

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

July 12, 2020



A sower went out to sow.
Some seed fell on the path . . . some fell on rocky ground.
. . . Some seed fell among thorns.
. . . But some fell on rich soil, and produced fruit.

Matthew 13:3, 4, 5, 7, 8

Rev. Fr. Gilbert Gente—*Pastor*
ggente@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parish Information

Saturday (Vigil): 4:00 P.M. (with guidelines)
Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 A.M. (with guidelines)
Weekday Masses: Monday through Friday—8:00 A.M. (with guidelines)

Holy Day of Obligation: 8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M. (with guidelines)

Reconciliation: Saturday - 2:30—3:30 P.M. (with guidelines)

Baptism: Sundays (by appointment and with guidelines)

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. Gilbert 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. Gilbert at 724-295-2281.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Fr. Gilbert at 724-295-2281

Holy Communion: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are available to bring the Eucharist to the sick and homebound (with guidelines). 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
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

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 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- SATURDAY: July 11th**
4:00 P.M. †Bernadette Fearing Kelly (Donna Knisley)
- SUNDAY: July 12th**
8:30 A.M. †Russell & Carol Stewart (Family)
11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners
- MONDAY: July 13th**
8:00 A.M. †Leonard Rezak (The Posney Family)
- TUESDAY: July 14th**
8:00 A.M. †Rose Pesci (Estate)
- WEDNESDAY: July 15th**
8:00 A.M. †J.D. Easley Family (Estate)
- THURSDAY: July 16th**
8:00 A.M. †Ellen & Charles Huth (Family)
- FRIDAY: July 17th**
8:00 A.M. †Richard Calligan (Fran & Terri and Family)

MASSES FOR THE 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- SATURDAY: July 18th**
4:00 P.M. †Ralph Westerman, III (Pat Westerman)
- SUNDAY: July 19th**
8:30 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. †Donna Crabill (Bordonaro Family)

Readings for the Week

- Monday:** *Is 1:10-17; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 10:34 — 11:1*
- Tuesday:** *Is 7:1-9; Ps 48:2-8; Mt 11:20-24*
- Wednesday:** *Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Ps 94:5-10, 14-15; Mt 11:25-27*
- Thursday:** *Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Ps 102:13-14ab, 15-21; Mt 11:28-30*
- Friday:** *Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Is 38:10-12abcd, 16; Mt 12:1-8*
- Saturday:** *Mi 2:1-5; Ps 10:1-4, 7-8, 14; Mt 12:14-21*
- Sunday:** *Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43 [24-30]*



GOD'S WORDS

Each day we are bombarded with thousands of words. From the moment our clock radios click on in the morning until the last moment of the day when the television is turned off or someone bids us "good-night", our life is filled with words. Some words that we hear bring news that leaves us feeling low. Some words lift our spirits. Many of the words we hear are trying to get us to buy something. Some words are hurtful. Today the Church focuses our attention on hearing the word of God. Are God's words just more of the same—part of the endless stream of words that flow into our ears each day? The challenge today is to allow God's word to inspire us in new ways so that our outlook and attitudes align themselves more closely with the heart and mind of Christ Jesus. †

Ministry Schedule

July 18th & 19th, 2020

ALTAR SERVERS:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.* TBA
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Samuel & Jacob Kristine
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Jacob Schaeffer

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.* Fred Walker
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Cindy Harbison; Karen Nigra (A)
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Lisa Isenberg

LECTORS:

- Saturday, 4:00 P.M.* Karen Savage
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Annette Domachowski
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Bill Cogley

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.* Alex Smith
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Tom Koharchik
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. TBA



Please contact the parish office if you would like to volunteer for any of these liturgical ministries!

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Henry
Tuesday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha
Wednesday: St. Bonaventure
Thursday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Saturday: St. Camillus de Lellis; Blessed Virgin Mary

Rev. Fr. Gilbert Gente



First Holy Communion



Congratulations

On Saturday, June 27th, we had twelve of our fifteen second grade students from our Religious Education Program receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time in Holy Communion. To prepare for this sacrament, these children have been receiving catechetical instruction and faith formation for the past two years. Following are the names of these students:

*Thomas Brestensky
Grace Champagne
Mason Hellgren
Aaron Kapinskis
Bentley Paustenbaugh
Kendyll Pekarek
Tyler Pekarek
Alexis Phillippi
Madison Smith
Ella Sutara
Ian Sypulski
Suzanne Wesolosky*

We congratulate them on receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion!



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

Weekday Mass—8:00 A.M. (with guidelines)
Confessions—Saturday - 2:30 to 3:30 P.M. (with guidelines)
Weekend Masses—Saturday (Vigil): 4:00 P.M. (with guidelines)
Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 A.M. (with guidelines)

July 11th **Wedding - 2:00 P.M.—Carson/Aulicino**
 July 11th **Meet & Greet our new Pastor, Rev. Fr. Gilbert Gente—following the 4:00 P.M. Mass**
 July 12th **Meet & Greet our new Pastor, Rev. Fr. Gilbert Gente—following the 8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Mass**
 July 15th **The Bible Timeline—9:00-10:30 A.M. - Fellowship Hall**
 July 16th **The Bible Timeline—6:30-8:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall**
 July 19th **Baptism—12:15 P.M. - “McKernan”**

***Until further notice, we will only be live streaming the Sunday Mass at 8:30 A.M.



Parish Information/Events

The Administrative Office continues to be open the normal hours of Monday through Thursday, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., and Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Our normal weekday and weekend mass schedule has resumed (with guidelines). In addition, St. Mary’s will continue to be open for private prayer from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. daily and 12:00 Noon to 5:00 P.M. on Sundays. Below are the guidelines that are to be followed when visiting our church and what is being done for your safety.

- Wear a mask upon entrance to the church.
- Social distancing must be observed - six feet apart from the next person.
- Only designated pews are to be used for mass/private prayer. For morning and weekend masses, the main doors of the church will be the only way to enter. Greeters and seaters will be at the entrance to greet and seat you. The collection basket will be in the back of the church. When receiving communion, please abide by the markings. This is explained prior to the beginning of each mass. For private prayer, you are to enter at the side entrance.
- There are sanitizers and wipes that are to be used as you enter the church.
- The identified pews and other high contact areas like doorknobs, handles and tables will be sanitized and disinfected twice a day.
- Weekly, each church’s high contact areas will be cleaned with soap and water and then sanitized.
- Hymnals and missalettes have been taken out from the pews for your safety.

Health and Safety Guidelines

Diocesan Target - \$37,826.00

Parish Target - \$55,000.00

Pledges to Date - \$125,225.00

Paid to Date - \$107,930.50

Number of Donors - 274

Diocesan and Parish Targets have 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 DLA projects!



Please notify the Administrative Office of any address changes. An accurate address is very important! Membership change forms can be found at the bottom of page 7 in our weekly bulletin. Thank you!

In order to meet our weekly deadline, please note that all bulletin announcements/information must be received in writing or by email no later than 10:00 A.M. on Mondays. Thank you!

On Sunday, June 28th, our 11:00 A.M. mass was a celebration and *Mass of Thanksgiving* at Renshaw Farms. Following mass, there was a light reception from 12:00 Noon until 2:00 P.M. and a light lunch was served. Parishioners came out to not only attend mass, but to extend Fr. Ron best wishes on his new assignment!



News/Activities from Our Ministries/Organizations

Evangelization

Change is good. — In the sacrament of Holy Orders (in which one is set apart for God's work), a priest is ordained by a bishop for service in the diocese. Just like the first apostles were sent by Christ to go out and proclaim the kingdom, so are our priests sent by the bishop to bring the Gospel to individual parishes. Just as each of the apostles had different gifts and personalities, so do our priests today. A bishop looks at what a priest can offer and what a priest can receive from being in a new parish. No single priest, no matter how dedicated, can meet all the various needs of a parish and every parish has similar and unique needs that must be met. A priest becomes our spiritual father and friend, but we cannot let them be the center of our faith. Through the graces of the sacrament of Holy orders, a priest becomes "another Christ" (Alter Christus). It is through his voice, carried by his feet and consecrated by his hands that Jesus comes to us in a mysterious but real way. The obedient and humble priest becomes an instrument in the hands of God, a conduit through which the graces flow to those in need. Just like us, a priest can have various personalities and talents. But a great priest is one who can bring us Jesus then fade into the background, so the focus is on Him (Christ) and not him (the priest). If we leave the Holy Mass strengthened by worship, renewed by the Word of God, encouraged by the homily and most importantly fed by Christ in the Eucharist and somehow forget the name of the priest who presided, then he did his best work that day. Change is always good, because it is a test of our commitment to the faith that has been entrusted to us. Am I a disciple of Father Joe or Father Jim or am I a disciple of Jesus Christ? Let us pray for all of our priests that God's name will be praised and that the message of His incredible love for us will reach the ears and hearts of all who so need and long for it. †

News from Our Diocese

Bishop Malesic desires to recognize all couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary during the calendar year 2020. The Jubilarians, their children, relatives or friends **should contact the parish office at 724-295-2281 to register couples for this recognition.** Ideally, the Jubilarians will be invited to join the bishop for a special Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass to be celebrated in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Sunday, September 20th, 2020. Even though circumstances may not permit participation in this Mass, all couples will receive a scroll signed by the Bishop commemorating their anniversary. †

Community Information/Activities

Freeport United Methodist Church is hosting Summer Youth Café Monday–Friday. This is a grab and go lunch that is open to **all** youth age 18 and under. No cost or sign-up required. Lunches handed out from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon at Freeport United Methodist Church, 211 4th Street, Freeport. St. Mary's will help package and hand out the lunches on Tuesdays at the Methodist Church, **not** St. Mary's. Two people are needed each Tuesday, from now until August 14th. Time commitment is approximately 2½ hours (10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.). Beginning 10:00 A.M., meals will be packed; lunches handed out from 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon followed by cleanup. If you or your family (little hands can help, too) are willing to help, please follow the instructions below to sign-up. We are using [SignUp.com](https://signup.com) to organize the volunteers for this activity and here's how it works in three easy steps.

1. **Link** for invitation page on [SignUp.com](https://signup.com) is: <https://signup.com/login/entry/86998479935238029>

2. **Enter your email address:** (No need to register an account on [SignUp.com](https://signup.com)).

3. **Sign Up!** Choose your spots - [SignUp.com](https://signup.com) will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy! **Note:** [SignUp.com](https://signup.com) does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, contact Beth Macurdy at: bmacurdy@zoominternet.net or 724-295-9411 and she can sign you up manually. †

Freeport Theatre Festival welcomes its patrons to the season of "2020" with health and safety guidelines in place.



Inspired by the folk song,
The Grimsby Lads,
a folk tale of star-crossed
love and destiny.

PERFORMANCE DATES:
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
JULY 10-26, 2020
All performances: 7:00 p.m.

TICKET RESERVATIONS ESSENTIAL:
Call Marushka Steele 724-295-1934
or www.freeporttheatrefestival.org



**The
Grimsby
Lads**

Written by Rennick Steele
Directed by Jennifer Bronder



General Information

TICKET PRICES:
\$15/12/10
(General Admission/Military/Seniors/Student)

LOCATION:
The Steele Farm in Allegheny Township
Nestled in the northern tip of the Laurel Highlands

Two miles southeast of Freeport
off Rte. 356 on White Cloud Road

Handicap Accessible Free Parking



FTF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit cultural organization.
Your donations are tax-deductible.

**COVID 19 HEALTH AND SAFETY
GUIDELINES WILL BE IN PLACE**

Please check website or
facebook page for details.

Altar Bread and Wine

The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in honor of the



60th Wedding Anniversary of Roger & Theresa Kalmeyer

By
Family

Sanctuary Lamp

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



The Wyant Family

By
Nancy and Peter Shipe

Collections

Offertory Collection for June 29th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 598

No. of Envelopes Received: 99

Collection: Offertory - \$3,933.00

Electronic Payments (5) - \$1,550.00

Loose - \$32.00; Children (5) - \$5.00

Total Collection - \$5,520.00

Offertory Collection for July 5th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 594

No. of Envelopes Received: 90

Collection: Offertory - \$3,518.89

Electronic Payments (16) - \$890.00

Loose - \$36.00; Children (3) - \$4.00

Total Collection - \$4,448.89

THANK YOU!

Although we are now able to attend Mass, we continue to urge those who do not feel comfortable in attending yet 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, please think about on-line giving.

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Beth S. Davis—Financial Advisor

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

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**Saturday
July 18th, 2020
NO CLEANING ASSIGNMENTS
THIS WEEKEND**

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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