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



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



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

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)

MONDAY: February 3rd

†Helen Murphy (Eugene & Carol Mennow) 8:00 A.M.

TUESDAY: February 4th

8:00 A.M. **†Susan Jacques (Bonnie McCloud)**

WEDNESDAY: February 5th

8:00 A.M. †Domenica & George Seitam (Pat Davis)

THURSDAY: February 6th

8:00 A.M. **♥IHO Stella Edmonds**

FRIDAY: February 7th—First Friday

8:00 A.M. **♥**IHO Dorothy McKinney

Benediction 3:30 P.M.

MASSES FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: February 8th

4:00 P.M. †Russ & Louise Campbell Family (Mike Huth)

SUNDAY: February 9th

†Wayne & Jane Thompson (Family) 8:30 A.M.

11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-

7: Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 —

19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk

6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12;

Mk 6:7-13

Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51; Mk Friday:

6:14-29

1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-Saturday:

Sunday: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5;

Mt 5:13-16



Ministry Schedule

February 8th & 9th, 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. Marie Pelliccione; Mason

DeMeno; Jackson Ringler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Sharon Mihalic: Arlene Miller:

Bridget Fogarty

Judy Bergstrom; Patty Hughes; Sunday, 8:30 A.M.

Cindy Harbison

Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Lisa Isenberg; Mary Scholl;

Alyson Scholl

LECTORS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Tim Fogarty Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Lisa Boylan Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Rob Svitek

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.

Liturgical

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

The Presentation of the Lord; Sunday:

> Blessing of Candles; World Day for Consecrated Life; Boy Scouting Sunday; Groundhog Day

Monday: Fourth Week in Ordinary Time;

St. Blaise; St. Ansgar

Wednesday: St. Agatha

Thursday: St. Paul Miki and Companions

Friday: First Friday

• Saturday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine

Bakhita; International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking; Blessed Virgin Mary



From the Pastor's Desk

This Sunday, along with the feast of the *Presentation of the Lord*, we also observe the *National Day of Prayer for the African American Family* and the *World Day for Consecrated Life*. They perfectly go together in its observance this Sunday because they all relate to relationship, prayer and vocation.

When our Blessed Mother presented Jesus in the temple after completing the law of purification, it showed her relationship to God, how obedient and faithful she was, not only to the law but also to Him. As we pray for the African American Family and those who have responded to the call of priestly vocation and consecrated life, we are also showing our rela-

tionship to them. We may not know them personally, but the prayers we offer and the support we give are means of making us spiritually connected and appreciate the different vocation that calls us. What binds us together into one family of God is our faith and our baptism. By our baptism and faith, we become brothers and sisters in Christ. As the song goes, "we are called to love tenderly. We are called to serve one another and to walk humbly with God".

In conjunction with this, we are grateful and happy to have twenty-five new families in our parish who joined this past year, including the month of January, 2020. Last Saturday, we formally welcomed them with a delightful dinner, hosted by St. Mary Parish Pastoral Council. We are glad to have them as part of our parish family.

Gary & Ellen Bittner
Ernest & Diane Bragiel
Ryan & Ashley Clark
Mark & Rose Sample
Mark & Lisa Delia
Erin Flaherty
Jim Duckstein
Damon & Adrienne (Missy) Kurpakus
William & Michelle Gorney
Chester Adam & Heather Jonczak
David & Nicole Saville
Timothy & Sarah Allshouse
John & Patricia Saugrich
Eric & Megan Gillis

Rosalie Coy
Denise Pekarek
Robert Pijanowski
Darcy Day
Bonnie Eshenbaugh
Nathan & Kristen Formaini
Christamarie Wilson
Andrew Fritz
Anna Marie Inot
David & Leanne Belasco
Dolores (Dolly) Mistrik
John & Megan Lowry
Robert & Kaaren Kasanicky
Mr. & Mrs. Gilberto Lopez



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



The prayers surrounding baptism often speak of being "clothed in Christ," and clothes are an important consideration. In ancient times, adults were probably baptized without any clothes at all, and old texts survive asking people to leave fancy garb and jewelry behind as they enter the font. Baptism was typically in a private place, the community waited elsewhere, and the casting off

of clothing was hardly a public moment, nor was it embarrassing in ancient cultures where privacy was largely unknown.

Nonetheless, what was left behind on one side of the font was replaced on the other as a white robe was wrapped around the newly baptized. It was a robe of honor, a dazzling sign of a new beginning for a society that valued clothing as a sign of personal identity. For the newly baptized, a whole week in white garments was the rule, through the second Sunday of Easter, called "Sunday in Albis," because of all the folks wearing their baptismal robes.



Visitors 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

Baby Bottle Campaign Ends; Religious Education—9:30-10:40 A.M - Administrative Building; February 2nd

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 4th Pastoral Council Mardi Gras Planning Meeting—7:00 P.M. - Conference 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; Helping Hands—10:30 A.M. - Parish Hall

First Friday-3:30 P.M. - Reposition February 7th

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 February 9th

February 11th Men's Group—7:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall

The Bible Timeline—9:00-10:30 A.M. - Christian Mothers' Room; RCIA—6:30 P.M. - Conference Center February 12th

The Bible Timeline—6:30-8:00 P.M. - Christian Mothers' Room February 13th

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. †

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. †



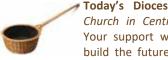
On Monday and Tuesday of this week, mass will be celebrated at 8:00 A.M. in the Conference Center. †



First Friday Adoration will be February 7th, beginning at 8:30 A.M. During the winter months, Reposition will be at 3:30 P.M. Sign-up sheets are located at the church entrances. Please join

us as we adore our Lord, Jesus! †





Today's Diocesan Collection will be for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe Appeal. Your support will help restore the Church and build the future in over twenty countries. Your

generosity is greatly appreciated. †



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 this week. Your generosity and support is truly appreciated in helping to SAVE lives. May God bless you as you have blessed and saved others! †



2019 contribution statements were mailed out on Friday. If you did not receive your statement, please call the Administrative office at 724-295-2281 during normal office hours. †



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!



Annual "Welcome Dinner" for our new members — Saturday, January 25th, 2020



News/Activities from Our Ministries/Organizations



The monthly meeting will be held on Monday, February 3rd, at 7:00 P.M., in the Christian Mother's Room. The rosary will be prayed at 6:30 P.M. All members are encouraged to attend. +

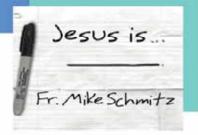
FORMED

Evangelization

PICK OF THE WEEK

In this talk by Fr. Mike Schmitz, he reveals the incredible implications of the question that Christ asks all of us: "Who do YOU say that I Am?"

Jesus is... By Father Mike Schmitz



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Learn and enjoy your faith at home and on the go, from any device. Sign-up for free at: 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.

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. †



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.

There will be a meeting for all members on Thursday, February 6th, at 10:30 A.M. in our Fellowship Hall. †



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. †



Parish Council Happy 2020 from your Pastoral Council who met for the first time this year on Tuesday, January 7th. The final DLA report was accepted and the DLA team has already moved forward with their proposal for 2020. Projects were identified and sent to the diocese for approval on January 25th. Once approval is received, the new Diocesan Lenten Appeal will begin from the pulpit. St. Mary's is planning a very spiritual Lenten

Season and hopefully all of us will be able to take advantage of the programs. The Men's group is sponsoring a Lenten Evening of Reflection for the ENTIRE congregation on Sunday, March 1st, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. Fr. Matthew Palkowski, OFM Capuchin, will be the speaker. The youth from St. Ferdinand Parish, Cranberry will also perform the Living Stations, a very moving event, on Sunday, March 22nd, at 7:00 P.M. These events are in addition to our Holy Week schedule. The facilities committee reported that the windows project in the conference room and the office has been completed. The Mardi Gras "wine tasting and lite fare" will be held on Saturday, February 22nd. This is the only fundraiser that our parish holds and all proceeds fund the maintenance needs for St. Mary's campus. St. Mary, Mother of God parish had twenty-five families who joined in 2019 and our tradition of holding a NEW Member dinner was held on Saturday, January 25th immediately following the 4:00 P.M. Mass. It was informative and a warm way to welcome our newest members. The next Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd. If you have a suggestion or a concern, please speak to Fr. Ron or any member of the council so your ideas and thoughts may be addressed.

Bridget Fogarty—Pastoral Facilitator †



We celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life today. Please pray for all those who have made commit-**VOCATION** ments in the *consecrated life*. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously MINISTRY to God's gift of their vocation. †

Altar Bread and Wine

The Altar Bread and Wine were donated



for this week in loving memory of Martha Finnegan By Kathleen & John Aimino



Offertory Collection for January 26th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 602 No. of Envelopes Received: 168 Collection: Offertory - \$4,642.00 Electronic Payments (9) - \$1,130.00 Loose - \$432.00; Children (21) - \$38.55 Catholic Accent (34) - \$475.00

Total Collection - \$6,717.55 THANK YOU!



Saturday February 8th, 2020

Diane Grant and Rose Check

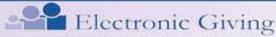
lease call the Administrative Office if you would like to volunteer to be one of the cleaning volunteers—724-295-2281.

Sanctuary Lamp

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



in loving memory of David R. Shipe Ву The Shipe Family



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





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