

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF
Easter
(OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)
APRIL 19, 2020

Jesus said to Thomas, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

John 20:29

Father Ronald Maquiñana—Pastor
rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parish Information

Saturday (Vigil): Suspended until further notice

Sunday: Suspended until further notice

Weekday Masses: Suspended until further notice

Holy Day of Obligation: Suspended until further notice

Reconciliation: By appointment only—please call the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281

Baptism: Sundays (by appointment)

Marriage: Contact the Administrative Office nine months in advance—724-295-2281

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: Suspended until further notice—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
Ed & Jennie Lepkowski
Parish Custodians
Judy Bergstrom, Cemetery Sales Coordinator
724-316-5352
Jeff Jones, Groundskeeper—724-448-9250

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 to:
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.

Please Note

During this time when all week-day and weekend public masses have been suspended until further notice, please know that Fr. Ron is privately celebrating mass and fulfilling all of your requested intentions.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

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

MASSES FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER/ SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

- SATURDAY:** April 18th
†Bill Davis (Wife—Pat)
- SUNDAY:** April 19th
†Rinaldo Policicchio (The Policicchio's)
♥St. Mary Parishioners
- MONDAY:** April 20th
†Bill Fullerton (Kay Shearer)
- TUESDAY:** April 21st
†Ken Hughes (Patty Hughes)
- WEDNESDAY:** April 22nd
†Donna Marie Nagy (Doug & Grace Seitam)
- THURSDAY:** April 23rd
†Marjorie Kohlmyer (Deborah Sullivan)
- FRIDAY:** April 24th
†Dorothy Laux (Jack Laux)

MASSES FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

- SATURDAY:** April 25th
†Edna Barr (Mr. & Mrs. Mike Safranyas)
- SUNDAY:** April 26th
†Cindy Kulikowski (Shipe Family)
♥St. Mary Parishioners

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** Second Sunday of Easter
(or Sunday of Divine Mercy);
Julian Calendar Easter
- Tuesday:** St. Anselm; Yom Hashoah (Holocaust
Remembrance Day)
- Wednesday:** Administrative Professionals Day;
Earth Day
- Thursday:** St. George; St. Adalbert
- Friday:** St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen;
National Arbor Day
- Saturday:** St. Mark



"Jesus said:
'Because you
have seen Me,
you have believed.
Blessed are those
who have not seen
and yet believe.'"
John 20:29

Divine Mercy Prayer

You expired, O Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelope the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You. Amen.



Sunday's Readings



First Reading — All who believed were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, the communal life, the breaking of the bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42-47).

Psalm — Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Psalm 118).

Second Reading — God has given us an undiminished inheritance, safeguarded for us in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-9).

Gospel — The risen Christ comes to his disciples with peace and the Spirit. The absent Thomas doubts (John 20:19-31).



Readings for the Week

- Monday:** Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8
- Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15
- Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21
- Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36
- Friday:** Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15
- Saturday:** 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20
- Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35



From the Pastor's Desk

Peace be with you! This was the message of Jesus when He first appeared to His apostles. A message that strengthened them when they were scared because they thought their Master was no longer with them and was defeated. They were behind locked doors for fear of being persecuted by the Jews. But as they heard the greetings of Jesus, it comforted them and they rejoiced. Although it took a while, He got them to believe that He was indeed risen.

Thomas, who was not present, did not actually believe when he was told that Jesus appeared to them. He said, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe. He was in disbelief until Jesus appeared again and greeted them, *"Peace be with you"*. This time Thomas was present and Jesus invited him to satisfy his disbelief. Then Thomas said, "My Lord and my God". It was at this point that He showed His faith that Jesus was indeed risen. Finally, Jesus said, *"Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed"*.

This is a powerful statement of Jesus that allows us to learn about faith. Faith is not just about seeing the things we want to see in order to believe that God cares or that He is there and answers our prayers. Rather, it is believing even if we do not see His Presence. It is more than feeling because faith comes from our inner conviction. I know sometimes it is not easy to talk about it until we are actually put to the test. But let Thomas be a reminder for us in hearing once again Jesus saying *"Blessed are those who have not seen and still believed"*.

The Second Sunday of Easter is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday after St. Pope John Paul II promulgated it on April 30th, 2000 and to be celebrated throughout the world. This is in recognition to Sr. Faustina of Kowalska regarding her vision about Jesus who asked her to promote His Divine Mercy image. *"I want the image solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it."* - **Diary 341**

Ask of my faithful servant [a priest] that, on this day, he tell the whole world of My great mercy; that whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. - **Diary 300**

I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day, the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. - **Diary 699**



TV and Online Mass Options:

<https://www.heartofthenation.org/where-to-watch>

<https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/>; <http://www.catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass>

Calendar of Events/Meetings

- Weekday and Weekend Masses—Suspended*
- Religious Education—Suspended; First Holy Communion Workshop—Cancelled*
- Choir Practice—Suspended; Resurrection Choir Practice—Suspended*
- Teen Ministry Meetings—Suspended*
- The Bible Timeline—Cancelled and will be postponed at a later date*
- First Friday Adoration—Suspended*
- Christian Mother’s Meeting—Suspended*
- Christian Mother’s Card Party—Cancelled*
- Confirmation—Suspended—To be re-scheduled*
- Men’s Group Mass/Meeting—Suspended*

Cancelled.
Suspended.
Postponed.

We are now Live Streaming our Sunday Mass at 8:30 A.M. on Facebook. If you utilize Facebook and are not a member of St. Mary, Mother of God, Freeport, please join or like our page in order to pull up the page for Sunday Mass and the latest happenings.



Parish Information/Events

The Administrative Office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. so that we cannot only conduct the business that is required, but also be able to meet your needs the best we can. During these times, we still have the operations of the parish to run and maintain. We thank those of you who have continued to use your weekly offertory envelopes.

In the past few weeks, some of you may have logged onto the Diocesan website to watch Bishop Malesic celebrate Sunday Mass. Please be advised that if you click the icon to "Donate to your parish", fees are assessed by the credit card company and not 100% of your donation arrives at our parish. The best way to continue to support the parish, if you are able to do so after prayerful consideration, would be one of the following options:

- Mail your envelope in directly
- Drop your envelope off at the Administrative Office or the parish mailbox outside the glass entrance doors
- Set up on-line bill paying with your financial institution by going to their secure website and setting up as a vendor, St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 608 High Street, Freeport, PA 16229. Under the memo line, enter your envelope number and the amount you wish to contribute. Most banks will provide you the opportunity to set up this payment/ withdrawal on a weekly or monthly basis, whichever you prefer.

Please know that we continue to pray for you and your family for your safety and health during this pandemic. We also ask that you continue to keep Father Ron and the parish staff in your daily prayers. †


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



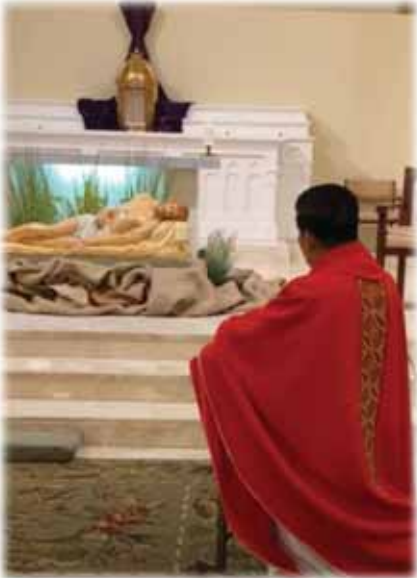

Diocesan Target - \$37,826.00
Parish Target - \$55,000.00
Pledges to Date - \$84,795.00
Paid to Date - \$58,249.00
Number of Donors - 197

Diocesan Target has been Achieved!!!

Thank you!

ALL future gifts and/or pledges will now stay directly here at St. Mary's in order that we may complete this year's DLA major projects!

Good Friday 2020



Because of your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world



Holy Saturday

Blessing of the Food baskets via live streaming



Easter Vigil



"Service of
Darkness"
Lighting of the
Paschal Candle



Renewal
of
the
Baptismal
Vows

Live stream monitoring from the
Administrative Center



News from Our Ministries/Organizations

Evangelization FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



Divine Mercy with Father Michael Gaitley

The vast panorama of God's work of mercy in the world unfolds as a story to be experienced interwoven through the transformative events of Saint Faustina, Mary at Fatima, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, and Pope Saint John Paul II.

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And Mercy Dwelt Among Us—To really understand and appreciate the Mercy of God, let us go back into the Old Testament and see how He reveals himself to His beloved people. He unveils himself to Moses as the great "I Am" and gives His law on tablets of stone as a solid guide to right living with Him and with others. It doesn't take long before the Israelites lose hope and trust in the Almighty and turn back to their sinful ways. When Moses returns to the mountain, he intercedes and seeks the mercy of God. God not only provides another set of instructions carved into rock, but He describes Himself in a way to penetrate their hearts of stone. God says, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy and faithfulness." Exodus 34:6 This passage in Exodus is one of the greatest revelations of God in the Bible and one of the most frequently quoted passages in the Old Testament. Nearly every prophet echoes this verse at some point in their messages. David puts it to song several times but especially in Psalm 86 in a very personal plea to God. In the New Testament, we come face to face with mercy enfleshed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Both His teaching and ministry were filled with examples of mercy in action. He dined with sinners and healed the sick both physically and spiritually. Jesus taught through parables to explain God's divine mercy: The Lost Sheep, the Good Samaritan, and above all, the Prodigal Son. This last parable tells us the two most important things to remember about mercy. First, to receive mercy, we must admit our own sins and be open to the flow of mercy. Second, the mercy of God will not penetrate into our hearts if we fail to forgive those who trespass against us. Today's Gospel (John 20:19-31) is perfectly chosen to proclaim this message of mercy. First, the disciples are given the mandate to dispense mercy through the institution of the Sacrament of Confession. This is the outward sign that Jesus gave to us so that we can let go the burden of sin in our lives and experience the reality of Divine Mercy in a concrete manner. And second, St. Thomas is invited to touch the fountain of Mercy in the wounds of Christ. It is important that we understand God's mercy here and now, for we, too, are called to intimately embrace the flesh of Christ in the Eucharist. You and I are invited to echo the words of Thomas when we receive Him and say, "My Lord and My God!" †

News from Our Diocese

BISHOP MALESIC'S DIVINE MERCY TELEVISED SPECIAL

"Faith During Crisis: Lord, Have Mercy!" is a one-hour special scheduled to air on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19th, at 2:00 P.M. on WTAE Channel 4. Local families explain the importance of Divine Mercy during the COVID-19 outbreak. Learn about the history of Divine Mercy and then pray the chaplet along with Bishop Malesic. The broadcast will be available to view afterward on the diocesan website, dioceseofgreensburg.org, and TheAccentOnline.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. †

Altar Bread and Wine



The Altar Bread and Wine
were donated
and presented
By
Ron & Nancy J. Snyder

Sanctuary Lamp



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn
this week in loving memory of
John Manzari; Nick & Lucy Canterna
By
Linda Manzari

Collections

Offertory Collection for April 5th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 598
No. of Envelopes Received: 84
Collection: Offertory - \$4,146.00
Electronic Payments (11) - \$635.00
Loose - \$0.00; Children (-) - \$0.00

Total Collection - \$4,781.00

Offertory Collection for April 12th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 598
No. of Envelopes Received: 71
Collection: Offertory - \$4,650.00
Electronic Payments (12) - \$500.00
Loose - \$0.00; Children (3) - \$4.00
Holy Thursday - (29) - \$365.00;
Good Friday - (29) - \$380.00
Easter - (61) - \$5,270.00

Total Collection - \$11,169.00

THANK YOU!

Although we are unable to attend Mass at this time, we urge you
to please mail your weekly/monthly contribution or drop it off at
the Administrative office or the mail box outside the office doors.



Something to think about—If you normally give in the offertory
basket, now might be the time to think about on-line giving.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ST. MARY,
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**Saturday—April 25th, 2020
NO CLEANING ASSIGNMENTS
THIS WEEK**

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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