



St. Mary, Mother of God Church

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

Roman Catholic Church

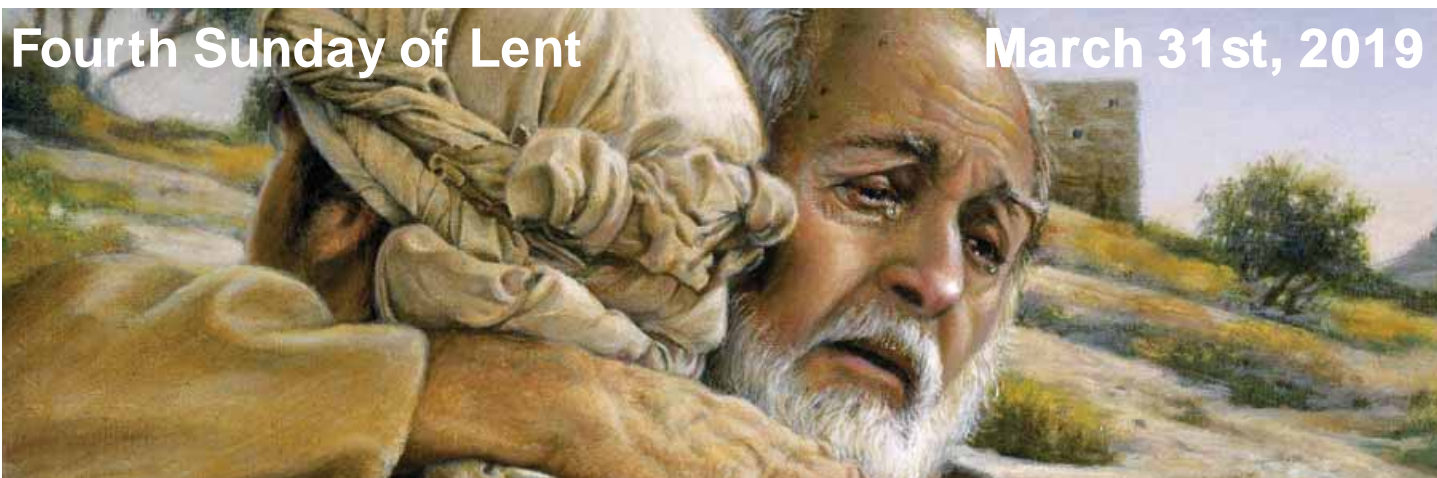
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229

Established 1826



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 31st, 2019



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*
Gina Jones—*Helping Hands*—724-448-9251;
ginaj1904@gmail.com

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

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



We enter into the middle part of the Lenten Season as we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is unique because like the third Sunday of Advent ("Gaudete Sunday"), the fourth Sunday of Lent is a break in an otherwise penitential season. The vestment is rose, as it is on Gaudete Sunday in Advent, and flowers may adorn the Altar. This day is called "*Laetare Sunday*" or "*Rose Sunday*" and takes its name from the Latin word, which begins the entrance antiphon of the Mass, the Introit's "*Laetare, Jerusalem*" meaning *Rejoice Jerusalem*.

LATIN

Laetare Jerusalem: et conventum facite omnes qui diligitis eam: gaudete cum laetitia, qui in tristitia fuistis: ut exsultetis, et satiemini ab uberibus consolationis vestrae. (Psalm) Laetatus sum in his, quae dicta sunt mihi: in domum Domini ibimus. Gloria Patri.

ENGLISH

Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her: rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow: that you may exult, and be filled from the breasts of your consolation. (Psalm) I rejoiced at the things that were said to me: we shall go into the house of the Lord. Glory be to the Father.

We rejoice because our expectation to the great Solemnity of Easter for which we have been preparing ourselves during the Lenten season is getting nearer and it give us encouragement to continue with our journey as we slowly progress towards the Paschal feast.

The invitation to devote more time to God in prayer, offer sacrifices and do charity for others are still there and the parable of the prodigal son in the gospel this Sunday helps us to see who God is through the Father who welcomed his prodigal son with open arms. Here we see the image of God as forgiving and loving to His children. He sees not our faults but our efforts. He sees our goodness and not our weakness.

This is encouraging for us. As we begin our Regional Penance Services this week, may we not let the opportunity pass by for us to encounter the love and forgiving heart of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

St. Mary in Yatesboro is scheduled on Tuesday, April 2nd, at 7:00 P.M.; St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Kittanning will be on Saturday, April 6th, 12:00 Noon.

Our parish is scheduled for Holy Monday, April 15th, at 7:00 P.M.



LAETARE SUNDAY



FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Stations of the Cross

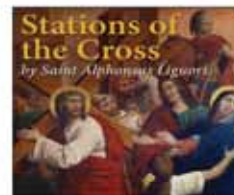
By Saint Alphonsus Liguori

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Listen on formed.org

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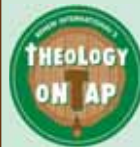
★★★★★

"Holding a crucifix while meditating on the Stations of the Cross... so moving. Thank you, Jesus, for the Cross."

—Marclia R, St Teresa's Church

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On Thursday, March 21st, twenty-one young adults met at 7:00 P.M. at The Anchor Inn. After enjoying some appetizers and refreshments, they listened to speaker Elisa Esasky explore "Social Media: The New Face of Christ" followed by an open discussion. The next *Theology on Tap* gathering will be on Thursday, April 11th, at 7:00 P.M. at the Anchor Inn in Natrona Heights. They are excited to welcome back *Jacob Williamson* as their guest speaker and who will lead the discussion on "Peace Through Forgiveness". He will also tie in the Paschal mystery and the Passion of Christ as we near Holy Week. Appetizers will be provided by the church; dinner and drink items are available for purchase. They hope to see you on April 11th! If you have any friends or family who would like to join them, please extend them an invitation.



Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Diocesan Target - \$37,826.00
 Parish Target - \$32,174.00
 Combined Target - \$70,000.00
 Amount Pledged to Date - \$52,850.00
 Amount Paid to Date - \$30,335.00
 Number of Donors - 117

Thank you to everyone who has made their pledge to our DLA. Our Diocesan Target in the amount of \$37,826.00 has been reached! Since we have achieved our diocesan goal, we are now working towards our parish goal. Please remember that 100% of all monies now collected will remain here at St. Mary's Church. If you have not yet made your pledge, we ask that you now prayerfully consider doing so. If you did not receive or have misplaced your DLA letter/pledge card, please take one of the envelopes (located at all of the church entrances) home with you, fill it out and then mail it to the following address: Diocese of Greensburg—Diocesan Lenten Appeal, 723 East Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.



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. If you have any questions, please call or email Tim Fogarty at 724-294-0089; tpfogarty618@gmail.com. Forms are located at the church entrances. Completed forms may be placed in the collection basket; mailed in; dropped off at the Administration Office.



First Friday Adoration will be April 5th, beginning at 8:45 A.M. Sign-up sheets are located at the church entrances and two people should be represented for each half hour. Please remember that if we do not get enough parishioners to commit their time, we will have to discontinue this Catholic tradition at our parish. Join us as we adore our Lord Jesus! Stations of the Cross will be at 7:00 P.M.



The Teen Ministry is selling popcorn (Popped Envy). Order forms are located at all the church entrances. **Deadline to place your order is March 30th/31st.** The teens appreciate your support!



Christian Mother

The Christian Mother's monthly meeting will be held on Monday, April 1st, at 7:00 P.M., in the Christian Mother's Room. All members are asked to arrive at 6:30 P.M. and are encouraged to attend.



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



Volunteers are needed to help remove the old Church pew pads. Removal dates/times are Thursday, April 11th, 10:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M. and 6:30—8:00 P.M. and on Friday, April 12th, 10:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M. If you are interested in helping out with this project, sign-up sheets are located in the Sacristy. The more people we have, the faster we will get done!



First Holy Communion

The First Holy Communion Workshop will be held on Thursday, April 4th - 6:30—8:00 P.M. in our Fellowship Hall. **Parents and children are required to attend!**

Calendar of Events

March 30th	Teen Ministry—Homeless Project (after 4:00 P.M. Mass); Popcorn Orders due this weekend
March 31st	Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Ed Daquila”
	Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
April 1st	The Mass—9:00 A.M. - Christian Mothers’ Room; Christian Mother’s Meeting—7:00 P.M.
April 2nd	Tenebrae Practice—6:00 P.M. - Church
April 3rd	Evening Mass at 7:00 P.M.
April 4th	1st Holy Communion Workshop—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall
	The Mass—6:30 P.M. - Christian Mothers’ Room
April 5th	1st Friday—All Day Adoration; Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M.
April 7th	Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Doree Rossey”
	Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
	Baptism “Pekarek”—12:15 P.M.; ONE Voice Concert—7:00 P.M. - Church
April 8th	The Mass—9:00 A.M. - Christian Mothers’ Room
April 10th	Evening Mass at 7:00 P.M.
April 11th	The Mass—6:30 P.M. - Christian Mothers’ Room; Theology on Tap—7:00 P.M. - Anchor Inn
April 12th	Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M.



Easter Flower Offering Envelopes - Remember your loved ones this Easter by making a donation for flowers and decorations for the sanctuary during the Easter season. Envelopes were included in your March monthly packet. **Deadline to submit your envelopes is 12:00 Noon on Monday, April 15th.**

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

Regional Penance Services Schedule - This schedule is in addition to our regular confession schedule which is 3:00 to 3:45 P.M. on Saturdays. Following is our Regional Penance Schedule:

- Tuesday, April 2nd - St. Mary, Yatesboro - 7:00 P.M.*
- Saturday, April 6th - St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Kittanning - 12:00 Noon*
- Tuesday, April 9th - St. Lawrence, Cadogan - 7:00 P.M.*
- Saturday, April 13th - Christ, Prince of Peace, Ford City - 12:00 Noon*
- Monday, April 15th - St. Mary, Mother of God, Freeport - 7:00 P.M.*



Christian Vocal Ensemble
Directed by David F. Pressau

presents

“Wondrous Love”

A Time of Worship and Reflection for Lent, 2019

Sunday, April 7th
7:00 P.M.

Free Concert
Scripture and Singing
Non-denominational
Refreshments to follow in
our Fellowship Hall
“Free-will offering”

Return to Me with All Your Heart

LENTEN GATHERINGS FOR THE FREEPORT COMMUNITY

Freeport Area Ministerial Association

LUNCH AND WORSHIP 12:00-1:00 P.M.

4/4 Trinity Lutheran Church Preparing Rev. Derrick Lumsden

DINNER AND WORSHIP 6:30-8:00 P.M.

4/11 United Methodist Church Coming Together Rev. Robert Keplinger



Catholic Schoolhouse, a local homeschool program, is currently registering students for the 2019-2020 academic year in Greensburg. More than an academic co-op, Catholic Schoolhouse is a structured program meeting weekly for homeschoolers that includes chorus, two hours of classroom instruction, science experiments, art projects, and opportunities for socializing after class. Please join them at

Panera Bread-Greengate Center on Saturday, April 6th, at 2:00 P.M. for an informational meeting. Contact Rebecca at 217-778-7599.



A Public Card Party sponsored by the Christian Mothers & Women of St. Joseph Parish, Cabot will be held on Monday, April 8th at 12:00 Noon—lunch followed by the card party. 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. A \$5.00/person donation also includes lunch. Join them for an enjoyable afternoon. Also available will be Butler Flavorings (dark & clear vanilla; maple and almond) and USA-made RADA cutlery. Thank you for your support - the card parties help with various women and children's functions.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 6TH & 7TH, 2019

<i>Altar Servers</i>	<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Organist</i>	<i>Cantor</i>
Saturday - 4:00 P.M.					
Madison & Dawson Gaillot Zach Showers	Mary Williams; Dave Valencic Jackie DeFelice	Tim Fogarty	Gary Miller Arlene Miller	Diane Pleva	Alex Smith
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
Luke & Emily Boylan Katie & Mary Huth Olivia Brestensky Elena Jenkins	Judy Bergstrom Lisa Boylan Carol Carson	John Nemcek	John Nemcek Betty Lou Nemcek	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
Sunday—11:00 A.M.					
Jacob & Erin Schaeffer Evan Giori Paige Liti	Helen James Andre Volek Melissa Schaeffer	Rob Svitek	Jill Zalewski	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

Mass Intentions

MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: March 30th
4:00 P.M. ✦ William Fullerton (David & Cleatus Burk)

SUNDAY: March 31st
8:30 A.M. ✦ Richard Brestensky (Mom & Dad)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners

MONDAY: April 1st
8:00 A.M. ✦ Kerry Liti (Posney Family)

TUESDAY: April 2nd
8:00 A.M. ✦ Raymond Ravotti (Alfred & Marlene Brown)

WEDNESDAY: April 3rd
7:00 P.M. ✦ Martin Sikora (Baustert Family)

THURSDAY: April 4th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Mary Pesci Ranieri (David & Cleatus Burk)


FRIDAY: April 5th - First Friday
8:00 A.M. ✦ Maurice Heinritz Family (Estate)
7:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross




MASSES FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: April 6th
4:00 P.M. ✦ Donna Nagy (Pat & Bill Davis)

SUNDAY: April 7th
8:30 A.M. ✦ Philip Bordonaro (Grandchildren)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **RAYMOND RAVOTTI** By *Wife and Children*



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **RAYMOND RAVOTTI** By *Wife and Children*

Collections

Offertory Collection for March 24th, 2019

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 598
No. of Envelopes Received: 214
Collection: Offertory - \$4,081.00
Electronic Payments (23) - \$1,080.00
Loose - \$289.00; Children - \$24.00
Home Missions - \$45.00
St. Vincent DePaul Collection - \$1,104.00
Total Collection - \$6,623.00
THANK YOU!




Saturday, April 6th, 2019
Charlene Becker

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