



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 Advent

December 17, 2023

Fr. Marvin Enneking, Pastor
Fr. Daniel Walz, Pastor
Fr. Arockiya Newton, Parochial Vicar

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

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

Office Phone: 320-256-4207

Fr. Marvin Enneking Phone: 320-256-3108

Office Email: pam@stmarysofmelrose.com

Website: www.oneinfaith.org

Facebook: Church of St. Mary, Melrose

Mailing Address: 755 Kraft Drive SE
Melrose, MN 56352

Freeport - New Munich - St. Rosa Office:

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

Office Phone: 320-836-2143

Email: triparish@albanytel.com

Website: www.sacredheartfreeport.org

Facebook: Tri Parish

Mailing Address: PO Box 155
Freeport, MN 56331

Bulletin Announcements

Deadline: Tuesday before 9:00 am

Email information to: bulletin@catholic-centered.org

Confession Times

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

Marriage

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

Baptism & RCIA

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

Anointing of the Sick, Home Bound Communion

Pastoral Visitation

Joining/Leaving a Parish

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



MEETING CHRIST IN THE DESERT

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'"
as Isaiah the prophet said." John 1:23

In the passage above, Saint John the Baptist quotes Isaiah 40:3: "A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" This was a prophecy of Isaiah who was speaking about the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon back to Jerusalem. Normally, people would travel along the well-watered routes from Mesopotamia to Israel. Those routes were safer than the desert and provided the necessary food and water for the journey. But Isaiah prophesied that the Jewish exiles would travel the shortest route—straight across the desert—and that God would provide for their needs during that journey. Such a journey required much trust in the providence of God.

John the Baptist, in quoting Isaiah, applies this prophecy to himself. He was called to cry out in the desert and point people directly to the Messiah. It was in the desert that they would discover their Savior.

First of all, John cries out in the "desert." His message is for those who experience dryness, destitution, need and loss in life due to sin. His message of repentance is first for those who are without the spiritual nourishment God wants to bestow upon them through grace. The message of John is pointed to those who humbly see the difficult situation they are facing in life and acknowledge their need for the Living Water of the Savior of the World.

Second, this new "straight" way implies that many are not walking the direct path to Christ. Instead, they are taking unnecessary detours in life. John's message is one that calls everyone to the straight and direct way of repenting of their sins so that they can come to faith in Christ Jesus.

Third, walking through the desert to find Christ requires trust in God's providence. It takes courage to make such a journey. Trust in the ongoing providence of God, Who promises to meet all of our needs, is key. One would not walk straight through the desert if they did not trust their guide.

Advent is a time to reexamine the road you are on. Are you trying to find your own way to happiness? Are you trusting in your own abilities, your own intelligence and your own plan for the future? If so, then listen to the "voice of one crying out in the wilderness." Listen to Saint John speak to you, calling you to the simplicity of the desert, to a greater detachment from all things, to an abandonment of all that is not of God, and to a more willing trust in the providence of God to lead you.

Continued on page 5

ACC MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ~ DECEMBER 18 - 24

ADORATION

ST. MARY - Melrose

Mo 6:30 pm **Misa en Español**
 †Julia Cervantez
 †Salvador Sanchez
 Tu 8:00 am †Elmer Hellermann
 We 8:00 am †Dale Wegleitner
 Th 8:00 am †Valeria Braun
 Fr 8:30 am ††Clarence & Marcella Doyle
 Sa 5:00 pm †Lucille Mae Moore
 For the People
 *Su 9:00 am †Irene Braun
 Su 11:30 am **Misa en Español**
 †Angelica Hernandez Becerra
 †Agustin Hernandez
 *Su 4:00 pm **Christmas Vigil Mass**
 †Lucille Orth

ST. ROSE OF LIMA - St. Rosa

Tu 8:15 am †Donald Herzog
 Su 10:00 am †Donald Herzog

ST. MICHAEL - Spring Hill

Tu 8:00 am ††Mark & Doris Schaefer
 Su 9:00 am †Sylvester Welle
 Su 7:30 pm **Christmas Vigil Mass**
 †Werner Gruber

ST. ANDREW - Greenwald

Th 8:00 am **SJSA School Mass**
 †Mathias Welle
 Sa 4:00 pm †Marilyn Uphus
 For the People
 Su 7:30 pm **Christmas Vigil Mass**
 †Daniel Schoenberg

SACRED HEART - Freeport

We 8:15 am †Ken Roske
 Fr 8:15 am ††Lori & Al Ettl
 Su 8:00 am For the People
 Su 4:00 pm **Christmas Vigil Mass**
 †††Lawrence, Laura, &
 LaVern Scherping

ST. JOHN - Meire Grove

We 8:00 am †Anna Mae Schneider
 Su 8:00 am **NO MASS**
 Su 4:00 pm **Christmas Vigil Mass**
 †Rose Mary "Rosie" Schmiesing

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - New Munich

Th 8:15 am †Mariette Muller
 Sa 4:00 pm ††Elmer & Florence Austing



St. Rose of Lima - St. Rosa

Tuesdays 7:00 - 8:00 am

Immaculate Conception - New Munich

Thursdays 7:00 - 8:00 am

St. Mary - Melrose

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

Sacred Heart - Freeport

NO Adoration Wednesday, December 20
 Fridays 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

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

ONE IN FAITH AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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



Keep Christ in Christmas The St. Joseph the Worker council Knight's of Columbus will again be holding their Keep Christ In Christmas poster contest. This year's contest is open to all kids in the ACC ages 5-14. Entry forms can be picked up at the Tri Parish office in Freeport, St. Mary's office in Melrose, or by calling Richard Sand 320-250-2357. The deadline for entries is Friday, December 22.

The 33rd Annual Steak and Wine Dinner and Auction to support St. John's-St. Andrew's Catholic School will be February 9 and 10, 2024 at The Greenwald Pub. Tickets cost \$35 and are now available at the school, QPC in Meire Grove, Freeport State Bank in Greenwald, as well as the nights of the event at the Pub. Online auction prior to the event. Live auction Saturday night. Donny Brang will play live music BOTH nights! More information to come!



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

Vespers for Life will be held January 21 from 3:30-5:00 pm at Church of St. Anthony, St. Cloud. Bishop Patrick Neary will preside. The service includes music, prayer, scripture and reflection for the millions of children who have been aborted since 1973. Monetary donations accepted to Mother Mary's Fund to assist pregnancy resource centers in the Diocese of St. Cloud. Rosary at 3:30 pm and Vespers at 4:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.



Parish News:

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

Men's Group our last meeting for this session will be Sunday, December 17.

SHS Calendar Raffle Sacred Heart School has started their Calendar Raffle. If you are interested in a calendar, please reach out to a SHS family or you can pick one up in the office. They are \$25 each - over \$10,000 in prizes and 367 chances to win.



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

March for Life will be held Monday, January 22 in St. Paul. A prayer service for life will be held at the Cathedral of St. Paul at 10:30 am followed by the MCCL March for Life at the Minnesota Capitol from 12:00-1:00 pm. Visit <https://stcdio.org/event/march-for-life-2024/> for more information.

Faithfully Yours: Discover Natural Family Planning (NFP)! NFP cooperates with nature and God's plan for married love. The Billings Ovulation Method is a natural, highly effective method for postponing or achieving pregnancy without the use of drugs or devices. **A First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method will be offered in:** Sauk Centre on Thursday, December 21 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 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!


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

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

Total.....	\$22,021.33
Regular Adult Offering.....	14,457.00
Plate/Loose	1,186.08
Designated Funds.....	6,378.25

St. Mary's Calendar Raffle

12-10	\$25	Joe Loehr - Melrose
12-11	\$25	Tim Sprenger - Melrose
12-12	\$25	Tom & Deanna Feldewerd - Melrose
12-13	\$50	Sharon Rose - Melrose
12-14	\$25	James Messerich - Melrose
12-15	\$25	Kenny Rademacher - Melrose
12-16	\$25	Jenny & Rick Mayers - Melrose



Died in the Hope of Resurrection...

†Marcella "Marcy" Blenker, 89

Christmas Flowers... If you wish to donate toward Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please put money in an envelope, include the name or names of the loved one, and mark it "Christmas Flowers." Thank You!

Youth Grades 1-12 Invited This year we are inviting children in grades 1-12 to participate in the choir at the St. Mary's Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 pm. We will be having rehearsal on Friday, December 22 from 3:30-5:00 pm at St. Mary's Church. If your child is interested in participating in the choir for this Mass please let Cindy Hemmesch know by texting her at 320-293-4670. All Are Welcome!

Calendar Raffle This is the last call! All raffle tickets must be in before Sunday, December 31.

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

Christmas Programs

SJSA School:
 Tuesday, December 19 at 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
 at St. Andrew's Church, Greenwald

Sacred Heart School:
 Wednesday, December 20 at 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
 at Sacred Heart School Gym

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

For the Sick: Belester Vazquez Sobreyra, Shari Salina, Joe Salina, Lynn Bussmann MacRae

Contact Persons for Prayer Line Requests:

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

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

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

Adult Envelopes.....	\$3,481.62
Plate.....	2,630.50
Total Weekly Contributions	\$6,112.12

Other Donations

Votive	\$250.55
School Support.....	200.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes.....	782.00
Immaculate Conception Plate.....	105.00
Christmas Flowers.....	155.00
Christmas Envelopes.....	600.00
Religious Retirement.....	200.00
Building/Maintenance.....	25.00

Parish Events

Su	12/17	7:00 pm	Men's Group
Tu	12/19	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
We	12/20		NO Adoration
Fr	12/22	7:45 am	Individual Confessions
Fr	12/22	9:00 am	Adoration
Su	12/24	9:00 am	Choir Practice

Baby Shower for Jesus The Freeport Christian Women are hosting a Baby Shower for Jesus! Drop off any NEW item in the bassinet in the back of church by Christmas Eve. All items will be given to Options for Women in Sauk Centre. Suggested items to donate are diapers, wipes, clothes 3-12 months, blankets or car seats. Thank you for prayerfully considering a donation.

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

*The Melrose Senior Center will not have quilting again until after the first of the year.
 *Freeport Senior Citizens will NOT meet in December. Christmas Party will be in January 2024.
December 20, Wednesday
 ♦Quilting at 1:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All are welcome.
December 27, Wednesday
 ♦Quilting at 1:00 pm at the Freeport Senior Center. All are welcome.

Public Rosary...

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

All are invited and welcome!

- Tuesdays at 7:00 am in the church in Melrose.
- Wednesdays at 1:00 pm in the church in Melrose.
- Every Thursday except the first Thursday at 6:30 pm in Spanish in the church in Melrose.
- Fridays at 7:30 pm at the church in St. Rosa.
- 30 minutes prior to each weekday and weekend Mass in Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa, and Spring Hill.
- 20 minutes prior to each weekday and weekend Mass in Greenwald.

CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Adult Envelopes	\$3,314.08
Plate.....	328.00
Total Weekly Contributions	\$3,642.08

Other Donations

Boiler.....	\$2,150.00
Thanksgiving Envelopes.....	485.00
Christmas	100.00
Christmas Flowers.....	295.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes..	860.00
Immaculate Conception Plate.....	300.00
Central MN Catholic Magazine.....	20.00
Religious Retirement.....	155.00
Cash Bazaar.....	100.00
Building/Maintenance	237.50

Parish Events

Su 12/17 7:00 pm	Men's Group - FR
Th 12/21 7:00 am	Adoration
Th 12/21 8:45 am	Confessions
Th 12/21 7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sa 12/23 3:30 pm	Individual Confessions

Welcome to our Parish... We welcome Stephanie Serocki, and her children, Nolan Kerfeld and Emerson & Lydia Serocki, to our parish.

Church Christmas Decorating The Christmas decorating will be on Tuesday, December 19 beginning at 6:30 pm. Help would be appreciated and all are welcome. Thank you in advance.



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

New Addition Update Taping and mudding is wrapping up and painting will begin. The exterior brickwork is coming along. Due to the intricate work to match the existing church, this process is taking a while, but it will be well worth the wait.



Shower for Baby Jesus The Christian Women of Immaculate Conception will be sponsoring a "Shower for Baby Jesus" during the month of December. There will be a bassinet in the front of the church throughout the Christmas season. Please donate new or like-new items for ages one to four, which will be taken to Options for Women in Sauk Centre after Christmas. Thank you and may you all have a very blessed Christmas.

CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Adult Envelopes	\$4,296.54
Plate.....	237.00
Total Weekly Contributions	\$4,533.54

Other Donations

Religious Retirement.....	\$170.00
Christmas Flowers.....	75.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes	80.00
Immaculate Conception Plate.....	184.00

Parish Events

Su 12/17 7:00 pm	Men's Group - FR
Tu 12/19 7:00 am	Adoration
Tu 12/19 8:45 am	Confessions
Tu 12/19 7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Fr 12/22 7:30 pm	Rosary

Fellowship Today, December 17. The St. Rosa Christian Women will be hosting a fellowship following Mass with Christmas treats and milk. Please join us!



Gifts for Baby Jesus During the Advent season, the Christian Women of St. Rose will have a bassinet in the gathering area. We are seeking new and like new donations for infants through toddlers which we will drop off periodically throughout the season of Advent at the Options for Women in Sauk Centre. Car seats are an especially difficult item for the site to maintain. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.



CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$3,719.35
Regular Adult Offering.....	451.00
Children.....	1.35
Plate/Loose	87.00
Fuel Fund.....	2,600.00
Maintenance Fund	100.00
Immaculate Conception.....	120.00
Retirement for Religious.....	360.00

Liturgical Ministries

Sunday, December 24 - 9:00 am

- (S) Sam Orbeck or Jack Orbeck
- (L) Katherine Orbeck
- (U) Conrad Gruber & Stan Heinen
- (EM) (B) Mark Schoenberg
- (EM) (C) John & Sharon Schulzetenberg
- (Sacristan) Lisa Feldewerd
- (RL) Tony & Mary Gruenes
- (CC) Sandra Gruber & Kathy LeClaire
- (HK: December 24 - January 6)
- Brenda Terres, Jamie Terres, & Jane Terres

Liturgical Ministries

Christmas Vigil

Sunday, December 24 - 7:30 pm

- (S) Landon Schmidt & Eleanor Schmidt
- (L) Gary P. Lieser
- (U) Adam Kalthoff & Melvin Kalthoff
- (EM) (B) Nick Waldorf
- (EM) (C) Kathy Welle & Adam Kalthoff
- (Sacristan) Kathy Welle
- (RL) NO Rosary - Choir Singing
- (CC) Stan Heinen & Melvin Kalthoff

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and show our dependence on God.



Calendar Raffle Winners
December 2023

12-11 \$40	Chad Funk
12-12 \$40	Ashley Feldewerd
12-13 \$40	Gerry & Naomi Holdvogt
12-14 \$40	Dennis Maus
12-15 \$40	Maurice Mayers
12-16 \$40	Andrew Holdvogt
12-17 \$100	Teresa Klaphake

Knights of Columbus

St. Joseph the Worker Council

December 2023

Calendar Raffle Winners



12-11 \$20	Lorraine Sand
12-12 \$40	Craig Jepperson
12-13 \$60	Mary Krueger
12-14 \$20	Daniel Krueger
12-15 \$40	Chuck Uphoff
12-16 \$60	Jim Sinclair
12-17 \$100	Lillian Arnzen
12-18 \$40	Kurt Mayers

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$2,678.00
Regular Adult Offering	1,620.00
Plate/Loose	145.00
Votives.....	4.00
School Subsidy.....	5.00
Donations.....	200.00
Fuel Fund.....	100.00
Immaculate Conception.....	479.00
Christmas Flowers.....	95.00
Retirement for Religious.....	30.00

Liturgical Ministries
Saturday, December 23 - 4:00 pm

(S) Aubrey Stepan & Emily Stepan
 (L) Cassandra Kettner
 (U) Steve Gilk & Peter Heinze
 (GB) Jon & Laurel Worms
 (EM) (B) Dustin Gregory
 (EM) (C) Herman Lensing & Mary Opatrny
 (HK - December) *Marilyn Welle, Doreen Wenker, Lucy Wessel, Bev Winter, Carol Winter, & Kris Winter

Liturgical Ministries
Christmas Vigil
Sunday, December 24 - 7:30 pm

(S) Jada Worms & Luke Worms
 (L) Julie Kulzer
 (U) Al Inderrieden & Herb Inderrieden
 (GB) Scott & Kristen Young
 (EM) (B) Kris Winter
 (EM) (C) Clarine Beier & Dustin Gregory

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

◆◆◆◆ Weekly Offering ◆◆◆◆

Total	\$2,069.25
Regular Adult Offering.....	1,020.00
Children.....	3.25
Plate/Loose	126.00
Votives.....	9.00
Donations.....	250.00
Immaculate Conception.....	291.00
Christmas Flowers.....	60.00
Retirement for Religious.....	310.00

Liturgical Ministries
Sunday, December 24 - 8:00 am

(S)
 (L)
 (U)
NO MASS
 (GB)
 (EM) (B)
 (EM) (C)
 (HK - December) *Joni Imdieke, Sharon Imdieke, Kate Kelzer, Amy Klaphake, Ruth Klaphake, & Mary Kay Leukam

Liturgical Ministries
Christmas Vigil
Sunday, December 24 - 4:00 pm

(S) Faith Meyer & Miranda Meyer
 (L) Kurt Meyer
 (U) Dean Meyer & Doug Meyer
 (GB) Martha Meyer & Family
 (EM) (B) Abby Zenzen & Daryl Zenzen
 (EM) (C) Nick Kelzer & Jim Leukam

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Formación en la fe: Información de contacto: Faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com

•Grados 1, 3-6: Miércoles 20 de diciembre de 6:00 a 7:00 pm en la Iglesia de Santa María. Alumnos y padres. Aprenderemos sobre otra parábola, pasaremos unos minutos limpiando la iglesia para prepararla para Navidad, ¡y luego tendremos algunas golosinas de Adviento/Navidad!


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


Habrá Adoración al Santísimo cada Primer Jueves del Mes a las 6:30 pm.



Rosario y Oración con la comunidad de Oración Santa María los últimos tres jueves del mes a las 6:30 pm. ¡Todos son bien venidos!

Si desea, ofrecer una misa por un ser querido, o si desea recibir algún sacramento de bautismo o matrimonio, favor de hablar con el Padre Arockiya Newton o con el Diacono Jorge Carrillo o el Diacono Jesús Hernández. O llama a la oficina 320-256-4207.

 **Christmas Flowers...**If you would like to donate toward Christmas Flowers, in memory of a loved one, please put a note along with your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Flowers. Thank you!

 **Christmas Flowers...**If you would like to donate toward Christmas Flowers, in memory of a loved one, please put a note along with your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Flowers. Thank you!



Advent:
A Season
Of Hope
and
Anticipation

The Scriptures This Week
 Year B, Weekdays - Cycle II

Mo Jer 23:5-8	Mt 1:18-25
Tu Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a	Lk 1:5-25
We Is 7:10-14	Lk 1:26-38
Th Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a	Lk 1:39-45
Fr 1 Sm 1:24-28	Lk 1:46-56
Sa Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	Lk 1:57-66
Next Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Advent	
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16	Rom 16:25-27
	Lk 1:26-38



MEETING CHRIST IN THE DESERT

Con't from page 1

Reflect, today, upon this calling from the desert and listen to the message God is speaking to you, personally. Abandon all worldly concerns, repent of sin, trust in Him and go out to meet Him so that you can more quickly and more easily come to a deeper faith in our Lord during this Advent season.

My loving Lord, You are there, waiting for me in the darkness and dryness of my sin. You are waiting for me to lead me and guide me through the many challenges I face in life. Please give me the courage and wisdom I need to trust in You enough to follow You wherever You lead. Jesus, I trust in You.

mycatholic.life

FAITH FORMATION

Freeport, New Munich, St. Rosa:

Contact Information: csand@catholic-centered.org

- **Grade 1, 3 - 6 Next Class:** Wednesday, December 20. Home Lesson.
- **Grade 2: Next Class:** Wednesday, January 3 at 6:00 pm. Meet at the Parish Office in Freeport.
- **Grade 1 - 10: Next Class: Mass** Wednesday, January 3 at 7:00 pm.

Melrose, Spring Hill, Greenwald, Meire Grove:

Contact Information: faithformation@stmarysofamelrose.com

- **Grades 1, 3 - 6:** Wednesday, December 20 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm at St. Mary's Church. Students and parents. We'll learn about another parable, spend a few minutes cleaning the church to get it ready for Christmas, and then have some Advent/Christmas goodies!



Mass Schedule for Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day

Sunday, December 24 (Vigil):

- 4:00 pm *St. Mary, Melrose*
(Carols will be sung 20 minutes before Mass)
- 4:00 pm *Sacred Heart, Freeport*
(Carols will be sung 30 minutes before Mass)
- 4:00 pm *St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove*
(Carols will be sung 30 minutes before Mass)
- 7:30 pm *St. Andrew, Greenwald*
- 7:30 pm *St. Michael, Spring Hill*
(Carols will be sung 35 minutes before Mass)

Monday, December 25:

- 8:00 am *St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa*
(Carols will be sung 15 minutes before Mass)
- 9:00 am *St. Mary, Melrose*
(Carols will be sung 20 minutes before Mass)
- 9:00 am *Immaculate Conception, New Munich*
(Carols will be sung 30 minutes before Mass)
- 9:00 am *St. Andrew, Greenwald*
- 6:30 pm *St. Mary, Melrose* Misa en Español



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

Monday, January 1:

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

One in Faith ACC Youth Ministry:

Contact Information:

csand@catholic-centered.org or faithformation@stmarysofamelrose.com

- **Youth in Grades 6 - 12**, please join us to wrap Christmas gifts for the St. Nick Project and enjoy hot chocolate and snacks on Sunday, December 17 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm at St. Mary's School.
- **Bible & Breakfast** meets each Wednesday (if there's school) in the Melrose High School ITV Room at 7:15 am. All students grades 7-12 are invited.
- **Middle School Lock-In for Grades 6 - 8:** Saturday - Sunday, January 27 - 28 starting with 7:00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart, Sauk Rapids and ending at 6:00 am at the St. Cloud YMCA. This lock-in will have Mass, great food, swimming, dodgeball, gaga ball, prayer opportunities, wallyball, a silent disco, game shows, and so much more. Come together with other youth in our diocese, make new friends, take time to relax, laugh, eat great food, and renew your spirit while strengthening your relationship with God. Cost - \$40 prior to January 18 and \$50 January 19 - 24. Registration forms are available on the parish website sacredheartfreeport.org. Contact Chrystal Sand at csand@catholic-centered.org or 320-836-2143 with questions.
- **Castaway Retreat for Grades 9-12:** Friday - Sunday, March 22 - 24 at the Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes, MN. Castaways has been an energizing experience for our young Church in the Diocese of St. Cloud for 51 years. This retreat is a weekend filled with powerful prayer, fun skits, inspirational speakers, awesome music, an incredible Mass, and many faith-growing opportunities. Come together with over 300 others and make new friends, take time to relax, laugh, eat fantastic food, and renew your spirit while strengthening your relationship with God. Cost - \$190. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, January 31 with a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Registration forms are available on the parish websites. Contact Chrystal Sand at csand@catholic-centered.org or 320-836-214, or Pam Pundsack at pam@stmarysofamelrose.org or 320-256-9503 with questions.

ONE IN FAITH ACC NEWS CON'T FROM PG 2

Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo hold retreats throughout the year. 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's Silent Retreat - January 12-14 (Weekend)
- Women's Silent Retreat - January 19-21 (Weekend)

Ministry Help Needed We are looking for help with Mass ministries. There are many opportunities for you to help with the Mass. You can be a sacristan and be behind the scenes setting up and taking down for Mass. You can share the Word of God by becoming a lector. You can be commissioned to distribute communion by being an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. There is also need for servers, ushers and rosary leaders. Please prayerfully consider taking on one of these rolls. Contact your parish office if you are interested in helping with any of these ministries.

Together Encountering Christ (TEC) is a three-day retreat weekend. The experience of TEC brings alive the heart of our Christian Faith – that being the life of Jesus, his death, and his resurrection. But it's not just about who Jesus was or what Jesus did. A TEC retreat makes that experience real and relevant for each person. In that sense, the retreat is a "lived experience" – deeply personal yet very much part of a larger loving community. TEC has influenced the lives of over 41,000 youth, young adults, and adults in Central Minnesota and beyond. You are invited to check out a TEC weekend and encounter Christ in perhaps a new and most profound way. For information, retreat dates, and registration, go to CMTEC.org.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



PASTOR: Fr. Dan Walz
PRINCIPAL: Kristie Harren
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Amy Van Beck
SHS BOARD:
 Nick Shaw, Jamie Engelmeyer,
 Tamara Welle, Lindsay Frieler,
 Jenelle Herkenhoff, and Julie Job
 Phone: 320-836-2591 Fax: 320-836-2514
 www.shsfreeport.org



Learn. Laugh. Believe. Succeed.
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PRINCIPAL: Autumn Nelson
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 Briana Worms
SMS BOARD:
 Cory Ellering, Bob Arceneau,
 Ali Arnzen, Cindy Hemmesch,
 Jake Primus, and Pat Christensen
 Phone: 320-256-4257 www.smsmelrosemn.org



PASTOR: Fr. Marvin Enneking
PRINCIPAL: Mary Miller
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
 Kristen Pattinson
SJSA BOARD: Kathy Gilk, Adam
 Kalthoff, Kate Kelzer, Kurt Meyer,
 Trista Meyer, Jenny Wilson, and Kristi Zimmer
 Phone: 320-987-3133 www.sjsaschool.org

- ♥ **The Calendars for the SHS Calendar Raffle** are moving fast! If you are still interested in a calendar, please reach out to a SHS family or you can pick one up in the school or parish office, Freeport State Bank, or D'Lish. They are \$25 each - over \$10,000 in prizes and 367 chances to win.
- ♥ **Thank you** to the Freeport Lions who will be coming to school and playing bingo with the students on Thursday, December 21.
- ♥ **Christmas Break** begins on Friday, December 22. Child Care will be available December 27, 28, & 29. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.
- ♥ **SHS Christmas Program** is on Wednesday, December 20. We will have performances at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm in the gym. All are welcome! Doors will open at 6:30 pm for the evening performance.
- ♥ **The 29th Annual Wine & Dine Dinner/Auction** will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2024. We are still accepting items for the auction. Call the school office or connect with a SHS family if you would have an item you wish to donate. Along with the Dinner/Auction, we will also have a \$100 Cash Raffle with a top prize of \$20,000. The Raffle tickets are available from any SHS family or at the school office.
- ♥ **From SHS students and staff to all of you - Merry Christmas** and best wishes for a Blessed and Peaceful Holiday Season.

- ♦ **SMS students put together** care packages and notes of thanks to the Melrose City Workers, Veterans, and Auxiliary members. We are grateful for their service and commitment to our community.
- ♦ **For Advent**, the students and staff at St. Mary's will collect new socks for men, women, girls, and boys of all ages, to be given to Melrose Food Shelf, Eagle's Healing Nest, Place of Hope, and Anna Marie's Alliance. Please feel free to drop off socks when you go to Mass or leave them at the school entrance.
- ♦ **The last Advent Prayer Service** will be held on Monday, December 18, at 2:15 pm in the school gym. You are welcome to join us.
- ♦ **Christmas vacation begins** on Friday, December 22, and classes will resume on Tuesday, January 2.
- ♦ **St. Mary's Catholic School's 22nd Annual Auction 4 Education** will be held on Saturday, March 2, at the Legion. The theme this year is Down on the Farm.

- ♦ **SJSA Christmas Break** is Friday, December 22 - Monday January 1. School resumes Tuesday, January 2.
- ♦ **Three Wisemen and A Baby...** SJSA students will present *Three Wisemen and A Baby* on Tuesday, December 19 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Church in Greenwald. Refreshments will be served in the school basement after each program.
- ♦ **St. John's-St. Andrew's school board** is asking for nominations for the SJSA Supporter Award to be given out at the Annual Steak and Wine Dinner and Auction (February 9 and 10, 2024). This award is given to community members who have shown great support to the school over the years. Please send nominations by December 31 to Kathy Gilk at skgilk@meltel.net or 320-987-2873, or by calling the school at 320-987-3133.
- ♦ **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** from the staff and students at SJSA.

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 Christmas gift ideas!**



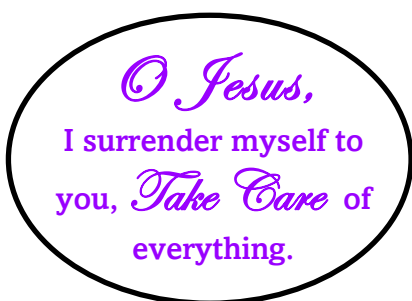
**Sacred Heart School
 Calendar Raffle Winners!**

- 12/10 \$25 Jeff Hoppe - Freeport
- 12/11 \$25 Randy Hartung - Freeport
- 12/12 \$25 Adam Burg - Clearwater
- 12/13 \$25 Larry Hoeschen - Freeport
- 12/14 \$25 Chris Westerhausen - Valley City
- 12/15 \$25 Kay Van Beck - Melrose
- 12/16 \$25 Matt Kerfeld - Melrose

Sacrament of Confession

• **Individual Celebration:**

Tuesday	December 19	after 8:15 am Mass	St. Rose of Lima, St. Rosa
Wednesday	December 20	7:30 pm	St. Andrew, Greenwald
		7:30 pm	St. John the Baptist, Meire Grove
Thursday	December 21	after 8:15 am Mass	Immaculate Conception, New Munich
		7:30 pm	St. Mary, Melrose
		7:30 pm	St. Michael, Spring Hill
Fridays	7:45 am	Sacred Heart, Freeport	
Saturdays	3:30 pm	St. Andrew, Greenwald	
Saturdays	3:30 pm	Immaculate Conception, New Munich	
Saturdays	4:30 pm	St. Mary, Melrose	
Sundays	12:00 pm	St. Mary, Melrose	



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