

St. Mary, Mother of God Church

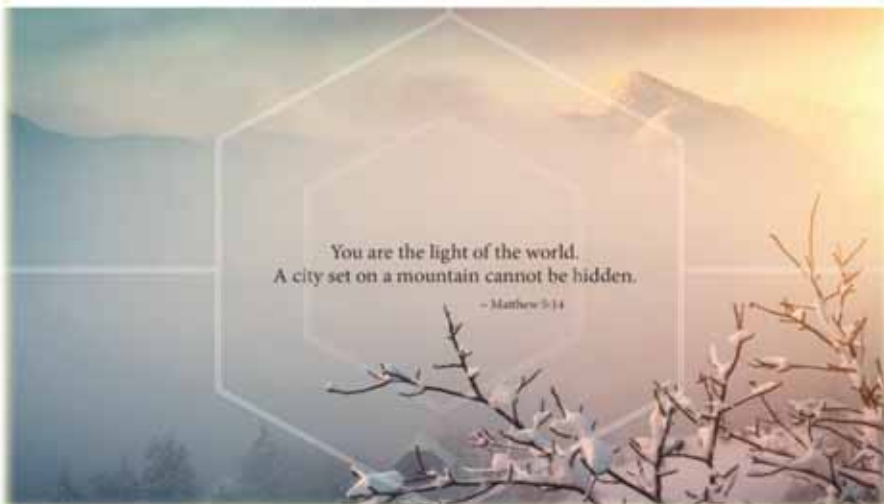


Roman Catholic Church
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



Established 1826

FEBRUARY 9, 2020 • FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- SATURDAY: February 8th**
4:00 P.M. †Russ & Louise Campbell Family (Mike Huth)
- SUNDAY: February 9th**
8:30 A.M. †Wayne & Jane Thompson (Family)
11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners
- MONDAY: February 10th**
8:00 A.M. †Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Severin (Patty Hughes & Family)
- TUESDAY: February 11th**
8:00 A.M. †Jim Huth (Bob & Diane Grant)
- WEDNESDAY: February 12th**
8:00 A.M. †Elva Berry (Mary Fullerton)
- THURSDAY: February 13th**
8:00 A.M. †J.D. Easley (Estate)
- FRIDAY: February 14th**
8:00 A.M. †Geno Pernazza (Betty Lou & John Nemcek)

MASSES FOR THE 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- SATURDAY: February 15th**
4:00 P.M. †Patricia DeCroo (Polana Family)
- SUNDAY: February 16th**
8:30 A.M. †Rinaldo Policicchio (The Policicchio's)
11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners

Readings for the Week

- Monday:** 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56
- Tuesday:** 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3-5, 10-11; Mk 7:1-13
- Wednesday:** 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23
- Thursday:** 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-37, 40; Mk 7:24-30
- Friday:** 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19; Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-15; Mk 7:31-37
- Saturday:** 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-22; Mk 8:1-10
- Sunday:** Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 [20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37]



Ministry Schedule

February 15th & 16th, 2020

ALTAR SERVERS:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Dawson Gaillot; Zach Showers
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Sam, Jacob & David Kristine; Madison & Austin Bachar
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Victor & Olivia Svitek; Michael & William Speer

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Deb Showers; Fred Walker; Andrew Camerlo
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Betty Lou & John Nemcek; Kim Holbein
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Andrew Volek; Melissa Schaeffer; Marushka Steele

LECTORS:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Diane Zadnik
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Annette Domachowski
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Bill Cogley

GREETERS:

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

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.** Stephanie Bragiel
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:** Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day
- Monday:** St. Scholastica
- Tuesday:** Our Lady of Lourdes; World Day of the Sick
- Wednesday:** Lincoln's Birthday
- Friday:** Ss. Cyril and Methodius; Valentine's Day
- Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary



From the Pastor's Desk

"You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world."

Jesus used these two images in addressing His disciples in the gospel this Sunday; images that speak of what they are called for, but it can also be true to us.

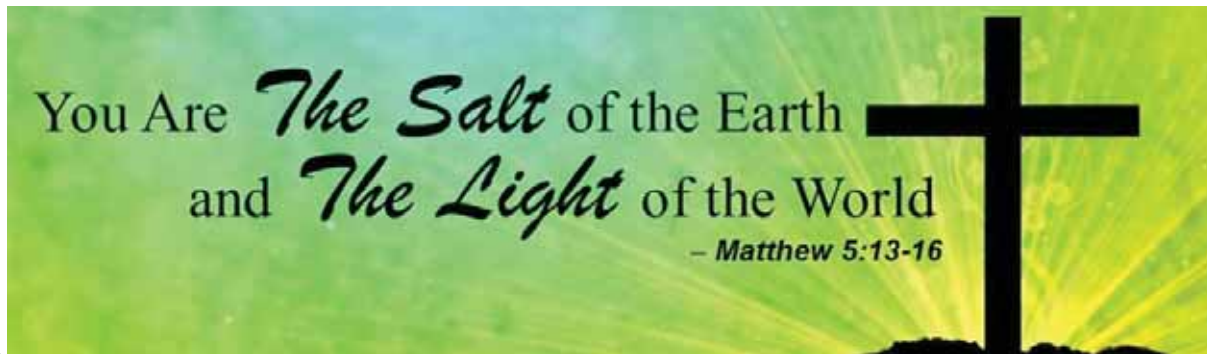
Salt and light are familiar to us. We know what salt can do for our food. It adds flavor to our food. It makes our food tastes good. However, too much salt is not good. Salt also preserves food. Light on the other hand, is also important in our everyday life. It makes our life easy and we appreciate it a lot, especially when we are in the dark. It guides our path and keep us away from trouble.

If we apply salt to our Christian life, it means that we are called to add flavor into the world. Flavor, in a sense that we share our lives and our talents in the community and the world that we live in, believing that each one is important and whatever God has given is meant to be shared and not to be kept for our own individual purpose. When we learn to share, we come to appreciate the uniqueness of each one's gifts and talents. Once pulled together, it creates a beautiful picture of a community. We also shine like a light and give witness into the community of what it means to be a true Christian by our acts of kindness and generosity.

Last Sunday, I was once again moved with great appreciation and gratitude with the great turn out when we announced the need for volunteers to help in setting up the scaffolding inside the church to begin our initial phase for our high altar project. About twenty strong men showed up and shared their skills and talents. Thank you for your kindness and for sharing your time and skills. Another incident was the outpouring love and support of many individuals in helping the Guatemalan family, especially for their newly born baby. It was heartwarming. They are new to the area and recently joined our parish. Thank you to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the many individuals who extended their assistance.

You are indeed living the gospel as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. May God continue to bless us as we journey together as a parish family and community.

On Tuesday, February 11th, the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, we observe the World Day of the Sick; let us also remember to pray for those who are sick in our family and in our community that through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, may God grant them healing, both in body and spirit.



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



You need more than water for a bath. Most family bathrooms contain an arsenal of soaps and emollients, lotions, shampoos, and conditioners to combat grime and honor the body. A bath without oil is still unthinkable. No wonder early Christians used lavish amounts of oil to "paint" the skin of people drawn dripping wet from the baptismal font on Easter. There were two oils used in baptism long ago. "Oil of exorcism" protected candidates from "evil spirits"; it strengthened their resolve and purified their purposes.

The second oil, slathered over them after baptism's bath, "sealed" them, making them like Christ, the anointed one, the priest, the prophet, the king. Chrism has always had a powerful odor; rich resinous perfumes are stirred in before it is consecrated. As the newly baptized were embraced by new brothers and sisters in Christ, the scent permeated the hall of Eucharist, a sign of our connection to Christ and to one another.



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

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
February 11th	Men’s Group—7:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall
February 12th	The Bible Timeline—9:00-10:30 A.M. - Christian Mothers’ Room; RCIA—6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
February 13th	The Bible Timeline—6:30-8:00 P.M. - Christian Mothers’ Room
February 16th	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 17th	“President’s Day” - Parish Office Closed
February 19th	The Bible Timeline—9:00-10:30 A.M. - Christian Mothers’ Room; RCIA—6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
February 20th	The Bible Timeline—6:30-8:00 P.M. - Christian Mothers’ Room; Helping Hands—10:30 A.M. - Parish Hall
February 22nd	Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Event—6:00-10:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall

Parish Information/Events

Sponsor / Donate

There is still time to sponsor our **Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Event**. 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.** †

Baby Bottle Campaign Thank you to all who have returned their baby bottles/monetary donations to *The Baby Bottle “Change for Life” Campaign*. If you forgot your bottle or would still like to make a monetary donation, you may drop it off at the parish office during normal office hours this week. Thank you! †



Donut SUNDAY

February 9th

Baptized in Christ

Baptized into our Faith - Congratulations to Lincoln Jerome Fien, child of Asti and Jeremy Fien, who was baptized on Sunday, November 30th, 2019. May our Lord, Jesus Christ grant that Lincoln may receive the fullness of His grace.



Scaffolding Preparation



Architecture work in progress... arches into the entrance of the sanctuary



News/Activities from Our Ministries/Organizations

FORMED

Evangelization

PICK OF THE WEEK

Shot on location in France, this film is highly recommended by the Vatican as a "sensitive portrayal of a very moving story that deserves a wide audience," and was chosen to be shown daily at the shrine in Lourdes to retell the epic story.

Bernadette

St. Bernadette and the Apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes



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SAVE THE DATES—Thursday, April 30th and Tuesday, October 27th for our **2020 Blood Drives**. Watch for registration information as it gets closer. †



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.

The **monthly meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th, at 7:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. All men of the parish are invited to attend. †



This weekend we celebrate **World Marriage Day!** Let's take time to pray for our spouses and each other to lift our marriages. Do something special for each other this weekend to show your gratitude for your spouse and their YES! Your goal in this **Vocation of Marriage** should be to get your spouse to heaven. Take time to ponder in your heart how you can do that, starting right now. †

Around/Outside Our Diocese

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. Information and registration: www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/winterretreat. †

La Roche University invites high school juniors and seniors as well as transfer students to its Preview Night on Monday, February 24th, from 4:30-7:00 P.M. Admissions counselors will answer questions, explain the application process, and give instant admission decisions to high school seniors and transfers. A campus tour and dinner are included. To register online: www.laroche.edu. (Preview Night is under Upcoming Events) Groups should call 412-536-1272 to register. Questions? Email: admissions@LaRoche.edu or you can call 412-536-1272. La Roche is private, Catholic, and co-educational and it is located in Pittsburgh's North Hills, McCandless Township. †

Old acquaintance been forgot?

An advertisement for 'WorldWide Marriage Encounter' featuring two glasses of wine clinking together against a background of bright, starburst light effects. The text 'Here's to RECONNECTING!' is written in a stylized font. A circular badge indicates the dates 'Feb. 14-16, 2020'. At the bottom, the event name 'WorldWide Marriage Encounter' is written in a bold, serif font, followed by the contact information: '330-305-9963 wwme.org Penn-Oh Weekend Hampton Inn & Suites, Grove City, PA'.

Altar Bread and Wine

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



James W. Mills

By

Mike, Hedy Mills & Family

Sanctuary Lamp

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



in loving memory of

Bill Davis

By

Wife—Pat

Collections

Offertory Collection for February 2nd, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 596

No. of Envelopes Received: 167

Collection: Offertory - \$4,882.00

Electronic Payments (8) - \$355.00

Loose - \$273.00; Children (21) - \$21.75

Central & Eastern Europe Collection - \$519.00

Total Collection - \$6,050.75

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**Saturday
February 15th, 2020**

**Debbie Baustert and
Susan Zingaro**

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

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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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