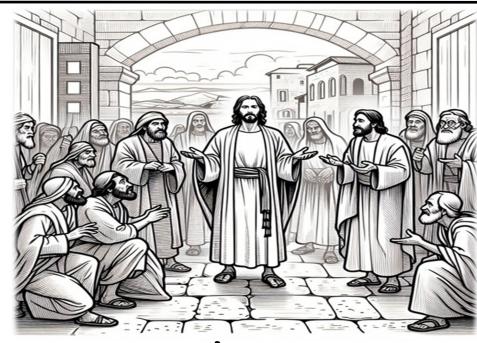


$ONE \ IN \ FAITH \$ Area Catholic Community of

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

March 30, 2025



SEEKING THE LOST

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, *"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."* So to them Jesus addressed this parable. Luke 15:1-3

This is good news! Our Lord "welcomes sinners and eats with them." For that reason, there is room at His table for you!

Sometimes it's hard to admit that we are sinners. Of course we know in our minds that we are. But our pride can easily lead us to justify our sin, downplay it and conclude that we are not that bad after all. If you find yourself thinking this way, be careful. Doing so will make you like the Pharisees and scribes in the passage above. Clearly they did not see themselves as sinners, which is why they condemned Jesus for welcoming sinners and eating with them.

The passage above comes from the beginning of Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel and serves as an introduction to three subsequent parables. First, our Lord tells the Parable of the Lost Sheep, then the Parable of the Lost Coin, and then the Parable found in the rest of today's Gospel passage, the Parable of the Lost Son. In the first parable, the shepherd who finds his lost sheep rejoices. In the second parable, the woman who finds her lost coin rejoices. And in the parable we read today, the father who finds his lost son rejoices and throws a party to celebrate.

Return, again, to the passage above that introduces these three parables: "Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus." Once they drew near, Jesus spoke to them about the joy of finding that which was lost. Perhaps as Jesus initially spoke about the finding of the lost sheep and lost coin, this would have resonated with these tax collectors and sinners to a certain degree. But then our Lord tells them the long and detailed story about this boy who disrespects his father, takes his inheritance, squanders it on illicit living, and ends up with nothing. The story expresses the confusion of this boy, his desperation, his guilt and his shame. We learn of his interior thinking, reasoning, fears and anxiety.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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 froswaldo@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.

<u>Marriage</u>

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.

<u>Anointing of the Sick,</u> <u>Homebound Communion</u> <u>Pastoral Visitation</u> 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.

ADORATION

ACC Mass Times and Intentions \sim March 31 - April 6

St. Mary - Melrose			Imma	CULATE C	ONCEPTION - New Munich	St. Rose of Lima - St. Rosa
Мо	6:30 pm	Misa en Español †Maria Vargas Aguilera	Th Sa	8:15 am 4:00 pm	†Alfred & †Lorraine Schaefer †Norb & †Marilyn Schaefer	First Tuesday of the month 7:00 - 8:00 am
Tu We Th	8:00 am 8:00 am 8:00 am	†Guadalupe Salas †Jim & †Ruth Graham †Caroline Pohlmann NO MASS	St. R ^{Tu} Su	ROSE OF I 8:15 am 8:00 am	LIMA - St. Rosa †Richard Herges For the People	<i>Immaculate Conception - New Munich</i> First Thursday of the month 7:00 - 8:00 am
*Fr Sa	8:30 am 5:00 pm	SM School Mass †Ron Heinen †Richard Hellermann	Tu	IICHAEL - 8:00 am 10:00 am	- Spring Hill †David Schoenborn †Bob Terres	<i>St. Mary - Melrose</i> First Thursday of the month 6:30 pm in Spanish (en Español)
*Su Su	10:00 am 12:30 pm	†Paul Spaeth Misa en Español †Rodolfo Chavez †Maria del Rosario Rodriguez	St. A Th Sa	NDREW - 8:00 am 4:00 pm	Greenwald SJSA School Mass †Marilyn Lieser For the People	Sacred Heart - Freeport Fridays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
We	8:15 am	ST - Freeport SH School Mass †Deceased Members of the Locnikar Family	Sт. J We Su	*	eire Grove †Joanne Butkowski †Norm Wehlage	the second se
Fr Sa Su	8:15 am 8:00 am 10:00 am	†Jack Eveslage First Saturday Mass †Rich Boeckermann & Family First Communion Mass			ill be livestreamed.	The second secon
Su	10.00 alli	First Communicants	v 151	<u>onennatu</u>	iong for the Tour toe milk.	

ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS



Colored Easter Eggs for Sale: Order your dyed Easter Eggs to support our Tri-Parish Youth. \$10.00 per dozen. Call the Parish Office in Freeport at 320-836-2143 to place your order.

Go and Make Disciples Anyone in grade 11 through adult is invited to a monthly Faith Formation event on Wednesday, April 2 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Tri-Parish Office in Freeport. We will have a meal and explore Divine Mercy, the Catechism, and Sacred Art if time allows. Come and bring a friend for a fun filled faith enrichment night.

Chrism Mass for the Diocese of St. Cloud will be held Thursday, April 10 at 7:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Mary, St. Cloud. This solemn liturgy OI takes place once a year at the Cathedral, during which Bishop Neary will consecrate the holy oils (the SC Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the Sacred Chrism) used in parishes of our diocese throughout the coming year.

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Thank You to all those that made Big Buck Bingo a success! The event brought in roughly \$20,000 for the Sacred Heart School Endowment Fund. Thank you to Freeport State Bank for their donation to cover the food costs for the event.



Mass Time Change/Switch First Communion for Sacred Heart, St. Rose of Lima, and Immaculate Conception will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Parish on Sunday, April 6 at 10:00 am. This will be the only Mass in Freeport that morning. St. Rose of Lima will have the 8:00 am Mass on Sunday, April 6.

Tenebrae - A Tradition at St. Mary's Cathedral Everyone is welcome at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud on Good Friday evening, April 18, at 8:00 pm for Tenebrae, which is Latin for shadows or darkness. At this event, participants will experience the gradual extinction of all lights in the church, symbolizing the temporary triumph of the prince of darkness over the Light of the World, and loud noises created at the end of the service by the assembly and ministers, suggesting the earthquake described in the Passion Narratives. This is a family event and all are welcome.

Parish News:

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

•Forty Cans For Lent St. Joseph the Worker Council Knights of Columbus will be supporting the Melrose Food Shelf during this Season of Lent with their Forty Cans For Lent food drive. There will be totes in each of the Tri-Parish churches for you to place food items. Please consider donating to this worthy cause as we try to collect 500 pounds of food! Thank You.

•Funeral Subs Needed We are in need of parishioners, men and women, to be on a sub list for serving at funerals. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to be a funeral sub. Contact the Parish Office in Freeport to sign up by Wednesday, April 16.



Thank You to everyone who attended our Spring Bingo. Thank you to all the volunteers and to the people for their donations. It was a great success. Hope to see you all in the fall. Congratulations to Audrey Overman for winning the quilt.

Special Prayer Service Abbot Douglas and the monks of Saint John's Abbey invite you to take part in a special prayer service at the Abbey Church on Saturday, April 12, the evening before Palm Sunday. Beginning at 7:00 pm, the service, with its special music and prayer setting, is an opportunity to enhance the beginning of your Holy Week. A reception will follow in the Great Hall, and will include light refreshments. Please join us for this special vigil service, on Saturday, April 12, at 7:00 pm. And feel free to bring a friend or two. All are welcome.

Eucharistic Adoration: Consider taking an hour to come adore and be with our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. The Tri-Parish invites all the faithful for a special opportunity to kick off Holy Week and grow in relationship with God. Eucharistic Adoration will begin on Friday, April 11 after the 8:15 am Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Freeport and extend through the night until Saturday, April 12 at 9:00 am. Volunteers are needed around the clock, particularly after 1:00 pm on Friday. Sign-up sheets are available in all three parishes. We cannot leave our Lord alone.

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

************** Weekly Offerings **************

• 5	
Total	\$5,817.80
Regular Adult Offering	4,197.00
Plate/Loose	988.80
Designated Funds	632.00

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle

CALENDAR RAFFLE

03-23 Gerald & Melanie Wensman - Melrose \$25 03-24 \$25 Tanya Middendorf - Melrose St. Mary's Church 03-25 \$25 03-26 \$25 St. Mary's Church Dennis & Marlene Doetkott - Melrose 03-27 \$25 03-28 \$25 David Orth - Melrose 03-29 \$25 Dustin & Jenna Frieler - Greenwald

Baptized in Christ...

Lane Donald BurnsBrody Michael LeukamLener Aristides Salgado Carrasco

St. Mary's Mission Society meeting on Wednesday, April 9 at St. Mary's Church at 8:45 am. All are welcome!

Finance Meeting at St. Mary's on Thursday, April 3, at 5:30 pm.

Calling All Singers & Musicians! If you would like to sing or play an instrument for any of the Holy Week liturgies at St. Mary's please contact Sarah Woeste 320-256-9516. A Bilingual rehearsal for Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil will be on Monday, March 31 from 7:15-8:15 pm in church. All are welcome!

Prayer Requests...

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

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

		<mark>Scriptures This</mark> r C, Weekdays - C	
Мо	Lenten Weekday Is 65:17-21		Jn 4:43-54
Tu	Lenten Weekday Ez 47:1-9, 12		Jn 5:1-16
We	Lenten Weekday Is 49:8-15	(Saint Francis of Pac	ola, Hermit) Jn 5:17-30
Th	Lenten Weekday Ex 32:7-14		Jn 5:31-47
Fr	Lenten Weekday Wis 2:1a, 12-22	(Saint Isidore, Bishop	b & Doctor of the Church) Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Sa	Lenten Weekday Jer 11:18-20	(Saint Vincent Ferrer	r, Priest) Jn 7:40-53
Nex	t Sunday - Fifth Su		T 0 1 11
	Is 43:16-21	Phil 3:8-14	Jn 8:1-11

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

*************** Weekly Offerings **************

Total	\$8,400.71
Regular Adult Offering	6,992.85
Plate	504.84
Votive	118.02
School Support	550.00
Easter Flowers	160.00
Building/Maintenance	75.00

Parish Events

Su	03/30	1:00 pm	Lenten Study
Tu	04/01	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
We	04/02	9:00 am	Stations of the Cross
We	04/02	1:00 pm	SHS Confessions
We	04/02	6:00 pm	Faith Formation Grade 2
We	04/02	7:00 pm	Faith Formation Grades 7-10
We	04/02	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples
Th	04/03	7:00 pm	OCIA Meeting
Fr	04/04	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	04/04	9:00 am	Stations of the Cross
Fr	04/04	9:00 am	Adoration
Fr	04/04	7:00 pm	Communal Confessions
Sa	04/05	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass
Su	04/06	10:00 am	First Communion Mass
Su	04/06	11:00 am	Private Event
Su	04/06	1:00 pm	Lenten Study in the Sacristy
Mo	04/07	6:30 pm	Youth Pizza Night



Thank You The family of Viola Borgerding would like to thank Fr. Dan Walz and Fr. Roger Klassen for presiding at the Mass, to the Musicians, the funeral lunch group, all who helped at the Mass and those who brought food for the

lunch. We also want to thank everyone for their donations to Sacred Heart School and for Masses in Viola's memory. All donations not specified for a specific use will be donated to the school as well. Also, thanks to everyone for your prayers and expressions of sympathy. It is sincerely appreciated!

~Cliff Borgerding, Marian Brunette, Yvonne Cullen, Neal Borgerding, and Ann Sieben and their families

Save the Date... The Sacred Heart Parish festival will be Sunday, July 20, 2025. The theme of the parade is Minnesota Winter. If you are interested in having a float in the parade, contact Andy Grieve at 320-260-5615 or email <u>freeportmnparade@gmail.com</u>. More details about the event to follow.

Embroiderers Needed If you enjoy embroidering or appliquéing, the festival quilting group would like assistance with dish towels. You can stop at the Tri-Parish Office entryway and pick up a packet to complete and return.



The packets will have 7 dish towels and applique patterns. Please sign the towels out and return to the parish office when complete. Thank you!

Attention St. Joseph Society Members If you haven't received your raffle tickets, they are in the back of the church for you to pick up. Please return <u>all sold and unsold tickets and money</u> to the Parish Office in Freeport or drop them in the collection no later than Wednesday, May 14.

Sponsor a Votive Candle The parish is looking for someone to sponsor the following candles: 1 on the Blessed Virgin Mary Altar 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.

CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Physical Address: 650 Main Street

New Munich, MN 56356 Church Basement 320-837-5217

******** Weekly Offering ******** Total..... \$4.292.27

Regular Adult Offering	2,089.77
Plate	545.00
Easter Flowers	100.00
Catholic Relief Services	20.00
Building/Maintenance	37.50
Easter	500.00
Bishop's Annual Appeal	1,000.00

Parish Events

		-	
Su	03/30	1:00 pm	Lenten Study - FR
We	04/02	6:00 pm	FF Grade 2 - FR
We	04/02	7:00 pm	FF Grades 7-10 - FR
We	04/02	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples - FR
Th	04/03	7:00 am	Adoration
Th	04/03	8:45 am	Stations of the Cross
Th	04/03	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Fr	04/04	7:00 pm	Communal Confessions - FR
Sa	04/05	3:30 pm	Individual Confessions
Su	04/06	10:00 am	First Communion Mass - FR
Su	04/06	1:00 pm	Lenten Study in the Sacristy - FR
Mo	04/07	6:30 pm	Youth Pizza Night - FR

God's Housekeepers for the month of April: *Stacy Hoppe, Tami Funk, Michelle Wenker, Terri Hoppe, Amy Van Beck, and Karen Sand. 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.

Elevator & Expansion Update... Thank you to all those who have made contributions to this fund. Currently, there is \$225,000 remaining in loans. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this fund.

Parish Seamstresses and Crafters

This year the Parish & Quilt Raffle will be on



June 7, so it is time again to plan for the "Quilt & Fancy Work" raffle. If any of you have fancy or crafty items (doilies, afghans, towels, etc.) to donate for the raffle please call or contact Jean Hopfer, Quilt Raffle Chm. 320-837-5239 before Thursday, April 3, so we will have time to get the raffle tickets printed with the

information on them and have them ready to send out with the parish raffle tickets. Thanks in advance for sharing your talents to contribute to the Christian Women's main source of funds. Also, if anyone would like to donate cash toward the expenses of the quilt, we'd appreciate that very much.

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

ONE IN FAITH SUNDAY BULLETIN

******** Weekly Offering ******** Total..... \$3.876.73 Regular Adult Offering..... 3,674.23 Plate..... 182.50

Parish Events

Easter Flowers

20.00

Su	03/30	11:00 am	Catholic United Financial Member Breakfast
	00/00	1.00	
Su	03/30	1:00 pm	Lenten Study - FR
Mo	03/31	7:00 pm	Christian Women Meeting
Tu	04/01	7:00 am	Adoration
Tu	04/01	8:45 am	Stations of the Cross
Tu	04/01	9:00 am	Quilting
Tu	04/01	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
We	04/02	6:00 pm	FF Grade 2 - FR
We	04/02	7:00 pm	FF Grades 7-10 - FR
We	04/02	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples - FR
Fr	04/04	7:00 pm	Communal Confessions - FR
Fr	04/04		No Rosary
Su	04/06	10:00 am	First Communion Mass - FR
Su	04/06	1:00 pm	Lenten Study in the
		-	Sacristy - FR
Mo	04/07	6:30 pm	Youth Pizza Night - FR

Spring Meeting...St. Rosa Christian Women Spring Meeting is set for Monday, March 31 at 7:00 pm in the Church basement. Hope to see you there! A Vice President is still needed for our St. Rose Christian Women.

Bake Sale On Sunday, April 6 the Christian Women will be hosting a bake sale at the Lions Breakfast. Please drop off your baked items by 9:00 am on Sunday, April 6.

Quilting... The quilters in St. Rose will be quilting at least until Tuesday, April 15. With the possibility of a quilt left for Tuesday, April 22.

CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL Physical Address: 102 St. Michael Avenue N.

Spring Hill, MN 56352 Church Basement 320-987-3405

******** Weekly Offering ********

Total	\$1,606.00
Regular Adult Offering	1,229.00
Children	2.00
Plate/Loose	80.00
Maintenance Fund	185.00
Fuel Fund	40.00
Easter Flowers	25.00
Ash Wednesday	20.00
Central & Eastern Europe	15.00
Rice Bowl	10.00

Liturgical Ministries Sunday, April 6 - 10:00 am

J J
(S) Olivia Kalthoff & Stella Schoenberg
(L) Ralph Klassen
(U) Roger Meyer & Mark Schoenberg
(EM) (B) Jenny Kalthoff
(EM) (C) No Precious Blood
(Sacristan) Ruth Heinen
(RL) Kathy Welle
(CC) Chico Welle & Steve Welle
(HK: March 30-April 12) Cindy Bertram,
Deb Bertram, and Jane Bertram

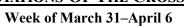
Thank You The family of Kathleen Meyer would like to thank Fr. Marv Enneking for the beautiful service and the Spring Hill Choir for the beautiful music. Also thank you to Lisa Feldewerd and Amy Orbeck for all they did and everyone in Group 3 for serving the meal. You are all greatly appreciated!

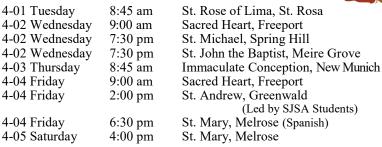
Cash Raffle Tickets have been distributed. Please return ticket stubs, money, and any unsold tickets to Sue Meyer, Karen Rademacher or Duane Moscho or put in the St. Michael's collection marked "cash raffle" by Sunday, March 30. There are about 100 raffle tickets left, if anyone wants some tickets, please contact Duane, Sue or Karen. Thanks for your participation.

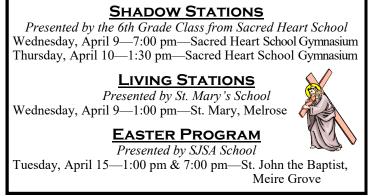
Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale on Sunday, April 6, Spring Hill Church basement from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

hosted by Catholic United Financial.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS







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

******** Weekly Offering ********

Total	\$1,177.00
Regular Adult Offering	895.00
Plate/Loose	135.00
Votives	22.00
Maintenance Fund	25.00
Fuel Fund	100.00

Liturgical Ministries Saturday, April 5 - 4:00 pm

(S) Matthew Dehmer & Noah Dehmer
(L) Julie Kulzer
(U) Eric Dehmer & Bill Frieler
(GB) Jeff & Wanda Ahrens
(EM) (B) Clarine Beier
(EM) (C) <u>No</u> Precious Blood
(HK - April) *Bridget Kasper, Deb Keller,
Cassandra Kettner, and Doris Kraemer



PG. 5

Sacred Heart School Calendar Raffle Winners!

03/23	\$25	Nick Shaw - Freeport
03/24	\$25	Calli Mayers - Freeport
03/25	\$25	Dean Poepping - Melrose
03/26	\$25	Zackry Einerwold - Andover
03/27	\$25	Mark & Bev Wiechman - Freeport
03/28	\$25	Zach Blonigen - Watkins
03/29	\$40	Don & Irene Lieser - Sauk Centre

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

******** Weekly Offering ********

Total	\$1,772.50
Regular Adult Offering	1,304.00
Children's	0.50
Plate/Loose	161.00
Votives	47.00
Maintenance Fund	65.00
Catholic Magazine	20.00
Easter Flowers	175.00

Liturgical Ministries Sunday, April 6 - 8:00 am

(S) Faith Meyer & Miranda Meyer
(L) Doug Meyer
(U) Jerry Imdieke & Nick Kelzer
(GB) Mike & Julie Wehlage
(EM) Karl Meyer & Sue Meyer
(HK - April) *Irene Marthaler, Char Meyer, Sue Meyer, Geri Meyer, Heidi Meyer, and Karen Meyer

Spring Fundraiser Today Sunday, March 30, in the Meire Grove Church basement. Bake Sale begins immediately following the 8:00 am Mass. Hot Sandwich

Lunch provided by Catholic United Financial starting at 11:00 am. Bingo starts at noon. 20 games for \$15, includes lunch. Cash prizes,

good neighbor, and more. Root Beer Floats available for \$2. Parish Raffle Drawing at 1:00 pm; need not be present to win. \$20/ticket. Grand prize \$2,000.

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Preparación bautismal: La clase de



preparación bautismal ya se realizó el sábado pasado. Si aún hay personas interesadas en la preparación bautismal hable con el diácono Jesús Hernandez

después de misa para registrarse para la próxima sesión de clases que se llevará a cabo en el mes de Mayo.

Orden de iniciación cristiana para

adultos: se invita a todas las personas que no han recibido ningún sacramento de iniciación (bautismo, confirmación



y primera comunión) o personas que deseen convertirse en Católicos a que hablen con el diácono Jorge Carrillo para pedir información sobre el programa y comenzar a planear sus preparacion.



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.



SEEKING THE LOST cont'd from page 1

As you ponder this parable, try to understand the effect that it would have had upon the tax collectors and sinners who all drew near to our Lord. They were spiritually hungry, just as the prodigal son was. They had a past full of regret, just as this boy. They were unsatisfied in life and were looking for a way out, just as this son of the loving father was. For these reasons, those tax collectors and sinners who drew near Jesus would have been

mesmerized by all that Jesus taught them and filled with hope that they, too, could share in the joy that was so generously bestowed upon this wayward son.

Reflect, today, upon the touching image of these tax collectors and sinners drawing near to Jesus. Though they may have had a certain fear and caution, they would have also had hope. Try to understand what they must have thought and felt as they heard this story of the father's abundant mercy. Think about how they would have related as they discovered that there was hope for them, too. If you struggle with being like the scribes and Pharisees, reject that temptation. Instead, see yourself as one of those sinners who drew near to our Lord and you will be the cause of joy in the Heart of the Father in Heaven.

Most loving and compassionate Lord, tax collectors and sinners were drawn to You. They found in You someone Who could free them from the burdens they carried within. Please help me to see myself as one of those humble souls in need of You and Your mercy. I reject my pride that leads me to self-justification and pray for humility so that I can come to You and gladden the Heart of the Father in Heaven. Jesus, I trust in You.

YOUTH MINISTRY

One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

Contact Information: youthministry@catholic-centered.org

or

faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

♥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 Pundsack at 320-256-9503

pam@stmarysofmelrose.org with questions.

♥ Pizza Making & Games Monday, April 7

from 6:30 - 7:45 pm at Sacred Heart Church Basement. Sponsored by the Tri-Parish

Youth Group. Join us as we make homemade

pizzas and play games. Any students in

or

FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: csand@catholic-centered.org

- •Grades 1, 3-6: Next Class: Wednesday, April 2. Home Lesson.
- •Grade 2: Next Class: Wednesday, April 2 at 6:00 pm. Meet at the parish office. •First Communion Mass: Sunday, April 6 at 10:00 am at Sacred Heart in Freeport.
- •Grades 7-10: Next Class: Wednesday, April 2 at 7:00 pm. Bring your Bible, books, notebook, and pen. Meet in your classroom.

Service Project:

•Egg Dying Service Project for Grades 6-12 Wednesday, April 16 from 6:45 - 8:15 pm at Immaculate Conception Church basement. Permission forms are available on the Tri-Parish website: www.sacredheartfreeport.org. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, April 9.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

•All Grades: Class and Prayer: Lent Reconciliation Liturgies: Wednesday, April 2, 4:30 or 7:00 pm at St. Mary's Church. Students and parents. Confirmation students provide liturgical ministries.

•Grades 7-8: Saturday, April 5 10:30 am Roadside Cleanup Service Project in Meire Grove, followed by lunch.

•First Communion Students AND Parents:

•Lent Reconciliation liturgy: Wednesday April 2, 4:30 OR 7:00 pm (choose whichever time is better for your family!). At both liturgies, we will have a section of the church reserved so that First Communion families can sit together.

•Learning Centers: Sunday, April 6, 11:15 am - 12:15 pm at St. Mary's Church.

ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

Need Some Direction In Your Life? We invite you to join us as "companions" to encounter Jesus on the road to Calvary in this live production. Experience Holy Week in a new light. Performances are: April 9 at 7:00 pm, April 11 at 7:30 pm, April 12 at 7:30 pm and Palm Sunday, April 13 at 1:00 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church (44055 Hwy 238, Freeport).

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. Next retreat is April 11-13.

"Be Still and Know:" A Contemplative Retreat for Social Justice Leaders Doing social ministry work can be hard, and many could use encouragement and hope through the challenges of our ministries today. But how do we care for ourselves, while striving to care for our communities? How do we create intentional space for prayer as we do this work individually and collectively? Join the Diocesan Social Concerns team for a day that will explore these questions and invite us into prayer. Saturday, April 12 from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm (with boxed lunch to go, or optional continued fellowship immediately following) at Center for Christ, Sauk Centre (235 Main St. S. Sauk Centre, MN 56378). Cost: \$35. The retreat will be limited to 25 participants. Register by Monday, March 31 online at: https:// forms.office.com/r/geFNDgwDjN.

Pilgrims of Hope Lenten Retreat Schedule at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo. Enhance your faith life with one of the retreats below. For more information or to register, please call 763-682-1394 or visit www.kingshouse.com.

- •Men & Women's Silent Lenten Retreat April 1-3 (Midweek)
- •LENTEN Wine & The Word Tuesday, April 8 (7:00 8:00 pm)

grades 6-12 are able to attend. Permission forms are on the Tri-Parish website: www.sacredheartfreeport.org. Deadline

to sign up is Wednesday, April 2. _____

Pam

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.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Communal Celebration with Individual Confession

- •Wednesday, April 2-4:30 & 7:00 pm-St. Mary, Melrose
- •Friday, April 4-7:00 pm-Sacred Heart, Freeport
- •Sunday, April 6-7:00 pm-St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove

Individual Confession

- •Fridays of Lent—7:45 am—Sacred Heart, Freeport
- •Saturdays of Lent-3:30 pm-Immaculate Conception, New Munich
- •Saturdays of Lent-3:30 pm-St. Andrew, Greenwald
- •Saturdays of Lent-4:30 pm-St. Mary, Melrose

•Saturday, April 5 before/after First Saturday Mass-Sacred Heart, Freeport

- •Friday, April 11-5:30 pm-St. Mary, Melrose
- •Friday, April 11-7:30 pm-St. Michael, Spring Hill
- •Monday, April 14-5:30 pm-St. Mary, Melrose
- •Monday, April 14-7:30 pm-St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove
- •Or by appointment; Call Melrose Office 320-256-4207 or Freeport Office 320-836-2143

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

- ◆Sacred Heart School will be having All School Confession on Wednesday, April 2.
- ◆Congratulations to all the 2nd Graders in the Tri-Parish that completed their First Communion Retreat last weekend. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for their First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 6.
- ◆SHS Registration for the 2025/2026 school year PreK 6th grade is open. If you are interested in registering your child for school next year, please contact the office.
- ◆Lenten Project SHS will be collecting money, school supplies, basic toiletries, and toys for Stoves for Guatemala as their Lenten Project. Any money or items you would like to donate can be brought to Sacred Heart School.
- ◆Shadow Stations will take place on Wednesday, April 9 and Thursday, April 10.
 ◆SHS Designer Purse Bingo will be on Saturday, April 12 at the Freeport Community Center.
- ◆Toddler Open House will take place in May. More details to come.



- •We are Excited to Announce that the Auction4Education has raised an amazing total of \$154,145. Many thanks to all the SMS families, friends, community, and parish members for making this event such a wonderful success!
- •School Board Candidates Cory Ellering and Bob Arceneau's terms on the School Board will end at the end of this school year. Candidates interested in running for a position on the board should submit a bio of 125-150 words to Autumn Nelson at anelson@smsmn.org by Tuesday, April 1.
- •St. Mary's School is Selling Harry's **Pizza** from now until Wednesday, April 2. Please contact a current SMS family, the parish office, or the school to place an order. Orders can be picked up at



- •"Camp Kindergarten" Kindergarten Roundup is Monday, April 7 from 7:45 am - 2:30 pm. Prospective kindergarteners will spend the day in kindergarten with the current class. A healthy snack and hot lunch are provided. Call the school at 320-987-3133 to register.
- •Students in grades 2-6 will go to confession after Mass on Thursday, April 3.
- •SJSA 3rd and 4th graders will lead Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 4 at 2:00 pm at St. Andrew's Church in Greenwald.
- •SJSA students will present Living Stations of the Cross on Tuesday, April 15 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm at St. John's Church in Meire Grove. Refreshments will be served after each program. All are welcome.
- the school gym on Wednesday, April 16, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.
- •All are invited to the Living Stations presented by St. Mary's School students on Wednesday, April 9, at 1:00 pm in the church.
- •St. Mary's Kindergarten Roundup is set for Friday, April 11. Students will spend the day in activities from 8:00 am to 2:45 pm. If you have a prospective kindergartener for the 2025-2026 school year and haven't already enrolled, contact us by calling 320-256-4257.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

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

March 30, Sunday

•<u>Spring Fundraiser</u> at St. John the Baptist Church in Meire Grove. Bake Sale begins immediately following the 8:00 am Mass. Hot Sandwich Lunch provided by Catholic United Financial starting at 11:00 am. Bingo starts at noon. 20 games for \$15, includes lunch. Cash prizes, good neighbor, and more. Root Beer Floats available for \$2. Parish Raffle Drawing at 1:00 pm; need not be present to win. \$20/ticket. Grand prize \$2,000.

April 4, Friday

 \bullet <u>Fish Fry</u> at the Church of St. Mary, Alexandria, MN in the gymnasium. Serving from 4:00 - 7:00 pm.

•Lenten Fish Fry at St. Elizabeth Church in Foley. Serving from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. Adults: \$15. Children 6-10: \$7. Children 5 and under: free. Take out orders available please call 320-355-2459 for take out orders. Proceeds for the upkeep of our church.

◆ Farming Lions 20th Annual Fish Fry at Trappers Pub and Grub. Serving from 4:30 - 8:30 pm.

•<u>"All You Can Eat" Fish Fry</u> hosted by the Melrose American Legion. Serving from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Take outs are available. Your support is very much appreciated! All are welcome!

April 6, Sunday

•<u>Matching Grant Breakfast</u> from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Elrosa. Adults—\$10, Students 6 - 11—\$5, 5 and under—Free. Sponsored by St. James - Elrosa Catholic United Financial. •<u>Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale</u> hosted by St. Michael's Catholic United Financial. Serving from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in the Spring Hill Church basement.

April 6, Sunday Cont'd

•<u>Chicken & Ham Dinner</u> hosted by the Holidingford Knights of Columbus 9307 at the Pelican Lake Ballroom, St. Anna. Serving from 3:30 - 6:30 pm. Prices: Adults \$15, Children ages 5-12 \$10. Take outs available.

April 11, Friday

◆Lenten Fish Fry at Sts. Peter and Pauls Church in Foley. Serving from 4:00 - 6:30 pm. Adults: \$15. Children 6-10: \$7. Children 5 and under: free.

◆<u>Smelt & Fish Fry</u> from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Upsala. Adults: \$18, Ages 5-12: \$8, 4 & under: Free. Cash raffle drawing at 7:30 pm. Dine-in or carry-out.

•<u>"All You Can Eat" Fish Fry</u> hosted by the Melrose American Legion. Serving from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Take outs are available. Your support is very much appreciated! All are welcome!

•<u>Fish Fry</u> at the Church of St. Mary, Alexandria, MN in the gymnasium. Serving from 4:30 - 7:00 pm.

April 12, Saturday

• <u>Palm Braiding with Lois Maciej and Caramel Roll Sales Pre-Order at</u> St. Stephen Parish Hall in St. Stephen. Two classes from 12:30 -2:30 pm or 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Pre-registration is required if you would like to make a Palm Fan so supplies can be ordered. An adult must accompany a child. Last day to register for Palm Fan and order caramel rolls is Sunday, April 6. Sign up call the St. Stephen Parish office at 320-251-1520.



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