



ONE IN FAITH Area Catholic Community of

St. Mary - Melrose, Sacred Heart - Freeport
Immaculate Conception - New Munich
St. Rose of Lima - St. Rosa, St. Michael - Spring Hill
St. Andrew - Greenwald, St. John - Meire Grove

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Fr. Daniel Walz, Pastor
Fr. Mitchell Bechtold, Pastor
Fr. Oswaldo Roche, Parochial Vicar

**Melrose - Spring Hill -
Greenwald - Meire Grove Office:**

Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Office Phone: 320-256-4207

Fr. Mitchell Bechtold: 320-256-9512

mlbechtold@outlook.com

Fr. Oswaldo Roche: 320-256-9513

frosvaldo@stmarysofmelrose.com

Office Email: pam@stmarysofmelrose.com

Website: www.oneinfaith.org

Facebook: Church of St. Mary, Melrose

Mailing Address: 755 Kraft Drive SE
Melrose, MN 56352

Freeport - New Munich - St. Rosa Office:

Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Office Phone: 320-836-2143

Email: triparish@albanytel.com

Website: www.sacredheartfreeport.org

Facebook: Tri Parish

Mailing Address: PO Box 155
Freeport, MN 56331

Bulletin Announcements

Deadline: Tuesday before 9:00 am

Email information to: bulletin@catholic-centered.org

Confession Times

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

Marriage

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

*Diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes are required.

Baptism & OCIA

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

Anointing of the Sick, **Home Bound Communion** **Pastoral Visitation** **Joining/Leaving a Parish**

If you have any of the above or other pastoral needs, please call the respective Parish Office or check the parish websites.



Wonder and Awe

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

Luke 1:42-43

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on page 3

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ DECEMBER 23 - 29 **ADORATION**

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

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

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

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa
 Tu 8:15 am **NO MASS**
 We 9:00 am **Christmas Day Mass**
 †Tony & †Adella Klasen †Urban & †August Toennies
 Su 10:00 am For the People

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill
 Tu 4:00 pm **Christmas Vigil Mass**
 For the People
 Su 10:00 am †Mary Ann Terres

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

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove
 Tu 7:30 pm **Christmas Vigil Mass**
 †Raphael Imdieke
 Su 8:00 am †Vincent & †Rosie Schmiesing

*Mass will be livestreamed. Visit: oneinfaith.org for the YouTube link.



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

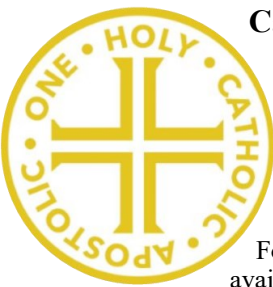
ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish News:
 ~ St. Mary ~ St. Michael ~ St. Andrew ~ St. John ~

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

Parish Office Holiday Hours for Melrose and Freeport office are as follows:
December 24: 9:00 am - Noon **December 25:** Closed
December 31: 9:00 am - Noon **January 1:** Closed

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



Catholic Men's Conference Saturday, February 22, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at St. John's University in Collegeville; Bishop Patrick Neary will celebrate Mass at 4:00 pm. Keynote speaker: Father Scott Traynor, JCL, a priest in the Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is the Vicar for Lay and Clergy Formation. Various Workshops will be available, including topics for young men ages 15 and up. Cost: \$40 or \$35/each for groups of 5, includes morning refreshments and lunch. Cost for young men ages 15 - 22: \$10, scholarships available for the first 50 registrants. Registration deadline: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025CMC>. If you have any questions please contact Janet by calling 320-258-7616 or email at janet.dusek@gw.studio.org or visit <https://studio.org/event/2025-catholic-mens-conference/> for more information. Confessors are also needed (lunch provided) please contact Janet Dusek.

Parish News:
 ~ Sacred Heart ~ Immaculate Conception ~ St. Rose of Lima ~

- January Ministry Schedule** was mailed or emailed to all ministers. It is also available on the Tri-Parish website. If you are unable to fulfill your ministry, please find a replacement. Thank you for sharing your time and talent with our parish.
- Calling All TECites:** The Tri-Parish Office is compiling a listing of parishioners who have attended TEC retreats in the past. Please contact the parish office to be added to the list.
- “Shower for Baby Jesus”** The Christian Women organizations from Immaculate Conception, Sacred Heart, and St. Rose of Lima are hosting a “Baby Shower for Jesus” this Advent. There is a bassinet in each of the churches to put new or like-new items for infants through age 4. Car seats and diapers are an especially difficult item for the site to obtain. All donations will be given to Options for Women, a crisis pregnancy center in Sauk Centre. If considering monetary donations, please make checks out to Christian Women of St. Rosa, Freeport or New Munich or dropped in collection notating which church.

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

Elizabeth M. Brown, Mission Office Director
Father Bill Vos, Diocesan Director, CRS
One in Faith ACC News Continued on page 7


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

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

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

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle

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



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

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

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

Parish Events

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

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



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

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

2025 Calendars are in the back of the church.

Sacristy/Sanctuary Cleaning The parish is looking for volunteers to help clean the sacristy and sanctuary. Cleaners typically work in teams of 2 and are assigned to clean once every 1-2 months. Please contact the Parish Office in Freeport if you have questions or are willing to assist with this ministry.

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

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

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

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

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

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




Wonder and Awe cont'd from page 1

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

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

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

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

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

Parish Events
 Fr 12/27 7:30 pm Rosary

Parish Events
 Sa 12/28 3:30 pm Individual Confessions

Calendar Raffle Winners
 Catholic United Financial December 2024

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

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

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

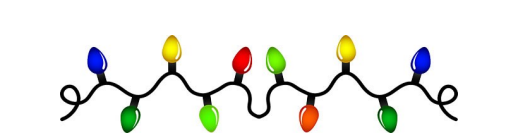
Sponsor a Votive Candle
 The parish is looking for someone to sponsor the 2 candles on the St. Rose of Lima statue stand. There are also other candles available to be sponsored for the upcoming months. If you are interested, please contact the Tri-Parish Office. The suggested donation for a month is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



Liturgical Ministries
Christmas Vigil Mass
Tuesday, December 24 - 4:00 pm
 (S) Landon Schmidt & Eleanor Schmidt
 (L) Lisa Wuertz
 (U) Robert Bertram & Tyler Bertram
 (EM) (B) Stan Heinen
 (EM) (C) Grace Hopfer & Jeanette Kalthoff
 (Sacristan) John & Sharon Schulzetenberg
 (RL) No Rosary - Choir Singing
 (CC) Amy Orbeck & Marvin Rademacher

Liturgical Ministries
Sunday, December 29 - 10:00 am
 (S) Kenny Niehoff
 (L) Ralph Klassen
 (U) Conrad Gruber & Stan Heinen
 (EM) (B) Melvin Kalthoff
 (EM) (C) No Precious Blood
 (Sacristan) Ruth Heinen
 (RL) Kathy Welle
 (CC) Doreen Schwierters & Tom Stalboerger
 (HK: Dec. 22 - Jan. 4) Jamie Terres, Jane Terres, & Maggie Terres

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



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

Sacred Heart School
Calendar Raffle Winners!

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

CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

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

Liturgical Ministries

Christmas Day Mass

Wednesday, December 25 - 9:00 am

- (S) Jada Worms & Luke Worms
- (L) Kathy Gilk
- (U) Dan Boecker & Dan Eveslage
- (GB) Pat & Deb Keller
- (EM) (B) Kris Winter
- (EM) (C) Mike Barten & Clarine Beier

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday, December 28 - 4:00 pm

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

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

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



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.



CHURCH OF ST. JOHN

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

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

Liturgical Ministries

Christmas Vigil Mass

Tuesday, December 24 - 7:30 pm

- (S) Morgan Funk & Paige Funk
- (L) Missy Illies
- (U) Don Schneider & Ken Schneider
- (GB) Jim & Kay Leukam
- (EM) (B) Char Meyer & Dan Meyer
- (EM) (C) Karl Meyer & Sue Meyer

Liturgical Ministries

Sunday, December 29 - 8:00 am

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

HISPANIC MINISTRY



¡Rosca de reyes! El domingo 5 de enero se partirá la rosca de reyes después de misa por este motivo los invitamos a que hagan sus planes para quedarse con nosotros para convivir como Iglesia y hermanos en Cristo que somos.

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



Feliz Navidad



Knights of Columbus

St. Joseph the Worker Council

December 2024

Calendar Raffle Winners

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



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



Tuesday, December 31 (Vigil):

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

Wednesday, January 1:

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

FAITH FORMATION/YOUTH MINISTRY

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: csand@catholic-centered.org

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

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

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



One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

Contact Information: youthministry@catholic-centered.org or faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

- **Middle School Lock-In for Grades 6-8:** Saturday - Sunday, January 25-26 starting at 8:00 pm at the St. Cloud YMCA. This lock-in will have Mass, great food, swimming, dodgeball, gaga ball, prayer opportunities, wallyball, a silent disco, game shows, and so much more. Come together with other youth in our diocese, make new friends, take time to relax, laugh, eat great food, and renew your spirit while strengthening your relationship with God. Cost - \$56 prior to January 16 and \$66 after January 16. Registration forms are available on the parish websites. Contact Chrystal Sand at csand@catholic-centered.org or 320-836-2143, or Pam Pundsack at pam@stmarysofmelrose.org or 320-256-9503 with questions.
- **Castaway Retreat for Grades 9-12:** Friday - Sunday, March 28-30 at the Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes, MN. Castaway has been an energizing experience for our young Church in the Diocese of St. Cloud for 52 years. This retreat is a weekend filled with powerful prayer, fun skits, inspirational speakers, awesome music, an incredible Mass, and many faith-growing opportunities. Come together with over 300 others and make new friends, take time to relax, laugh, eat fantastic food, and renew your spirit while strengthening your relationship with God. Cost - \$200. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, February 5 with a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Registration forms are available on the parish websites. Contact Chrystal Sand at csand@catholic-centered.org or 320-836-2143, or Pam Pundsack at pam@stmarysofmelrose.org or 320-256-9503 with questions.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



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

Myranda Beuning, Julie Job,
 Ben Kalthoff, Tamara Welle,
 Lindsay Frieler, and Jenelle Herkenhoff

www.shsfreeport.org School Phone: 320-836-2591
 Toddler Center Phone: 320-836-2585



PASTOR: Fr. Mitchell Bechtold
PRINCIPAL: Autumn Nelson
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Briana Worms
SMS BOARD:

Cory Ellering, Bob Arceneau,
 Jenn Lubarski, Cindy Hemmesch,
 Jake Primus, and Pat Christenson

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



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

Kathy Gilk, Adam Kalthoff, Kate
 Kelzer, Kurt Meyer, Trista Roelike,
 Jenny Wilson, and Kristi Zimmer

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

- **We have full-time openings for our Toddler Care Program!** Please contact the school office for more information.
- **Thank You** to Freeport State Bank for their donation for our lighting and spotlights for in the gym!
- **Sacred Heart School Raffle Calendars are HERE!!** They are just \$25 a calendar with 367 chances to win. These make GREAT Christmas gifts! You can buy one from any Sacred Heart School family, the school office or at weekend Masses.
- **Christmas Break** is Saturday, December 21 through Wednesday, January 1. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 2.
- **SHS Raffle Calendars** as well as **Wine and Dine Cash Raffle and Dinner Tickets** will be sold at the Tri-Parish Masses the next few weekends. Thank you in advance for your support.
- **Save the Date:** SHS Wine & Dine Fundraiser will be on Saturday, January 25 at the Freeport Community Center. Cash raffle tickets and dinner tickets are in circulation. Please reach out to a SHS family or contact the office if you would like a ticket.

- **St. Mary's Staff and Students wish you** a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- **Thank You** for your participation in collecting items for Eagle's Healing Nest this Advent season.
- **Save the Date** for St. Mary's Catholic Schools Week Breakfast in the school gym on Sunday, January 26, from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. All are welcome!
- **School resumes** on Thursday, January 2.
- **St. Mary's School's Auction 4 Education** will be held on Saturday, March 1, at the Legion. The theme this year is Stayin' Alive in '25. \$100 Raffle tickets are available now at St. Mary's School & Parish Office, All Stars Sports Bar & Grill, Double "R" Bar & Grill, Freeport State Bank - Melrose, Hennen Lumber, Kraemer Lumber, Magnifi Financial - Melrose, Melrose Bowl, St. Rosa Lumber.

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

Merry Christmas

ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

Radiating Joy: The Michelle Duppong Story



is the story of Servant of God Michelle Duppong, who bore witness to Christ through heroic suffering and a passion for inviting others to be transformed by His love. Michelle was a native of North Dakota and a FOCUS missionary for whom a Cause of Beatification and Canonization has been initiated. The film, directed by Danny Anderson, tells the story of Michelle's beautiful and faith-filled life, especially during her diagnosis, treatment, and death. There is interest in having this movie brought to Main Street Theatre in Sauk Centre, however, before they can request the movie and set a date, there would need to be at least 60 people committed to attend the movie. If you are interested in having the opportunity to see this movie, please contact the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport to sign up.

End-of-Year Giving: Stock, IRA's and QCD's Gifts of stock are always appreciated, and there are significant tax benefits available to those who give appreciated stock held longer than a year. Those who choose to donate stock are generally entitled to a tax deduction based on the full fair market value of the stock at the time the gift is made, not just the original cost. Additionally, donors do not incur any capital gains tax when stock is given away rather than sold. Please consider a stock gift when donating to your church, Sacred Heart School, St. Mary's School, or St. John's St. Andrew's School. When making a charitable rollover through IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), we always recommend that you seek professional advice in these matters. If you have any questions about this type of contribution, please contact the parish office in Melrose and Freeport with questions.

Diocesan Festival of Families

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



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



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

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

Time to Expand Your Circle of Friends? Try a TEC Retreat.

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



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



Prayer Requests...

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

For the Sick: Vivian Weber, Dorothy Schneider, Joan Schlicht, John Niehaus, Joyce Hauser, Laura Beuning, Lori Austing, Petra Oevermann, Sandy Welle, Tony Niehaus

Contact Persons for Prayer Line Requests:

- Sacred Heart - Judy Caveny 320-248-8830
• Immaculate Conception - Bernice Zink 320-837-5321
• St. Rose of Lima - Kayla Harren 320-333-8461
• St. Michael - Sharon Schulzetenberg 320-248-7702
• St. Mary's 320-256-3878

The Scriptures This Week

Year C, Weekdays - Cycle I

Table with 3 columns: Day, Scripture Reference, and Additional Reference. Rows include Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, and Next Sunday.

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