

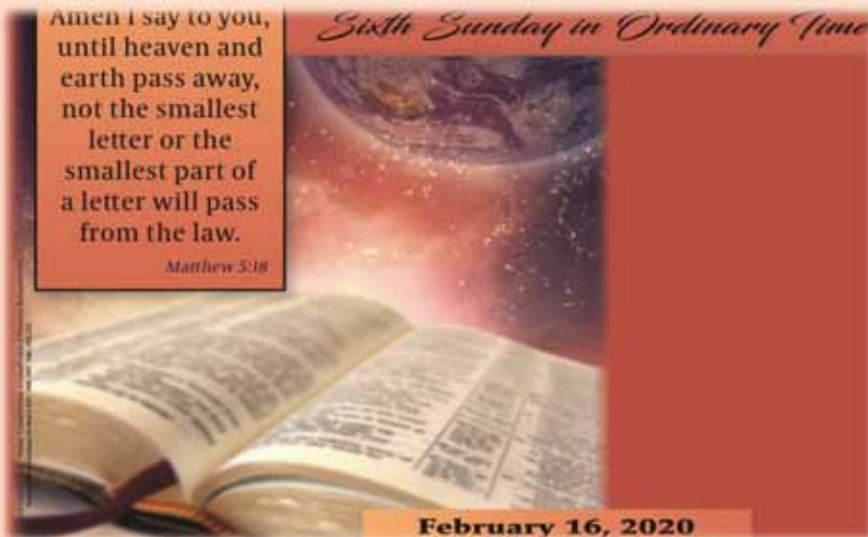
# St. Mary, Mother of God Church



Established 1826



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



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 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
- MONDAY: February 17th**  
8:00 A.M. †David Jancaro (Friend)
- TUESDAY: February 18th**  
8:00 A.M. †David Shipe (Ren & Marushka Steele)
- WEDNESDAY: February 19th**  
8:00 A.M. †Ellen Huth (Jim Huth Family)
- THURSDAY: February 20th**  
8:00 A.M. †Linda Antonucci (Jay & Tammi Pastorek)
- FRIDAY: February 21st**  
8:00 A.M. †William Bale (Rose & Dave Check)

## MASSES FOR THE 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- SATURDAY: February 22nd**  
4:00 P.M. †Jim & Alma Ebig (Bob & Judy Bergstrom)
- SUNDAY: February 23rd**  
8:30 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners  
11:00 A.M. †Donna Crabill (Patty Hughes)

## Readings for the Week

- Monday:** Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76; Mk 8:11-13
- Tuesday:** Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a; 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21
- Wednesday:** Jas 1:19-27; Ps 15:2-4ab, 5; Mk 8:22-26
- Thursday:** Jas 2:1-9; Ps 34:2-7; Mk 8:27-33
- Friday:** Jas 2:14-24, 26; Ps 112:1-6; Mk 8:34 — 9:1
- Saturday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19
- Sunday:** Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48



## Ministry Schedule

February 22nd & 23rd, 2020

### ALTAR SERVERS:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Fred Walker; Lauren & Leah Clark
- Sunday, 8:30 A.M.** Alexandra Lasko; Sarah, Hannah & Emma Sepherd; Abby & Emily Koharchik
- Sunday, 11:00 A.M.** Jacob & Erin Schaeffer; Paige Liti; Evan Giori

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Stella Aul; Nancy Forbeck; Dave Brestensky
- Sunday, 8:30 A.M.** Tom Brestensky; Karen Nigra; Carol Carson
- Sunday, 11:00 A.M.** Debbie Baustert; Bill Cogley; Dan Lucovich

### LECTORS:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Janice Meola
- Sunday, 8:30 A.M.** Judy Bergstrom
- Sunday, 11:00 A.M.** Marushka Steele

### GREETERS:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.** Gary & Arlene Miller
- Sunday, 8:30 A.M.** Diane Grant; Janis Harbison
- Sunday, 11:00 A.M.** Rose Naughton

### 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:** Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order; Presidents' Day
- Friday:** St. Peter Damian
- Saturday:** The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle; Washington's Birthday



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill."*

This is what Jesus said in our gospel this sixth Sunday. It gives us understanding of who He is as compared to the prevailing teachers and scribes at His time. The teachers and scribes, at His time, would simply quote the Scriptures from the Old Testament and say, "God said" or "It is written"... But Jesus would comment and perfect these laws. Often in His teachings He would say: "*You have heard the commandment... But now I say to you*". For instance, He commented on the fifth commandment - "*You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, you shall not kill* and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. But I say to you, whoever is angry with brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever says to brother, "Raca" will be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, "You fool" will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Or the sixth commandment regarding adultery, He said, "*You have heard that it was said, you shall not commit adultery. But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart*".

From these examples, we can say that Jesus is not just simply quoting but also expanding its understanding. He teaches with power and authority, making sure that the laws or commandments are well understood in its entirety and not just literally.

He also talks about those that affect us in our relationship with God and others. He emphasized the importance of reconciliation when we have some ill feelings or hurts towards others. To have a clean and contrite heart is better than the gifts offered to God. Or to externally follow the law is not enough for one to be called righteous. For Jesus, righteousness is not only external acts of piety or observance of the law, but when it brings transformation even deep within us to become better in our relationship with God and with others like being kind, patient, gentle, forgiving and other moral virtues.

I know this is always a challenge for us because every day we meet a lot of challenges in our home, in our work place or along the way. We can easily be overcome by impatience, by swearing or taking the name of the Lord in vain when things do not go right, like when we are driving, our boss, our co-workers, or when our children are driving us nuts.

What do we do? Should we grow in virtue or let our weaknesses continue. Certainly the decision is in our hands. Blessed are those who never stop to strive.

***"And they were astonished at His teaching,  
for His word was with authority"***

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



What would you say is the oldest, most frequently sung, most translated, most memorized, most beloved song text in the Christian world today? An astute and surprising answer might be the Gloria, "Glory to God in the Highest." Soon the Lenten fast will begin, and the Gloria, sung at the beginning of Sunday Mass, will be silenced. It is an heirloom from a treasury of hymns spun from the songs of praise on the lips of Mary, Elizabeth, and Zachary. We move in the prayer from the song of the angels at the first Christmas, to the praise of God, and to a final plea to Christ to continue and complete his work in us.

For nearly 1500 years, the singing of the Gloria has been a sign of the festive quality of a particular Mass. From the beginning it was a song of the people, not of the choir or clergy. These last few Sundays of winter Ordinary Time allow us a chance to savor the hymn and give ourselves over to the chorus. How is the song of praise arising from your pew? If you claim the song as yours, its absence from Lent will be more striking, and its return at Easter will cheer your heart.



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 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; Baptism “Lane”—12:15 P.M.
- 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
- February 22nd** Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Event—6:00-10:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall
- February 23rd** Religious Education—9:30-10:40 A.M. - Administrative Building; Choir Practice—9:45-10:45 A.M. - Church; 11:00 A.M. Mass
- February 26th** Ash Wednesday—Mass/Distribution of Ashes - 8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.; The Bible Timeline—9:00-10:30 A.M. - Christian Mothers’ Room; RCIA—6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
- February 27th** The Bible Timeline—6:30-8:00 P.M. - Christian Mothers’ Room
- February 28th** Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M.
- March 1st** 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; Baptism “Bichsel”—12:15 P.M.  
Evening Lenten Reflection with Speaker Fr. Matthew Palkowski, OFM—6:30 P.M. - Church

## Parish Events/Information



**TEEN MINISTRY**  
**March for Life 2020**  
January 24, 2020  
Washington, D.C.



~ ~ Please note that next week, morning mass will be celebrated in the Conference room ~ ~

Because of growing concerns about the impact of the coronavirus, Holy Communion from the cup is temporarily suspended until the epidemic has subsided. Those who are gluten intolerant and normally receive Holy Communion only from the cup should see the Pastor to make appropriate accommodations. Also, the Sign of Peace at Mass will be exchanged without the normal handshake or kiss. When the priest or deacon asks you to exchange the sign of peace during this Mass and until further notice, simply turn to the person next to you, and without contact, say "Peace be with you" or respond with the words, "And also with you." †



Recently, St. Joseph High School students participated in the PJAS (Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science) Region 7 competition at Duquesne University. Parishioner **Kathryn Huth '23**, daughter of *Patrick and Laura Huth*, received the following awards: First Award, Perfect Score, Director's Award (\$100). **Congratulations, Katie!** †



In your charity, please remember the souls of those who passed away, especially **Nannie Jean Klaput**. We ask God to welcome Nannie and all who have gone before us into the joy of everlasting life and bring comfort and peace to their families. †

## News/Activities from Our Ministries/Organizations

FORMED

Evangelization

PICK OF THE WEEK

Dr. Tim Gray takes us back to the Old Testament and the significance of the imagery the keys had in the kingdom of King David. From there we can see how Jesus was restoring and perfecting his Church in giving Peter the "keys of the kingdom."

### Lectio: Peter

Peter and the Keys -  
The Primacy of the Church



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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 parishioners are encouraged to attend an evening *Lenten Reflection* on Sunday, March 1st at 6:30 P.M. in the Church. **Fr. Matthew Palkowski, OFM**, a Capuchin Friar will be the speaker and the theme will be "Lent with Mary", that she is there to accompany us in our Lenten journey. Fr. Matthew has preached at parish missions and at retreats for lay groups, and has given retreats for priests and for religious men and women. He has worked with the Secular Franciscans as a Local, Regional and Provincial Spiritual Assistant. In addition to serving as Parochial Vicar at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington, DC and at St. John's in Philadelphia, he was a Hospital Chaplain in Harrisburg and Chaplain at the City Jail in Philadelphia. While visiting in 2015, Fr. Matthew invited the Pope to come and visit the inmates in the city jail in Philadelphia. In 1989, Fr. Matthew received his graduate degree in Theology from the Catholic University of America. He worked at the Smithsonian before entering the Capuchins. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend this program to begin our Lenten season.

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](https://DioceseofGreensburg.org/THEWELL) or contact Tim Fogarty at: [tpfogarty618@gmail.com](mailto:tpfogarty618@gmail.com); 724-294-0089 to request a registration form or for additional information. †

## News from Our Diocese

**The Certificate in Pastoral Ministry** is a partnership between the Diocese of Greensburg and Seton Hill University. The program is designed to meet the educational and formational needs of adults who are committed to the mission of the Catholic Church. The goal of the program is to develop well informed and well-formed ministers and prepare them to work with their pastors in leadership responsibilities in a wide variety of ministries. The certificate is required for men in the diocese's permanent diaconate program. Classes are held on Saturday mornings at Seton Hill in eight week sessions. The program is open to new students beginning in the fall 2020 term. For information, please visit: [www.setonhill.edu](http://www.setonhill.edu) or click on the Ministries tab on the diocesan website at: [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/cpm](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/cpm) or call the Diocese at 724-552-2598. †



**Medjugorje  
Pilgrimage  
June 10-19**

Travel with Father Alvin Cabungcal to this village in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the site of Marian apparitions. Dates are June 10th-19th. Call Dennis Todaro for details at 724-837-7434.

**Vocation Discernment Events  
for Boys, Young Adults**

**Jeremiah Days**—vocation discernment for middle school-age boys and their parents or guardians, will be held Sunday, May 2nd from 9:30-11:30 A.M. at St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City. For information or to register, visit: [gbgvocations.org](http://gbgvocations.org).

**Exploring God's Call**—for high school-age boys, will be held Sundays, March 8th, April 19th and May 17th, from 6:30-8:00 P.M. at Greensburg Central Catholic High School. For information or to register, visit: [gbgvocations.org](http://gbgvocations.org).

**The Melchizedek Project**—for men 18 and older, will be held on Sundays, February 23rd, March 15th and 22nd, and April 5th, 19th and 26th, 6:30-8:00 P.M. at Holy Family Parish rectory, Latrobe. To register, email Father Daniel C. Mahoney at the following: [dmahoney@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dmahoney@dioceseofgreensburg.org). †



If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone, contact the PA Childline immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer, you are also requested to contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the ChildLine number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, Ext. 1221. †



**Hold** your post-sacramental gathering at the beautifully renovated Christ Our Shepherd Center, conveniently located on U.S. Route 30 east of Greensburg. You can select a caterer and specific menu for events, including receptions or meals after baptisms, first Communions, confirmations, weddings, ordinations or funerals. For information or to reserve a date and room, please visit: [www.christoursshepherdcenter.org](http://www.christoursshepherdcenter.org) or call 724-834-7350. †



**Natural Family Planning CM-BBT** instruction will be held Monday, March 9th, at 6:00 P.M. in the Catholic Charities office in Greensburg. You only need to attend one session. Please contact Mary Ann Newhouse at Catholic Charities at 724-837-1840, Ext. 1658 for additional information or to register for a class. You are asked to call at least one week prior to the instruction date to preregister. For more information about Natural Family Planning and the CM-BBT method, visit: [www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org](http://www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org) and link to Natural Family Planning under "Services." †

## Around/Outside Our Diocese



**St. Joseph High School** is hosting a fundraiser for senior Eli Swierczewski (has been diagnosed with a recurrence of Ewing's Sarcoma) and his family on Saturday, March 7th, from 5:30-9:00 P.M. at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament—Patterson Hall, Natrona Heights. Spaghetti dinner includes meatballs, salad, roll, beverage and dessert. Price is \$10.00/person - Dine In or Take Out. There will be a wide variety of raffle baskets, 50/50 raffle and live music performed by SJHS musical students. To RSVP, please contact Jackie Fellowes at 412-770-8268; [5fellowes@comcast.net](mailto:5fellowes@comcast.net). †

**St. Barbara Parish**, Harrison City, will host Allen Hunt of Dynamic Catholic and "Find Your Greatness: Four habits that will transform your life" on Friday, March 20th, from 6:30-10:30 P.M. Tickets are \$25.00/ea. and can be purchased at: [DynamicCatholic.com](http://DynamicCatholic.com) or by calling 859-980-7900. †

## Outside Our Community

**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 is February 20th. Anyone is welcome to attend. †

# help wanted

## **St. Mary, Mother of God Parish Cemetery**

Applications are now being accepted for the following two positions:

- Administrative Sales and Burial Coordinator
- Groundskeeper and grass cutter

**Applications and a detailed description for each position are available at the Administrative Office.**

**~~ Interviews will begin on Sunday, March 1st~~**

## Altar Bread and Wine

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



*Elizabeth Scherbick*  
By  
*Kathy and Jim Conley*

## Sanctuary Lamp

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



in loving memory of  
*Joe F. Sutara*  
By  
*Joe and Amy Sutara & Family*

## Collections

### Offertory Collection for February 9th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 596

No. of Envelopes Received: 184

Collection: Offertory - \$4,626.00

Electronic Payments (13) - \$615.00

Loose - \$423.00; Children (25) - \$37.00

Catholic Accent (3) - \$40.00; Eastern Europe - \$80.00

**Total Collection - \$5,821.00**

**THANK YOU!**



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**Saturday**  
**February 22nd, 2020**

*Nancy Laux and*  
*Betty Lou Nemcek*

*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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All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$25 gift card. Retail value \$25. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company processes, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both collaborating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID, be able to understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be resold, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 21 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Lowe's and is subject to change without notice prior to expiration. Expires 3/31/20.

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\*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we'll clean your gutters for free.

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LeafGuard operates as LeafGuard of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania under HICPA license number PA126357 and in West Virginia under license number WV05024.