2024](https://32auctions.com/SJSA2024). The live auction is Saturday, February 10 at 8:30 pm at the Greenwald Pub. Cash donations can be sent directly to the school at - SJSA PO Box 120 Greenwald, MN 56335 or made the night of the auction. Thank you for your support in helping us obtain our \$50,000 matching grant!
- ♦ **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** from the staff and students at SJSA.
- ♦ **SJSA Christmas Break** is Friday, December 22 - Monday January 1. School resumes Tuesday, January 2.
- ♦ **SJSA Received a Grant** for \$480 from Catholic United Financial to use for technology. Smart Panel Replacement Pens are being purchased for all the classrooms.
- ♦ **CSCOE Preschool Grant** SJSA has received a \$5,000 grant from Catholic Schools Center for Excellence (CSCOE) for our preschool program. The funds will be used for purchasing new furniture, curriculum, and staffing needs.

- ♦ **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](mailto:skgilk@meltel.net) or 320-987-2873, or by calling the school at 320-987-3133.
- ♦ **Greenwald Elevator Salt Sale** - The final numbers are in and \$4,335.65 was raised for SJSA from the salt sale. Thank you to John Dockendorf and the Greenwald Elevator for sponsoring this fundraiser. Also, thank you to the SJSA families and everyone who supported this fundraiser.

### Prayer Requests...

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

#### Banns of Matrimony:

I Gracie Drossel♥Zachery Boeckermann, 1/13 Melrose

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 |



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