

# 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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF** **April 26, 2020**  
*Easter*  
THE TWO DISCIPLES RECOUNTED  
WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE ON THE WAY  
AND HOW JESUS WAS MADE KNOWN  
TO THEM IN THE BREAKING OF BREAD.  
Luke 24:35



**Father Ronald Maquiñana—Pastor**  
[rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto: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 & Jeannie 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](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.**

## Please Note

During this time when all weekday 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 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

- SATURDAY:** April 25th  
†Edna Barr (Mr. & Mrs. Mike Safranyas)
- SUNDAY:** April 26th  
†Cindy Kulikowski (Shipe Family)  
♥St. Mary Parishioners
- MONDAY:** April 27th  
†Ellen Huth (Dan & Barbara Coyle)
- TUESDAY:** April 28th  
†Mary & Tony Ranieri (David & Cleatus Burk)
- WEDNESDAY:** April 29th  
†James B. Huth (Don & Marlene Reesman)
- THURSDAY:** April 30th  
†Linda Antonucci (Jay & Tammi Pastorek)
- FRIDAY:** May 1st  
†Carol Goldscheitter & Marilyn Adams  
[Loving Sisters] (Brothers & Sisters)

### MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- SATURDAY:** May 2nd  
†Richard Fearing (Posney Family)
- SUNDAY:** May 3rd  
†Harold Wyant (Family)  
♥St. Mary Parishioners

## Sunday's Readings

**First Reading** — *God has raised the crucified Jesus, who now pours forth the Holy Spirit upon us (Acts 2:14, 22-33).*

**Psalm** — *Lord, you will show us the path of life (Psalm 16).*

**Second Reading** — *Our faith and hope are in God, who raised Jesus from the dead (1 Peter 1:17-21).*

**Gospel** — *Through his words and in the breaking of the bread, the risen Christ made himself known to two disciples on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35).*



## GOD'S PLAN

Saint Peter speaks to us twice today. In the first reading, we hear an excerpt from his sermon on Pentecost; in the second, part of his first letter. Once a frightened, uneducated fisherman who often said just the wrong thing, now Peter is speaking what he knows to be true. Everything Jesus had said now makes sense. His death and rising were all part of God's plan, and our faith and hope can be centered on God.

Today's Gospel tells the story of Jesus' walk to Emmaus with two of the disciples. Frightened, sad, and confused, the two of them don't recognize Jesus, who tells them what we heard Peter say above: All this had to happen as part of God's plan. In the end, these disciples recognize Jesus as we are to recognize him—in the breaking of the bread. †

## STAY WITH US, LORD

*Walk with us, Lord, along the road of resurrection!*

*Explain for us, so slow to believe,  
the things that Scripture says of you.*

*Break the bread of the Eucharist with us  
whenever we share our lives with our brothers and  
sisters. Stay with us each time night approaches  
and the daylight fades in our hearts!*



## Readings for the Week

- Monday:** Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29
- Tuesday:** Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35
- Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40
- Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51
- Friday:** Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59, or, for the memorial, Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16; Mt 13:54-58
- Saturday:** Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69
- Sunday:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-6;  
1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** Third Sunday of Easter
- Tuesday:** St. Peter Chanel;  
St. Louis Grignion de Montfort
- Wednesday:** St. Catherine of Siena
- Thursday:** St. Pius V
- Friday:** St. Joseph the Worker; First Friday
- Saturday:** St. Athanasius; First Saturday



## From the Pastor's Desk

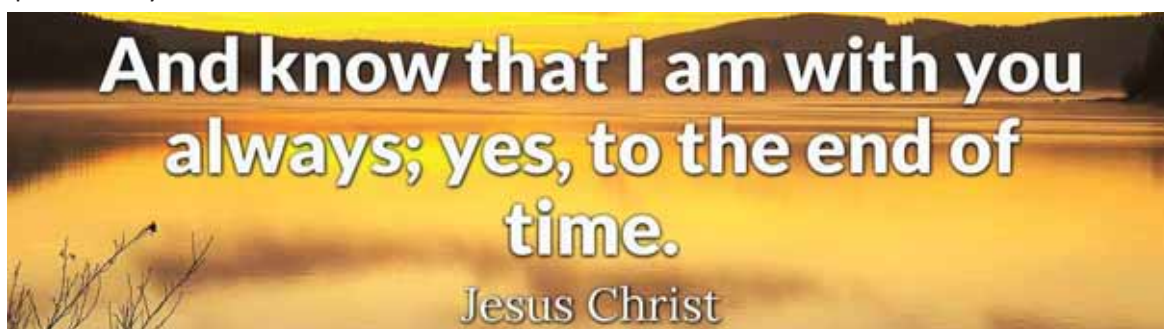
The gospel of the third Sunday of Easter recalls the story of the two disheartened disciples who left the company of the apostles and believers in Jerusalem and headed to a place called Emmaus. They were disheartened because they thought Jesus was defeated since they witnessed His suffering, His crucifixion and death. So much so that when they were travelling, they did not pay attention to the person who joined them. They thought he was a stranger and the conversation went on with regards to Jesus and His ordeal that He went through, only to find out later that He was the risen Jesus who accompanied them on their journey. Their minds were opened and their hearts were burning when Jesus interpreted the Scriptures and broke the bread with them. It was only then that they were delighted and went back late in the evening to rejoin the company of apostles and share the good news full of joy and zeal.

We can learn from this experience of the two disciples how sometimes we are easily carried away by frustrations and sadness when things do not turn out according to our expectations. We become self-absorbed and never pay attention even to people around us. We feel abandoned by God. When the truth is He is always there for us. He never abandons us, especially in our low moments and difficulties.

One of the enemies that we fall into is negativities. Instead of being positive, we tend to be negative in our thinking because of fear and doubt. We are crippled by such negativities, especially when what we perceive is scary, like what we are facing today with the pandemic of corona virus.

Let us not forget, once again, the assurance of Jesus. "I will be with you until the end of time." Just as He appeared and joined the two disciples on their journey to Emmaus, so also will He accompany us. Let us not be slow in recognizing His presence. He may be speaking to us through His Word, through our prayers, through others and other means. We just need to open our eyes, our minds and hearts.

Like St. Faustina of Kowalska who shared the devotion to the Divine Mercy, let us say, Jesus, I trust in you. St. Therese of Lisieux once said, "We become what we contemplate. One who contemplates disfigured things becomes inwardly disfigured. One who contemplates transfigured things becomes inwardly transfigured. One who contemplates the all-beautiful Face of the Incarnate Word will be supernaturally beautified."



### SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA (1347-1380) - April 29

Imagine the pope receiving a young woman still in her twenties who addresses him as "my sweet Christ on earth," then orders: "Get back to Rome where you belong!" Amazingly, Gregory XI complied! Yet this was but one astonishing incident in the extraordinary life of Catherine of Siena, a truly unique medieval woman. Youngest of twenty-five children, Catherine refused marriage and became a Dominican Tertiary at sixteen, cloistering herself at home in contemplative prayer, austere penances, and mystical experiences, culminating in "spiritual espousal" to Christ. Then, incarnating the Dominican ideal of "passing on to others the fruits of contemplation," Catherine left her solitude to care for the poor, nurse the sick, comfort the dying, and bury the dead. Increasingly renowned for converting souls and healing bodies, she was sought after to broker peace during civil wars and Church schisms. All this, and like Jesus, whom she called "my Divine Spouse," she died at thirty-three! Four hundred letters and her spiritual classic *The Dialogue* inspired Paul VI to name her, together with Teresa of Ávila, the first women Doctors of the Church. †

*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—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***  
***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. †

**In your charity,** please remember the souls of those who passed away, especially **Stella Marietti.** We ask God to welcome **Stella** 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 - \$94,190.00**  
**Paid to Date - \$69,760.00**  
**Number of Donors - 211**

**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 major projects!*

One Can  
Two Can  
Who Can?  
**We Can!!**

Supporting the Freeport Food Bank

Drop off at Saint Mary's Fellowship Hall  
608 High Street. 9am-3pm, 7 Days/Week

Items in need include:  
cleaning products, personal care and non-perishables

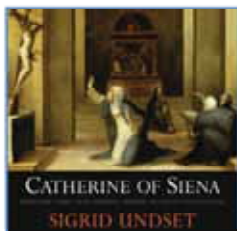
Your 2020 DLA dollars at work—First project underway  
Electrical Wiring in our church building



News from Our Ministries/Organizations

*Evangelization*

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



Catherine of Siena  
by Sigrid Undset

With sensitivity to the zealous love of God and man that permeated the life of Saint Catherine, Undset presents a most moving and memorable portrait of one of history's greatest women.

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**Homemade Mercy**—Last week, we celebrated the Feast of Divine Mercy (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter) and we talked about God's lavish mercy upon us, but how do we apply this to our everyday lives? There are seven corporal works of mercy such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and giving drink to the thirsty. In our homes (which all of us are spending a great deal of time lately), it is easy to practice these, especially ones with children. But what about the spiritual works of mercy? Let us look at a few and how we can accomplish these within the four walls of our quarantined homes. In **admonishing the sinner**, it is good for us to first set a good example of what is expected. Am I following the rules of the home and more importantly, am I living out the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes (Mt. 5) in my own life? By **instructing the ignorant**, am I helping with the new learning platform of homeschooling and the discipline that it takes to get the assignments done? Take time to read the daily gospel and talk about it as a family so that we can learn not only with our heads about facts and figures, but our hearts with reminders of God's love and mercy. We can all stand to **bear wrongs more patiently** by watching how our tongues lash out at another under the lack of "social distancing" in our living room or around the dinner table. If we could see with the eyes of Jesus and look at the best in each other and compliment it occasionally, hurtful words would flow less often from our lips to their ears. Becoming a merciful family and learning to love without exception is hard work. Family life is messy and difficult under the current climate of COVID fears, but three phrases come to mind that can work wonders. When we sincerely say **please**, we are asking to gently walk with one another and to not impose my will on someone else in a selfish manner. A grateful **thank you** tells another that I appreciate the goodness they showed me and that I can see the image and likeness of our good, good Father within them. Pope Francis reminds us that "a house in which the words **I am sorry** are never spoken begins to lack air and the floodwaters begin to choke those who live inside." (General Audience May 15, 2015). To apologize is not a sign of weakness, but in seeking forgiveness we recognize our faults and repair, strengthen, and deepen the bonds of family love. †

# HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

This poem was written in 1869, reprinted during the 1919 Spanish Flu Pandemic.

## This is Timeless....

It was written in 1869 by Kitty O'Meara:

And people stayed at home  
And read books  
And listened  
And they rested  
And did exercises  
And made art and played  
And learned new ways of being  
And stopped and listened  
More deeply  
Someone meditated,  
Someone prayed  
Someone met their shadow  
And people began to think differently  
And people healed.  
And in the absence of people who  
Lived in ignorant ways  
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,  
The earth also began to heal  
And when the danger ended and  
People found themselves  
They grieved for the dead  
And made new choices  
And dreamed of new visions  
And created new ways of living  
And completely healed the earth  
Just as they were healed.

Reprinted during Spanish flu Pandemic,  
1919 - Photos taken during Spanish flu.



## Coronavirus Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. My Lord Jesus Christ, in your ministry you travelled through towns and villages curing every disease and illness. You commanded and the sick were healed. Please come to our assistance in the midst of the spread of the coronavirus globally. Lord, healer of the sick, stay by our side at this difficult time of the spread of the disease. Be with those who have died and be with the families who are grieving. Be with those who have contracted the virus and grant them your healing. Lord Jesus, we pray to you to be with our doctors, nurses and all medical researchers who are helping us look for a cure. Protect them and guide them with your wisdom so that they will find a cure for this disease. Lord, we pray also for the leaders of all the countries, that they will be one in finding a solution to this illness. Lord Jesus Christ, stay with us when we are at home, at work and travelling. Guide and protect us in the midst of the coronavirus spreading globally. Lord Jesus, heal us, hear us and give us your peace.

**Amen**

## News from Our Diocese



If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone - please contact 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 for this week in loving memory of



*William Bale*  
By  
*Maryellyn & Family*

## Sanctuary Lamp

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



in loving memory of  
*John & Michael Echon*  
By  
*Family*

## Collections

### Offertory Collection for April 19th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 598

No. of Envelopes Received: 33

Collection: Offertory - \$1,850.00

Electronic Payments (21) - \$1,040.00

Loose - \$0.00; Children (-) - \$0.00

Holy Thursday (3) - \$40.00

Good Friday [Holy land] (3) - \$40.00

Easter (21) - \$2,875.00

**Total Collection - \$5,845.00**

**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, MOTHER OF GOD CHURCH. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE!**

Thanks to our advertisers who sponsor this bulletin. Please support them with your business.

## ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

### "Freeport Beverage"

If you would like to advertise in our weekly bulletin, please contact J.S. Paluch Company, Inc. at 1-800-945-6629



Saturday—May 2nd, 2020  
**NO CLEANING ASSIGNMENTS  
THIS WEEK**

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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