

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

April 7th, 2019

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Let the one among you who is
without sin be the first to
cast a stone.

Jesus Christ

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



When the Lenten Ministerium Service among the local Freeport Churches and Sowers Chapel began on Thursday, March 14th, and held every Thursday since then until this coming Thursday, April 11th, the revolving theme was *"Return to Me with all your Heart"*. This theme is actually what Lent is all about. We are called to return to the Lord with all our heart because of the fact that every day, whether we are aware or unaware, we commit mistakes or sins in either thoughts, words or actions.

The gospel this Sunday is one example of this. The Scribes and the Pharisees accused a woman of committing adultery and they brought her to Jesus, not because they were after the welfare of the woman, but rather to test Jesus how He would handle it, knowing that by law she deserved to be stoned to death. To their surprise, Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. And He told them, ***"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her"***. Jesus said this because He knew what was in their hearts. As a result, they were the ones who became speechless. No one threw a stone at the woman because all of them were guilty of sin in one way or another. All of them left without condemning the woman. Finally, Jesus said, ***"Neither do I condemn you. Go and from now on do not sin anymore"***.

These words of Jesus are also what we hear every time we go to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He never condemns us. Instead, He lets His love and mercy manifest towards us with the invitation to go in peace and sin no more.

Our Regional Lenten Penance Service has begun and it once again gives us an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It would be good if we can devote a time to examine our lives, how we lived out our daily lives. How did we treat others? Were we critical and judgmental of them? Did we hurt them by our words and actions? Or did we love, forgive and show our kindness towards them.

St. Pope John Paul II, in his apostolic exhortation "Reconciliation and Penance", said it is every Christian's duty to promote God's love and forgiveness in the community.

He has a point because life, after all, is about love, forgiveness, peace and joy, which God desires for us all.



FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Convinced

Why Would Anyone Become Catholic?

Why would intelligent, successful people give up careers, alienate friends, and cause havoc in their families...to become Catholic? As he was considering his own move into the Church, Donald Johnson traveled around the country to get answers from some of today's most prolific Catholic converts.

Watch on formed.org

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—Alison M.
Our Lady of the Mount, NJ



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If you have any questions, please contact Beth Macurdy at: bmacurdy@ufcw.org or call her at 724-295-9411.

Our Teen Ministry's service project—helping the homeless and less fortunate in conjunction with Howard International Ministries (HIM) in Pittsburgh on Saturday, March 30th



**HELPING
HEARTS
FOR
THE
HOMELESS**



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the many parishioners who donated new socks/soaps/toiletries for our recent Lenten service project. Donated items went to men, women and children in need. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is a great example of stewardship to all of us! *The Teen Ministry*



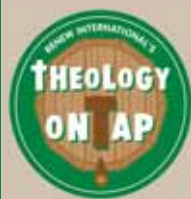
A very special thank you to Bob Bergstrom, John Nemcek and Michele Fink for spending their Saturday helping a couple in need clean up their yard. They were truly being the hands and feet of Christ. May God bless them as they bless others.

Helping Hands Ministry would also like to thank Attorney Larry Lutz for a wonderful, educational talk that he presented on Advanced Planning on Sunday, March 24th. The information he supplied was very valuable and very much appreciated. We were truly blessed to have him join us.



In your charity, please remember the soul of Theodore "Ted" James, husband of Helen James (our Director of Religious Education), who passed away this week. Welcome him and all who have gone before us into the joy of everlasting life and bring comfort & peace to their families.

There will be no Donut & Beverage Social this month.



Our next *Theology on Tap* gathering will be on Thursday, April 11th, at 7:00 P.M. at the Anchor Inn on Freeport Road, Natrona Heights. We are excited to welcome back *Jacob Williamson* as our guest speaker and who will lead our 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. We hope to see you on April 11th at the Anchor Inn! If you have any friends or family who would like to join us, please extend them an invitation.

Calendar of Events

- April 7th** Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Doree Rossey”
 Teen Ministry Meeting—9:35 - 10:45 A.M.
 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 9th** Tenebrae Practice—5:00 P.M. - Church
- April 10th** Evening Mass at 7:00 P.M.
- April 11th** Removal of Church Pew Pads—10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. & 6:30-8:00 P.M.
 The Mass—6:30 P.M. - Christian Mothers’ Room; Theology on Tap—7:00 P.M. - Anchor Inn
- April 12th** Removal of Church Pew Pads—10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.; Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M.
- April 14th** 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

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 the remaining Regional Penance Schedule:

- 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.



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

Return to Me with All Your Heart

LENTEN GATHERINGS FOR THE FREEPORT COMMUNITY

Freeport Area Ministerial Association

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

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



COME ONE AND ALL! WALK THE WAY OF THE CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY – April 19th, 2019
 10:00 A.M. – Meet at St. Mary’s of Freeport
 End at Trinity Lutheran Church

PLEASE JOIN US – youth, adults, veterans, families, golden agers – for this dramatic journey retracing the events that led up to Jesus’ crucifixion on Mount Calvary -- as we lead the community in prayer together throughout the streets of Freeport.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sponsored by the Freeport Ministerium of Churches

If the weather is inclement, Stations will be held at St. Mary, Mother of God Church



It’s not too late!
 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, sign-up sheets are located in the back of the church. The more people we have, the faster we will get done! Thank you for volunteering your time!



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

Please remember that 100% of all monies now collected will remain here at St. Mary’s Church.

The Teen Ministry will host the annual Easter Egg Hunt for children Pre-K through 3rd grade. The Easter Egg Hunt will be located at the cemetery, weather permitting.

St. Mary’s Teen Ministry Annual Easter Egg Hunt



SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH, 1PM

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 13TH & 14TH, 2019

Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lector	Greeters	Organist	Cantor
Saturday - 4:00 P.M.					
ALL SERVERS	Andrea Camerolo; Arlene Miller Bridget Fogarty	TBA	Doug Scholl Mary Scholl	Diane Pleva	Alex Smith
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
ALL SERVERS	Rose Check Patty Hughes Cindy Harbison	TBA	Karen Nigra	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
Sunday—11:00 A.M.					
ALL SERVERS	Marushka Steele Mary Scholl Alyson Scholl	TBA	Karen Fennell	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

MASSES FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	April 6th ✦ Donna Nagy (Pat & Bill Davis)	
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	April 7th ✦ Philip Bordonaro (Grandchildren) St. Mary Parishioners	
MONDAY: 8:00 A.M.	April 8th ✦ Patricia Pflugh (Ronald & Linda Gallagher)	
TUESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	April 9th ✦ Victor Zadnik (Wife - Dianne)	
WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.	April 10th ✦ Stella Trygar (Eleanor Rychlinski)	
THURSDAY: 8:00 A.M.	April 11th Mary Kristine (Beth Macurdy)	
FRIDAY: 8:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M.	April 12th ✦ J. Easley Family (Estate) Stations of the Cross	

MASSES FOR PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	April 13th St. Mary Parishioners
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	April 14th ✦ Rinaldo Pollicchio (The Pollicchio's) ✦ Charles Huth (Ellen Huth & Family)



The Altar Bread and Wine
were donated for this week
in loving memory of
ROBERT E. (BUTCH) HUGHES
By
Joseph and Olivia Leslie

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in
loving memory of
AGNES & FRANK SHUSTER
By
Barb and Dan Coyle



Collections

Offertory Collection for March 31st, 2019

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 598

No. of Envelopes Received: 199

Collection: Offertory - \$4,556.00

Electronic Payments (14) - \$2,750.00

Loose - \$290.00; Children - \$23.00

Total Collection - \$7,619.00

THANK YOU!



Saturday, April 13th, 2019
Diane Grant

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21



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