

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
26
2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*They left
their nets and
followed
him.*

MATTHEW 4:20



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 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY:	January 25th
4:00 P.M.	†Geno Pernazza (Maryellyn & Bill Bale)
SUNDAY:	January 26th
8:30 A.M.	♥All Who Have Lost Their Spouse (Fred & Karen)
11:00 A.M.	♥St. Mary Parishioners
MONDAY:	January 27th
8:00 A.M.	†Lucy Canterna (John & Betty Lou Nemcek)
TUESDAY:	January 28th
8:00 A.M.	♥Special Intention
WEDNESDAY:	January 29th
8:00 A.M.	†Bill Davis (Wife—Pat)
THURSDAY:	January 30th
8:00 A.M.	†Georgina H. Mikolas (Ron & Linda Gallagher)
FRIDAY:	January 31st
8:00 A.M.	†Joann Marie Jancaro (Friend)

MASSES FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

SATURDAY:	February 1st
4:00 P.M.	♥St. Mary Parishioners
SUNDAY:	February 2nd
8:30 A.M.	†David Shipe (Mom & Dad)
11:00 A.M.	†Richard Calligan (Fran & Teri and Family)

Readings for the Week

Monday:	2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20-22, 25-26; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday:	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Ps 24:7-10; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday:	2 Sm 7:4-17; Ps 89:4-5, 27-30; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Ps 132:1-5, 11-14; Mk 4:21-25
Friday:	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Ps 51:3-7, 10-11; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday:	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-17; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday:	Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]



Ministry Schedule

February 1st & 2nd, 2020

ALTAR SERVERS:

<i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	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>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Mary Williams; Dave Valencic; Jackie DeFelice
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	Rose Check; Lisa Boylan; Pat Ralston
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Helen James; Bill Cogley; Dan Lucovich

LECTORS:

<i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>	Karen Savage
<i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>	Jeff Jones
<i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>	Marushka Steele

GREETERS:

<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>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

Sunday:	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time; Sunday of the Word of God; Catholic Schools Week
Monday:	St. Angela Merici
Tuesday:	St. Thomas Aquinas
Friday:	St. John Bosco
Saturday:	Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday



From the Pastor's Desk

We are in the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and our Holy Father, Pope Francis designated this as the **Sunday of the Word of God** through his Apostolic Letter "*Aperuit Illis*" which literally means "He opened within them".

However, the context in which the Holy Father used it is the scripture passage from **Luke 24:45** which says, "**He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures**" referring to what Jesus did to His disciples. This was one of the final acts of the risen Lord before His Ascension. Jesus appeared to the assembled disciples, broke bread with them and opened their minds to the understanding of the sacred Scriptures. To them, amid their fear and bewilderment, He unveiled the meaning of the paschal mystery: that in accordance with the Father's eternal plan, He had to suffer and rise from the dead in order to bring repentance and the forgiveness of sins (cf. *Lk 24:26, 46-47*). He then promised to send the Holy Spirit, who would give them strength to be witnesses of this saving mystery (cf. *Lk 24:49*).

Having this account in the Scriptures, Pope Francis declared *that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God*. He added that this would be a fitting part of that time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity. This is more than a temporal coincidence: the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God has ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity.

We can agree with our Holy Father that up to this very moment, we are still working for Christian unity. A long history has passed, even since the time of Jesus that the struggle of bond between the Jewish people and the Gentiles continues. Today, efforts for interreligious dialogue and ecumenical gathering are also done between Christians and other groups of believers to foster harmony, peace and unity.

In the gospel this Sunday, we can see that Jesus worked so hard on the land of Zebulun Naphtali, considered as Gentiles of Galilee, to proclaim repentance and the kingdom of heaven. He also called Peter and Andrew, James and John to follow Him so they can be His disciples and collaborators for mission.

By virtue of baptism, all of us are also called to be followers of the Lord who will continue the mission He started and be the bearer of the good news who can share the faith and the Scriptures as a way to know more about Jesus.



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



The symbols and actions of baptism evolved around the experience of adults dying to old patterns of life and rising from the waters of baptism as new creations. As for newborn babies, at first it was desired to wait until the following Easter, when they could be baptized, anointed with chrism, and given a taste of the Eucharist in association with adults. The Church was always willing to baptize adults in emergency situations outside the Easter timetable, and in time, since infancy itself was a life-threatening situation, the baptism of babies became commonplace. As with the "emergency" adult baptisms, it was required that parents bring the child, as soon as health was recovered, to the bishop for the full menu of sacraments.

The very real fear of death for infants thus created a situation in which the three sacraments drifted apart from each other, and away from their original, adult celebration at Easter. Today, at last, we know a great deal about how our practices evolved. This knowledge is reshaping how we celebrate Easter, how we receive adult faith, and how we structure the faith journey of children.



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 25th *New Member Dinner—5:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall*
January 26th *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*
January 29th *RCIA—6:30 P.M. - Conference Center*
February 2nd *Baby Bottle Campaign Ends; 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*
February 3rd *Christian Mother’s Meeting—7:00 P.M. - Christian Mother’s Room*
February 5th *The Bible Timeline - 9:00-10:30 A.M.—Christian Mothers’ Room; RCIA—6:30 P.M. - Conference Center*
February 6th *The Bible Timeline - 6:30-8:00 P.M.—Christian Mothers’ Room*
February 7th *First Friday—6:30 P.M. - Benediction*
February 9th *Donut Social (Immediately following both masses) - Fellowship Hall*
February 9th *Religious Education—9:30-10:40 A.M.— Administrative Building; Choir Practice—9:45-10:45 A.M.— Church; 11:00 A.M. Mass; Baptism “Menjivar”—12:15 P.M. - Church*

Parish Events/Information



The Mardi Gras wine tasting festival will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, from 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. The event is sponsored by our Parish Council. Proceeds will benefit our Fellowship Hall Improvement Projects. †

Sponsor / Donate

Have you considered sponsoring our Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Event? If you would like to be a sponsor, forms are located at all of the church entrances. You can fill one out and return it to our Administrative Office, or, if you prefer, you can contact Jeff Polana, John Zurisko, Dave Kradel or Mark Lepkowski. **Deadline for sponsor forms is Monday, February 10th.** If you would rather help out in another way, donations are being accepted for theme baskets. Basket sponsors should contact Sharon Mihalich, Judy Bergstrom or Beth Macurdy. **Donations/baskets are due by Thursday, February 13th.** †



The St. Mary, Mother of God Resurrection Choir and organist, Sue Myford, met at the Evolution Grille to celebrate the Christmas Season: **Exultate Jubilate!** There is always room for new members! Interested? Call the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281.



Baby Bottle Campaign - Thank you to all who have returned their baby bottles or made monetary donations to **The Baby Bottle “Change for Life” Campaign.** If you forgot your bottle or would like to make a monetary donation, you may drop it off at the parish office during normal office hours by Monday, February 3rd. Your generosity and support is truly appreciated in helping to SAVE lives. May God bless you as you have blessed and saved others! †



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!



**St. Mary's
morning men's
God Squad
invites
morning mass
women to a
breakfast and
teaching on
the Eucharist.**



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. †



Jesus always had a heart for those who approached Him in need. Even if you aren't "approached" but suspect someone is in need, please contact *Helping Hands*. We will be happy to reach out to them. You can contact Gina at 724-448-9251; email her at: ginaj1904@gmail.com or you can fill out a card and place it in the *Helping Hands* box at the church front doors. Thank you for looking out for those in need. †



The One Percent Challenge - Late in 2019, Pope Francis declared that the Third Sunday in Ordinary time be now known as "The Word of God Sunday". Special emphasis should be on the importance and sacredness of the Holy Scriptures and how to incorporate the Word of God more fully into our everyday lives. A competent physician must read books on anatomy if they are to understand the workings of the human body. A mechanic cannot possibly understand the workings of a car unless one reads the manual. A football referee will be ineffective if they do not view and review book after book on the rules of the game. We also must take up and read the sacred scriptures so that we know the wondrous things God has, is, and will be doing in our lives. As Catholics, we hear lots of scripture in every Mass we attend. But should we limit our exposure to just under one hour a week? How would we feel if our surgeon spent just a tiny fraction of their time preparing for a complex operation? Thankfully, because of the wonders of modern technology, we no longer need to rely on a daunting, onion-skinned paper hard copy version of the Holy Bible. There are so many wonderful Apps available to us for our smartphones which make scripture available to us 24/7. The latest research shows the average adult spends eleven hours in front of a screen every day so why not make part of that holy and sacred. What is the one percent challenge then? In the twenty-four hours of our day, one percent is just shy of fifteen minutes. For fifteen minutes every day, consume the Word of God using a traditional bible or smartphone app/website. Saint Jerome said that "ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ". By sacrificing this one percent to God, we will come to know Jesus better because He is hidden in the Old Testament and revealed fully to us in the New Testament. The words of the Bible are not some past quaint tale of old, but instead it is "living and active" (Hebrews 4:12) so much so that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us! Take up the challenge then and see what my one percent, my five loaves and two fish, can accomplish in the hands of the Lord. †

The second half of *The Bible Timeline Bible study* will begin the first week of February—February 5th for the Wednesday morning session and February 6th for the Thursday evening session. **Please complete the reading for Session 12.**

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FORMED


PICK OF THE WEEK

January 28 is the feast day of Saint Thomas Aquinas. In celebration, Matt Fradd sits down with Peter Kreeft as he shares 12 quick stories about Saint Thomas Aquinas.

Pints With Aquinas
12 Stories about Aquinas

LISTEN ON FORMED.ORG





 All men of the parish, 18 years of age and older, are encouraged to attend the 2nd Annual Diocesan Men's Conference — *The Well* — on Saturday, March 21st, at Westmorland Community College. The event includes workshops, discussions, the sacrament of reconciliation and adoration, and will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop Malesic at 4:00 P.M. The all day Conference includes a keynote presentation by *TV News Anchor Mike Clark* and three breakout sessions with options for thirty presentations to attend. The \$50.00 registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Francis Fund scholarships are available to cover the registration fee. The Men's Group will coordinate car-pooling for all men who register. To register, please visit: DioceseofGreensburg.org/THEWELL or contact Tim Fogarty at: ftpfogarty618@gmail.com; 724-294-0089 to request a registration form or for additional information. †

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION To those students who remembered to bring in your \$2.00 to be used toward the Mardi Gras baskets, thank you. If you did not send in your money yet, please try to remember to bring it in this weekend. The Security Guard for January 26th and February 2nd will be *Joe Iusi*. *Ed Daquila* will be the Security Guard for February 9th, 16th and 23rd. †

News From Our Diocese/Around & Outside Our Diocese

WINTER RETREAT Diocesan youth in grades 9-12 are invited to the high school *Winter Retreat*, “Chaos,” February 21st-23rd at Laurelville Retreat Center in Mount Pleasant. Register with the faith formation office. Information and registration at: www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/winterretreat. Early-bird registration is \$100.00 by February 1st; \$130.00 after that date. †

 **Catholic Engaged Encounter** weekends will be held in the Diocese of Greensburg February 7th-9th, June 5th-7th and September 11th-13th at Christ Our Shepherd Center. The weekend begins at 7:30 P.M. on Friday and ends approximately 3:00 P.M. on Sunday. A team of two trained, married couples facilitate and guide the program. Information at: www.greensburgcee.com or by emailing George and Pat Ziringer at: ziringer@comcast.net. An Engaged Encounter weekend is one of the accepted wedding preparation programs in the diocese. †

 Please join International Opera Mezzo-Soprano and Butler County native **Marianne Cornetti** as she performs “Then Sings My Soul: Celebrating 30 Years of an Operatic Career and a Lifetime of Music,” a concert of hymns to celebrate this milestone. This concert is an opportunity to give back to the many churches and their communities that helped give Marianne her start. The concert will take place on Sunday, February 9th, at 4:00 P.M., at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 821 Herman Road, Butler where Marianne began singing in St. Mary's choir at the age of 12. A suggested donation of \$20.00 is requested, but no one will be turned away. All donation proceeds will feed our community in need at Cabot United Methodist Food Bank, the Food Cupboards at St. John's—Coyleville, and St. Mary's—Herman. †

Holy Mass Pittsburgh/Greensburg *Fraternity of Priests* will have a Mass with “healing prayers” on Wednesday, February 12th, 7:00 P.M., at St. Alphonsus Church—750 Pittsburgh Street, Springdale. All are welcome to attend and pray for God's will, healing and strength. †

BREAKING BREAD DINNER **Knead Community Café**, 1011 Barnes Street, New Kensington hosts its “Breaking Bread Dinner,” a free community meal, the third Thursday of every month from 5:30-6:30 P.M. The next meal will be held on Thursday, February 20th. †



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and is presented
By

Bud & Ann Stanley

Collections

Offertory Collection for January 19th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 602

No. of Envelopes Received: 147

Collection: Offertory - \$3,727.00

Electronic Payments (8) - \$1,645.00

Loose - \$352.00; Children (24) - \$53.00

Candle Money - \$191.00

Total Collection - \$5,968.00

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**Saturday
February 1st, 2020
Charlene
Becker**

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