

# St. Mary, Mother of God Church



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



Established 1826



Blessed are those  
servants whom  
the master  
finds vigilant  
on his arrival.

— Luke 12:37

August 11, 2019  
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

## 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.

## Parish Staff

William Girardi,

*Pastoral Associate—412-719-7085*

Claudia Vertosick

*Business Manager/Parish Secretary*

Helen James, *Religious Education Director*

Thomas Koharchik, *Choir Director*

Cindi Harbison

*Social Hall Coordinator—724-272-7744*

Jennifer Liti/David Valencic

*Parish Custodians*

Richard Bertino, *Cemetery Caretaker*

*724-295-3632 (home); 724-602-5986 (cell)*

## 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](mailto:ginaj1904@gmail.com)*

## Organizations

*Christian Mothers—Diane Grant*

*St. Vincent de Paul Society—Ray Smetana/*

*Mary Ellen Gray*

*Men's Group—Tim Fogarty*

## 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)

Facebook: Saint Mary, Mother of God - Freeport

Send Information to share:

[stmarysocialmedia@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarysocialmedia@yahoo.com)

**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.**

# Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

†=(in memory of) ♥=(IHO/special intention/parishioners)

## MASSES FOR THE 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<b>SATURDAY:</b> 4:00 P.M.	<b>August 10th</b> †Regis Barr (John & Brenda DeMeno)
<b>SUNDAY:</b> 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	<b>August 11th</b> †Ken Hughes (Rose & David Check) ♥St. Mary Parishioners
<b>MONDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>August 12th</b> †Geno Pernazza (Bob & Judy Bergstrom)
<b>TUESDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>August 13th</b> †Sister Anne Celine, CSJ (Miller Family)
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>August 14th - Day of Prayer</b> †Anna Mae Conroy (Patty Hughes & Family)
<b>THURSDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M.	<b>August 15th—The Assumption of the BVM</b> ♥St. Mary Parishioners †Rosemary & JoAnne Girardi (Bill Girardi)
<b>FRIDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>August 16th</b> †Delores Wassum (Linda Abranovic)

## MASSES FOR THE 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<b>SATURDAY:</b> 4:00 P.M.	<b>August 17th</b> †Thomas Cornman (Family)
<b>SUNDAY:</b> 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	<b>August 18th</b> †Sharon Glath (Family) ♥St. Mary Parishioners

## Readings for the Week

<b>Monday:</b>	<i>Dt 10:12-22; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mt 17:22-27</i>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<i>Dt 31:1-8; Dt 32:3-4ab, 7-9, 12; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14</i>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<i>Dt 34:1-2; Ps 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17; Mt 18:15-20</i>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<i>Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28</i> <i>Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56</i>
<b>Friday:</b>	<i>Jos 24:1-13; Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24; Mt 19:3-12</i>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<i>Jos 24:14-29; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Mt 19:13-15</i>
<b>Sunday:</b>	<i>Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Ps 40:2-4, 18; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53</i>

## Ministry Schedule

August 15th, 17th & 18th, 2019

### ALTAR SERVERS:

<i>Thursday, 7:00 P.M.</i>	TBA
<i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Madison & Dawson Gaillot; Zach Showers
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	Luke & Emily Boylan; Katie & Mary Huth; Olivia Brestensky; Elena Jenkins
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Jacob & Erin Schaeffer; Paige Liti; Evan Giori

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

<i>Thursday, 7:00 P.M.</i>	TBA
<i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Mary Williams; Jackie DeFelice; Dave Valencic
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	Judy Bergstrom; Lisa Boylan; Carol Carson
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Helen James; Bill Cogley; Lisa Isenberg

### LECTORS:

<i>Thursday, 7:00 P.M.</i>	TBA
<i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Karen Savage
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	John Nemcek
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Marushka Steele

### GREETERS:

<i>Thursday, 7:00 P.M.</i>	TBA
<i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Sharon Mihalich
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	John & Betty Lou Nemcek
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Jill Zalewski

### ORGANIST:

<i>Thursday, 7:00 P.M.</i>	Sue Myford
<i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Diane Pleva
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	Tom Koharchik
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Dave Wesolosky

### CANTOR:

<i>Thursday, 7:00 P.M.</i>	Jamie Phillips
<i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Stephanie Bragiel
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	Tom Koharchik
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Kathy Conley

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

<b>Sunday:</b>	<i>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
<b>Monday:</b>	<i>St. Jane Frances de Chantal</i>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<i>Ss. Pontian and Hippolytus</i>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<i>St. Maximilian Kolbe</i>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
<b>Friday:</b>	<i>St. Stephen of Hungary</i>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<i>Blessed Virgin Mary</i>



## From the Pastor's Desk

Faith, vigilance and being prepared are just a few of the lessons we can learn from our readings this 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

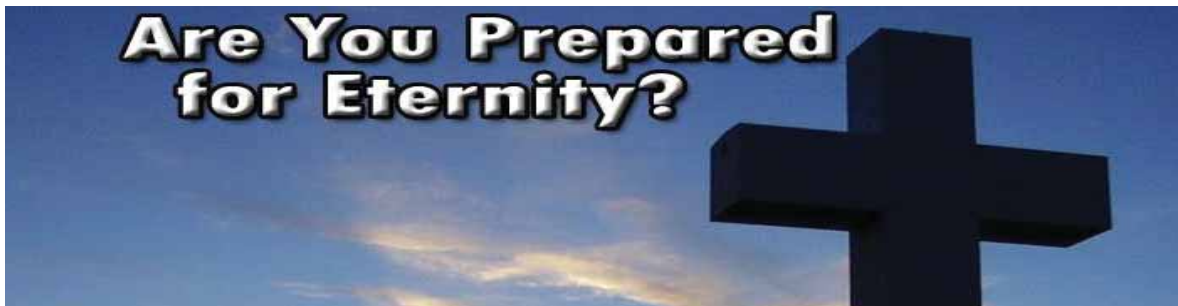
When things do not make sense to us and yet we obey God speaking to us in our heart or in our conscience, that is faith. When Abraham was called by God to a place which he was not familiar with and did not know what to expect, he just obeyed and showed his faith. When he was told that his wife would conceive in spite of their old age, he asked "how can it be when both of us are past the normal age to generate and Sarah herself was sterile?" This is indeed hard to understand, but later he showed his faith and God made it

possible. The letter to the Hebrews, which is our second reading this Sunday, defined **faith as the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. (Hebrew 11:1)** It means that even if we do not know what lies ahead of us and see what we hoped for but we show our trust in God, that is faith.

The gospel, on the other hand, talks about vigilance and being prepared. Jesus uses two parables to make this point. First, He shared the Parable of the Watchful Servants where He encourages us to be vigilant and always be ready because He comes unexpectedly into our lives everyday through events and people we meet. But the ultimate, unexpected coming of the Lord in our lives, is the moment of death. The moment where we will face God and receive judgment based on how we lived and what we have done in our life.

The second parable, the Parable of the Faithful or Unfaithful Servant, can be of help in assessing ourselves. Jesus portrays two different attitudes of disciples in the absence of the Master. The wise disciple remains steadfast at his duty post even in the master's absence. The foolish disciple takes to a complacent lifestyle and takes the law into his own hands. The day of reckoning comes with the master's return. The faithful servant receives a promotion while the unfaithful one is "cut to pieces" and given a place with the unbelievers.

This gives us a reflection that whatever we do, whether good or bad, has a consequence to face. If we do well and remain faithful, we know what we can get in the end and where we are heading. But if we remain complacent and never change, what can we expect in the end? The last part of the gospel is worth remembering, "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more".



### FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

## Saint Philomena

By Dr. Mark Miravalle

### Wonder Worker and Advocate

Martyred for her purity and fidelity to Christ, Saint Philomena is truly a saint for our times. Learn why so many love this young saint, the only one ever to be canonized solely on the basis of the profound miracles attributed to her intercession.

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



"It's amazing that this saint withstood so much torture with such holy determination even at the young age of 13!"  
—Anne Marie, Scarsdale, NY



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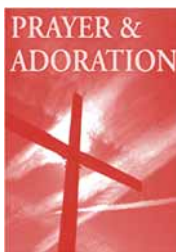
If you are new to the area, we invite you to share fully in our parish life. Your presence brings vitality and new gifts to the community. Please take a moment to register. Forms are available at all of the church entrances or by calling the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281.

## Calendar of Events/Meetings

August 14th "Day of Prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament" - following the 8:00 A.M. Mass until 8:00 P.M.  
 August 15th Holyday—Feast of the Assumption - Parish Office Closed  
 August 16th Wedding Rehearsal - 5:30 P.M.—Jones/Pijanowski  
 August 17th Wedding - 1:30 P.M.—Jones/Pijanowski  
 August 25th Baptism - 12:15 P.M.—“Saville”; Christian Mothers Picnic - 2:00 P.M.  
 August 26th Parish Council (Picnic Planning Meeting) - 7:00 P.M. - All members to attend — Administrative Center  
 August 28th The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation - 9:00-10:30 A.M.—Fellowship Hall  
 August 29th The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation - 6:30-8:00 P.M.—Fellowship Hall  
 August 30th Wedding Rehearsal - 6:00 P.M.—Roscia/Mravintz  
 August 31st Wedding - 1:30 P.M.—Roscia/Mravintz  
 September 2nd Labor Day—Parish Office Closed

## Parish Events/Information

*Congratulations to David & Janis Harbison  
 who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Friday, August 2nd*



Bishop Edward C. Malesic of the Diocese of Greensburg announces a *Day of Prayer* throughout the Diocese of Greensburg on Wednesday, August 14th. All parish churches in the Diocese of Greensburg will be open from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for private prayer with a special intention for those who have been abused and for the healing of the Church. On August 14th, 2018, the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report on Clergy Abuse was released to the public. This *Day of Prayer* is part of many efforts to try to help survivors, their families and our parishioners get through this time of suffering. In line with this, on August 14th, our parish will have a *Day of Prayer with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* immediately following our 8:00 A.M. mass until 8:00 P.M. Sign-up sheets are located at all of the church entrances. †



This coming Thursday, August 15th, we will celebrate the *Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary* - a holy day of obligation that requires us to attend mass. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. †



In your charity, please remember the souls of those who passed away, especially *Linda E. Antonucci, Jean Ann Hyatt* and *Donna M. Crabill*. We ask God to welcome them and all who have gone before us into the joy of everlasting life and bring comfort and peace to their families. †

## Save the Date

The annual parish picnic and the celebration of Fr. Ron's Incardination into the Diocese of Greensburg will be held on Sunday, September 8th, at Renshaw Farms. The day will begin with the 11:00 A.M. Mass at the farm. The picnic will be held from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 P.M. Food, entertainment, games will be offered to attendees. Entertainment will be provided by Murphy's Music Center Big Band. Parishioners are being asked to bring a dessert to share. The parish will provide meat and sides for this fellowship event. Sign-up sheets are located at all of the church entrances. **Deadline to sign-up is September 1st.** †

**In order to meet our weekly deadline, please note that all bulletin announcements/information must be received in writing or by email no later than 10:00 A.M. on Mondays. Thank you!**

## News from Our Ministries/Organizations



To understand the importance of the *Sacrament of Baptism* and your obligation as parents, you are required to attend one baptismal class. The remaining classes scheduled for 2019 will be held Thursday, September 12th and Thursday, December 12th. To register, call Mark or Melissa at 724-230-4450 or the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281. †



Have you visited our beautiful prayer garden! Many of the granite rosary stones for the prayer garden have been engraved and can be viewed at each of the church entrances. Only Hail Mary stones are still available for sale at \$300.00 each. If you are interested in honoring a loved one, order forms are located at each of the church entrances or you can contact Judy Bergstrom at 724-316-5352.

The **Christian Mother's Family Picnic** will be held on Sunday, August 25th, hosted by Carol Carson at the Kradel Farm, 206 Smith Road, Sarver. All should arrive at 2:00 P.M. so that everyone can begin to eat and enjoy the day at 2:30. Please remember to take a covered dish to share. RSVP to Carol Carson at 724-316-1204. **Deadline to RSVP is Friday, August 23rd.**

On **Saturday, September 7th**, the Christian Mothers will say the rosary at 7:00 P.M. in the prayer garden in honor of the Blessed Mother's birthday. Anyone is welcome to join them! †



### Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15th)

What exactly is this solemnity and why are we required (Holy Day of Obligation) to attend the Holy Mass? Simply put, the Assumption is the belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus (GOD), when her earthly life was complete, was assumed (taken up by God) BODY and SOUL into heavenly glory! To understand the assumption, however we need to take a step back and look upon another Holy Day of Obligation. December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. This day celebrates the fact that God, in choosing His own mother, prevented the stain of original sin from being upon her soul. So, Mary is born free from original sin, like Adam and Eve. However, their paths differ greatly as time goes on. Adam and Eve choose themselves over God's will and fall into the original sin. They lose trust and hope in God and focus all the attention on themselves, just like we do when we choose to sin. Mary, however, lives a life of "be it done unto me according to thy word" and lives the Our Father prayer moment to moment in her life "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Because of the freedom from the stain of original sin, and her constant saying yes to God and trust in his will for her, when her earthly life came to a close, God assumed her by raising up her body and soul directly into Heaven. The Holy Church in her wisdom made this a Holy Day of Obligation to stress to us that we need to attend the Holy Mass which is the celebration of the defeat of Sin and Death. We should spend time with Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist to celebrate not only what He did for His blessed mother, but what He ultimately wants for us: to be in communion with Him in heavenly glory. This is what we profess in the creed when we say, "I believe in the resurrection of the dead." In essence, this solemnity is a celebration of Mary's constant "Yes" to God by keeping close to Jesus. And we should follow her voice as she told us at the wedding of Cana when she advised to "do whatever he tells you."

***Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen!!!***



Reading the Bible should bring us closer to Christ, but understanding it is often difficult. The good news is that you can understand the Bible, and The Bible Timeline, a twenty-three-part Bible study, makes it easy. *Presenter Jeff Cavins* shows you how fourteen of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and gives you the keys to understanding the amazing story woven throughout Scripture. In this revolutionary approach to Bible

study, The Bible Timeline divides the Bible into twelve color-coded time periods that make it easier to follow its narrative thread. Using a unique color-coded chart, you will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and discover how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith. The study will be broken up into two blocks of sessions and a choice of Wednesday morning or Thursday evening is available. The first block of 11 sessions will begin the week of August 26th. The second block of 12 sessions will begin the first week of February 2020. During each session we will view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. There is a \$36.00 fee to cover the cost of the study materials. **Please register by August 19th.** Registration forms are available at each church entrance or you can register online at: <https://stmaryfreeport.com/thebibletimeline> †



# News from Our Diocese

## CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION

Bishop Malesic will lead a celebration of the diocese's patronal feast, the Feast of the Assumption, on Thursday, August 15th at the Christ Our Shepherd Center near Greensburg. The bishop will celebrate Mass at 7:00 P.M. in St. Joseph Chapel and then lead an outdoor candlelight procession with recitation of the rosary in multiple languages. †

DIocese OF GREENSBURG



Natural Family Planning CM-BBT (NFP) instruction will be held on Saturday, September 14th (10:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M. in the Catholic Charities office in Greensburg. Please contact Mary Ann Newhouse at Catholic Charities at 724-837-1840, Ext. 1658 for additional information or to register. Please call one week in advance. †

## PATHWAYS

Registration is open for *Pathways*, which is the diocese's commitment to adult faith formation and nurturing mature discipleship. There are twelve evening sessions, three workshops and a closing retreat. *Pathways* will be held on Thursdays from 6:30-9:00 P.M. at St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City. To register online, you are asked to please visit: [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/pathways](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/pathways); or email: [pathways@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:pathways@dioceseofgreensburg.org); or call the Office of Faith, Family and Discipleship at 724-552-2598. Financial assistance is available from the Francis Fund. For additional information or to apply for a scholarship, please call 724-837-0901, Ext. 1249. †

The Knights of Columbus will host a pro-life rally at the Westmoreland County Courthouse in downtown Greensburg on Thursday, August 15th, from 11:00 A.M. -1:00 P.M.

## Community Information/Activities

St. Mary Parishioners recently appeared in *Cauldron of Steel*, written by parishioner *Rennick Steele*. Included are *Michael and William Speer, Dan Ullrich, Lisa Camerlo, and Rennick and Marushka Steele*



## Freeport Theatre Festival celebrates its 30th Season by bringing back a classic comedy!

The *Mask of Comedy* will entertain with this classic comedy starring the "altruistic" sisters who are intent on conquering loneliness with their elixir of home-made elderberry wine laced with arsenic, strychnine, and "just a pinch" of cyanide!

This maskcap comedy will fizz, pop and bubble!

# Arsenic & Old Lace

Written by Joseph Kesselring  
Directed by Thomas Abbott  
Featuring "sisters"  
Bonnie Cahill and Lisa Camerlo

### 2019 PERFORMANCE DATES:

Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
AUGUST 9,10,11,16,17,18,23,24,25

All performances begin at 7:00 P.M.

All performances: 7:00 p.m.

Pre-show: 6:30 p.m.

Elderberry Social  
hosted by Allegheny Township  
Historical Society

FOOTLIGHTS GALLERY:  
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the Collectibles and Gifts



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Marushka Steele at  
724-295-1934 or  
[www.freeporttheatrefestival.org](http://www.freeporttheatrefestival.org)

## General Information

### TICKET PRICES:

\$15/12/10  
(General Admission/Military/Seniors/Student)

### LOCATION:

The Steele Farm in Allegheny Township  
Nestled in the northern tip of the Laurel Highlands

### PRE-THEATRE DINNER AT LILY'S

River Forest Country Club  
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## Altar Bread and Wine



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **Angela and Oscar Marrell**  
By  
*Diana & James Talotta*

## Sanctuary Lamp



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **The Girardi Family**  
By  
*Bill Girardi*

## Collections

### Offertory Collection for August 4th, 2019

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 599

No. of Envelopes Received: 175

Collection: Offertory - \$5,951.00

Electronic Payments (7) - \$515.00

Loose - \$394.00; Children (9) - \$13.90

**Total Collection - \$6,873.90**

**THANK YOU!**



## Electronic Giving

*A convenient, consistent way to help our church grow*

*We are truly appreciative of any gifts made to our parish. **Electronic Giving** is intended to be a convenient tool for you to contribute weekly or monthly or to make other donations to the church, electronically. This option allows you to easily setup recurring contributions, saving you time. Through electronic giving, this allows us to become more efficient and fiscally responsible. When signing up, please remember to provide your envelope number.*



**Saturday,  
August 17th, 2019**

**Donna Smith  
Deb Showers**

*Please call the Administrative Office if you would like to volunteer to be one of the cleaning ladies—724-295-2281.*

Thanks to our advertisers who sponsor this bulletin. Please support them with your business.

**ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK**

**"Keddie Chevrolet"**

*If you would like to advertise in our weekly bulletin, please call J.S. Paluch Company, Inc. at 1-800-945-6629*

## St. Mary, Mother of God Membership Request/Change

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

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

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Address/Phone Change

\_\_\_\_ Please remove me from your census

Please drop this form in the collection basket

**\*\*New Registration Forms are located at all of the church entrances\*\***



21



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