

# St. Mary, Mother of God Church

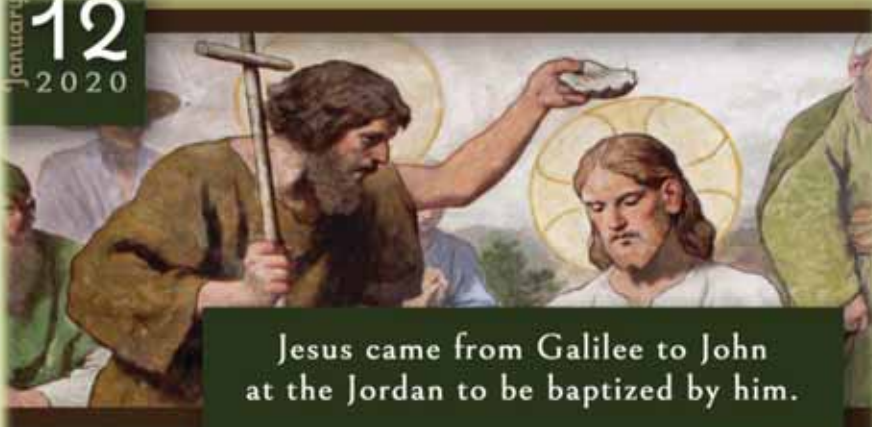
Roman Catholic Church  
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg  
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



Established 1826



January  
12  
2020



Jesus came from Galilee to John  
at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

Matthew 3:13

## The Baptism of the Lord

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

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](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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

<b>SATURDAY:</b>	<b>January 11th</b>
4:00 P.M.	†Bill Fullerton (Wife—Mary)
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	<b>January 12th</b>
8:30 A.M.	†Deceased of the Stewart and Policicchio Families (The Policicchio's)
11:00 A.M.	♥St. Mary Parishioners
<b>MONDAY:</b>	<b>January 13th</b>
8:00 A.M.	†Dr. Steve Bono (Dr. & Mrs. Calvin Miller)
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>January 14th</b>
8:00 A.M.	†Domenica Seitam (Doug & Grace Seitam)
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	<b>January 15th</b>
8:00 A.M.	†Ellen Huth (John & Betty Lou Nemcek)
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	<b>January 16th</b>
8:00 A.M.	†Jerry Boehm (Leightner Family)
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	<b>January 17th</b>
8:00 A.M.	†Claribel L. Costantino (Pat Davis)

## MASSES FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<b>SATURDAY:</b>	<b>January 18th</b>
4:00 P.M.	♥St. Mary Parishioners
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	<b>January 19th</b>
8:30 A.M.	†Walter Sliviak (Robert & Diane Grant)
11:00 A.M.	†Donna Crabill (Linda Windows)

## Readings for the Week

<b>Monday:</b>	1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20
<b>Tuesday:</b>	1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
<b>Thursday:</b>	1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
<b>Friday:</b>	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
<b>Saturday:</b>	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34



## Ministry Schedule

January 18th & 19th, 2020

### ALTAR SERVERS:

<i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Dawson Gaillot; Zach Showers
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	Sam, Jacob & David Kristine; Madison & Austin Bachar
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Marie Pelliccione; Mason DeMeno; Jackson Ringler

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

<i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Deb Showers; Fred Walker; Andrea Camerlo
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	Betty Lou Nemcek; John Nemcek; Kim Holbein
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Marushka Steele; Mary Scholl; Alyson Scholl

### LECTORS:

<i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Jackie DeFelice
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	Judy Bergstrom
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Rob Svitek

### GREETERS:

<i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Dave & Lois Posney
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	Carol Carson; Dave Kradel
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Doug & Mary Scholl

### ORGANIST:

<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>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Stephanie Bragiel
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	Tom Koharchik
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Choir



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

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

<b>Sunday:</b>	The Baptism of the Lord
<b>Monday:</b>	First Week in Ordinary Time; St. Hilary
<b>Friday:</b>	St. Anthony
<b>Saturday:</b>	Blessed Virgin Mary; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus. Liturgically speaking, this celebration puts an end to the Christmas Season and marks the beginning of the Ordinary Time.

The gospel presents Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan by John. And John testified that "on Jesus coming out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon Him. Then he heard a voice come from the heavens saying: 'You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well-pleased'." Let us try to reflect on this important feast.

First, the baptism of Jesus is one of the few gospel passages which shows that our God is three persons. There is Jesus being baptized, there is the Spirit descending upon Him, and the Father's voice is heard. This became one of the biblical basis for our belief in the one and triune God.

Secondly, we can notice in the gospel that John was hesitant to baptize Jesus. But Jesus was insistent "to fulfill all righteousness". He might mean that he is simply observing the Mosaic Law and the practices linked to a good Jewish life. However, St. Maximus said that "Christ is baptized, not that He may be sanctified in the waters, but that He Himself may sanctify the waters". So Jesus did not need to be baptized. The people who came to John were in need of baptism which is seen as baptism of repentance. This is also our kind of baptism. When we are baptized, we are cleansed from the so-called "original sin". So, we have to make it clear that the baptism of Jesus is different from our own baptism. Ours is more of cleansing from the original sin. But Jesus' is not. When Jesus queued up with the people, He was actually standing in solidarity with the sinners. He was not a sinner, but He was in union with the sinners who long for conversion.

Thirdly, on His baptism, Jesus received His visible anointing for ministry and mission. It marked Jesus' inauguration of His public life after thirty years of hidden life. At this moment, Jesus received a greater awareness of His call, His mission to be the Messiah. Jesus knew that He was being sent by the Father, and that He was anointed by the Spirit of God. And He answered the call. He responded to the mission and all that it entailed.

It is for this reason that we could see a similarity of Jesus' baptism and ours. When we were baptized, we also received a call for mission to preach Jesus and His gospel to others. This call is reiterated and made clear when we receive the sacrament of confirmation. Like Jesus, we need to answer that call; we need to respond to that mission. This appears to be very relevant because, in our age, more people have already forgotten Jesus, and worse, they intend to forget Jesus in their lives. If we try to be faithful to this call for mission, more people will be reminded that there is a God who did not only create us, but also love us. He loves us by offering salvation for all of us.



# **"You are my Son."**

### **TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

Through the centuries, artists and craftspeople have depicted Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River by John. At first in mosaics and frescoes, and later in tapestries, stained glass, and paintings, the scene is familiar. Jesus is standing waist high in flowing water. Above him, standing on dry land, John the Baptist pours water over Jesus. The first artists to depict this were sketching from memory. This is exactly how most people were baptized in the early days: as adults, standing or kneeling in the water, with water poured over their heads.

This method of baptizing, called immersion, is the favored way today. An adult enters a font, or an infant is lowered a bit into the water supported by a parent's hand, and water is poured or splashed over them. The treasures of baptistery art attest that submersion, or plunging beneath the water's surface, is not really in our tradition, and that "infusion," the mere pouring of a few drops of water, yields too narrow an understanding of what it means to be plunged into Christ's life. Jesus Christ has gone before us into the water, and waits for us there with abundant gifts. No wonder the tradition calls for abundant symbols!





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

<b>January 12th</b>	<b>Baby Bottle Campaign; Donut &amp; 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</b>
<b>January 14th</b>	<b>Men's Group Meeting - 7:00 P.M.—Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>January 15th</b>	<b>RCIA - 6:30 P.M.—Conference Center</b>
<b>January 19th</b>	<b>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</b>
<b>January 22nd</b>	<b>RCIA - 6:30 P.M.—Conference Center</b>
<b>January 25th</b>	<b>New Member Dinner - 5:00 P.M.—Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>January 26th</b>	<b>Baby Bottle Campaign Continues; Religious Education - 9:30-10:40 A.M.— Administrative Building; Choir Practice - 9:45-10:45 A.M.—Church; 11:00 A.M. Mass</b>
<b>January 29th</b>	<b>RCIA - 6:30 P.M.—Conference Center</b>

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 2019



## **Christian Mother's Christmas Party at the Evolution Grille on Monday, January 6th**



## News/Activities 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 schedule for 2020 is as follows: Thursday, March 12th, Thursday, June 11th, Thursday, September 10th and Thursday, December 10th. If you would like to register, please 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 a few Hail Mary stones are 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. †



**Two Birthdays?** - This Sunday we hear of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus by John in the Jordan river. This feast day marks the bridge between the Christmas/Epiphany season and Ordinary time. We will spend the next five weeks in this period before having the ashes placed upon our foreheads and entering the season of Lent. How time flies... Today is a great moment that the church gives to us before we shift gears into the "ordinary" times of our lives. It gives us an opportunity to reflect upon our own baptism day. Do we know the date? Do we celebrate it every year? This is a date that should be more important to us than our own birthday because it is the moment that we were changed forever. St. John the Evangelist tells us, "See what love the Father has given us that we should be called Children of God: and so, we are!" (1 John 3:1). For the words that we hear in today's gospel at the Baptism of Christ "This is my beloved... with whom I am well pleased" are the same words that God our Father speaks (silently) at our own Baptism. At our own Baptism, we become a true Child of God, not just in name but in reality. Pope Francis tells us that, "Baptism is not just a formality! It is an act that touches the depth of our existence." Therefore, there are Holy Water fonts at every entrance to our church. Before we enter the great mysteries of the Sacred Mass, we pause to bless ourselves to remind us of our Baptism day, the day we changed and became a new birth in Christ. This is why we are here. Our challenge for the coming year is to know and learn our Baptism birthdate and those close to us. When that date appears on the calendar, let's celebrate it with a special meal and pull out the photos to relive the moment. Make it a day set apart from the rest. In this way, we will become more firmly grounded in who we really are and what we are here to do: To live a life in Christ and to become the saint that Baptism calls us to be.



Learn and enjoy your faith at home and on the go, from any device. Sign-up for free at: [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup). When the "Create a New Account" page comes up, enter the parish zip code (16229) in the "Find your Parish or Organization" box. Select our parish and click the next button. Any issues, please contact Beth

Macurdy at: [bmacurdy@zoominternet.net](mailto:bmacurdy@zoominternet.net).

FORMED

Each prayer and action in the Rite of Baptism is filled with spiritual significance, beauty, and grace. By understanding more clearly what's happening, we'll have a greater appreciation for why Baptism takes us further into a life-changing relationship with God.

PICK OF THE WEEK

Reborn  
Session 2 - The Rite Explained



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## News from Our Diocese



**Youth bus to March for Life in D.C. in January**—Young people in grades 8-12 and their adult chaperones are invited to journey to the *March for Life* in Washington, D.C., January 23rd-24th. Registration is \$75.00 and includes the Life is Very Good Evening Rally, Morning Mass for Life, the March for Life, all meals, backpack, scarf, hat and coach bus transportation. Visit: [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/M4L](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/M4L). Space is limited. †

Join Bishop Edward C. Malesic and Father Willie Lechnar on the Diocese of Greensburg's pilgrimage of faith to the world-famous Passion Play of Oberammergau, Germany, August 25th-September 6th. Space is limited. The pilgrimage will include visits to the sites and shrines of Bavaria, Prague, Krakow and Warsaw. For more information, please call 724-552-2645. †

## Altar Bread and Wine

The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of



**Victor Zadnik**  
By  
Wife—Dianne

## Sanctuary Lamp

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week



in loving memory of  
**Clyde and Angie Fullerton**  
By  
Mary Fullerton

## Collections

### Offertory Collection for December 25th, 2019

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 603

No. of Envelopes Received: 178

Collection: Offertory - \$8,320.00

Loose - \$943.00; Children (3) - \$4.00

Children & Family Services (58) - \$1,465.00

**Total Collection - \$10,732.00**

### Offertory Collection for December 29th, 2019

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 603

No. of Envelopes Received: 167

Collection: Offertory - \$4,665.00

Electronic Payments (7) - \$605.00

Loose - \$399.00; Children (7) - \$9.00

Additional Christmas (15) - \$1,415.00

Additional Children & Family Services (5) - \$51.00

**Total Collection - \$7,144.00**

## Electronic Giving

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## ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

### "Medical Alert System"

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

Saturday, January 18th, 2020



**Judy Policicchio and  
Joanne Colpo**

## 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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