

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

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 OF LENT

SATURDAY:	March 14th
4:00 P.M.	†Bill Davis (Wife—Pat)
SUNDAY:	March 15th
8:30 A.M.	†Pearl C. Holbein (Carol Carson)
11:00 A.M.	♥St. Mary Parishioners
MONDAY:	March 16th
8:00 A.M.	†Ken Hughes (Tom & Tina Brestensky)
TUESDAY:	March 17th
8:00 A.M.	†Sierra Intrieri (Family & Friend)
WEDNESDAY:	March 18th
7:00 P.M.	†James Ebeg (Bob & Judy Bergstrom)
THURSDAY:	March 19th
8:00 A.M.	†Joseph Mohney (Bob & Kim Holbein)
FRIDAY:	March 20th
8:00 A.M.	†Jane Thompson (Ron & Peggy Thompson)
7:00 P.M.	Stations of the Cross

MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY:	March 21st
4:00 P.M.	†John McDermott (Vicky & Barb Ralph)
SUNDAY:	March 22nd
8:30 A.M.	†Marjorie Kohlmyer (Deborah Sullivan)
11:00 A.M.	♥St. Mary Parishioners

Readings for the Week

Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-51b, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19- 20; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday:	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

Ministry Schedule

March 21st & 22nd, 2020

ALTAR SERVERS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M.	Fred Walker; Lauren & Leah Clark
Sunday, 8:30 A.M.	Alexandra & Zach Lasko; Sarah, Hannah, & Emma Shepherd; Abby & Emily Koharchik
Sunday, 11:00 A.M.	Marie Pelliccione; Mason DeMeno; Jackson Ringler; Chloe Liti

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M.	Mary Williams; Deb Showers; Dave Valencic
Sunday, 8:30 A.M.	Betty Lou & John Nemcek; Lisa Boylan
Sunday, 11:00 A.M.	Bill Cogley; Melissa Schaeffer; Debbie Baustert

LECTORS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M.	Diane Zadnik
Sunday, 8:30 A.M.	Annette Domachowski
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:	Third Sunday of Lent
Tuesday:	St. Patrick
Wednesday:	St. Cyril of Jerusalem
Thursday:	St. Joseph; Spring begins
Friday:	Abstinence



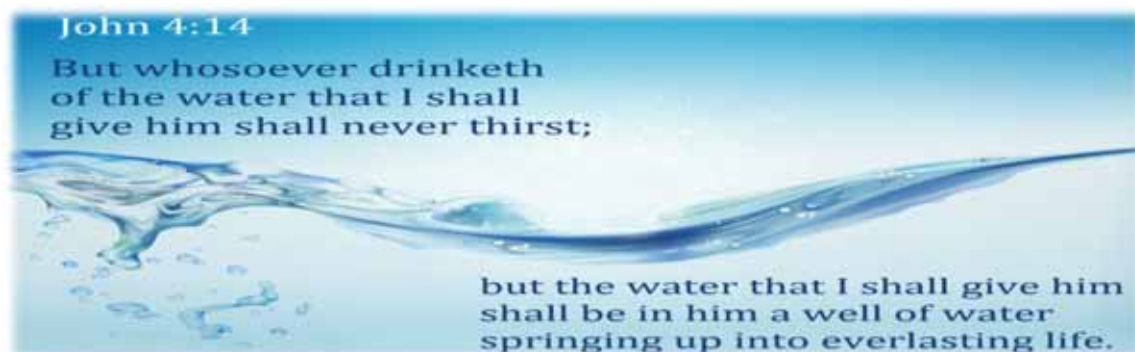
From the Pastor's Desk

We are half way through our Lenten journey and our readings this third Sunday of Lent present something that probably we can identify with and that is the *thirst*. *Thirst* that can be physical or spiritual.

In the first reading, the people led by Moses experienced that physical *thirst* when they were led from Egypt into the desert. They grumbled against Moses because they thought they were led to the desert to die. There was no water to drink and they began to become dehydrated, together with their children and their livestock. However, as Moses cried to God and followed His command by striking the rock with his staff, water began to flow. People quenched their *thirst* and felt better. On the other hand, *thirst* can be spiritual when we have this longing in our heart to make our life happy, peaceful and complete because we find our life empty and unhappy, in spite of what we have. For instance, we may have food, a good job, a decent life with our family, money and friends. But why do we sometimes feel empty or unhappy deep within us? That leads us to the gospel where Jesus encountered a Samaritan woman at the well at noontime. Quite unusual because that time apart from the fact that Jews and Samaritans were not friends, a Rabbi/Jew should not talk to women in public. It was a big no. However, Jesus broke that barrier, not because He wanted to ask for a drink as He felt thirsty, but He wanted to offer that Samaritan woman more than the water that she was drawing from the well and that was the spring of water welling up to eternal life which was coming from Him. A way of drawing her to a relationship with God in order to fill up the incompleteness and unhappiness in her heart as shown in her present condition. She said she had no husband but the truth was she had already been involved in five marriages. We do not know exactly what the problem was, but we can guess that this woman must have felt that life was just not fair to her. It was hard to have a broken heart once, but it must have taken the grace of God to mend a heart that had been broken five times.

Jesus identified her as someone whose heart was very thirsty for true love, and for a deeper meaning of life. In reality, she was in search of water that will satisfy that *thirst*. Some commentators say that this woman could not come to the well in the early morning or in the cool evening when other villagers gathered. She must have suffered insults and persecution from judgmental villagers who saw her as a loose woman. She came to the well at an unusual time, during the daytime when nobody was there and she met Jesus who was waiting to offer her a new life.

We experience physical *thirst*. We also experience spiritual *thirst* when our hearts and souls are dry. Our hearts *thirst* for love, our minds *thirst* for knowledge, our souls *thirst* for the living God, for the living water and for the living bread. The living water is "the love of God that has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit". (Romans 5:5). We can experience all of these if only we will listen to Jesus and allow Him to be part of our life.



Word of the Day!

Thirst

Each time today's Gospel story is read, I can't help but think of the many television commercials I've seen depicting perspiring athletes lifting a beverage to their lips while the scorching sun beats down on them. Our culture has definite ideas about how to quench thirst. Today, those ideas are turned upside down. The Samaritan woman operates, initially, on the TV commercial level. She asks Jesus for the flowing water so that she will not have to keep coming to the well. Jesus then talks about what real thirst is, and how He, and He alone, can quench that thirst. Lent calls us to find those places deep within ourselves where we thirst. In our thirst, as did the Israelites, we cry out to God asking for springs of living water. Deep down we know that only the Lord can satisfy these thirsts. †



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

March 15th	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; Confirmation Service Reflection
March 18th	The Bible Timeline—9:00-10:30 A.M. - Christian Mothers' Room; Resurrection Choir Rehearsal—11:00 A.M. in the Church Choir Loft; RCIA—5:30 P.M. - Conference Center; Mass—7:00 P.M.
March 19th	The Bible Timeline—6:30-8:00 P.M. - Christian Mothers' Room; Tenebrae Rehearsal—6:30 P.M. - Church
March 20th	Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M. - Church
March 22nd	Religious Education—9:30-10:40 A.M - Administrative Building; Choir Practice—9:45-10:45 A.M. - Church & 11:00 A.M. Mass; Living Stations of the Cross—7:30 P.M. - Church
March 25th	The Bible Timeline—9:00-10:30 A.M. - Christian Mothers' Room; RCIA—5:30 P.M. - Conference Center; Mass—7:00 P.M.
March 26th	The Bible Timeline—6:30-8:00 P.M. - Christian Mothers' Room
March 27th	Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M. - Church
March 29th	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 Information/Events



On Wednesdays during Lent, daily mass is celebrated at 7:00 P.M. †



Stations of the Cross are said on Friday's at 7:00 P.M. †



Tenebrae Rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th, at 6:30 P.M. in church. Those involved are asked to make every effort to attend. We will rehearse with whomever is "present". If you have any questions, please call Marushka at 412-576-4617. †



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. You must register for this Conference. Once registered, you have to let Fr. Ron or Tim Fogarty know you are registered so you are included in the car pool planning. To contact Fr. Ron, please call 724-295-2281. To contact Tim Fogarty, please email him at: tpfogarty618@gmail.com; 724-294-0089. †



St. Ferdinand's CROSSWALK Youth Ministry will perform the Living Stations at 7:30 P.M. on Sunday, March 22nd here at St. Mary, Mother of God Church. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this live production! †



Easter Flower Offering Envelopes - Remember your loved ones this Easter by making a donation for flowers and decorations for the sanctuary during the Easter season. Envelopes were included in your March monthly packet. **Deadline to submit your envelopes is by 12:00 Noon on Monday, April 6th.** †

Regional Penance Service

Regional Penance Service Schedule - This schedule is in addition to our regular confession schedule which is 3:00 to 3:45 P.M. on Saturdays. Following is the Regional Penance Schedule:

- Tuesday, March 24th at 7:00 P.M. at Mary, Mother of God, Yatesboro
- Saturday, March 28th at 12:00 Noon at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Kittanning
- Tuesday, March 31st at 7:00 P.M. at Saint Lawrence in Cadogan
- Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00 P.M. at Saint Patrick, Brady's Bend
- Saturday, April 4th at 12:00 Noon at Christ, Prince of Peace, Ford City
- Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 P.M. at Mary, Mother of God, Freeport**



Diocesan Target - \$37,826.00; Parish Target - \$55,000.00
Pledges to Date - \$61,630.00; Paid to Date - \$36,480.00
Number of Donors - 106 Diocesan Target has been Achieved!!!
 ALL future gifts and/or pledges will now stay directly here at St. Mary's in order that we may complete this year's major projects!

Baptized in Christ



Baptized into Our Faith
Congratulations to Eliana Grace, child of Jeffrey and Jodi Bichsel, who was baptized on Sunday, March 1st. May our Lord, Jesus Christ grant that *Eliana* may receive the fullness of His grace.



Baptized into our Faith - Congratulations to Declan Michael, child of Eric and Megan Gillis, who was baptized on Saturday, March 7th. May our Lord, Jesus Christ grant that *Declan* may receive the fullness of His grace.



Baptized into our Faith
Congratulations to Matteo Lopez, child of Gilberto and Evidalia Lopez who was baptized on Sunday, March 8th. May our Lord, Jesus Christ grant that *Matteo* may receive the fullness of His grace.



News/Activities from Our Ministries/Organizations



Women of the parish - The Christian Mother's will be having their April meeting at St. Paul's Monastery, 543 Bunker Hill Road located in Kittanning, on Monday, April 6th. Mass will be celebrated at 5:00 P.M. with dinner and a tour following. The monthly meeting will begin at 7:00. This would be a great opportunity for women of our parish that are interested in being a new member to join us for the evening. What a great way to meet our great group of ladies. We pray together...We laugh together...We cry together! We are a great caring support group. Please give us a chance to welcome you and to be a positive part of your life. Even if you can only attend for part of the evening, please consider doing so. We would love to have you! Please RSVP Jean Miller by calling or texting me at 330-321-4646. If you prefer, you can email me at: jeanzigamiller@yahoo.com. †

Evangelization FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



Joseph of Nazareth

As Joseph is informed by God's messengers about trusting and following his plan, this film presents beautiful vignettes of these and other powerful scenes in the life of Christ and the Holy Family that are authentic and inspiring.

FORMED 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.

Just Another Saint? - Here amid our Lenten journey we have a most glorious feast! The solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19th has been celebrated as early as the 4th century locally but by the whole church since the 15th century. Even though it always falls during Lent, it allows for the singing of the Gloria and the vestments are not purple but gold and white. There are many men whom God could have chosen in the line of King David from whom Jesus would descend, however "the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart". (1Samuel 16:7) The qualities that Joseph might have lacked were overshadowed by those he exemplified. Above all, we know that he was a just man meaning that he had a righteous relationship with God (Mathew 1:19). Let us look at a few of those virtues that make up the earthly father of Jesus and the husband of the Mother of God. *First*, he was **faithful**. He showed loving trust in God, never afraid to listen and respond to the will of the Father. His head told him to it was okay to divorce what he thought was an adulteress according to the law, but his "heart of faith" trusted in the word of God delivered by an angel's hand. *Second*, he was **obedient**. Joseph promptly responds every time that the angelic message is delivered. He never saw his obedience as a burden or unpleasant, but as something that would be for his own good and growth in holiness. He embraced his vocation as husband and father in order the help Jesus and Mary to fulfill theirs. *Third*, he was **chaste** and **loving**. We will often see Joseph depicted holding a lily, a sign of purity. He shows us that the full gift of ourselves doesn't always have to be physical. He loved and gave himself to Mary in the way that was best for her. Chastity allows us to fully see and acknowledge the image of God in another, someone to protect and not to exploit for our selfish pleasure. *Finally*, he was **hardworking**. Saint Joseph was a provider and his love and devotion to Christ and Mary was made manifest by the sweat of his brow. He not only constructed material goods but built a Holy family. St. Joseph shows how all our work should be done out of and for the amazing love of God our Father. Saints are not to be worshiped, but instead be admired and imitated because of their exemplary lives. Joseph is the Saint of Saints because he was the person, besides the Blessed Mother, that was closest to Christ. Go to Joseph and he will lead you into the loving and merciful arms of Jesus and Mary. †



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



Rehearsal with organist, Sue Myford, has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 18th, at 11:00 A.M. in the church choir loft. If the church is not available due to construction, we will meet in the Conference Room in the Administrative Center. Any questions? Please contact Marushka Steele at: marushka.steele@icloud.com. †

TEEN MINISTRY The teen ministry will be participating with Howard International Ministries (HIM) on Saturday, March 28th by attending their street ministry to serve the homeless of Pittsburgh. This will occur at the corner of Stanwix Street and the Boulevard of the Allies. A hot meal will be provided by another participating church and we will provide take away items such as socks and soaps. All of these items have been very well received in the past. Items will be accepted until we leave on Saturday, March 28th immediately following the 4:00 P.M. mass. All donations and/or questions can be directed to Kristen Marhefka at: kristenmarhefka01@gmail.com; call/text 724-448-5290. †

Community Information/Activities

LENTEX EVENING OF REFLECTION Lent with the Apostle Paul—Sunday, March 15th, 6:30 P.M. at Freeport Methodist Church Sanctuary. Pastor **Bob Keplinger** from Trinity Lutheran in Freeport will lead the devotional as part of the Lenten Worship. Paul describes the Christian way with these words: "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God." Come and see how Paul's life was taken hold of by the Risen Lord, and how his passion served to bring people into a new community of faith in that same Risen Lord. †

Save the Date — Pennsylvania March for Life
in Harrisburg—May 18th



COMMUNICATIONS

To stay continuously updated with communications, recommendations and actions taken by the Diocese of Greensburg to combat the spread of the coronavirus, text "Faith" to the number 724-305-3057 to sign-up for important text message alerts. Up-to-the-minute communication is available on all diocesan social media outlets — Facebook, Twitter and Instagram — and on its website, www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/healthalerts

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- **If you are ill, please stay home.** This is one of the important steps to prevent the spread of any illness. Individuals with fevers that rise to 100F or above should be fever free for 24 hours WITHOUT the use of fever medicines before resuming regular activities or attending work/school. We must each monitor ourselves in order to protect those around us from illness.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, such as tables and light switches, using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- The CDC does NOT recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

ACTIONS

Following the advice of regional health care officials primarily regarding concerns about the flu and its impact on parishioners, in addition to growing concerns about the coronavirus, Bishop Edward C. Malesic of the Diocese of Greensburg is asking parishioners to temporarily exchange the sign of peace without physical contact. He has also temporarily suspended the distribution of the precious blood from the chalice. Parishes should make provisions for reception of the Precious Blood for persons with celiac disease who cannot digest the gluten in wheat hosts. He reminds all parishioners that if you are sick, you are not obligated to attend Mass. Bishop Malesic asks you to keep those who are suffering in the current outbreak of sickness and all those who are ill in your prayers.



Altar Bread and Wine

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



Angela S. Morrell

By

Diana and Jim Talotta

Sanctuary Lamp

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



**Deceased Members of the
Stephen J. Mistrik Family**

By

Mistrik Children

Collections

Offertory Collection for March 8th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 600

No. of Envelopes Received: 182

Collection: Offertory - \$4,343.00

Electronic Payments (11) - \$510.00

Loose - \$502.00; Children (16) - \$28.50

Ash Wednesday (2) - \$20.00

Home Missions (1) - \$20.00

Total Collection - \$5,423.50

THANK YOU!



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**Saturday
March 21st, 2020
Donna Smith and
Deb Showers**

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

St. Mary, Mother of God Membership Request/Change

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 it 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.

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