



# 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

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**May 4, 2025**

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

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

**Hours:** Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Office Phone:** 320-256-4207

**Fr. Mitchell Bechtold:** 320-256-9512

mlbechtold@outlook.com

**Fr. Oswaldo Roche:** 320-256-9513

frosvaldo@stmarysofmelrose.com

**Office Email:** pam@stmarysofmelrose.com

**Website:** www.oneinfaith.org

**Facebook:** Church of St. Mary, Melrose

**Mailing Address:** 755 Kraft Drive SE  
Melrose, MN 56352

**Freeport - New Munich - St. Rosa Office:**

**Hours:** Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Office Phone:** 320-836-2143

**Email:** triparish@albanytel.com

**Website:** www.sacredheartfreeport.org

**Facebook:** Tri Parish

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 155  
Freeport, MN 56331

## **Bulletin Announcements**

**Deadline:** Tuesday before 9:00 am

**Email information to:** bulletin@catholic-centered.org

## **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, Homebound 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.



## **One Hundred and Fifty-three Large Fish**

**When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “*Children, have you caught anything to eat?*” They answered him, “*No.*” So he said to them, “*Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.*” So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. John 21:4-6**

Recall the first time there was a miraculous catch of fish in the Gospels. In Luke 5:1-7, Jesus was preaching to the people on the shore from where He sat in Peter’s boat just a short distance away. After preaching, Jesus told Peter, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Peter did so and there was such a large catch of fish that the Apostles needed help to haul it in.

In today’s Gospel, some three years later after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples from the shore and instructed them to cast their nets “over the right side of the boat.” They did so and caught 153 large fish. In commenting on these two passages, Saint Augustine teaches that the first miraculous catch was a sign that the Gospel would be preached to all people, which is indicated by Jesus simply saying “lower your nets.” But after the Resurrection, Jesus specifically tells the disciples to cast their nets “over the right side” to indicate that grace is now given to those who stand on His right side and are separated from the condemned who are on His left. Thus, this second miraculous catch symbolizes the end of the age when the good and the bad are judged.

Saint Augustine also notes that the 153 large fish, caught off the right side of the boat, are a symbolic representation of those who conform not only to the Ten Commandments but also receive the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit by grace. He explains that  $10 + 7 = 17$  and if you add all the numbers together between 1 and 17 you arrive at 153. Thus, these 153 fish represent everyone who receives His gift of grace and obtains salvation. The boat represents the Church, and the gift of salvation is offered by Christ through His Church.

**Continued on page 5**

## ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ MAY 5 - 11

## ADORATION

**ST. MARY - Melrose**

Mo	6:30 pm	<b>Misa en Español</b> †Sergio Hernandez Chavez
Tu	8:00 am	†Tom & †Jamie Seanger
We	8:00 am	†Arlene Pflipsen
Th	8:00 am	†Bernie Arceneau
*Fr	8:30 am	<b>SM School Mass</b> †Olmscheid Family
Sa	5:00 pm	†Bernie Arceneau
*Su	10:00 am	†Arlene Messerich
Su	12:30 pm	<b>Misa en Español</b> †3er Aniversario Luctuoso de Lauren Delgado Morelos

**SACRED HEART - Freeport**

We	8:15 am	<b>SH School Mass</b> †Cyrilla Michael
Fr	8:15 am	†Leona Bertram
Su	8:00 am	For the People

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich**

Th	8:15 am	†Mae, †Larry, & †John Wiechmann
Sa	4:00 pm	†Pat Schleper

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

Tu	8:15 am	†Carla Wolbeck
Su	10:00 am	†Greg Hartung

**ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill**

Tu	8:00 am	†Darwin & †Marcy Kulzer
Su	10:00 am	†Deceased Relatives of Mark Schoenberg

**ST. ANDREW - Greenwald**

Th	8:00 am	<b>SJSA School Mass</b> †Marilyn Lieser For the People
Sa	4:00 pm	

**ST. JOHN - Meire Grove**

We	8:00 am	Poor Souls Society
Su	8:00 am	†Raphael & †Delores Imdieke

**St. Rose of Lima - St. Rosa**

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

**Immaculate Conception - New Munich**

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

**St. Mary - Melrose**

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

**Sacred Heart - Freeport**

Fridays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



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

## ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

**Parish News:**

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

•**Confirmation Mass:** Sunday, May 4, 3:00 pm with Fr. Scott Pogatchnik. All are welcome to come and celebrate this Mass with our Confirmation families!

•**Baccalaureate Masses:**

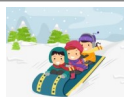
Sunday, May 11 8:00 am *St. John, Meire Grove*  
(For Meire Grove and Greenwald Seniors)

Sunday, May 18 10:00 am *St. Michael, Spring Hill*

Sunday, May 18 11:00 am *St. Mary, Melrose - Bilingual Mass,*

There will be no 10:00 am or 12:30 pm Spanish Masses. All High School seniors from St. Mary's and from any of the other parishes are invited to participate in this Mass! All are invited to come and celebrate our seniors at this special Mass!

**Sacred Heart Festival** will be on Sunday, July 20. The day will begin with a polka Mass at 9:00 am followed by a parade at 10:30 am with all the festivities to follow. The theme for this year's parade is "Minnesota Winter." If you are interested in putting a float in the parade, contact Andy Grieve at 320-260-5615 or email [freeportmnpaerade@gmail.com](mailto:freeportmnpaerade@gmail.com).



**One In Faith ACC Pastoral Council Meeting** The One In Faith Pastoral Council will meet Tuesday, May 13 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](mailto:plwuertz@meltel.net) before May 12.



**Vacation Bible School** June 9 - 13 on the grounds of Sacred Heart Church in Freeport from 9:00 - 11:30 am. Send your children, ages 4 through entering grade 5, for a wild good time! This summer's theme is True North. Children will be "Trusting Jesus in a Wild World." True North is filled with Bible stories, music, games, and other fun ways to learn that God is with you every day, no matter what. Registration forms are available Tri-Parish website. Deadline to sign up is Thursday, May 15. Don't miss the best week of the summer!

**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 and study Sacred Art. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, May 7. Come and bring a friend for a fun filled faith enrichment night.

**Parish News:**

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

•**Attention All Youth:** Tri-Parish Youth Music is asking all singers to join their final Mass for the school year at 8:00 am on Mother's Day, May 11, in Freeport. The Mass will feature a brass orchestra of local teen musicians, and more singers are needed to complete the ensemble! Practice will be 2:30 - 4:00 pm on Saturday, May 10, with pizza to follow. Sign up with the SHS Office, or contact Joe Notch at 320-333-4545.

•**Photo Directory** - It's been nearly 10 years since we have updated our photo directory. Professional photographers will be at each of the three parishes on the following days to take family portraits. We would love to have every family participate. There will be no cost to you to have your picture taken. More information will be coming. Mark your calendar to take your picture on one of these days:

Immaculate Conception	June 24-28
Sacred Heart	July 8-12
St. Rose	July 17-19

**West Central Deanery Spring General Meeting** West Central Deanery women and Spiritual Advisors are invited to the Spring general meeting Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at St. Mary Help of Christians Church, 24588 County Road 7, St. Augusta, MN. Registration begins at 5:30 pm with Mass at 6:00 pm. A light supper (\$6) will be served followed by a short meeting and speakers. Please RSVP for the meal, Contact Jean Hopfer, President, 320-837-5239 [ecthull@albanytel.com](mailto:ecthull@albanytel.com).



**America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally** Please join us on Saturday, May 10 at the following times and locations:

- 9:00 am Depot Pavilion Downtown Freeport
- 11:00 am on the Immaculate Conception Parking Lot.  
(In case of rain, it will be inside the church.)

**Volunteers Needed for Vacation Bible School** June 9-13 on the grounds of Sacred Heart Church in Freeport. Students entering grade 6 through adults are invited to prayerfully consider joining us for an amazing start to your summer! Registration forms are available on the Tri-Parish website. Deadline to sign up is Thursday, May 15. Don't miss the best week of the summer!



**CHURCH OF ST. MARY**

*Physical Address: 755 Kraft Drive SE  
Melrose, MN 56352*

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

<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$14,654.05</b>
Regular Adult Offering .....	9,437.00
Plate/Loose .....	2,108.05
Designated Funds .....	3,109.00

**St. Mary's Calendar Raffle**

04-27	\$25	Kent Brown - Melrose
04-28	\$25	Merle & Marilyn Meyer - Danbury, WI
04-29	\$25	Steve & Rita Kortenbusch - Melrose
04-30	\$50	Sharon Muellner - Burtrum
05-01	\$25	Katlyn & Ryan Vanderbosch - Maple Grove
05-02	\$25	Gene Enneking - Melrose
05-03	\$25	Jenn Lubarski - New Munich



**Fellowship** There will be refreshments served after all Masses this next weekend, May 10-11 at St Mary's. Please plan to stay and enjoy each other's company!

**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!**



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

<b>Mo</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b> Acts 6:8-15	Jn 6:22-29
<b>Tu</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b> Acts 7:51—8:1a	Jn 6:30-35
<b>We</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b> Acts 8:1b-8	Jn 6:35-40
<b>Th</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b> Acts 8:26-40	Jn 6:44-51
<b>Fr</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b> Acts 9:1-20	Jn 6:52-59
<b>Sa</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b> (Saint John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church; USA: Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest) Acts 9:31-42	Jn 6:60-69
<b>Next Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> Acts 13:14, 43-52 Rv 7:9, 14b-17 Jn 10:27-30		

**CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART**

*Physical Address: 106 3rd Avenue NE Freeport, MN 56331  
Church Basement 320-836-2191*

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

<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$9,232.35</b>
Regular Adult Offering .....	3,025.85
Plate .....	5,395.00
Votive .....	66.50
School Support .....	300.00
Easter Envelopes .....	350.00
Catholic Home Missions .....	45.00
Building/Maintenance .....	50.00

**Parish Events**

We	05/07	7:00 pm	Go & Make Disciples
Fr	05/09	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	05/09	9:00 am	Adoration
Sa	05/10	9:00 am	Wake Service
Sa	05/10	10:00 am	Funeral
Sa	05/10	1:00 pm	Private Event
Sa	05/10	2:30 pm	Tri-Parish Youth Music Practice

**Community Garden is Tilled and Ready**

for planting. If you would like to reserve rows in the community garden, please call the Tri-Parish Office at 320-836-2143. Each row is spaced 5 feet apart and will be assigned on a first call basis.

**St. Joseph Society Members** Please return all sold and unsold tickets and money to the Parish Office in Freeport or drop them in the collection no later than Wednesday, May 14.

**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!



**CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,227.27
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,746.77
Plate .....	203.00
Easter Envelopes .....	20.00
Catholic Home Missions .....	220.00
Building/Maintenance.....	37.50

**Parish Events**

We 05/07 7:00 pm Go & Make Disciples - FR  
Sa 05/10 11:00 am Rosary Rally  
Sa 05/10 2:30 pm Tri-Parish Youth Music Practice-FR  
Sa 05/10 3:30 pm Individual Confessions



**God's Housekeepers** for the month of May: \*Mary Krueger, Linda Wielenberg, Jody Klaphake, Cindy Schmiesing, Christie Zink, and Maureen Schaefer. 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.

**Expansion Update:** The diocesan loan has been paid in full. This leaves the parish with the \$200,000 NM Investors loan to pay off. Thank you to all who have made contributions towards this expansion and elevator project. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to help pay off the final loan.

**Graduation Social:** Saturday, May 17 Please join us in a social to celebrate the graduation of our students. Social will follow the 4:00 pm Mass. All are welcome.

Servers Requested: **Chair:** John & Dorothy Funk, **Co-Chair:** Judy Gaebel, **Servers:** Tim & Megan Gaebel, Kevin & Sharon Goebel, Matt & Cindy Heinen, Thomas & Lisa Hennen. All servers please bring cake or bars. Thank you in advance for serving.



### Sacred Heart School

#### Calendar Raffle Winners!

04/27	\$25	Robert & Judy Wehlage - Melrose
04/28	\$25	Chris Tschida - Melrose
04/29	\$25	Jesse Johannes - Freeport
04/30	\$25	Lisa & Steve Groetsch - Albany
05/01	\$25	Rhonda Uphus - Melrose
05/02	\$25	Jen Harlow - Osakis
05/03	\$25	Lillian Arnzen - Freeport

**CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA**

Physical Address: 28905 County Road 17  
St. Rosa, MN 56331  
Church Basement 320-836-2537

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total.....	\$2,214.23
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,179.23
Plate .....	275.00
Easter Envelopes .....	590.00
Catholic Home Missions .....	20.00
Rice Bowl Envelopes .....	150.00

**Parish Events**

Su 05/04 2:00 pm Wiechmann Visitation  
Mo 05/05 10:00 am Wiechmann Visitation & Funeral  
Mo 05/05 4:30 pm Spring Church Cleaning  
Tu 05/06 7:00 am Adoration  
We 05/07 7:00 pm Go & Make Disciples - FR  
Fr 05/09 7:30 pm Rosary  
Sa 05/10 2:30 pm Tri-Parish Youth Music Practice-FR

**Baptized in Christ...** We welcome **Claire Jane Kerfeld**, the daughter of Nicholas & Kristin Kerfeld, to our parish. Claire Jane was baptized on Sunday, April 27.

**May He Rest In Peace** Our parish offers prayers and sympathy to the family of † **Joseph L. (Joe) Wiechmann**, who passed away Monday, April 28. His funeral will be held here Monday, May 5 at 11:00 am.

**Church Cleaning** St. Rose Christian



Women will get together Monday, May 5 to clean the Church. We are starting at 4:30 pm, but welcome volunteers anytime that works in your schedule! We will have pizza around 5:30 pm. This invitation is open to more than the Christian Women, so please bring others! Many hands make light work!

**HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA**

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

**May 7, Wednesday**

◆**Feet First Clinic** at the Senior Center in Freeport. Everyone must call to make an appointment 320-836-2450. Free will offering.

◆**Blood Drive** at St. Mary's Catholic Church 755 E Kraft Drive from 12:30 - 6:30 pm. Please call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Melrose to schedule an appointment.

**May 15, Thursday**

◆**Pillow Cleaning** at the Melrose City Park large shelter from 7:00 am - 3:00 pm. Sponsored by SJSA Catholic School.

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

**CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL**

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total .....	\$472.00
Regular Adult Offering.....	12.00
Children .....	4.00
Plate/Loose .....	93.00
Votives .....	220.00
Maintenance .....	140.00
Home Mission Appeal .....	3.00

**Liturgical Ministries**

**Sunday, May 11 - 10:00 am**

(S) Olivia Kalthoff & Stella Schoenberg  
(L) Lisa Wuertz  
(U) Pat Bertram & Randy Bertram  
(EM) (B) Karen Rademacher  
(EM) (C) Darlene Schoenberg & Mark Schoenberg  
(Sacristan) Kathy Welle  
(RL) Marilyn Gruber  
(CC) Mark Schoenberg & Rick Terres  
(HK: May 4 - 17) Grace Hopfer, Jeanette Kalthoff, & Jenny Kalthoff

**Public Rosary...**

We have many intentions to pray for and much to be thankful for.

*All are invited and welcome!*

- Sundays at 7:30 am in the church in Meire Grove.
- Mondays at 7:00 am in the church in Meire Grove.
- Tuesdays at 7:30 am in the church in Melrose.
- Wednesdays at 1:00 pm in the church in Melrose.
- Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 7:30 pm by the Grotto on the South side of the church in Meire Grove.
- 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. ANDREW**

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$5,675.00</b>
Regular Adult Offering .....	1,530.00
EFT .....	800.00
Plate/Loose .....	43.00
Easter .....	3,135.00
Easter Flowers .....	20.00
Holy Land .....	132.00
Home Mission .....	10.00
Fuel Fund .....	5.00

**Liturgical Ministries****Saturday, May 10 - 4:00 pm**

(S) Jada Worms & Luke Worms  
(L) Isaiah Gilk  
(U) Daniel Nietfeld & Harold Rademacher  
(GB) Pete & Linda Heinze  
(EM) (B) Clarine Beier  
(EM) (C) Mike Barten  
(HK - May) \*Julie Kulzer, Rose Lensing,  
Mariann Lucken, & Lorene Meyer

**CHURCH OF ST. JOHN**

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

## ◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$1,041.25</b>
Regular Adult Offering.....	480.00
Children .....	0.25
Plate/Loose .....	206.00
Votives.....	50.00
Maintenance .....	130.00
Home Mission Appeal .....	75.00
Easter .....	100.00

**Liturgical Ministries****Sunday, May 11 - 8:00 am**

(S) Faith Meyer & Isaac Zenzen  
(L) Seniors  
(U) Andrew Primus & Josh Primus  
(GB) Seniors  
(EM) Karl Meyer & Sue Meyer  
Abby Zenzen & Daryl Zenzen  
(HK - May) \*Martha Meyer, Rita Meyer,  
Virginia Meyer, Brenda Nathe, Virginia  
Nathe, & Geri Primus

**Rosary for the month of May**

We will be praying the rosary each Wednesday evening throughout the month of May, starting on the 7th and ending on the 28th, at 7:30 pm. We will be praying by our grotto on the south side of the church. Chairs will be provided. In case of inclement weather, we will pray it inside by Mary's altar. Everyone, from ALL parishes, is invited!

**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.

**One Hundred and Fifty-Three Large Fish**

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One clear message we must take from Saint Augustine's interpretation is that grace and mercy are offered to all, but not received by all. At the end of our lives and at the end of the world, judgment will take place. Those who responded to the offer of grace and mercy, repented of their sins and gave their lives to Christ will eternally share in the Resurrection. But those who refused to follow His Commandments and closed themselves to the transforming power of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit will be separated from eternal joys.

Facing the reality of hell is not pleasant, but it is a message that must not be ignored. It is a message that is real and, therefore, hell is a possibility for us all. Therefore, it is important to remind ourselves from time to time of this spiritual truth. Are you among those 153 large fish found on the right side of the boat? Do you allow the ministers of Christ within the Church, represented by the disciples in the boat, to draw you to Christ through preaching and the Sacraments? Though all of us might quickly answer "Yes" to that question, we should never fail to be attentive to the fact that salvation requires action on our part. It requires that we accept Christ Jesus by following His Commandments and live by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit as it is dispensed by the Church.

Reflect, today, upon the symbolism found in this Resurrection account. Consider the fact that the Gospel has, indeed, been shared with you. Have you listened to the Word of God as it is preached by the Church? Do you immerse yourself in the grace given through the Sacraments? Do you follow the Ten Commandments faithfully? Do you continually open yourself to the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit? Seek to be among that catch of fish caught on the "right side." Never doubt that hell is real and possible. For that reason, never waver from your fidelity to Christ, so that you will remain firmly grounded in His grace and share one day in His Resurrection.

*My resurrected Lord, You have offered Your grace and mercy to all, but not all have responded. I pray that I will always be among those who continually respond to Your invitation. I repent of my sin, dear Lord. Please help me to stay faithful to Your commands of love and to be daily immersed in Your transforming Spirit. Jesus, I trust in You.*

mycatholic.life

## FAITH FORMATION

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

Contact Information:

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

•**Faith Formation Registration:** If you missed registration night, please look for your registration packet in the mail. Please turn in all registration forms and fees for 2025/2026 by Friday, May 16 to avoid an increase in costs. You can drop them off at the Parish Office in Freeport or mail to PO Box 155, Freeport.

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

Contact Information:

[faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.org](mailto:faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.org)

•**Confirmation Mass: Sunday, May 4** at 3:00 pm with Fr. Scott Pogatchnik. All are welcome to come and celebrate this Mass with our Confirmation families!

•**Baccalaureate Masses:** Please see One in Faith (4 Parish News) section for dates, times, and locations.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

Contact Information: [youthministry@catholic-centered.org](mailto:youthministry@catholic-centered.org) or [faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.org](mailto:faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.org)

♥**Painting the Word** will be Sunday, May 4 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm. Students in grades 6-12 will be invited to read and reflect on a Bible passage and then paint what comes to mind. Sign-up forms are available on the Tri-Parish website, [sacredheartfreeport.org](http://sacredheartfreeport.org). Please turn in your form to the Tri-Parish office so we are able to provide enough materials for everyone!

♥**Valleyfair and Feed My Starving Children Trip** will be on Monday, July 14. Pick up will be in Freeport at 8:15 am and return around 8:15 pm. Sign-up forms are available on the Tri-Parish website, [sacredheartfreeport.org](http://sacredheartfreeport.org). Deadline for sign-up is Monday, June 30.

♥**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. If you are interested in attending, contact Chrystal Sand at 320-836-2143 or [csand@catholic-centered.org](mailto:csand@catholic-centered.org), or Pam Pundsack at 320-256-9503 or [pam@stmarysofmelrose.org](mailto:pam@stmarysofmelrose.org) with questions.

♥**Bible & Breakfast** Students in grades 7-12 are invited to enjoy scripture and breakfast with peers at the Melrose Area High School Media Center. We will meet on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:00 am. If there is no school or a late start, we will not meet. To register contact Chrystal at 320-266-5554.

### Tri-Parish Youth Group:

♥**Youth Leadership Team Applications** are being accepted until Friday, May 30. This is a leadership program for high school students, grades 9-12 interested in serving, leading, and supporting their peers as they develop a deeper experience of Jesus Christ and the Catholic church. You will plan and lead youth events and activities. This will be your opportunity to be a voice in learning about your faith. Applications are available on the Tri-Parish website, [sacredheartfreeport.org](http://sacredheartfreeport.org) and you can turn them in to the Tri-Parish Office.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



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

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

[www.shsfreeport.org](http://www.shsfreeport.org) School Phone: 320-836-2591  
Toddler Center Phone: 320-836-2585



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

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

Phone: 320-256-4257  
[www.smsmelrosemn.org](http://www.smsmelrosemn.org)



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

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

Phone: 320-987-3133  
[www.sjsaschool.org](http://www.sjsaschool.org)

♥**We will Celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week** next week May 5 - 9! Our teachers do so much for our students, families, school and community. Let's show them how much we appreciate their time and dedication to Sacred Heart School!

♥**Thank You** to everyone that came to check out a day in the life of a toddler at our toddler center. If you know anyone that needs toddler care, please have them contact the school at 320-836-2591.

♥**PreK and 6th Grade** will do their annual Mass together on Wednesday, May 7.

♥**4th Graders** will be participating in the Watershed day on Thursday, May 8 in Melrose.

♥**SHS Spring Fling** will be on Friday, May 9 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

♥**PreK Graduation** - Thursday, May 15.

♥**6th Grade Graduation & Last Day of School** at SHS - Friday, May 23.

♦**Thank You** Melrose Bowl for allowing our students to experience the sport of bowling during the month of May.

♦**Thank You** Pete Rothfork for donating to assist in paying for bussing to spring field trips. We are grateful for this opportunity as it makes the learning experiences outside of the classroom affordable for families.

♦**We Celebrate our Students** as they received their First Communion last weekend. May God bless them and fill their hearts with His love and grace as they grow in faith.

♦**Bishop Neary will be at St. Mary's School** on Friday, May 16, to celebrate with the school at 8:30 am Mass. All are welcome.

♦**There are Still Openings** for prospective 2025-2026 Little Saints and students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. If interested, call or email [anelson@smsmn.org](mailto:anelson@smsmn.org).

♦**Teacher Appreciation Week** SJSA is celebrating our teachers May 5 - 9. We are so thankful for their hard work and dedication to our Catholic school!

♦**Aluminum Can Recycling** SJSA received a check for \$298.90 for can recycling. Thank you for recycling with SJSA.

♦**SJSA is Selling Harry's Pizza** Friday, April 11 - Thursday, May 8. Please contact a current SJSA family or call the school office at 320-987-3133 to place your order. Pizza pick-up is Saturday, May 17 from 9:00-10:00 am in the school basement. It is time to stock up for summer! Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.

♦**SJSA 5th and 6th Graders** visited the Minnesota State Capitol and Ft. Snelling on Friday, May 2 as part of their Minnesota History curriculum.

♦**SJSA 3rd and 4th Graders** will attend the Middle Sauk Water Fest on Thursday, May 8. The children will participate in a variety of activities related to clean water, fisheries, wildlife, and conservation.



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

**God Has a Plan for You!** The discernment retreat will start with Mass at 9:00 am Tuesday, June 17 and continue through Thursday, June 19 concluding with Mass at 5:00 pm for participants and families followed by a family potluck meal. Young Men and Women entering 7th Grade and Up - Cost: \$50. Boys and Girls entering grades 4-6 are invited (Cost: \$15) to join the group on Thursday at 12:00 pm for lunch. St. Mary's Church ~ 645 3rd Avenue SE, Milaca, MN. Join us for talks, prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, games and food! Young men will camp in the church yard and young women will stay in the classrooms. Register by Thursday, May 15 at [www.fourpillarsinfaith.org](http://www.fourpillarsinfaith.org).

**Catholic Century Farm Award** The Diocese of Saint Cloud would like to honor Catholic families who have farmed and nurtured the same land for 100 years or more. Farm families who meet the criteria will be honored by the Bishop, with a certificate and special award for their home. Registration deadline is Tuesday, July 1 for presentation in August. If you, or someone you know, has a Catholic Century Farm, visit <https://stedio.org/rural-life/> for more information and to and apply to be honored for your century or more of farming with faith!



**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.



### 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/](http://mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing/) or call 800-657-3663 (Voice) or 651-964-1514 (Videophone).

**Pilgrims of Hope** 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](http://www.kingshouse.com). •Women's Retreat - May 9-11 (Weekend)

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter...** "Love one another as I have loved you." John 13:34 Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and experience the love of your spouse like you never have before. The next available Weekend is May 16 - 18 in Buffalo. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: [northmnwwme.org](http://northmnwwme.org) or contact Miki at [applications@northmnwwme.org](mailto:applications@northmnwwme.org) or 507-227-8229.



**A Call to the Sacramental Life** All Things New: Honoring the past, inspiring the future. One of the guiding principles of the diocesan planning process is sacramental life. We move forward as pilgrims of hope to create vibrant communities where all feel compelled to fully participate, consciously and actively, in the sacramental life of the Church. One of these sacraments, the sacrament of penance, allows us to experience the gift of God's mercy.



**Natural Family Planning... God's Plan for Marriage: Natural Family Planning!** NFP follows the natural cycle God has given each woman. It has no dangerous side effects, and no harmful soul effects. NFP allows you to give yourself to your spouse completely, freely, and faithfully. A First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method will be offered in: Sauk Centre on Thursday, May 15 at St. Paul's Church or CentraCare Health – Sauk Centre Hospital. For more information, or to register, contact Jill and Isaac Uphus at [uphus.nfp@gmail.com](mailto:uphus.nfp@gmail.com) or 320-290-8751. The class is approximately 1½ to 2 hours long. \*Note: Most insurance plans cover the cost of NFP Instruction and follow-up!

**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.cmttec.org](http://www.cmttec.org). Together Encountering Christ (TEC) is open to both youth (age 16+) as well as adults and is located just north of Little Falls.

### Is the bible your "basic instruction before leaving earth?"

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 May 16-18, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Cost of the weekend is \$70. Go to [www.centralmnkoinonia.org](http://www.centralmnkoinonia.org) for more information and to register for retreats.



**Stewardship as a Way of Life** "...Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'" (John 21:17) How often do you actually say the words "I love you" to Jesus, to family members, or to friends? We are made to be in relationship with God and each other. Sincerely telling someone that you love them is the best gift you can give them because it comes from your heart. You are giving them the gift of yourself. We all were made by love and for love. Tell someone you love them every day.



**Voices of Hope - Bishop's Annual Appeal 2025:** Thank you so much to those of you who have already supported diocesan ministries in 2025 through the Appeal. As of Tuesday, April 22, the Appeal has raised gifts and pledges of \$887,640 toward our goal of \$1,500,000 (59.18%). This was made possible through the generous donations of 4,657 people throughout the 16 counties of our diocese. Please pray for the success of the Bishop's Annual Appeal and its ongoing support of diocesan ministries. To support these ministries, visit [www.stedio.org/annualappeal](http://www.stedio.org/annualappeal).

### 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

### Banns of Matrimony:

III Georgianna Toenies♥Rodrigo Ernesto Milla Vigil, 5 - 9 M

### 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



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