

Happy
Mother's Day

May 10th, 2020



From Mary we learn to surrender to God's Will in all things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!

~Saint John Paul II~

From Mary we learn the beauty and dignity of Motherhood.

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 mass intentions.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

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

MASSES FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- SATURDAY: May 9th**
♥†All Mother's—Living & Deceased
- SUNDAY: May 10th**
♥Christian Mothers—Living Members (Christian Mothers)
♥†All Mothers—Living & Deceased and ♥St. Mary Parishioners
- MONDAY: May 11th**
†Margaret Seiner (Doug & Grace Seitam)
- TUESDAY: May 12th**
†David Shipe (Ren & Marushka Steele)
- WEDNESDAY: May 13th**
♥In Thanksgiving (Bob & Judy Bergstrom)
- THURSDAY: May 14th**
†Dorothy Mollica (Family)
- FRIDAY: May 15th**
†John McDermott (Siblings)

MASSES FOR THE 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- SATURDAY: May 16th**
♥St. Mary Parishioners
- SUNDAY: May 17th**
†Russell Stewart (Family)
†Donna Crabill (Mildred Phillippi)



Sunday's Readings

First Reading — To meet their growing needs, the community chooses seven reputable men to serve the new Greek believers (Acts 6:1-7).

Psalms — Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you (Psalm 33).

Second Reading — We, like living stones, let ourselves be built into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:4-9).

Gospel — "Show us the Father," Philip asks Jesus. To which Jesus replies: "Whoever sees me, sees the Father" (John 14:1-12).

Throughout the Easter season, we hear the story of the earliest Christian communities in readings from the Acts of the Apostles. We hear how the people grappled with what it meant to place their faith and trust in the Lord, understanding that doing so called them to live differently—to follow Jesus' way of love. This is more than a history lesson for us. As we hear how the people were drawn to Christ and learned to follow Jesus, we are invited to ask ourselves how fully we are taking the gospel to heart. Is Jesus our way, truth, and life? Do our daily actions announce the praises of the Lord? †

VOCATION

Roman Catholics in the United States spend a good deal of time speaking of "vocation" and the manner in which each of us discerns our vocation for life. In today's apostolic letter, however, Peter gives us the "cornerstone" of our vocation, the description of what each of us is called to first and foremost by our baptism. He describes our vocation as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of [God's] own, so that you may announce the praises" of Christ, who called us out of darkness into light (1 Peter 2:9). All of us, no matter what path our life's vocation may take us down, have been chosen by God, made holy, and anointed as priests in the high priesthood of Christ through baptism. All of this, so that we may announce the praises of Christ. Vocation is given for proclamation at home, in the workplace—wherever life takes us—in service, in word, and in sacrament. †



Readings for the Week

- Monday:** Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26
- Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a
- Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8
- Thursday:** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17
- Friday:** Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17
- Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
- Sunday:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18 or 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 14:15-21 or Jn 17:1-11a

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** Fifth Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day
- Tuesday:** Ss. Nereus and Achilleus; St. Pancras
- Wednesday:** Our Lady of Fatima
- Thursday:** St. Matthias
- Friday:** St. Isidore the Farmer
- Saturday:** Armed Forces Day



From the Pastor's Desk

On this fifth Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Mother's Day, a special day for all mothers recognizing their important role they play, especially in family life. Just by our experiences in growing up, we can recall a lot of beautiful memories of our mothers - how they showed their unconditional love and the many sacrifices they made for us to make sure that we were taken care of and provided us with all that we needed in order to be the best person that God wants us to be.

I for one can speak of my own experience with my mom growing up, how she poured out all her life and energy in taking care of us, especially when my dad passed away at a young age. She became a widow with six children at the age of 35. I was 12 years old and our youngest was 7 months. You can imagine how difficult it was. I witnessed how she worked hard on the farm every day in order for us to eat and send us to school. We lived in poverty and tried to meet both ends. I saw her many times crying, thinking how she would raise us and face the following day with certainty that we have food on our table. It was a very hard journey. But, thank God, we managed to survive. God showed His mercy upon us. My mom was a strong woman who fought for us with courage, overcoming all the trials and hardships which I am sure she did not expect to encounter when she got married, but endured them all with faith, hope and love.

I am sure you also have a story or two to tell about your mom. Treasure them and be grateful. Show your love and appreciation in return for what she does and did in the past. This year, I am happy that my mom is with me. For the first time, I am celebrating Mother's Day with her. Had it not been for the COVID-19, she would have been in the Philippines already. If there is one advantage this COVID-19 has brought, it is the long vacation she is spending with me. I enjoy her presence, her cooking, serving me hot meals every day and doing the laundry *gratis et amore*.

Motherhood, indeed, is a very high calling but challenging at the same time. The love, guidance and sacrifice mothers provide are really distinct and invaluable. Money cannot even compensate for all they do. They are priceless.

Just as Our Blessed Mother, their self-offering of unconditional love, of bearing suffering, of showing fidelity and tireless devotion to work are exceptional and selfless. May we truly appreciate what they continue to do for us and be eternally grateful for their love!

To all mothers - God bless you and Happy Mother's Day!



SAINT DAMIEN JOSEPH DE VEUSTER OF MOLOKA'I (1840-1889) - May 10th

In the mid-1990's, a heavily bearded, bespectacled Robin Williams appeared on Late Night with David Letterman, whose host was clearly taken aback. Letterman inquired as to why the wild look. Uncharacteristically subdued, the usually manic comic responded that he was producing and starring in a movie about a most extraordinarily compassionate man, Damien, the Leper Priest of Moloka'i.



Some saints transcend religious and ethnic boundaries to touch the heart that beats in each human being: Francis of Assisi; Mother Teresa; and, though Williams' film was never completed, his admiration speaks, as does Damien's statue outside the capitol in Honolulu, of this newest saint's universal appeal. Far from his native Flanders' idyllic beauty and rich culture, Damien volunteered to bear Christ's light into Moloka'i's bleak leper colony, building decent homes, opening schools, establishing clinics, planting farms, sharing the sufferings—and the social stigma—of those with whom he delighted to identify: "We lepers", he would proudly say when finally he contracted leprosy. Saint Damien challenges us to identify the lepers of our own day, to examine our compassion for and our identification with them.

TV and Online Mass Options:
<https://www.heartofthenation.org/where-to-watch>
<https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/>; <http://www.catholicstv.org/masses/catholicstv-mass>

Calendar of Events/Meetings

Weekday and Weekend Masses—Suspended
First Holy Communion—Suspended—To be re-scheduled
Choir Practice—Suspended; Resurrection Choir Practice—Suspended
Teen Ministry Meetings—Suspended
The Bible Timeline—Postponed
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 Events/Information

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.



CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

Let us pray, dearly beloved,
To God the Father almighty,
That He may extend His hand in mercy to all those affected
by the Coronavirus pandemic.

(Silent Prayer)

Almighty ever-living God, heal those who are ill.
Grant happy repose to those who have died, comfort those
who mourn, give solace to all who are afraid and alone,
and protect those who are providing medical care.
Make us instruments of your peace among our brothers
and sisters.

In your mercy, alleviate our fears and eliminate this
scourge, so that we may come together again to give you
praise and to build your Kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Diocesan Target - \$37,826.00
Parish Target - \$55,000.00
Pledges to Date - \$99,535.00
Paid to Date - \$76,130.00
Number of Donors - 238



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!

ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE

We are not only blessed but totally overwhelmed by the giving of both food and monetary donations from our parishioners and community for the Freeport Food Bank. We will continue this drive everyday as long as there is a need. Food may be dropped off seven days a week, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. or, if you prefer, you can donate money or write out a check (made payable to cash), and we will go and do the shopping for you. Thank you for your kindness and generosity! †

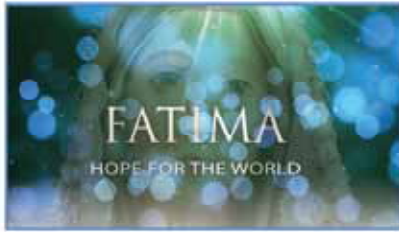


THANK YOU

News/Activities from Our Ministries

Evangelization

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



FATIMA

Hope for the World

This 13-part video series tells the story of Fatima from the Marian apparitions in 1917 through the 20th century and how the world has responded.

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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.

Our Mother's Day...Rejoice! - For God so loved the world "that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16). Because of this lavish love of God, He even prepared a beautiful sinless woman to be the Mother of His only begotten Son. It is fitting on this Mother's Day in the midst of the month dedicated to Mary, to reflect upon her role in the life of Jesus and ourselves. "Hail Mary" - This greeting of the Angel Gabriel to Mary comes from Luke 1:28. In the original Greek form which this was written, the greeting is even more accurately translated "Rejoice Mary". Rejoice not just because God wanted her to be the mother of Jesus, but because the Messiah – the Savior, was about to enter her world. This is what every Jew would have been praying for, their deliverance from slavery and bondage. Not just the Roman occupation, but from the chains of the darkness of sin. "Full of grace, the Lord is with thee" - This statement from the Angel is not implying that at this moment God is infusing her with the graces needed to undergo this role. We must again look to the original Greek word translated as "full". It does not mean that she is being filled or will be filled, but that she has **already** been perfected in Grace. This is what we have come to know as the Immaculate Conception of Mary in the womb of Anne, her mother. Immaculately conceived and filled with grace (the life of God) in a way that we are not, but the way God intended us to be as with Adam and Eve. God dwells within Mary before the arrival of Christ in a most perfect way. He is in her heart, filling her soul perfectly and abiding with her and she with Him. "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus" - These are the words Elizabeth, Mary's elderly cousin (Luke 1:43), said to Mary when she arrived to care for Elizabeth who is at that moment, carrying John the Baptist in her womb. The only other women in scripture called blessed are from the Old Testament. Jael and Judith were women who were blessed for their heroic faith and courage. Both women secured military victory for Israel by assassinating opposing commanders with a mortal blow to the head. (Judges 5:24-27; Judges 13:18). Mary will also take part in defeat of the greatest enemy for she will bear the Savior who crushes the head of sin, death, and the evil one. (Genesis 3:15). The first part of the Hail Mary prayer is one filled with Scripture, filled with Hope, and filled with the understanding that our redemption would not come to pass unless Mary was totally open to the will of God in her life. "I am but a handmaid of the Lord, let it be done unto me according to your word!" (Luke 1:38). †

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

If there is anyone that still has their Rice Bowl boxes and would like to participate in the Rice Bowl Collection Appeal, you are asked to bring them to the Administrative Office this week during our normal office hours (Monday through Friday—9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.). Your generosity and thoughtfulness is appreciated. †

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



John & Phyllis Talotta

By

James & Diana Talotta

Sanctuary Lamp

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



in loving memory of
Denis & Mary Curran

By

Mary Fullerton

Collections

Offertory Collection for May 3rd, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 598

No. of Envelopes Received: 85

Collection: Offertory - \$4,220.00

Electronic Payments (11) - \$1,660.00

Loose - \$-0-; Children (4) - \$4.00

Additional Holy Thursday (4) - \$80.00

Additional Holy land (3) - \$70.00

Additional Easter (8) - \$500.00

Total Collection - \$6,534.00

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

“Medical Alert System”

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



**Saturday—May 9th, 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****