

St. Mary, Mother of God Church

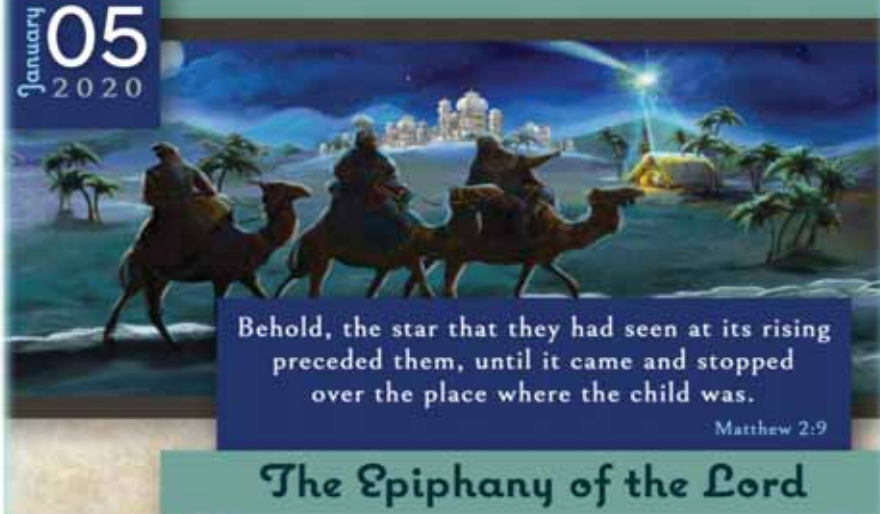


Roman Catholic Church
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



Established 1826

January
05
2020



The Epiphany of the Lord

Father Ronald Maquiñana—*Pastor*
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

Organizations

Diane Grant—*Christian Mothers*

Ray Smetana/Mary Ellen Gray

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Tim Fogarty—*Men's Group*

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

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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

- SATURDAY: January 4th**
4:00 P.M. †Joseph Mohny (Bob & Kim Holbein and Pat Westerman)
- SUNDAY: January 5th**
8:30 A.M. †Aaron Myers (Jim Myers)
11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners
- MONDAY: January 6th**
8:00 A.M. †Joan Sliwiak (Kymer Family)
- TUESDAY: January 7th**
8:00 A.M. †Susan Jacques (Gina Jones)
- WEDNESDAY: January 8th**
8:00 A.M. †Ken Hughes (Bob & Judy Bergstrom)
- THURSDAY: January 9th**
8:00 A.M. †Jim Huth (John & Betty Lou Nemcek)
- FRIDAY: January 10th**
8:00 A.M. †Edna Barr (Fred Segorek)

MASSES FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

- SATURDAY: January 11th**
4:00 P.M. †Bill Fullerton (Wife—Mary)
- SUNDAY: January 12th**
8:30 A.M. †Deceased of the Stewart & Policicchio Families (The Policicchio's)
11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners

Readings for the Week

- Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
- Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17



Ministry Schedule

January 11th & 12th, 2020

ALTAR SERVERS:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Fred Walker; Lauren & Leah Clark
- Sunday, 8:30 A.M.** Brianna, Olivia & Ryan Sutara; Ali & Ben Brestensky; Nicolette & Monica Zollinger
- Sunday, 11:00 A.M.** Jacob & Erin Schaeffer; Paige Liti; Evan Giori

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Sharon Mihalich; Arlene Miller; Bridget Fogarty
- Sunday, 8:30 A.M.** Judy Bergstrom; Patty Hughes; Cindy Harbison
- Sunday, 11:00 A.M.** Helen James; Lisa Isenberg; Marushka Steele

LECTORS:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Dave Brestensky
- Sunday, 8:30 A.M.** CCD Mass—5th & 6th Grade
- Sunday, 11:00 A.M.** CCD Mass—5th & 6th Grade

GREETERS:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Jim & Diana Talotta
- Sunday, 8:30 A.M.** Karen Nigra
- Sunday, 11:00 A.M.** Karen Fennell; Jenn Liti

ORGANIST:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Diane Pleva
- Sunday, 8:30 A.M.** Tom Koharchik
- Sunday, 11:00 A.M.** Dave Wesolosky

CANTOR:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Alex Smith
- Sunday, 8:30 A.M.** Tom Koharchik
- Sunday, 11:00 A.M.** Choir



Please contact the parish office if you would like to volunteer for any of these liturgical ministries!

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week
- Monday:** St. André Bessette
- Tuesday:** St. Raymond of Penyafort; Julian Calendar Christmas



From the Pastor's Desk

A new year has just begun and liturgically we started it with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God which means God entrusted the fragile baby Jesus under the care of the Blessed Mother. As we begin the New Year, let us entrust ourselves and the year ahead of us under the hands of our loving Mother.

There's a beautiful message of the Blessed Mother when she appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico and she said, "I am here, I'm your mother. Do not be afraid, I am near!"

We do not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future in His hands and that is God. Like the Blessed Mother, let us be more trusting in God's providence and love.

Let us listen again to our Mother who tells us: "Remember my child, when you are happy, I'm happy. When you are sad, I am sad. When you do good, I jump with joy. When you do bad, I cry, but I will always be your mother."

As we begin our new year, let us begin it with a prayer. And what are we to pray? First of all, let us **THANK GOD for the year that was**. Whatever happened in the past year, good or bad, happy or sad, let us leave that all now, with gratitude in God's heart. Second, let us **SURRENDER TO GOD the year ahead of us**. We do not know what the future holds, but we know He holds the future in His hands and that is enough. We believe that He will be with us every single day of the year, so we need not fear. Finally, let us **ASK GOD to give us strength and courage to face whatever lies ahead of us**, especially the grace to be able to carry out whatever mission we have for Him and the Blessed Mother.

As we celebrate the feast of the *Epiphany of the Lord* this Sunday, which is His manifestation to the world as represented by the three magi, let us recognize Him and allow Him to work in us. When the three magi found Jesus with Mary and Joseph, they honored and recognized Jesus in their lives. We see that in their homage and offering of their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, a symbol of His identity as king, prophet and priest. As they left, their lives were changed. They did not return to Herod. They departed for their country by another way.

Jesus, as He manifests to us, can guide us and change us if we will only recognize and allow Him to work in us. As we begin with our new year, let us allow the Lord and the Blessed Mother to be part of our journey this year in 2020.



LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Epiphany can be understood as an extension of the Nativity of the Lord that we celebrate on December 25th. While at Christmas we celebrate Jesus' coming as the long-awaited king and Messiah of the Jewish people, on Epiphany we celebrate the revelation that Jesus is the Savior and Light of all nations—Jews, Gentiles, and all people.

The star shines so brightly that it attracts magi who come from far distant countries to worship Jesus. They are not Jews, yet they are drawn to the Light of the world. The letter to the Ephesians reveals that the Light of the world was for the Gentiles as well as the Jews—Christ gathers all people into the light of his love. The reading from Isaiah also describes a gathering of diverse peoples, but this time it is to the light that emanates from the people of God.





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

January 5th	Religious Education Classes—9:30-10:40 A.M.; Teen Ministry—9:35-10:45 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45-10:45 A.M.—Church; 11:00 A.M. Mass
January 6th	Christian Mothers' Christmas Party - 6:00 P.M.—Evolution Grill
January 7th	Parish Council Meeting - 7:00 P.M.—Conference Center
January 8th	RCIA - 6:30 P.M.—Conference Center
January 12th	Baby Bottle Campaign; Donut & Beverage Social; Religious Education - 9:30-10:40 A.M.—Administrative Building; Choir Practice - 9:45-10:45 A.M.—Church; 11:00 A.M. Mass
January 14th	Men's Group Meeting - 7:00 P.M.—Fellowship Hall
January 15th	RCIA - 6:30 P.M.—Conference Center
January 19th	Baby Bottle Campaign Continues; Religious Education - 9:30-10:40 A.M.—Administrative Building; Teen Ministry—9:35-10:45 A.M.; Choir Practice - 9:45-10:45 A.M.—Church; 11:00 A.M. Mass

Parish Events/Information



The Mardi Gras wine tasting festival will be held Saturday, February 22nd, 6:00-10:00 P.M. in our Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$30.00 each and includes wine tasting and a lite fare. To purchase your tickets, please call Bridget at 724-294-0089; Steve at 724-294-3006; George at 412-913-0561. If you would like to be a sponsor, forms are located at all of the church entrances or you can contact Jeff Polana, John Zurisko, Dave Kradel or Mark Lepkowski. Basket sponsors should contact Sharon Mihalich, Judy Bergstrom or Beth Macurdy. This event is sponsored by our Parish Council and benefits our Fellowship Hall Improvement Projects.



Donut Sunday
January 12th
Fellowship Hall
Immediately following all weekend masses



Change For Life – Baby Bottles

What is it?

- **CFL (Change for Life) is one of the ways that Life Choices updates and educates the church in the fight for Life.**
- **We educate, empower, and equip individuals to join in lifesaving work through financial giving and volunteer opportunities in our clinics and beyond.**
- **Change For Life is an excellent opportunity to involve the entire family in the fight to value all human life.**

Your participation in this is vital to our ministry and we thank you for joining us in the fight for Life!

COME OUT January 12th after mass to hear about Life Choices and grab a bottle to be involved with the Change for Life fundraiser! See you then!



Please notify the Administrative Office of any address changes. An accurate address is very important! Membership change forms can be found at the bottom of page 7 in our weekly bulletin. Thank you!

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!

Christmas Concert

Participating were choirs from *St. Mary Parish; St. Joseph Parish, New Kensington; Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Natrona Heights; and the Freeport Senior High School Concert Choir*





News/Activities from Our Ministries/Organizations

Evangelization

Three things from Three Kings - Less than two weeks have passed since we celebrated the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Weeks of pandemonium and preparation were unwrapped and consumed in a whirlwind twenty-four hours. The Christmas music channels went silent and the dazzling light displays grow dimmer in our neighborhood every moment. Now we come to the Feast of the Epiphany (the visit of the Magi) which usually brings forth the closing of the Christmas season. What wisdom can these “three kings” impart on us in 2020? First, they were **searching**. They were hungry for something greater than themselves. They studied the natural world and knew that there was something or someone who put them there, that it wasn’t just happenstance. Do we see God’s hand in the everyday miraculous world around us? From the beauty of each January snowflake to the one thousand and one amazing processes in our body that go right every day. The wisdom they impart encourages us to truly open our eyes to the sacred and holy magnificence of His creation around us. Second was the reaction they had when they found HIM whom in which they were searching. They gave Him their **adoring** love. So often we think that we love God by having “warm” feelings about Him. True love is more than a feeling, it wells up inside us so fiercely that it becomes alive in our actions and deeds. They came to the King not to get something, but to give. The Magi show us, by example, that Love is expressed by sacrifice, gifts that we bestow upon the one whom is our greatest gift. Finally, the Wise Men exemplify how we, too, should be a **changed** person after our encounter with Jesus Christ. Every holy Mass that we attend and every visit with the Eucharistic Lord is an opportunity for us to bring our gifts to Him in adoration and then as scripture tells us, to “leave by a different route” *Matthew 2:12*. This moment with the King of Kings so changes them and us that we can no longer journey by the same old paths in our lives. We become changed and desire to walk a way guided by Him and no longer the route back to the King Herod’s of the world. Let us continue to daily make the journey from where we are to where He is and wants us to be, changed forever by Christ!

FORMED

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FORMED

Dr. Pitre exposes the problems with the many false theories that have resulted in widespread skepticism about the reliability of Christianity.

PICK OF THE WEEK

The Case for Jesus

By Dr. Brant Pitre

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THE CASE FOR JESUS

DR. BRANT PITRE



**ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD CHURCH
PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL**

Mardi Gras

AND WINE TASTING



SATURDAY FEB. 22, 2020 6-10 P.M.

608 HIGH STREET FREEPORT, PA

**ENTERTAINMENT BY NICK FIASCO |
CHEESE AND LITE FARE | WINERIES**

St Mary's Pastoral Council will once again hold their annual Mardi Gras fundraiser and wish to thank all for their past support. We are requesting donations for our Silent Auction and Basket Raffle. Themed items, gift or lottery cards or monetary donations will be arranged in baskets with an inventory and the name of the contributing business or person. Donations are due by February 13. Items may be dropped off at the Parish office or you can call Judy Bergstrom at 724-316-5352

Altar Bread and Wine



The Altar Bread and Wine
for this week in
loving memory of
Florence Rager
By
*Chad & Cindy Michelini
and her Grandchildren*

Sanctuary Lamp



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn
this week
in loving memory of
Helen Zorn
By
Jeff, Antoinette & Sarah Lipniskis

Collections

Offertory Collection for December 22nd, 2019

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 602
No. of Envelopes Received: 178
Collection: Offertory - \$4,177.00
Electronic Payments (12) - \$1,155.00
Loose - \$389.00; Children (22) - \$20.75
Catholic Accent - \$276.00
St. Vincent de Paul Society - \$856.00
Total Collection - \$6,873.75

Due to the early deadline for the submission of the January 5th bulletin, the weekly contribution report for December 25th & 29th were not available. This information will be published in next Sunday's bulletin.

THANK YOU!



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**Saturday
January 11th, 2020**

**Donna Smith and
Deb Showers**

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 Membership Registration Forms are located at all of the church entrances****

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