



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 Presentation of the Lord

February 2, 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@stmarysofmeire.com

Office Email: pam@stmarysofmeire.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.



The Culmination of the Life of Faith

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” Luke 2:29-32

At the time of Jesus’ birth, there was a man named Simeon who had spent his whole life preparing for one significant moment. Like all faithful Jews at the time, Simeon was waiting for the coming Messiah. The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would indeed see the Messiah before his death—and so this happened when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the Temple to offer Him to the Lord as an infant.

Try to imagine the scene. Simeon had lived a holy and devout life. And deep within his conscience, he knew that his life on earth would not come to an end until he was privileged to see the Savior of the World with his own eyes. He knew this by a special gift of faith, an interior revelation of the Holy Spirit, and he believed.

It’s helpful to think about this unique gift of knowledge that Simeon had throughout his life. Normally we gain knowledge through our five senses. We see something, hear something, taste, smell, or feel something, and as a result come to know it to be true. Physical knowledge is very reliable and is the normal way we come to know things. But this gift of knowledge Simeon had was different. It was deeper and was spiritual in nature. He knew he would see the Messiah before he died, not because of some external sensory perception he had received but because of an interior revelation from the Holy Spirit.

This truth begs the question, which type of knowledge is more certain? Something you see with your eyes, touch, smell, hear or taste? Or something that God speaks to you in the depths of your soul by a revelation of grace? Though these types of knowledge are different, it’s important to understand that the spiritual knowledge that is given by the Holy Spirit is far more certain than anything perceived through the five senses alone. This spiritual knowledge has the power to change your life and direct all your actions toward that revelation.

For Simeon, this interior knowledge of a spiritual nature suddenly united with his five senses when Jesus was brought into the Temple. Simeon suddenly saw, heard and felt this Child Whom he knew he would one day see with his own eyes and touch with his own hands. For Simeon, that moment was the culminating moment of his life.

Reflect, today, upon anything that our Lord has spoken to you in the depths of your soul. Too often we ignore His gentle voice as it speaks, preferring instead to live only in the sensory world. But the spiritual reality within us must become the center and foundation of our lives. It is there where God speaks, and it is there where we, too, will discover the central purpose and meaning of our lives.

Continued on page 4

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ FEBRUARY 3 - 9

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo 6:30 pm **Misa en Español**
 †Sergio Hernandez Chavez
 Tu 8:00 am †Stacy Meyer
 We 8:00 am †Steven Petermeier
 Th 8:00 am †Irene Braun
 *Fr 8:30 am **SM School Mass**
 †Joanne Butkowski
 Sa 5:00 pm †Bernie Arceneau
 *Su 10:00 am †Mike Rieland
 Su 12:30 pm **Misa en Español**
 Por el Pueblo

SACRED HEART - Freeport

We 8:15 am **SH School Mass**
 The Schmidt & Thell Families
 Fr 8:15 am †Rosemary "Rosie" Rolfes
 Su 8:00 am †Larry & †Dave Ostendorf

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Th 8:15 am †Celestine "Cel" Rieland
 Sa 4:00 pm For the People

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Tu 8:15 am †Chad Toenyan
 Su 10:00 am †Gerald & †Arlene Arnzen

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill

Tu 8:00 am †Dean Fleischhacker
 Su 10:00 am †Marcella Lieser

ST. ANDREW - Greenwald

Th 8:00 am **SJSA School Mass**
 †Dennis Fehn
 Sa 4:00 pm †Robbie Uphoff

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

We 8:00 am Special Intentions of Denis
 & Emily Schneider
 Su 8:00 am †Donna Athmann



St. Rose of Lima - St. Rosa

First Tuesday of the month
 7:00 - 8:00 am

Immaculate Conception - New Munich

First Thursday of the month
 7:00 - 8:00 am

St. Mary - Melrose

First Thursday of the month 6:30 pm
 in Spanish (en Español)

Sacred Heart - Freeport

Fridays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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

ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish News:

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

•**St. Blaise Blessing of Throats** will be held on February 8 & 9 after our weekend Masses.

•**Palm Branches** may be dropped off at St. Mary's. These will be burned for use on Ash Wednesday (March 5).

•**Help Needed** Additional Eucharistic Ministers, Sacristans, and Altar Servers are needed for St. Mary's 5:00 pm and 10:00 am Masses. Training will be provided and scheduling is flexible. Please call Sarah Woeste in the office at 320-256-9516.

•**Due to an Increase in Cold & Flu** we will be temporarily suspending the common cup. In the Blessed Sacrament we receive the whole Christ: body, blood, soul and divinity. While receiving Communion under the form of bread only, we receive the totus Christus ("whole Christ"), receiving Communion under both forms is a more complete participation in the Eucharist. We look forward to when we will begin to offer the common cup again.

Parish News:

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

•**Year-end Contributions Statements** have been mailed out. You will also find an Electronic Financial Church Support form. This form allows you to electronically support the church on a monthly or semi-monthly basis.

•**Candlemas...The Presentation of the Lord** There are candles available in the front of church for use in your homes. Donations are accepted.

•**Anointing of the Sick** will take place at the weekend Masses on February 8/9. For those that would like the laying of hands for this anointing, please sit in the front few pews.

•**Bethlehem Olive Wood** Representatives from Bethlehem Christian Families will be at the churches February 8/9 after the Masses selling religious hand carved olive wood artifacts. These families rely on the sales of these artifacts to keep their homes and provide for their families. All the proceeds from the sales will be sent back to the families in the Holy Land. Please browse their items from the Holy Land. Thank you for your support.



Radiating Joy Coming to Sacred Heart

Come join us while we stream the documentary Radiating Joy Sunday, February 2 at 1:00 pm at Sacred Heart Freeport in the church basement. Radiating Joy is the story of Michelle Duppong, a Servant of God 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. It tells the story of her beautiful and faith-filled life, especially during her diagnosis, treatment, and death. There will be popcorn and punch available. Feel free to bring your own snacks. The event is free and open to anyone.

Go and Make Disciples Anyone in grade 11 through adult are invited to a monthly Faith Formation event from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport. We will have a meal and discuss the Rosary and Sacramentals. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, February 5. Come and bring a friend for a fun filled faith enrichment night.

One In Faith ACC Pastoral Council Meeting The One In Faith ACC Pastoral Council will meet Tuesday, February 11 at 7:00 pm at the Church of St. Mary, Fireside Room. If you are wanting to be added to the agenda please contact Lisa Wuertz at 320-219-3624 or plwuertz@meltel.net before Monday, February 10.

Speech Disability and Hearing Impaired Help

Do you or someone you know struggle to hear on the phone or have a physical or speech disability that makes it hard for them to use the phone? Minnesota Access to Communication Technology (MN ACT) provides free phone devices to eligible Minnesotans who have a hearing loss, physical disability, or speech disability that makes it hard to use a standard phone. This program is funded through the Department of Commerce – Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM) and administered by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. For more information and to apply, visit mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing/ or call 800-657-3663 (Voice) or 651-964-1514 (Videophone).




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

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Weekly Offerings** ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$10,233.00
Regular Adult Offering	8,804.00
Plate/Loose	1,219.00
Designated Funds	210.00

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle

01-26	\$25	Gary & Eileen Middendorf - Melrose
01-27	\$25	Ryan Rieland Family - Melrose
01-28	\$25	Matt & Cindy Anderson - Melrose
01-29	\$25	Kim Westermeyer - Melrose
01-30	\$25	Betty Kemper - Melrose
01-31	\$25	Jason Westerhaus - Melrose
02-01	\$25	Florence Tschida - Grey Eagle



Died in the Hope of Resurrection... †Anna Hellermann, 91

Fellowship There will be refreshments served after all the Masses this next weekend, February 8-9 at St. Mary's. Please plan to come and stay awhile!

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

Banns of Matrimony:
 I Chantel Dierkhising♥Christopher Overman, 2 - 22 FR
 III Lori Ehlert♥Russ Herdering, 2 - 7 SR

For the Sick: Shirley Laing, Lori Austing, Sandy Welle, Beatrice Massmann, Dorothy Schneider, 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

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

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Weekly Offerings** ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$8,571.85
Regular Adult Offering.....	7,191.85
Plate.....	340.00
Votive.....	152.00
Central MN Catholic Magazine.....	100.00
School Support.....	208.00
Easter.....	100.00
Thanksgiving.....	100.00
Christmas.....	100.00
Building/Maintenance.....	95.00
Catholic Relief Services.....	15.00
Rice Bowl.....	20.00
Good Friday.....	10.00
Easter Flowers.....	10.00
Catholic Home Missions.....	25.00
Ascension.....	10.00
Peter's Pence.....	15.00
Assumption.....	15.00
World Mission Sunday.....	20.00
All Saints Day.....	10.00
All Souls Day.....	10.00
Christmas Flowers.....	15.00
Immaculate Conception.....	10.00

Parish Events

Su	02/02	1:00 pm	Radiating Joy Watch Party
Mo	02/03	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
We	02/05	6:00 pm	Elementary Faith Formation Grades 1-6
We	02/05	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples
Fr	02/07	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	02/07	9:00 am	Adoration

Baptized in Christ... We welcome **Bryce Joseph Scherping**, the son of Randy & Megan Scherping, to our parish. Bryce Joseph was baptized on Sunday, January 26.

Welcome to our Parish... We welcome Justin & Crystal Schleicher, and their children, Zoey and Jayce, to our parish.

The Scriptures This Week
 Year C, Weekdays - Cycle I

Mo	Weekday (Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar, Bishop) Heb 11:32-40	Mk 5:1-20
Tu	Weekday Heb 12:1-4	Mk 5:21-43
We	Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr (Memorial) Heb 12:4-7, 11-15	Mk 6:1-6
Th	Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs (Memorial) Heb 12:18-19, 21-24	Mk 6:7-13
Fr	Weekday Heb 13:1-8	Mk 6:14-29
Sa	Weekday (Saint Jerome Emiliani; Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin; BVM) Heb 13:15-17, 20-21	Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	Is 6:1-2a, 3-8	1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11 Lk 5:1-11



One in Faith ACC Schools Gift Card Programs

A gift card rebate program that allows you to purchase your everyday items with gift cards and earn money for our area Catholic schools without paying any extra money! A percentage of each gift card will be donated back to the area Catholic schools. Each school has a variety of local and national gift cards available to purchase.

***Gift Cards are great gift ideas!**





SCRIP

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.....	\$4,021.31
Regular Adult Offering.....	3,557.69
Plate.....	359.00
Building/Maintenance.....	104.62

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$1,750.85
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,370.85
Plate.....	248.00
Votive.....	132.00

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$1,019.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	607.00
Plate/Loose	97.00
Votives	140.00
Fuel Fund.....	125.00
Maintenance Fund	50.00

Parish Events

Su 02/02	1:00 pm	Radiating Joy Watch Party - FR
Mo 02/03	6:30 pm	Christian Women Mtg.
We 02/05	6:00 pm	Elem. FF Grades 1-6 - FR
We 02/05	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples - FR
Th 02/06	7:00 am	Adoration
Sa 02/07	3:30 pm	Individual Confessions

Parish Events


Su 02/02	1:00 pm	Radiating Joy Watch Party - FR
Tu 02/04	7:00 am	Adoration
Tu 02/04	9:00 am	Quilting
Tu 02/04	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
We 02/05	6:00 pm	Elem. FF Grades 1-6 - FR
We 02/05	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples - FR
Th 02/06		Wedding Rehearsal
Fr 02/07		Wedding Pictures
Fr 02/07	6:00 pm	Ehlert/Herdering Wedding
Fr 02/07	7:30 pm	Rosary

Liturgical Ministries
Sunday, February 9 - 10:00 am
 (S) Olivia Kalthoff & Stella Schoenberg
 (L) Lisa Wuertz
 (U) Chico Welle & Ron Welle
 (EM) (B) Sandra Gruber
 (EM) (C) No Precious Blood
 (Sacristan) John & Sharon Schulzetenberg
 (RL) Marilyn Gruber
 (CC) Doreen Schwieters & Tom Stalboerger
 (HK: February 2-15) Donna Welle, Kathy Welle (Chico), & Kathy Welle (Ron)

St. Anne's Christian Women will meet Monday, February 3 at 6:30 pm in the Gathering Space. We welcome all members to attend.

God's Housekeepers for the month of February: *Paula Schwieters, Mary Zink, Bernie Holdvogt, Doris Rieland, Tatum Holdvogt, and Emily Smith. The first person on the list should contact the others to schedule a cleaning time. Thank you for being "God's Housekeepers" for our church this month.

The Culmination of a Life of Faith
 cont'd from page 1



My spiritual Lord, I thank You for the countless ways in which You speak to me day and night in the depths of my own soul. Help me to be always attentive to You and to Your gentle voice as You speak to me. May Your voice and Your voice alone become the guiding direction of my life. May I trust in Your Word and never waver from the mission You have given to me. Jesus, I trust in You.

mycatholic.life

Food For Thought The St. Rose Christian Women are doing a cash fund drive during the month of January for Food For Thought. This is a program to provide food to local students who do not always have adequate access to food over the weekends. Please send donations to St. Rose Christian Women, c/o Sarah Herdering 41404 Co Rd 167, Melrose, MN 56352. Thank you!

Sponsor a Votive Candle The parish is looking for someone to sponsor the following candles during 2025: 1 on the Blessed Virgin Mary Statue Stand and 2 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.

Pathways 4 Youth During the month of February, St. Rose Christian Women are doing a donation drive for the Pathways 4 Youth Program. This is a resource center for youth ages 16 - 24 experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the St. Cloud area. They offer a safe, secure, non judgmental space and services to meet individuals' needs and to support their growth. They also assist youth with area resources and building connections within the community. There will be a tote for greatest need donations in the Gathering Area. Please reference the list on the tote for their needs. For any monetary donations, please send to St. Rose Christian Women, c/o Sarah Herdering 41404 Co Rd 167, Melrose, MN 56352. Thank you!

Vice President Needed St. Rose Christian Women are still in need of a Vice President. Please consider signing up for this 2 year term.

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

Catholic United Financial is Visiting the Sick Please join us on Saturday, February 8 to visit those from our community who are not able to go out on their own. We will meet in the St. Michael's Church parking lot at 10:00 am. They love visitors!!



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.

Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

01/26	\$25	Debra Meyer - Freeport
01/27	\$25	Tom & Barb Hellermann - Melrose
01/28	\$25	Craig Dierkhising - Rapid City, SD
01/29	\$25	Brooke Lange - Burtrum
01/30	\$25	Bruce Bechtold - St. Joseph
01/31	\$25	Gopher Meyer - Freeport
02/01	\$25	Dick Christenson - Melrose

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

¡Se suspende la distribución de la preciosa Sangre en la comunión!
 Para evitar la propagación de enfermedades contagiosas estacionales, nuestro Párroco el Padre Mitchell ha decidido suspender la distribución de la Sangre de Cristo y volverla a introducir en la misa del jueves Santo.

¡Preparación prebautismal! Si usted desea tomar la preparación prebautismal hable con el Diacono Jesus Hernandez después de misa o llame a la oficina de lunes a viernes de 8:00am a 12:00pm para asistencia en español.

*"BECAUSE HE HIMSELF WAS TESTED THROUGH WHAT HE SUFFERED, HE IS ABLE TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE BEING TESTED."
 (Hebrews 2:18)*

When we join a support group, there is comfort in sharing our pain with people who have experienced the same thing; they understand what we are going through. The next time you experience suffering, talk to Jesus. He has experienced more suffering than most of us, He understands. Plus, Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. Only He can fill the hole you feel in your heart.

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$2,123.00
Regular Adult Offering	1,910.00
Plate/Loose	173.00
Votives	10.00
Maintenance Fund	5.00
Fuel Fund	5.00
CM Catholic Magazine.....	20.00

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$1,704.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,489.00
Plate/Loose	76.00
Votives.....	39.00
Maintenance Fund	100.00

Liturgical Ministries
Sunday, February 9 - 8:00 am

(S) Cole Funk & Luke Funk
 (L) Jim Leukam
 (U) Karl Meyer & Kurt Meyer
 (GB) Martha Meyer & Family
 (EM) Char Meyer & Dan Meyer
 (HK - February) *Ann Brang, Janice Funk, Kathy Illies, Darlene Imdieke, Joni Imdieke, & Sharon Imdieke

Liturgical Ministries
Saturday, February 8 - 4:00 pm

(S) Matthew Dehmer & Noah Dehmer
 (L) Linda Heinze
 (U) Mark Silbernick & Benjamin Stepan
 (GB) Jim & Lee Uphoff
 (EM) (B) Mike Barten
 (EM) (C) No Precious Blood
 (HK - February) *Rita Eveslage, Amy Frieler, Betty Frieler, & Kathy Gilk

St. Andrew's Christian Women will have their final meeting on Thursday, February 13 at 6:30 pm in the St. John's - St. Andrew's School Basement.

Help Needed Additional musicians, especially singers, are needed for our Saturday 4:00 pm Masses. Training in Catholic liturgy will be provided and scheduling is flexible. Contact Sarah Woeste at 320-256-9516.



One In Faith ACC Catholic Schools Dinner & Auction Fundraisers

◆The 34th Annual Steak and Wine Dinner and Auction to support SJSA is Saturday, February 8 at the Greenwald Pub starting at 5:00 pm. Donny Brang will provide live music from 5:00 - 7:30 pm, followed by the live auction at 8:30 pm. The online auction runs Friday, January 31 through Thursday, February 6 and can be found at 32auctions.com/SJSA2025. Dinner Tickets are \$35 and can be picked up at SJSA, the Greenwald Pub, Freeport State Bank-Greenwald, and Meire Grove Gas and Grocery. Come and join us for a fun filled evening!

◆23rd St. Mary's Annual Auction 4 Education is on Saturday, March 1 at the Legion. Food is served with free will offering from 5:00-8:00 pm; turkey and pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, chips, and cupcakes. Disco for Dollars raffle drawing is at 7:00 pm. Classroom projects will be on the live auction at 8:15 pm. Auction items are available for viewing starting February 16. Bidding opens on February 23. All items will be available to view and pick up at the Legion. Entertainment at 5:30 pm includes a game of Family Feud. Music by Rueben Nathe and Brady Van Drehle throughout the night. Dress in your best 70's attire. Please join us for an evening to celebrate and support St. Mary's School! Visit our auction website for details. <https://one.bidpal.net/smsmelrose/welcome>

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

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

February 2, Sunday
 ◆Candlemas Christmas Concert at 2:00 pm at Seven Dolors Church in Albany. Enjoy hot cocoa, apple cider, coffee and cookies after. All are welcome.
 ◆Sauk Centre Lions Breakfast We will be serving from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Sauk Centre Senior High School Cafeteria. "All you can eat"

February 5, Wednesday
 ◆Feet First Clinic in Freeport is CANCELLED.

February 9, Sunday
 ◆Albany Legion Post 482 Smorgasbord Breakfast Serving from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at Church of Seven Dolors parish hall in Albany, Proceeds go towards community and veterans projects.

February 11, Tuesday
 ◆American Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the Freeport Lions Club from 12:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the Freeport Community Center. Give the precious gift of lift. Appointment are needed. We are always in need of people with type "O" blood. Schedule your appointment online at redcross.org or call Janet at 320-836-2837 or 320-282-2904.

February 12, Wednesday
 ◆Soup Luncheon The Melrose Area Senior Citizens invite you to joining them for their monthly soup luncheon at the Senior Center, located at the Melrose City Offices. Serving from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm. All are welcome! Free will offering.

February 18, Tuesday
 ◆Theology on Draft Series 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at The Depot, 104 Broadway St. Alexandria, MN with Bishop Patrick Neary, CSC. Young adults (ages 18-39) are invited to these evening to learn and share faith, fellowship, food and refreshments.

FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information:

csand@catholic-centered.org

- **Grades 1, 3-6: Next Class:** Wednesday, February 5 at 6:00 pm. Classroom Lesson. Meet in the parish office.
- **Grade 2: Next Class:** Wednesday, February 5 at 6:00 pm. Meet at the parish office.
- **Grades 7-10: Next Class:** Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00 pm. Bring your Bible, books, notebook, and pen. Meet in your classroom.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information:

faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

- **Grades 9-10: Next Class:** Wednesday, February 5 from 7:15 - 8:30 pm at St. Mary's Church. Students and some parents.
- **First Communion: Next Class:** Saturday, February 8 from 9:00 - 10:30 am at St. Mary's Church. Students only.
- **Confirmation Students:** Please check the Sign-Up Genius form, to remind yourself of when in February you scheduled your family conversation with Fr. Mitchell.

YOUTH MINISTRY

One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

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

- **Skiing at Andes Tower Hills** sponsored by the Tri-Parish Youth Group, Sunday, February 9 from 9:30 am - 5:00 pm. This event is open to One in Faith youth grades 6 - 12. We will have a fun filled afternoon skiing. Deadline to register is Wednesday, February 5. Contact Alyssa for more information, 320-429-0770 or youthministry@catholic-centered.org. Registration forms are available on the Tri-Parish website: www.sacredheartfreeport.org.
- **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.
- **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, or Pam Pundsack at 320-256-9503 or 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



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www.sjsaschool.org

- **Thank You** to everyone that came out to celebrate our 30th Annual Wine and Dine Dinner and Auction on Saturday. We had a great event with delicious food, a successful auction and wonderful comradery. We want to thank everyone for their amazing donations to our event, the volunteers, workers, parents and our chairpersons for the event - all of your time and effort to make the event go well is greatly appreciated! We will post winners and results of the event once we have all information in and recorded.
- Sacred Heart will have a **Meat Raffle and Horse Races** at All Stars on Friday, February 8. All are welcome!
- **Full-time Openings** available for our Toddler Care Program! Please contact the school office for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **Open House** We will have a Preschool and Kindergarten Parent open house on Tuesday, February 18. More details to come.

- **St. Mary's School Received a Check** from Arvig for \$1,169 through their School Partnership Program. Arvig donates \$1 monthly to the local school of your choice if you're an Arvig internet customer. If you haven't signed up, please do so at arvig.net/support.
- **Now that our Celebration of Catholic Schools Week** is over, St. Mary's School thanks the families, parishioners, and friends who helped make our week special. In Catholic schools, we are all learners, servants, and leaders. These shared qualities are what make Catholic schools work. They are what make Catholic schools succeed. Thank you for being part of our community.
- **Attend our Winter Open House** for preschool through 6th grade on Monday, March 10, from 5:00 -7:00 pm and discover the benefits of Catholic education. Please RSVP by emailing anelson@smsmn.org or calling 320-256-4257.
- **Registration for Preschool-6th Grade** will begin in February for current SMS families and March for those families not currently enrolled at SMS.
- **St. Mary's School's Auction 4 Education** information can be found on page 5.

- **Thank You** to everyone who helped us celebrate Catholic Schools Week.
- **SJSA Online Auction** is up at 32auctions.com/SJSA2025. We hope to see you this Saturday at Steak and Wine!
- **34th Annual Steak and Wine Dinner and Auction** information can be found on page 5.



ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2



BINGO Please join the Tri-Parish Confirmation Class on Sunday, February 23 at Sacred Heart Church Basement for Bingo. Free lunch from 12:00 - 1:00 pm with a purchase of a card. Bingo will start promptly at 1:00 pm. Cash prizes. \$10 per card for 20 games plus 2 black-out games. No checks or credit cards please. All proceeds will be given to Alec Beuning.

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.



Voices of Hope - Bishop's Annual Appeal 2025:

The 2025 Appeal launches soon. Your offerings change lives in so many ways through ministries that reach out to the homebound, form our children

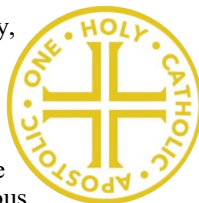
and families in the Catholic faith, protect people at all stages of life, inspire people to become faith leaders, establish mental health ministries, build bridges connecting communities and work in so many ways to bring our brothers and sisters closer to Christ.

•**Announcement Weekend is February 8/9:** You will receive bulletin inserts highlighting diocesan ministries and be asked to consider a gift to support these ministries on Commitment Weekend.

•**Commitment Weekend is February 15/16:** This is your opportunity to support diocesan ministries with a 2025 gift to the appeal. You may bring the envelope you receive in the mail or use a response envelope that will be provided at Mass. Both will be gratefully received in the offertory.

Caught Up In God's Love Listening To The Call Single women ages 18-45 are invited to a weekend of personal and communal reflection to learn how to recognize God's invitations in your life. Join the School Sisters of Notre Dame in St. Louis, Missouri February 21 - 23, Friday - Sunday. This weekend retreat is an opportunity to learn – through conversation, contemplation, prayer and spiritual guidance – how to recognize God's invitation for your life. There is no charge to participate. All meals and private rooms with bathroom are included. Assistance with transportation cost is available if needed. Learn more and register by **Friday, February 7** at ssnd.org/events/retreat225/. Questions contact us at sisters@ssnd.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.stedio.org or visit <https://stedio.org/event/2025-catholic-mens-conference/> for more information. Confessors are also needed (lunch provided) please contact Janet Dusek.



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.

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 to RSVP. Questions call Minnesota Catholic Conference 651-227-8777. Free parking at MCC's office 525 Park Street, St. Paul.



JRLC Day on the Hill Interested in joining people from faith communities around the state to share their values with our elected officials? Join us for the Joint

Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) Day on the Hill! It will be held on February 27 at Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul. We'll gather for fellowship, hear from speakers, learn about JRLC's policy priorities and get advocacy tips before heading up the hill to the Capitol for more programming in the Rotunda and visits with your lawmakers. The JRLC is made up of the Catholic Bishops of Minnesota, along with leaders from the Jewish, Muslim and Protestant faiths throughout Minnesota. Our advocacy efforts will focus on where all these traditions find common ground, this year largely speaking to women and children and anti-poverty needs in Minnesota. Don't miss this incredible day of interfaith advocacy to seek justice and better our state! Register at: www.jrlc.org/day-on-the-hill-2025 Request or offer a ride-share: <https://forms.office.com/r/xU2JTbdkZ6> *A donation of \$50 to help with event costs is requested, but optional! After registering for the event on the JRLC website, you will be redirected to a donation page; if you are unable to donate, simply exit out of the donation page and your registration will still be recorded.

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

National Eucharistic Revival

Year 3 – Year of Mission Pillar 2 – Eucharistic Identity



The Second Pillar of the National Eucharistic Revival is Eucharistic Identity, encouraging missionary disciples to embrace their true identities as beloved children of the Father through their relationship with Christ in the Eucharist. Below are some ways the faithful are invited to experience this pillar.

- Pray the Mass, uniting your whole life to the sacrifice of Christ and frequently receiving Holy Communion.
- Allow your heart to be healed and transformed into the Heart of Jesus by entering into the Mass and frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Embrace Eucharistic friendship with Jesus through weekly adoration or visits to the tabernacle.
- Commit to the daily gift of yourself, in concrete acts of service to others, which is at the heart of missionary discipleship.

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