



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



Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
March 3rd, 2019

... a Bad Tree Cannot Bear Good Fruit...
- Jesus



Father Ronald Maquiñana—*Pastor*
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*
Cindy Harbison, *Social Hall Coordinator*—724-272-7744
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*
Gina Jones—*Helping Hands*—724-448-9251;
ginaj1904@gmail.com

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

Parish Email Address: thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com
Facebook: Saint Mary, Mother of God - Freeport
Send Information to share: stmarysocialmedia@yahoo.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 Office 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 Office at 724-295-2281.

MISSION STATEMENT—*St. Mary's is a caring and welcoming family committed to building and strengthening a community of God, reaching out as disciples of Jesus Christ to Freeport and beyond.*

From the Pastor's Desk



Our Lenten Season begins this Wednesday as we celebrate *Ash Wednesday*.

As customary on this day, we receive ashes on our forehead from the priest or deputized lay minister while we hear the words of admonition: *"Remember that you are dust and unto dust you will return"* or *"Repent and believe in the Gospel"*.

These words of admonition reminds us of two things.

First, by receiving the ashes on our forehead, it reminds us of who we are and where we come from. That we come from God and we will return to God after our earthly journey ends.

Second, as we hear the word of admonition *repent* and *believe* in the Gospel, it reminds us of our nature. How sometimes we offend God because of our weaknesses. We offend Him by our thoughts, our words and our actions. Therefore, He calls us to repent and in a special way, He gives us an opportunity to look into ourselves while we are guided by the season of Lent into acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in order to become better and have a meaningful observance of Lent.

Finally, we wear our ashes as a sign. It is not a boastful sign through which we say, "Look at me and see how holy I am". It is not that way. Rather, we wear our ashes as a sign of humility. We acknowledge that yes Lord, I am a sinner and I ask for your grace and mercy to help me become better.

We remember His words from the prophet Joel, *"Return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is He, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment"*. - Joel 2:12-13



ASH WEDNESDAY



FORMED PICK



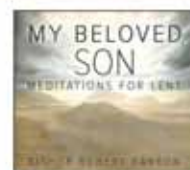
My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent

By Bishop Robert Barron

Make This Lent Meaningful

Bishop Barron reflects on the spiritual discipline we must cultivate in the Lenten season. He covers topics such as finding our identity in God, prayer as the key to mission, and how to embrace the way of happiness joyfully.

Listen on formed.org



"Bishop Barron weaves Scripture, prayer and practical experience into a seamless whole that uplifts, challenges and inspires."
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"Open your heart to HOPE," the 2019 Diocesan Lenten Appeal helps parishes build HOPE. The DLA supports renovations and repairs in the parishes. If you would like to make an online DLA donation to our parish, please visit: dioceseofgreensburg.org/HOPE.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal
 Diocesan Target - \$37,826.00
 Parish Target - \$32,174.00
 Combined Target - \$70,000.00

To understand the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism and your obligation as parents, you are required to attend one baptismal class. The first class scheduled for 2019 will be held Thursday, March 7th. To register, call Mark or Melissa at 724-230-4450 or the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281.

If you want your Christmas wreaths and decorations, please remove them by March 31st. If you don't, the caretaker will remove and destroy them. Thank you for your cooperation.

St. Mary, Mother of God Parish Men's Group Invites YOU!

All men of the Parish are encouraged to become a member of the St. Mary, Mother of God Men's Group

This group will provide a spiritual and social connection among men of the parish.

Meetings and events will include:

- spiritual and educational talks
- religious studies
- spiritual events such as retreats or vigils
- social events for members and their families
- group projects to support the Parish and the Freeport Area

If you have questions, please email or call Tim Fogarty at: tfogarty618@gmail.com; 724-294-0089.

Or
 Complete the section below and drop it in the collection basket.

I am interested in becoming a member of the St. Mary, Mother of God Men's Group:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

And/or E-Mail: _____

Christian Mother's - The monthly meeting will be held on Monday, March 4th, at 7:00 P.M., in the Christian Mother's Room. Members are asked to arrive at 6:30 P.M. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

Calendar of Events

March 3rd Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - "Jake Heasley"
 Teen Ministry Meeting—9:35 - 10:45 A.M.
 Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass

March 4th Christian Mother's Meeting—7:00 P.M. - Christian Mother's Room

March 6th Ash Wednesday—Mass & Distribution of Ashes at 8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

March 7th The Mass—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall; Baptismal Preparation Class - Kristine's Residence

March 8th Benediction—6:30 P.M.; Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M.

March 9th/10th Donut & Beverage Social—Immediately following weekend masses

March 10th Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - "Jake Heasley"
 Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass

March 11th The Mass—9:00 A.M. - Fellowship Hall

Continue to show you care about your deceased loved ones by having masses offered for them. A Mass offered is an act of love for all eternity. Mass dates available for the month of March are the following weekdays at 8:00 A.M.: March 14th, 15th & 26th. Please contact the Administrative Office if you are interested in requesting a mass for any one of these dates - 724-295-2281.

Please Join Us...

Donut Social next weekend after all

Ash Wednesday

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

March 6, 2019

Schedule for Ash Wednesday
 8:00 A.M. - Mass & Distribution of Ashes
 7:00 P.M. - Mass & Distribution of Ashes

Fridays During Lent

Stations of the Cross will be said on Fridays during Lent. There will be Lenten Adoration of the Cross all day immediately following the 8:00 A.M. Mass followed with benediction at 6:30 P.M. Stations of the Cross will then follow at 7:00 P.M.



Diocesan Collection - The annual Catholic Home Missions Collection will be taken up next weekend. The theme is "Strengthening the Church at Home," and funds will benefit dioceses in the United States that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. For more information about the collection, visit: www.usccb.org/home-missions/collection.

BEREAVEMENT CLASSES

Bereavement Classes will be held at the Christ, Prince of Peace

Partner Parish Office (718 Fourth Avenue - Ford City) beginning on Monday, March 11th, from 6:30-8:00 P.M. Sister Edie will conduct these classes for anyone who has lost a loved one. The first night is an information night followed by an eight week session. Please call the Christ, Prince of Peace & St. Lawrence Partner Parish Office (724-763-9141) to register.



All are welcome! Please join FUSED 4 Youth Ministry for XLT--Adoration of Our Lord on Sunday, March 10th at 6:00 P.M., at St. James the Greater Church (109 Owens View Avenue, Apollo). They will have music from

their worship band, an inspiring talk, a time for silent adoration, Benediction and Confession in the church. The speaker will be Mrs. Jamie Dillon, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation at Mt. St. Peter's, New Kensington. Her topic will be "When the Body Fails Can Faith Prevail?: Addressing all types of illness (physical, mental, emotional)." If you would like additional information, please contact Katie Tylinski, Regional Director of Faith Formation at 724-212-6740 or email her at: ktylinski@dioceseofgreensburg.org. Spread the word! Take a friend! This is a great way to start out your Lenten journey!



A Public Card Party sponsored by the Christian Mothers and Women of St. Joseph parish, Cabot will be held Monday, March 11th at 12:00 Noon with lunch following. Any other games or cards can be played. However, if playing a different card game or board game, please try to bring enough people to play your game. \$5.00/person. Join them for an enjoyable afternoon. Also available will be Butler Flavorings (dark & clear vanilla; maple and almond) and USA-made RADA cutlery.



The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting will hold adult facilitator training for the Pope Pius XII Emblem Saturday, March 9th, from 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the BSA Westmoreland-Fayette Council Service Center, 2 Garden Center Dr., Greensburg. Participants must have the Pope Pius XII Scout Book and the Pope Pius XII Facilitator Manual, which can be downloaded from: <https://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/religious-emblems/pope-pius-xii> for \$3.00/ea. plus tax. Facilitators trained prior to 2014 must update their certification. For questions, contact Chuck Boyer at 3bs1g@comcast.net or 724-396-1787. Participants must have Diocese of Greensburg and BSA clearances before working with youth. There is no cost for the training, but registration is required by March 4th.



"Celebrate with Joy: The Ministry of Cantor!" workshops around the diocese. All cantors in the diocese are invited to join Thomas Octave, the diocese's Director of Sacred Music, for a FREE evening workshop to reinvigorate your ministry. It will start with a review of practical skills and move toward building confidence and passion for your ministry. The workshops will be held Monday, March 11th at 7:00 P.M. at Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin; *Wednesday, March 13th at 7:00 P.M. at Mount St. Peter Parish, New Kensington;* and Monday, March 18th at 7:00 P.M. at St. John the Baptist Parish, Scottdale. If you are interested in attending, please respond to Becky Bouille at: bbouille@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

DEBUT

The Diocese of Greensburg's "The Accent On-Air" debuts March 3rd at 11:30 A.M. on WTAE-TV Channel 4. The premier broadcast, "Faith & Food," includes the story about The Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in Monessen winning the Ultimate Pittsburgh Pierogi competition along with other features, including Lenten lessons from Bishop Malesic and Father Tyler Bandura. The show will be rebroadcast at 2:08 A.M. on March 5th, 8th, 14th and 29th.



Christ the King Parish, 125 Park Road, Leechburg, will be selling nut, poppy seed and apricot rolls for \$11.50/ea. and Paska bread (round or braided/with or without raisins) for \$6.50/ea. Deadline for roll orders is Monday, March 25th; deadline for Paska bread orders is Monday, April 1st. To order, please call 724-842-0623 or 724-845-8615.

Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, 339 E. 10th Avenue, Tarentum will be holding its Annual Easter Nut Roll Sale on April 9th, 10th & 11th. Nut, Apricot and Poppy Seed Rolls will be available—Price is \$12.00/ea. Please place your order by calling Lynn beginning March 4th between the hours of 10:00 A.M.—8:00 P.M. at 724-352-0031.



St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Kittanning, will hold Lenten Fish Dinners every Friday during Lent, beginning March 8th, from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. in St. Mary Parish Hall, 361 N. Jefferson Street, Kittanning. Their delicious dinner menu includes your choice of fried fish filet, fried fish sandwich, baked fish or fried shrimp, baked potato, French fries or homemade mac & cheese. All dinners include coleslaw or apple sauce, roll & butter, beverage & dessert. Eat-in or Take-out - Adults/\$10.00; Children/\$5.00 (10 & under). For additional information, please call 724-548-7649. All are welcome!

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus #2602 will sponsor a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, March 10th, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., at the council home located at 28 Garfield Street, Natrona. Cost is \$6.00/adults; \$3.00/children under 6. Take your family and friends!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 9TH & 10TH, 2019

<i>Altar Servers</i>	<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Organist</i>	<i>Cantor</i>
Ash Wednesday—8:00 A.M.	TBA	TBA	TBA	Sue Myford	Sue Myford
Ash Wednesday—7:00 P.M.	TBA	TBA	TBA	Dave Wesolosky	Choir
Saturday - 4:00 P.M.					
Madison & Dawson Gaillot Zach Showers	Mary Williams; Dave Valencic Jackie DeFelice	Dave Brestensky	Sharon Mihalich	Diane Pleva	Stephanie Bragiel
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
Luke & Emily Boylan Katie & Mary Huth Olivia Brestensky	Judy Bergstrom Lisa Boylan Carol Carson	Annette Domachowski	John Nemcek Betty Lou Nemcek	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
Sunday—11:00 A.M.					
Celeste Beacom; Jackson Ringler Victor & Olivia Svitek	Dan Lucovich; Bill Cogley Lisa Isenberg	CCD - 3rd Grade	Jill Zalewski	Dave Wesolosky	Choir


Mass Intentions

MASSES FOR THE 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME


SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	March 2nd ✦ Blair Grube (Carl Barr)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	March 3rd St. Mary Parishioners ✦ Martin Sikora (Esther Kamer)
MONDAY: 8:00 A.M.	March 4th ✦ Pearl C. Holbein (Carol Carson)
TUESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	March 5th ✦ Robert Hughes (Joseph & Olivia Leslie)
WEDNESDAY: 8:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M.	March 6th— <i>Ash Wednesday</i> ✦ Jovita Walker (Bob & Judy Bergstrom) ✦ John P. DeMeno (Brenda DeMeno)
THURSDAY: 8:00 A.M.	March 7th ✦ William Fullerton (The Wyants)
FRIDAY: 8:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M.	March 8th ✦ Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Severin (Patty & Family) Stations of the Cross

MASSES FOR THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	March 9th ✦ Edna Barr (John & Brenda DeMeno)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	March 10th St. Mary Parishioners ✦ Stella Trygar (Paul & Charlene Mahu)




The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of
DAN HASTINGS, JR.
By
Fred Walker



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of
CLYDE & ANGIE FULLERTON
By
Mary Fullerton




Offertory Collection for February 24th, 2019
No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 598
No. of Envelopes Received: 190
Collection: Offertory - 4,442.51
Electronic Payments (10) - \$1,745.00
Loose - \$313.00; Children - \$24.00
Total Collection - \$6,524.51
THANK YOU!



Saturday, March 9th, 2019
Christine Kern and Connie Waltenbaugh

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