

# 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 23, 2020 • Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



**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 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>SATURDAY:</b><br>4:00 P.M.               | <b>February 22nd</b><br>†Jim & Alma Ebig (Bob & Judy Bergstrom)  |
| <b>SUNDAY:</b><br>8:30 A.M.<br>11:00 A.M.   | <b>February 23rd</b><br>♥St. Mary Parishioners<br>†Donna Crabill (Patty Hughes)                                  |
| <b>MONDAY:</b><br>8:00 A.M.                 | <b>February 24th</b><br>†Bill Fullerton (Kay Shearer)  |
| <b>TUESDAY:</b><br>8:00 A.M.                | <b>February 25th</b><br>†David & Julie Walter (Family)   |
| <b>WEDNESDAY:</b><br>8:00 A.M.<br>7:00 P.M. | <b>February 26th—Ash Wednesday</b><br>†Mario Seitam (Doug & Grace Seitam) †<br>†Edna Barr (John & Brenda DeMeno) |
| <b>THURSDAY:</b><br>8:00 A.M.               | <b>February 27th</b><br>†Steve Bono (Dr. & Mrs. Calvin Miller)   |
| <b>FRIDAY:</b><br>8:00 A.M.<br>7:00 P.M.    | <b>February 28th</b><br>†Frank & Delores Kristine (Mark & Melissa)<br>Stations of the Cross                      |

## MASSES FOR THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>SATURDAY:</b><br>4:00 P.M.             | <b>February 29th</b><br>†Alma Ebig (Family)                                  |
| <b>SUNDAY:</b><br>8:30 A.M.<br>11:00 A.M. | <b>March 1st</b><br>♥St. Mary Parishioners<br>†Jean Hyatt (Husband & Family) |

## Readings for the Week

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Monday:</b>    | <i>Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29</i>                                   |
| <b>Tuesday:</b>   | <i>Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-11a, 23; Mk 9:30-37</i>                                   |
| <b>Wednesday:</b> | <i>Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18</i>     |
| <b>Thursday:</b>  | <i>Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25</i>                                      |
| <b>Friday:</b>    | <i>Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15</i>                                |
| <b>Saturday:</b>  | <i>Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32</i>  |
| <b>Sunday:</b>    | <i>Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11</i> |



## Ministry Schedule

February 26th, 29th & March 1st, 2020

### ALTAR SERVERS:

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.</i> | TBA  |
| <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>   | Marie Pelliccione; Mason DeMeno; Jackson Ringler                         |

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.</i> | TBA   |
| <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>   | Lisa Isenberg; Mary Scholl; Alyson Scholl     |

### LECTORS:

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.</i> | TBA          |
| <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>   | Rob Svitek   |

### GREETERS:

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.</i> | TBA             |
| <i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>  | Sharon Mihalich |
| <i>Sunday, 8:30 A.M.</i>    | Karen Nigra     |
| <i>Sunday, 11:00 A.M.</i>   | Jill Zalewski   |

### ORGANIST:

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.</i> | Dave Wesolosky |
| <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>Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.</i> | Choir         |
| <i>Saturday, 4:00 P.M.</i>  | Alex Smith    |
| <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>    | Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time    |
| <b>Wednesday:</b> | Ash Wednesday; Fast and Abstinence |



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

The gospel this seventh Sunday continues with what Jesus started last week on explaining the laws given in the Old Testament. He continued giving a better understanding with a challenge. Like the law of retaliation, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" whereby a punishment resembles the offense committed in kind and degree". Jesus teaches us to go beyond this mentality because the cycle of hurting will never end. The same thing with loving only those who are good to us and hating those whom we consider as an enemy. Jesus teaches us to go beyond the exclusive concept of love. He said, love is all about going the "extra mile".

Love is giving and forgiving, with no limits and no conditions. This is a challenge because our natural reaction normally is to reject this concept of love in the name of justice and fair play. Such a concept will definitely lead us to the losing end. But the challenge remains. We are urged to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect.

"Let go, and let God." This is the guiding principle in all our loving. If we have not learned this in life, then we have not learned anything at all. A lot of our worries and problems can be solved, or at least can be handled if we learn how to let go of our own personal will, and be submissive to the Divine will.

If going the "extra mile" in our giving and forgiving others is difficult, try thinking of how many times our loving Father has gone out of His way for us. He who has received much must give much in return. He who has been forgiven much must also love much.

It is wrong to think that we are doing the Lord a big favor when we give and forgive. On the contrary, the act of giving and forgiving is good for us! It gives us peace and forgiving sets us free!

As we go the "extra mile" in our giving and forgiving, please don't forget that our God is a God of surprises, and He is generous beyond our expectations and imaginings. You will be surprised how a little generosity on our part can give us untold rewards. Be generous to God, and He who is never outdone in generosity will give you a hundred-fold in return, in this life and beyond.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Lenten Season. As we receive an ash on our forehead, let us be reminded again of our beginning and end that we are dust and unto dust, we shall return or the call to repent and believe in the Gospel. May this reverberate always in us to strive for the better.



*PS. Our second phase of preparation for our back altar installation was just done last week. The copula hanging on the ceiling has already been taken down and the back wall at the sanctuary was removed. Thank you, again, to our kind and supportive volunteers who lent their time, their skills and their helping hands to make it possible. The work will continue until we are done with the installation of the high altar.*

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



Very soon, today's green vestments will be cleaned, set aside, and stored for the ninety days of Lent and Easter. Changing colors give a sense of the progress of faith through the seasons of life. For centuries, the number of colors and the reasons underlying them were left to local custom. Over time, we settled on six colors to express the character of a day or season: white, red, green, violet, black, and rose. Black is seldom seen these days, replaced by white or violet. Rose, really a

dusty pink shade, appears at most twice a year. What does the color green suggest to you? Green is new growth, olives, evergreens, glistening emeralds, ripening pears, and fields at high summer. It suggests renewal, healing, fertility, peace, and harmony. In medieval Europe, green was the favorite color for brides! Did you know that drivers of green cars are the least likely to be stopped for speeding? Is it because of their own feelings of harmony and well-being, or because law enforcement officers are filled with serenity when they see a green car whiz by? Take out a paint chart today and marvel at the many hues and names of green. The Church figured it out centuries ago: color really matters. †



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 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*
- March 2nd *Christian Mother's Meeting—7:00 P.M.*
- March 3rd *Pastoral Council Meeting—7:00 P.M. - Conference Room*
- March 4th *The Bible Timeline—9:00-10:30 A.M. - Christian Mothers' Room; RCIA—6:30 P.M. - Conference Center*
- March 5th *The Bible Timeline—6:30-8:00 P.M. - Christian Mothers' Room*
- March 6th *First Friday—3:30 P.M. - Reposition; Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M.*
- March 7th *Baptism "Gillis" - Within the 4:00 P.M. Mass*
- March 7th *Donut & Beverage Social—Fellowship Hall; Religious Education—9:30-10:40 A.M. - Administrative Building; Choir Practice—9:45-10:45 A.M. - Church & 11:00 A.M. Mass*

## Parish Events/Information

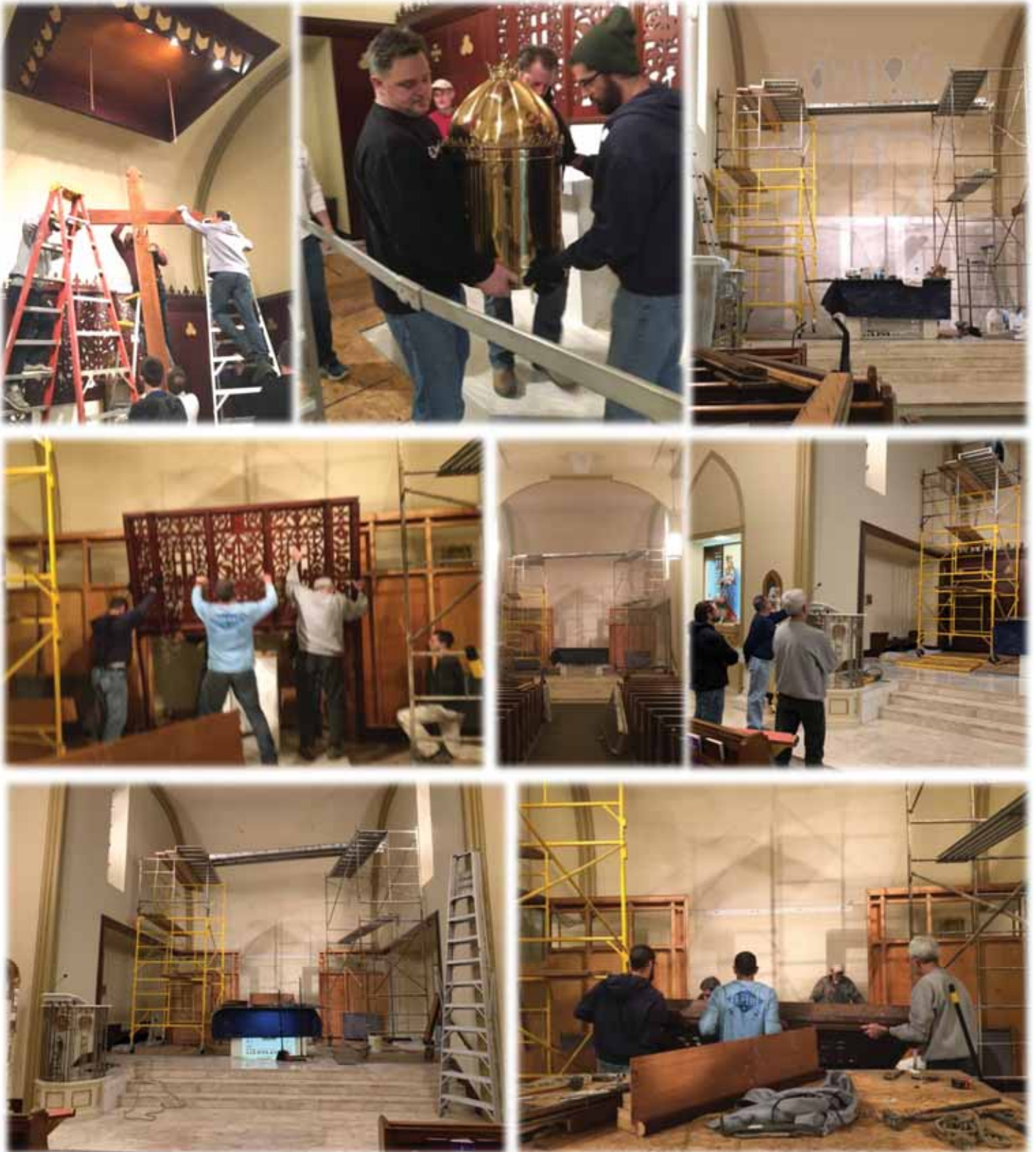
### *Baptized in Christ*

*Baptized into our Faith - Congratulations to Lexi Lee Lane, child of Joseph and Renee Lane, who was baptized on Sunday, February 16th. May our Lord, Jesus Christ grant that Lexi may receive the fullness of His grace.*



Next week, we will take up the *Catholic Home Missions Appeal*. Today, over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at: [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

## The Restoration Continues



## 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. †

FORMED

Evangelization

PICK OF THE WEEK

Desires of the Heart



## Desires of the Heart by Sister Bethany Madonna

LISTEN ON FORMED.ORG

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Sr. Bethany Madonna, vocations director for the Sisters of Life, shares how God not only wants us to know him, but also to give us the desires of our heart and gifts that bring purpose, meaning, and hope.

FORMED

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**Ashes**—Just a little over ten months ago, we picked up our palms on the way into Mass to celebrate Palm Sunday. In a few days, we will receive a sign upon our foreheads made from the ashes of burned palms. Those palms, blessed on Palm Sunday, signified the victorious Christ entering the holy city of Jerusalem. Now, the ashes we will receive signal something more personal. When they are applied, we hear the admonition "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" or "Repent and believe in the Gospel." It is important and necessary for us to hear and understand these words as we prepare for the coming forty days. As we investigate Sacred Scripture and the significance of ashes, three themes come to mind. First, in the book of Daniel and Esther, Daniel and Mordecai respectfully cover themselves in ashes as they lift their prayer to God. They do this so that He will see them through their difficulties and help them find a way whenever the path seems bleak. We, too, should take this moment and lift our hearts to God, asking for the strength we need to overcome self-centeredness and selfishness and to make a holy lent. Secondly, as the story of Jonah unfolds, after the storm at sea and the whole whale thing, we see him enter Nineveh and call on everyone to repent their sins. The people listen and cover themselves with ash and sackcloth to show that they are sorrowful for the lives they were living and to seek out the Mercy of God. Let us also ask Him to stir within our innermost being a heartfelt sorrow for sin, because it keeps us from living a truly joy-filled life that He promised. (John 10:10) Finally, we are reminded where we came from in Genesis 2:7. We were created from dust and that is where our physical bodies will return until the final resurrection. Let these ashes be for us a wake-up call so that we will cry out "Create a clean heart in me O God!" (Psalm 51) Let us desire to not make just a minor course correction, but to turn fully from our sinful tendencies and make holiness our goal. †



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](http://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. †



The green "Prayer Request" binder quietly sits at the back of the Church waiting to be filled with parishioners' prayer requests. During each weekend mass, the binder is brought forward to the Altar during the Presentation of Gifts. What happens to your requests after the weekend masses? A group of dedicated parishioners, "The Prayer Chain", prays for your intentions for a week during their daily private prayers. You can write your prayer intentions in the green binder, send them via email to: [sharonmihalich@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonmihalich@hotmail.com), or call 724-294-3128. To become a member of the Prayer Chain, send an email to: [sharonmihalich@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonmihalich@hotmail.com). If you don't have or use email, you can call Sharon at 724-294-3128. On Mondays, you will receive notification of the prayer intentions for the week via email or phone. †

## Altar Bread and Wine

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



**Richard L. Bayne**

By  
*Tim and Bridget Fogarty*

## Sanctuary Lamp

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



in loving memory of

**Jean Hyatt**

By  
*Lynn Hyatt*

## Collections

### Offertory Collection for February 16th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 596

No. of Envelopes Received: 173

Collection: Offertory - \$4,266.00

Electronic Payments (9) - \$1,895.00

Loose - \$392.00; Children (17) - \$28.25

**Total Collection - \$6,581.25**

**THANK YOU!**



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**Saturday**  
**February 29th, 2020**

**Connie Cornman and**  
**Linda Ullrich**

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