



# St. Mary, Mother of God Church

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg  
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
Roman Catholic Church  
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229



Established 1826

January 21st, 2018



Father Ronald Maquiñana—*Pastor*  
[rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

## Parish Staff

William Girardi, *Pastoral Associate*—412-719-7085  
Claudia Vertosick, *Business Manager/Parish Secretary*  
Helen James, *Religious Education Director*  
Thomas Koharchik, *Choir Director*  
William Girardi, *Social Hall Coordinator*—412-719-7085  
David Valencic, *Parish Custodian*  
Richard Bertino, *Cemetery Caretaker*

## Ministries

Kristen Marhefka/Julie Polana Gardone—*Teen Ministry*  
Melissa Kristine/Beth Macurdy—*Evangelization*  
John Nemcek—*Homebound Ministry*

## Organizations

Diane Grant—*Christian Mothers*  
Ray Smetana/Mary Ellen Gray—*St. Vincent de Paul Society*

## Office Information

Administrative Center Numbers & Hours :  
724-295-2281 (Office) 724-295-3090 (Fax)  
Monday through Thursday - 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
Friday - 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Parish Website: [www.stmaryfreeport.com](http://www.stmaryfreeport.com)

Parish Email Address: [thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com](mailto:thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com)

## Parish Information

Saturday (Vigil): 4:00 P.M.

Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Weekday Masses: Monday through Friday—8:00 A.M.

Holy Day of Obligation: 8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

Reconciliation: Saturday - 3:00—3:45 P.M.

Baptism: Sundays within the 11:00 A.M. Mass (by appointment)

Marriage: Contact the Parish nine months in advance.

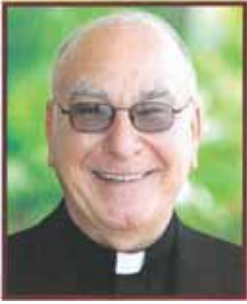
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: RCIA helps you to learn more about the Catholic faith. Pre-registration is required. Contact Fr. Ron or William Girardi at 724-295-2281.

Hospital or Home Visit: If you would like to receive Holy Communion or if you know someone who would like to have the priest visit, please call Fr. Ron at 724-295-2281.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Fr. Ron at 724-295-2281.

Holy Communion: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are available to bring the Eucharist to the sick and homebound. If you know of someone, please call the Administrative Center at 724-295-2281.

Baptism: To understand the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism and your obligation as parents, you are required to attend one baptismal class. To register for one of these classes, please call the Administrative Center at 724-295-2281.



Today, please welcome *Father Tom Poisson* who will speak at all the Masses on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach which was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America. Father Poisson, born and raised in Northern Michigan, was ordained in the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan, at the age of forty. He has been a pastor of many parishes in his diocese as well as a chaplain at a veterans' hospital. His love for the poor began at an early age when he entered the Franciscan Order (St. John the Baptist Province, Cincinnati, Ohio) and served as a brother for seventeen years. He also completed a BA in Religious Studies. In 1987, Father Poisson spent a year as a social worker and then served as Covenant House's chaplain in New York City's Time Square. He retired in 2002 but felt called by the Holy Spirit to preach for Cross Catholic Outreach. His present ministry with Cross has brought him full circle in his on-going desire to fulfill the call—"As often as you have done it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40

*Brochures will be provided if you wish to support this worthy Catholic ministry.*

Dear Members of St. Mary, Mother of God:



It was indeed a pleasure to share the story of Maryknoll Lay Missioners and our mission ministries with you at all the masses last weekend. You have a very welcoming community and a wonderful spirit. I was very impressed with the engagement and the sharing that took place after each mass. That is a great sign of a vibrant parish community.

For those of you who would like to learn more about our history and what we are doing in mission today, please visit our website at: [www.mkmlm.org](http://www.mkmlm.org). I especially suggest this to those who were unable to attend mass at St. Mary's last weekend.

During his visit to the United States, Pope Francis reminded us, as he consistently does, that mission is a responsibility that we receive from Baptism. Mission happens in our home communities as well as in foreign lands. The Holy Father said, "...One of the great challenges facing the Church in this generation is to foster in all the faithful a sense of personal responsibility for the Church's mission, and to enable them to fulfill that responsibility as missionary disciples, as a leaven of the Gospel in our world."

On our website, you will find the history of Maryknoll Lay Missioners, information on the ministries we are carrying out today, videos and other important items. I would especially encourage you to look at our "Ministry Needs Catalog," which highlights six of our current ministries. It gives details of each ministry and their needs. If you have further questions, or would like to find out more about becoming a Maryknoll Lay Missioner, please be in touch with me at: [sstanton@mkmlm.org](mailto:sstanton@mkmlm.org) or by cell at 914-819-8401.

Thank you again for your warm welcome and generous support of our mission ministries. You are truly our partners in mission!

In the mission of Jesus,

Sam Stanton, Maryknoll Lay Missioners

*Thank you*

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

**Lectio: Peter**

*Session 7: Discipleship at a Distance*

Explore the True Meaning of Discipleship

This Sunday, the Gospel reading called each of us to become disciples of Jesus Christ. Inspired by the virtue and witness of Saint Peter, learn the difference between following Jesus closely and following him at a distance. In this powerful study, Dr. Tim Gray shows us what it truly means to follow Christ and to seek forgiveness.

Watch on [formed.org](http://formed.org)



"This is a very good presentation of the life of Peter and the apostles which helps me to reflect on my own life as a follower of Jesus."

—Peter W, Terengganu, Malaysia



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*Congratulations to Natalie and Benjamin Wrazen  
December 29th, 2017*



## *Calendar of Events*

<i>January 21st</i>	<i>Donut Sunday—immediately following all Sunday masses Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Linda Paustenbaugh” Teen Ministry Meeting—9:25 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass</i>
<i>January 28th</i>	<i>Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Linda Paustenbaugh” Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass</i>
<i>February 2nd</i>	<i>1st Friday Adoration</i>
<i>February 4th</i>	<i>Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Linda Paustenbaugh” Teen Ministry Meeting—9:25 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass</i>
<i>February 5th</i>	<i>Christian Mother’s Meeting—7:00 P.M.</i>
<i>February 10th</i>	<i>Mardi Gras/Wine Tasting Event—6:00 - 10:00 P.M.—Fellowship Hall</i>



Catholic Charities will host a fundraiser “Painting with a Purpose” on Tuesday, February 6th, from 6:00-8:00 P.M. at Painting with a Twist, Greensburg. Doors open at 5:30 P.M. The event is for people over the age of 18. Cost is \$35.00. Please register at: [www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/Greensburg/event/1293155](http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/Greensburg/event/1293155).

**DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!** The 2017-18 Missionary Childhood Association Christmas Artwork Contest is open to students in grades K-8. The deadline for submissions to this national contest is January 31st. Mail entries to: MCA Artwork Contest, Diocese of Greensburg, 723 E. Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601. For guidelines and information, call 724-837-0901, Ext. 1334. Four students from the diocese have been national honorees the past two years.



Are you an 8th grade student deciding where to attend high school? Contact St. Joseph High School for your Spartan Day! Shadow a current SJHS 9th grade student and discover The St. Joseph Difference. They offer College in High School Classes. They have a no cut policy on their athletic and club teams. They are a family-like atmosphere where everyone knows your name! Please visit: [SaintJosephHS.com](http://SaintJosephHS.com) or contact the Admissions Director, Mrs. Shane Palumbo '92 for additional information at: [admissions@saintjosephhs.com](mailto:admissions@saintjosephhs.com) or 724-226-4932.

Get Catholic news today and every day on Twitter @CatholicAccent and diocesan news at: [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org).



The Mardi Gras wine tasting event will be held Saturday, February 10th, from 6:00 to 10:00 P.M. in our Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$30.00 a ticket and includes wine tasting and a lite fare. To reserve tickets, please call Bridget at 724-294-0089, Marianne at 724-295-9568, or Jeff at 724-596-0503. Have you considered sponsoring our Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Event? Below is our sponsor form if you are interested. You can fill it out and return it to the Parish Office. **Deadline is Monday, January 29th.** If you would rather help out in another way, donations are being accepted for theme baskets. If you would like to donate one or several items, please call Judy Bergstrom at 724-316-5352. **Deadline for donations is Friday, February 2nd.**

## Sponsor / Donate

### Mardi Gras

Wine Tasting  
and Lite Fare

St. Mary's Fellowship Hall  
608 High Street—Freeport  
Saturday, February 10th, 2018  
6:00—10:00 P.M.

Wine/Cheese/Crackers  
Pasta  
Carving Table

Tickets are \$30.00 each and may be purchased by calling Bridget at 724-294-0089, Marianne at 724-295-9568 or Jeff at 724-596-0503

—All proceeds benefit Fellowship Hall Improvement Projects—

#### St. Mary, Mother of God Church

608 High Street—Freeport 724-295-2281 (Church) 724-295-3090 (Fax)

**Mardi Gras Wine Tasting and Lite Fare**  
Saturday, February 10th, 2018  
6:00 P.M.—10:00 P.M.



#### Sponsorship Opportunities

- \$400.00 Major Event Sponsor  
Includes four (4) complimentary tickets and sponsor sign at entrance
- \$200.00 Food Table Sponsor  
Includes two (2) complimentary tickets and food table sponsor sign
- \$100.00 Wine Table Sponsor  
Includes one (1) complimentary ticket and wine table sponsor sign
- \$ 75.00 Cutlery Sponsor  
Includes cutlery sponsor sign
- \$ 50.00 Centerpiece Sponsor  
Includes centerpiece sponsor sign
- Silent Auction Contributor  
We are happy to accept quality items for our silent and Chinese auctions

Description of Item: \_\_\_\_\_  
Estimated Value: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Street, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail the completed reservation form, along with your check made payable to St. Mary, Mother of God Church - 608 High Street—Freeport, PA 16229.

**Deadline for submission of sponsorship and advertising materials is Monday, January 29th. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Consult your tax professional.**

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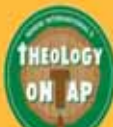
**Speaker: Hollie Uccellini**  
Wife, Mom, Grandma, Musician,  
Faith Formation Director, & Catholic Christian

**Date: Thursday, January 25**

**Time: 7PM-9PM**

**Location: Mogie's Irish Pub**

3210 Leechburg Road  
Lower Burrell, PA 15068



@akvalleytot

### SPIRITUAL INSPIRATIONS



Fr. Aaron Kriss, a Pittsburgh Diocesan priest who serves at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Natrona Heights, and St. Joseph Parish, Natrona, has written and completed his second book of poems entitled "SPIRITUAL INSPIRATIONS".

This composition contains 300 poems written between October, 2015 and July, 2017 and is spiritual in scope. It

covers six themes: *Prayer and Praise, Jesus and Mary, Goodness and Holiness, Forgiveness and Mercy, Gifts and Blessings and Heaven and Eternity.* Perhaps you would like to have one for yourself or even as a gift for someone else for spiritual reading as we prepare for Lent. "SPIRITUAL INSPIRATIONS" can be obtained through a suggested donation of \$19.00 by contacting Fr. Aaron at the parish office - 724-226-4900, Ext. 20, or email him at: [akriss@diopitt.org](mailto:akriss@diopitt.org).

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 27TH & 28TH, 2018

Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lector	Greeters	Organist	Cantor
<b>Saturday - 4:00 P.M.</b>					
Bill Girardi; Zach Showers Madison & Dawson Gaillot	Dave Brestensky Andrea Camerlo; Fred Walker	Tim Fogarty	Dave & Lois Posney	Verne Bergstrom	Alex Smith
<b>Sunday—8:30 A.M.</b>					
Samuel & Jacob Kristine David Kristine Ali & Ben Brestensky	Judy Bergstrom John Nemcek Betty Lou Nemcek	Susan Shea	Diane Grant Janis Harbison	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
<b>Sunday—11:00 A.M.</b>					
Celeste Beacom Jacob & Erin Schaeffer Victor & Olivia Svitek	Lisa Isenberg Helen James Melissa Schaeffer	Rob Svitek	Jill Zalewski	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

### Mass Intentions

#### MASSES FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**SATURDAY:** January 20th  
4:00 P.M. ✦ Bernadette Fearing Kelly (Lois & Dave Posney & Tom Kelly)

**SUNDAY:** January 21st  
8:30 A.M. ✦ Mary Krumenacker (Family)  
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners

**MONDAY:** January 22nd  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Richard Brestensky, Jr. (Mom and Dad)

**TUESDAY:** January 23rd  
8:00 A.M. COMMUNION SERVICE

**WEDNESDAY:** January 24th  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Raymond Ravotti (Ronald & Linda Gallagher)

**THURSDAY:** January 25th  
8:00 A.M. COMMUNION SERVICE

**FRIDAY:** January 26th  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Martha Kerr (The Hirden's)

#### MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**SATURDAY:** January 27th  
4:00 P.M. ✦ J. D. Easley Family (Estate)

**SUNDAY:** January 28th  
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners  
11:00 A.M. ✦ Frank K. "Fuzz" Palko and Mary "Boots" Palko (Dan & Barb Coyle)



The Altar Bread and Wine  
were donated for this week  
in loving memory of  
**FRANK & GERTRUDE HAGER /  
AUGUST & ADA BERTINO**  
By  
*The Bertino Family*

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,  
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in  
loving memory of  
**RICHARD BRESTENSKY, JR.**  
By  
*Dad and Mom*



### Collections

#### Offertory Collection for January 14th, 2018

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 611  
No. of Envelopes Received: 158  
Collection: Offertory - \$3,497.50  
Electronic Payments (30) - \$3,225.00  
Loose - \$226.00; Children - \$10.50  
Mission Co-op - \$1,890.00  
**Total Collection - \$8,849.00**

**THANK YOU!**



Saturday, January 27th, 2018  
*Nancy Laux and Betty Lou Nemcek*

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**" ONE PARISH "**



Winter weather is here and that means ice and snow may make it difficult for some people to get to church. But parish bills keep growing during the winter, including increased heating costs and snow removal expenses. You can make sure your parish support doesn't stop just when we need it the most. Why not check out the simple, safe and secure online giving option with your bank. Currently twenty-one families are giving online. Please consider joining that growing number of dedicated givers! We are most grateful to all those who make every effort to give consistently whether electronically or through the weekly offering basket. It really helps us plan and meet our budget.

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